

Minutes of the 44th Annual General Meeting

Date: Saturday, 17th May 2025 @16:00

Venue: Bampton Memorial Hall, Bampton, The Lakes.

Attendees:

Sue Birkinshaw (MDOC), Peter Brooke (Staff & SELOC), Scott Collier (KERNO), Anne Edwards (LOC), Andrew Evans (DFOK), Nicola Hart (DVO), Henry Marston (SYO), Tim O'Donoghue (SOLWAY), Helen O'Donoghue (SOLWAY), Andy Robinson (LOC), David Rosen (SROC & LOK), Pauline Tryner (SYO), Pete Tryner (SYO), Drew Vanbeck (Chair & SMOC), Keith Willdig (OD), Angela Whitworth (BL), Dick Whitworth (BL), Rob Woods (RAFO),
(18 members)

Virtual Attendees:

Barry Elkington (OD), Alex Finch (SROC), Stephen McLean (DEE), Andrew Thornton (MDOC), Martin Ward (SYO), Andrew Yeates (WCH), Alison Yeates (WCH).
(7 members)

Minute Taker: Peter Brooke

Apologies:

Duncan Birtwistle (MDOC), Alison Howe (SAX), Zac Randell (Independent Director), Laura Kaye Tomlinson (Independent Director), Miriam Rosen (SROC).

1. Welcome and thanks

The Chair, Drew Vanbeck, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

He informed the members that the Board were running a hybrid meeting with 18 members present and 7 joining us virtually.

The Chair introduced the members of the Board who were attending:

Peter Brooke (Chief Executive), Andy Robinson (Treasurer), David Rosen, Pauline Tryner and Keith Willdig. The other directors sent their apologies. He also welcomed the new Chair Rob Woods to the meeting.

The AGM, Annual Report and Accounts focussed on activities in 2024.

The Chair confirmed that there was a quorum. Under Article 43.6, "*fifty Voting Members present in person or by a proxy shall be a quorum*". This threshold had been exceeded as 421 Proxy Votes had been submitted via Mi-Voice and with those present it represented 6.0% of the membership.

The Chair thanked all the members for engaging in the process.

The Chair informed the meeting that all proposals will go to ballot.

Request for AOB Items

The Chair asked the meeting to register if there were any items of any other business.

Two items of business were raised ahead of the meeting which will be answered at the end of the meeting.

No other business was raised.

2. Minutes of the 43rd Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, 5th October 2024

No matters or comments were arising from the minutes of the above meeting.

The adoption of the minutes was proposed by Keith Willdig (OD) and seconded by Barry Elkington (OD).

The minutes of the 43rd Annual General Meeting were approved.

3. Chair's Report

Drew Vanbeck, the Chair thanked the clubs and volunteers for the work they do in supporting the sport and making it happen.

He thanked everyone who was involved in delivering a successful WOC 2024 in Edinburgh. There were some significant challenges along the way particularly regarding the financial viability of the event. Contributing factors included the delay to the event and inflationary pressures. Significant financial support was received from Edinburgh Council and Events Scotland which was greatly appreciated. British Orienteering also contributed £40,000.

Drew discussed what a fabulous event it was and the really positive, independent feedback that was received. He congratulated and thanked everyone involved from Scottish Orienteering, The 6 Day event company, the organising team to all the volunteers.

Drew then reflected on the role of British Orienteering and how rather than being the centre of the sport, we are the support for the sport with everyone working together to make the sport happen. Drew thanked all the clubs, volunteers, the Board and Peter Brooke and his team for all their hard work. Drew stated that British Orienteering recognises that clubs and volunteers are at the centre of our sport.

He thanked the Sports Councils for their continued and generous support of the sport.

Drew congratulated all the athletes on the 2024 roll of honour domestically and internationally, he congratulated James Hammond on his silver medal at the EYOC and at The World University Orienteering Championships, the Sprint Relay team on achieving a gold medal.

He highlighted and thanked the Board and previous CEO Peter Hart for their support on all orienteering matters over his six years as Chair.

Drew concluded with introducing Rob Woods as the new Chair of British Orienteering who he felt will do an excellent job.

Rob Woods introduction

Rob Woods new Chair gave an overview of his background and reflected on taking part in orienteering all his life but more seriously in the last 18 years with his RAF colours and recently within with Swansea Bay Orienteering Club.

He acknowledged the tremendous work from Drew for the last six years as a volunteer and thanked Drew for the time and effort he had put in.

