

**MINUTES  
of the TWENTY FOURTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
of the BRITISH ORIENTEERING FEDERATION Limited**

**Held at Lichfield Rugby Club, Lichfield at 5:00pm on Sunday March 27<sup>th</sup> 2005.**

**PRESENT:**

Bob Roach	Chairman	Peter Christopher	Vice-Chairman
Ranald Macdonald	Vice-Chairman	Malcolm Duncan	Treasurer
Robin Field	Chief Executive and Company Secretary		

making a total of 127 members from the following clubs:

Airienteers, British Army OC, Berkshire OC, Bristol OK, City of Birmingham OC, Croydon OC, Cambridge University OC, Dartford OK, Drongo, Derwent Valley Orienteers, Devon OC, Eborienteers, Edinburgh Southern OC, Essex Stragglers OC, Forth Valley Orienteers, Grampian Orienteers, Harlequins OC, Kerno, Lakeland OC, Manchester and District OC, Mole Valley OC, North Gloucester OC, Nottinghamshire OC, Norfolk OC, Octavian Droobers, Oxford University OC, Potteries OC, Quantock Orienteers, Roxburgh Reivers OC, Saxons OC, South East Lancashire OC, South London Orienteers and Wayfarers, Southdowns OC, Southampton OC, South Ribble OC, Suffolk OC, South Yorkshire Orienteers, Tayside Orienteers, Thames Valley OC, Walton Chasers OC, West Anglian OC, Wimborne OC, Wessex Orienteers.

Members were welcomed to the 24<sup>rd</sup> AGM of the British Orienteering Federation by Bob Roach, Chairman of BOF, who introduced the podium party.

The meeting approved the appointment of John Dalton (NOC) as minute taker.

## **1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from the following:

Ken Daly (INT)

Derek Allison (WAROC)

Charles Bromley-Gardner  
(BAOC)

## **2. Minutes of the Twenty Third Annual General Meeting.**

The minutes of the Twenty Third AGM were accepted, by a show of hands, as a correct record.

Proposed: Angela Heppenstall (LOC)

Seconded: David Morgan (EPOC)

## **3. Chairman's Report**

There being no questions the Chairman's report, as previously circulated, was accepted by a show of hands.

## **4. Treasurer's Report**

There being no questions the Treasurer's report, as previously circulated, was accepted by a show of hands.

Proposed: Simon Greenwood (SAX) Seconded: Allan Farrington (BAOC)

## **5. Chief Executive's Report**

There being no questions the Chief Executive's report, as previously circulated, was accepted by a show of hands.

Proposed: Roger Hargreaves (KERNO)

Seconded: Roger Baker (TVOC)

## **6. Proposals**

### **Proposal 1: Adoption of Accounts**

There being no questions, the meeting agreed by a show of hands that the audited accounts for 2004 be adopted.

### **Proposal 2: Appointment of Auditor**

The meeting agreed by a show of hands that Barber, Harrison and Platt be appointed Auditors for 2005.

### **Proposal 3: Membership Fees and Levy for 2006**

There being no comments from the floor the proposal to increase membership fees and levy for 2006 was accepted by a vote.

Voting (by ballot and including proxies):

For 98

Against 31

Abstentions 7

*Note: Following the meeting it was found that not all the proxy votes had been counted. Had they been counted then the proposal would have been defeated. The result of the vote is therefore invalid and the proposal is not carried.*

## **7 Elections**

The following individuals had been proposed, unopposed, for the following posts and were duly elected by acclamation:

President:	Sir Christian Bonington
Vice Chairman:	John Disley
Chairman:	Bob Roach (DEE)
Vice Chairman	Ranald Macdonald (DVO)
Vice Chairman:	Peter Christopher (WCH)
Treasurer:	Malcolm Duncan (POTOC)

The following individuals had been proposed for the posts of Councillors:

Becky Carlyle (AIRE/OUOC);	Suse Coon (ESOC);	Chris James (NGOC)
John Morris (SO);	Lyn West (SOS)	

At the meeting Suse Coon withdrew her candidature, therefore the remaining four candidates were accepted by acclamation. Suse made a statement identifying concerns held by herself & two fellow 2004 Councillors.

