

**MINUTES
of the EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING
of the BRITISH ORIENTEERING FEDERATION Limited
Held at St Bartholomews School, Newbury, Berkshire at on
Saturday November 1st 2003 immediately following the AGM**

PRESENT:

Bob Roach	Chairman	David Morgan	Vice-Chairman
Ranald Macdonald	Vice-Chairman		
Robin Field	Chief Executive and Company Secretary		

making a total of 75 members from the following clubs:

Basingstoke and District O, Berkshire OC, Bristol OK, Deeside OC, Derwent Valley Orienteers, East Pennine OC, Eborienteers, Essex Stragglers OC, Happy Herts, Harlequins OC, Havering OC, Kerno OC, Leicester OC, Marlborough OK, Mole Valley OC, North Gloucester OC, Norfolk OC, Nottinghamshire OC, Octavian Droobers, Quantock Orienteers, Sarum Orienteers, Southern Navigators, Southampton OC, South London Orienteers and Wayfarers, South Ribble OC, Swerve, Thames Valley OC, Walton Chasers OC, West Anglian OC, Wimborne OC,

The meeting approved the appointment of Alex Ross (DVO), as minute taker; and Peter Bylett (HOC) and Mike George (NOR) as tellers.

1. Introduction by the Chairman

Bob Roach (DEE) apologised for the delays experienced by some in being notified of the EGM. However, as this was a genuine error and there were no objections, the meeting could go ahead as normal.

2. Proposal 1: To include proxy votes in future AGM quorum rules

Proposal 1 had been withdrawn but discussion on how to ensure a quorate AGM took place. There has been considerable support for a non-JK AGM and several suggestions were made eg one evening at the Scottish Six Days alternating with combination with a delegate conference and event the following year. There was further discussion emphasising the importance of making the AGM attractive, especially for younger orienteers, well publicised, in a suitable geographical location and with the same venue for an event and the AGM.

Ian McMillan (EPOC) said that Special Proposal 1 could be an acceptable way forward but was concerned that it needed more thought especially as it could have been adopted on the basis of proxy votes. Bob Roach (DEE) claimed that the proposal reflected modern business practice.

Clive Allen (QO) described the model operating in Denmark where the AGM is held at a club representative meeting every year at the same time and decisions are taken by those club representatives following discussion at club level. Individual members are not involved.

Sue Denmark (SROC) defended the Officers, Councillors and Staff in their attempts to find a solution to the quorum problem. The involvement of more club and association representatives would be welcomed in putting democracy into action.

Bob Roach addressed the concerns of those who felt that a small controlling group might emerge from approval of Special Proposal 1 by referring to the role of Council in debating and supporting items brought to the AGM.

3. Proposal 2: Distribution of Annual Report and Accounts

Clive Allen (QO) detected an ambiguity in the proposed change to the Constitution and suggested a change in the wording to read "...be sent to the Auditors, ***be made available on the Federation's website and, on request, sent*** to all other persons entitled to receive notices...".

The amendment was accepted unanimously by a show of hands.

Voting for the amended proposal was by a show of hands

For 74

Against 1

Abstentions 0

This 99% vote in favour is more than the 75% required for the proposal to be accepted for a change to the Articles of the Federation

4. Proposal 3: To incorporate the British Schools Orienteering Association into the British Orienteering Federation

Bob Roach (DEE) expressed his strong support for the proposal which had the unanimous support of Council. He felt that we needed to strengthen the link with the schools, already in existence through the Schools Development Officers, if we were to benefit from the Governments support for sport at school level. However some constitutional issues had been raised in respect to the Memorandum of Association sections 3.2 and 3.3 and an issue regarding the long tradition of a geographical relationship between the federated Associations and BOF.

A proposal to make the necessary changes was proposed by John Bennison (OD) and seconded by Peter Christopher (WCH). As this had no substantial effect on the original motion such a proposal was acceptable.

Clive Allen (QO) claimed that the Articles of Association as written did not cover the British Schools Orienteering Association. Although he was happy to include the BSOA he was unhappy about the proposed method as it overturns the original thinking behind the representation of members. He felt that the BSOA would be representing non-BOF members. He suggested an alternative, inclusive idea, where a close association with BOF would be enabled, including representation on Committees but not to become Council members. He felt that such a model could readily be extended into other areas eg Trail Cyclist Association. He was unhappy about the proposal and felt it was unsound and should be rejected along with the proposed amendments.

Hilary Palmer (NOC) noted that existing federated Associations were already representing non-BOF members whereas the schools would all be members of the BSOA.

Peter Christopher (WCH) said that the BSOA had access to a large number of juniors who through provision of a Safe and Sound Development area could be encouraged to become BOF members in their own right. The proposal reflected the position in a large number of other sports where school sport is an integral part of the governing body of that sport. If the Department for Education wants to put money into clubs developing sport for young people then closer integration of the two organisations is essential. The BSOA can be looked on as the junior arm of the sport, encouraging grass roots development but needing a professional structure if it is to attract the funding from outside agencies.

Ian McMillan, whilst happy with the spirit of the proposal, was concerned that the effect of approving the proposal was not well understood and further investigation should be undertaken with a view to re-tabling the proposal at the next AGM.

Terry Smith (SOC) took the view that life was a risky business so we should take a chance, accept the proposal and sort out any Constitutional problems as they arose.

Peter Bylett (HOC) said that BSOA had been affiliated to BOF since 1995 and it was now time to take the next step as failure to do so would mean loss of funding which we could ill afford.

John Woodall (NOC), as a self confessed OAP, noted the lack of juniors in the sport and felt passionately that we needed to attract more, by whatever means, if the sport is to flourish.

The amendment to the original proposal was accepted by a show of hands.

For 68

Against 4

Abstentions 3

Voting for the amended proposal was by a show of hands

For 67

Against 3

Abstentions 5

This 86% vote in favour is more than the 75% required for the proposal to be accepted for a change to the Articles of the Federation

5. Closing remarks by the Chairman

The Chairman thanked all present for attending and the meeting closed at 6:00 pm.