Rob stated his commitment to carry on the good work of Drew and the rest of the Board and emphasised that he wants to encourage people to come forward, young and old and let us know about your ideas, he will listen to everyone. Rob highlighted that he is a regular competitor and if you see him at an event, do feel free to approach him for a chat.

Rob concluded that he was delighted to come into this role and looks forward to getting to know more and more of the members and clubs in the future.

4. Treasurer's Report

Andy Robinson, Treasurer, referred to the annual accounts, which had been available on the British Orienteering website.

He informed the meeting that in 2024 we recorded a deficit of £61K, however at the start of the year this was expected to be £100K, staffing levels at times accounted for some savings in this area. It must also be considered that £40K of this was support for WOC 2024, therefore without WOC, the deficit ends up being a modest £20K.

British Orienteering reserves are still above the levels required, but coming down slowly and controlled.

Andy thanked the Sports Councils for their continued and generous support of the sport and highlighted that the next round of funding from Sport England was due from April 2027 which we need to be conscious of.

Andy concluded by thanking the staff and in particular Kelly Perryman (Financial Manager) at British Orienteering for their support.

4.1 AGM to receive the accounts for 2024.

The Chair presented the accounts for acceptance by the AGM and asked for any comments or questions.

There were no questions or objections raised.

5. Chief Executive's Report

Peter Brooke, the Chief Executive referred to the Annual Report.

He highlighted that it was an honour to lead the organisation as Acting CEO from September and then as CEO from February. He thanked Peter Hart for his hard work in leading the organisation since 2018, developing the strategic plan, providing a firm basis of governance in line with the Code for Sports Governance.

Peter congratulated those who have achieved domestic and international honours in 2024 and thanked, clubs, volunteers, The Board and Sports Councils for their hard work and ongoing support.

He reflected on challenges facing the sport such as the financial pressures everyone is familiar with and participation. 2024 was on course for another year on year increase in participation since the pandemic, however, a couple of big events were cancelled and a couple of weekends of events lost due to bad weather. Where this is disappointing and unavoidable, as a sport we need to get ourselves into a position where we can absorb the effects of cancelled events due to bad weather and still see growth.

Participation remains a key focus for 2025.

Peter discussed how as a sport we will need to take risks. There is a big market out there for adventure sports such as ours. The Quid Games event in January 2025 showed this and further events are in the pipeline. There are some great ideas within the British Orienteering staff and membership, we need to pull together, try new things, be positive ambassadors for the sport and stand out.

Peter finished off by thanking Drew Vanbeck for his six years as Chair and all the work that he had put into Board. British Orienteering was stronger for it. He then welcomed new Chair, Rob Woods on board and looked forward to working with him.

British Orienteering would also like to thank Border Liners for their support in arranging the AGM venue and linking with their event as part of the Northern Championships weekend organised by MDOC.

6. Resolutions:

The Chair introduced the resolutions to the meeting.

6.1 Ordinary Resolution 1: To AUTHORISE the Board to appoint the auditors for the 2025 accounts and to fix their remuneration. which was proposed by the Board of Directors

The Chair outlined that the Auditors had now completed two audits and both parties were happy with how the process was conducted. British Orienteering is not required to have a full audit but we choose to do one to demonstrate the correct running of the organisation.

There were no questions from the floor.

The Resolution was **approved**

For the motion – 405, Against – 4, Abstain – 26

6.2 Ordinary Resolution 2: To APPROVE the member and club affiliation fees from 1st January 2026

The Chair introduced the Resolution.

He informed the meeting that there was a planned small increase to senior membership fees with a vision to increase these gradually in the next couple of years in line with a review.

Club affiliation fees were also to see an increase.

The proposed fee structure, to have effect from 1st January 2026 until amended, is as follows:

Membership & Affiliation Fees		
	2025 Fees	2026 Fees
Senior	£16.00	£17.00
Junior	£5.00	£5.00
Young Adult	£10.00	£11.00
Family	£37.00	£39.00
Club affiliation	£90.00	£95.00
University Club affiliation	£25.00	£25.00

There were no further questions.

The Resolution was **approved**.

For the motion – 402, Against – 22, Abstain – 11

6.3 Ordinary Resolution 3: To APPROVE the levy fees from 1st January 2026

The Chair introduced the Resolution.