The chairman thanked Suse and Dick Towler, who was also standing down, for their work over the years. He also thanked Katy Stubbs who had retired as a Councillor during the year due to her moving abroad.

## **8. Any Other Business**

Replying to a question from John Burrows (NGOC) about “simplification”, Chris James said that we have been trying to simplify, for example by reducing the number of courses planners needed to plan, however putting on ever more events is a problem, and we may prefer to see more smaller events.

Silva Award for Services to Orienteering.

This was awarded to Sue Denmark (SROC), who was not present at the meeting.

BOF/BSOA award for service to schools orienteering

The Chairman explained that BOF & BSOA have introduced certificates and awards to recognise service to school orienteering, with the option to make several awards each year. He presented an award for exceptional service to Pete Lomas (MDOC).

## Clubmark Award

DVO, HOC and WCH had all been successful in achieving the Clubmark Award.

Ed Nicholas (EUOC) asked if the student membership rate could be shown on the BOF renewal form.

## 9. Membership Proposals

Ranald Macdonald (Vice Chairman) made a presentation describing the current state of the membership proposals (available on the website & copies given to those attending the meeting), and explaining the background.

John Morris (SO) said that the paper's aim was different from that stated by Ranald. Neither says that the aim is to get larger participation figures for the Sports Councils. He believes that the problem is simpler than the proposal would suggest. He suggested that we could keep membership separate from discounts as a way of simplifying things and advocated the use by members of a discount card.

Ted Finch (FVO) said that many things which are currently run from BOF office could be run by clubs. He concluded by saying that we do need individual membership of BOF; we should levy non-members for participation; we should adopt the principle of subsidiarity; we should put this to the membership for a vote. In reply to the last point Ranald Macdonald said it was hoped it would be voted on at an EGM in September.

Allan Farrington (BAOC) disagreed with Ted Finch about clubs taking on more responsibilities. He said they would not be able to find anyone in SCOA to run it, therefore we need a Chief Executive and staff to run it for the members. He would like to see more run centrally.

Simon Thompson (MDOC) expressed surprise that, since it was first discussed in 1984, and 12 months ago at the previous AGM, it was still not resolved. In reply Ranald Macdonald said it was hoped it would be voted on in September.

Di Smith (SO) asked about the implications for grant support of increasing BOF membership. Robin Field (Chief Executive) said there is no requirement for an absolute number of members, but we need to be able to show a steady increase in participation, from the current base, which has been estimated to include approximately 1 million runs per year in schools.

Frank Rose (MDOC) said that to him, development meant development within his club, and he did not believe that schools orienteering translated into orienteering as we know it, therefore we should not be asked to pay more to progress schools orienteering. In reply Ranald Macdonald said that most of the RDO money to date has been from the government but we need to generate sustainable income if we are to further develop the RDO programme. Frank Rose also suggested we could predict that income would continue to fall, and we would either have to pay more to orienteer or trim programmes.

Chris James (NGOC) said we should try to ensure that as many pupils as possible are introduced to orienteering, because some will return as adults. Ranald Macdonald said that it is important to focus on where we wish to go from here, in order to bring a proposal to a meeting in September.

In reply to Perry Mole (SUFFOC), who asked what would happen if this proposal is passed and the membership does not increase, Robin Field and Ranald Macdonald said that the issue was not about increasing income but maintaining a sustainable income.

Russ Fauset (HOC) said that the majority view in the West Midlands was that the proposal was too complicated, and they would prefer the original proposal to be tabled. Responding to that Lyn West (EAOA) said that regions on the periphery have lots of small clubs, and if the original proposal went through many club only members would either stop orienteering, or leave the clubs, and the clubs would fold.

Bob Roach (Chairman) asked for an indication from the meeting of the support for the proposed combined club and BOF membership. A significant majority of those present were in favour.

The Chairman thanked everybody for their time and attention. The meeting concluded at 18:55.