The Chair referenced that following a club consultation, public liability insurance for non-members participating at events would be removed from 1st January 2026. With this in mind the Board wished to reflect the anticipated saving in this area within the levies. A required levy rate for 2026 was worked out as if there was no change to insurance cover. The anticipated saving was then deducted to provide a baseline income requirement.

It was noted that we have come the end of a three year fixed rate insurance deal so we are unsure of the insurance costs for 2026 at this stage.

Both Proposal A and Proposal B bring in roughly the same income. Drew stated that the Board were split in between both options and decided to give members the deciding vote.

Harry Marston (SYO) raised a question asking, 'Is it appropriate that non-member seniors taking part in a minor course such as a yellow or orange etc, should pay the junior non-member levy rate?'

The Chair responded and stated 'lots has been considered in the six years he's been Chair, and the Board takes on Board lots of feedback, and there had been lots of feedback over time such as a different rate for Level D or non-members being free. It's common that members taking part in sport generally get cheaper rates. We are aware that some people don't like the non-member levy, but some also like it. The message from members has been to keep it's simple. The system isn't perfect, but it mostly works.'

'It should be reminded that clubs can choose what they charge at events, and that levy is a cost within that charge. It's up to clubs to decide if they wish to implement a discount and subsidise from other areas or other entry fees.'

The two proposed fee structures put out to the membership, to have effect from 1st January 2026, are as follows:

Levy Fees			
	2025 Fees	2026 Proposal A	2026 Proposal B
Senior Member Levy	£1.80	£1.85	£1.95
Senior Non-Member Levy	£2.75	£2.80	£1.95
Junior (Member and non-member) Levy	£0.60	£0.60	£0.65

There were no further questions.

The Resolution was **approved for proposal A**.

For proposal A – 283, For proposal B – 115, Against both proposals – 24, Abstain – 13

6.4 Ordinary Resolution 4: To APPOINT the President of British Orienteering

The Appointment of Steve Cram CBE to be President, was proposed by the Board of Directors.

The **Appointment** of Steve Cram CBE as President was **approved**.

There were no further questions raised.

For the motion – 410, Against – 8, Abstain – 17

6.5 Resolution: To Elect Directors

The Chair informed the meeting that two of the serving elected directors had reached the end of their second terms of office.

David Rosen (SROC & LOK) and Pauline Tryner (SYO) were seeking re-election and had been formally nominated. The Chair stated how both David and Pauline were heavily involved with their clubs, and both get stuck into various areas offline on behalf of the Board and he wished to thank them both on behalf of the Board.

The Chair informed the meeting that the role of a board member is an important part of governing the sport and thanked the Board for all their hard work.

As there were two vacancies and two nominations, David Rosen and Pauline Tryner were declared elected unopposed.

The Chair also welcomed both David and Pauline back to the Board.

7. Any other Business

Two questions had been raised ahead of the AGM.

Andrew Thornton (MDOC) asked: ‘Universities throughout the UK have, over the years, been a significant source of newcomers to the sport. This appears to no longer be the case.

Are the Board and the BOF executive team content with the state of University Orienteering in the UK?

If not, then what is the action plan?’

Peter Brooke CEO responded: ‘We recognise the potential within the university sector to attract new students into the sport and this fits in with our strategic plan. There are some challenges to highlight such as setting up a new club within a university can take around 18 to 24 months and requires a group of keen students willing to set up a club.

It is something we are conscious of, and it would be great if we can work with the existing university clubs, students and BUCS to expand the current competition offering. Like schools we’ll be keeping this on the agenda in development meetings to identify what opportunities we can drive forward.’

‘As mentioned previously, resource is a big factor in the speed that some projects can be achieved. We simply need to manage the whole workload.’

Henry Marston (SYO) asked: ‘The Event Finder Interactive Map is a useful tool to look for different styles of event using the Type filter. However, one occasional Type of event is missing, and can be difficult to identify.

I refer to Indoor Sprint races, as in Bradford Grammar School and the King’s Building in Edinburgh, for example.

Could the Indoor Sprint be added as an additional Type of event in the filter?’

Peter Brooke CEO responded: ‘We recognise the growing interest in this area, and we’ve logged this request with our database providers to add ‘Indoor’ within the event filter function.’

There was no further business raised.

8. Closing of Meeting

The Chair thanked everyone for attending the AGM and Border Liners for their support in organising the venue for this year’s AGM.

The Chair closed the meeting at 16:50.