



Summary of the British Orienteering AGM 2026

Monday 29th June 2026

Full minutes of the AGM and discussions held within the meeting will be published shortly.

Venue: Online meeting

Attendance:

- 578 Proxy Votes had been submitted via Mi-Voice (22 members voted on the night)
- 73 members present virtually
- 5 apologies received

Represented 8% of the voting membership.

Chair's Report – Rob Woods

The Chair reflected on his first year in the role, describing it as a positive and encouraging year for British Orienteering. He thanked the many volunteers, clubs, Board members, headquarters staff, external partners and Sports Councils whose commitment, expertise and support continue to underpin the success and sustainability of the sport. He recognised that British Orienteering is built on the dedication of volunteers and acknowledged the significant contribution made by clubs in delivering events, coaching, mapping and supporting participants at every level.

The Chair reaffirmed that the Board's primary responsibility is to ensure that British Orienteering remains well governed, financially resilient and sustainable for the long term. He noted that this requires careful judgement and, at times, difficult decisions, but that these are made in the best interests of the sport. He highlighted the Board's continued focus on sound governance, effective financial oversight, risk management and accountability to members.

The Chair reported that steady progress had been made during the year across participation, athlete development and organisational development. He highlighted the achievements of British athletes competing at the highest international level, particularly junior athletes at the European Youth Orienteering Championships and Junior World Orienteering Championships. He recognised the dedication of athletes, coaches, parents, volunteers and clubs in supporting these successes and stressed the importance of continuing to invest in future generations.

A key theme of the report was the need to strengthen participation and encourage more young people into the sport. While acknowledging that clubs vary in size, volunteer capacity and local priorities, the Chair encouraged every club to consider taking at least one additional step to introduce new participants to orienteering. He emphasised that collective action across all clubs would help secure the long-term sustainability and growth of the sport.



Looking ahead, the Chair acknowledged the ongoing challenges facing British Orienteering, including volunteer recruitment and retention, financial pressures, and increasing expectations around governance and safeguarding. He also recognised the opportunities presented by growing public interest in outdoor activity, health and wellbeing, and nature-based sports, noting that orienteering is well placed to benefit from these trends.

The Chair concluded by reaffirming the Board's commitment to supporting clubs and volunteers, widening participation, investing in athlete development, maintaining strong governance and financial discipline, and continuing to listen to and work collaboratively with members. He congratulated the year's domestic champions and award recipients before closing by thanking the entire orienteering community for its dedication, commitment and collective efforts throughout the year, expressing confidence in the future of British Orienteering.

Treasurers Report – Andy Robinson

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

He informed the meeting that in 2025 we recorded a deficit of £21K, this was a modest deficit and had been a desire during his time as Treasurer to reduce the large excess over the amount required by the reserves policy.

British Orienteering reserves are still above the levels required but have come down and are approaching a level close to the reserves policy requirement, whilst leaving some funds available for investment when appropriate.

In comparison to the deficit in 2024 of £61k this is on a par as £40k had been provided to WOC 2024.

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 and we currently were unaware of the amount of funding we may receive, although we had received an update stating that we should receive a one year rollover agreement.

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

Chief Executive's Report – Peter Brooke

The Chief Executive Officer welcomed members to the Annual General Meeting and thanked clubs, volunteers and members for their continued commitment and support over the past year. Reflecting on his first year in post, he commented on the positive engagement he had experienced while visiting clubs and events across the country and thanked members for their ideas, feedback and willingness to work collaboratively to develop the sport.

The CEO provided an update on external funding, explaining that British Orienteering, together with other National Governing Bodies, had been awaiting confirmation of the next funding cycle from Sport England. He advised that organisational changes within Sport England had delayed the



process and that a 12-month rollover funding arrangement had now been confirmed while longer-term funding arrangements are developed. Although the level of funding has yet to be confirmed, this provides greater certainty for the coming financial year and will enable planning to continue while preparations begin for the next funding application. He also acknowledged the valuable financial support provided by Sport Northern Ireland and Sport Scotland, recognising the important contribution this makes to the delivery of activities within those nations.

The CEO reported that participation had increased compared with the previous year, reflecting the significant efforts of clubs and volunteers in delivering events and attracting new participants. He thanked everyone involved in organising events and supporting local activity, recognising that the continued growth of the sport is driven by the commitment of volunteers across the country.

Looking ahead, the CEO advised that work is underway to develop a new strategy for 2027. He explained that this would build on the existing strategy rather than replace it, representing an evolution of current priorities. Members and stakeholders will have the opportunity to contribute through a consultation process before the strategy is finalised and launched.

The CEO highlighted the importance of maintaining consistency and focus within both British Orienteering and its affiliated clubs. He acknowledged that resources are limited and stressed that concentrating on agreed priorities would enable the organisation and clubs to achieve greater impact than attempting to deliver too many initiatives simultaneously.

He outlined a number of significant achievements during the year, including the development of the new Coaching Instructor Award, recognising the substantial contribution made by staff and volunteers in delivering this work. He explained that the award would provide a clearer entry route into coaching, strengthen support for new participants and improve recognition of coaching qualifications within the wider outdoor sector.

The CEO also highlighted the success of initiatives such as the Quid Games, which have introduced orienteering to new audiences and demonstrated the sport in an engaging and accessible way. Positive feedback from participants reinforced the value of these initiatives in changing perceptions of orienteering and encouraging new people to become involved.

Further updates were provided on the work of the Performance Team, coach development, governance, safeguarding, webinars and partnership development. The CEO praised the commitment of staff, many of whom continue to deliver work beyond their contracted hours, together with the extensive contribution made by volunteers in supporting these programmes.

In concluding his report, the CEO acknowledged that, whilst significant progress had been made over the past year, there remained considerable opportunities for further development. He reaffirmed British Orienteering's commitment to supporting clubs, growing participation, investing in people, strengthening governance and continuing to work collaboratively with members to ensure the long-term success and sustainability of the sport.

Key Resolutions

Resolution Number	Detail	Voting																								
Resolution 1:	<p>To authorise the Board to appoint the Bates Weston as auditors for the 2025 accounts and to fix their remuneration.</p> <p>Proposed by: The Board</p>	<p>The Resolution was approved</p> <p>For the motion – 563, Against – 3, Abstain – 31</p>																								
Resolution 2:	<p>To approve the member and club affiliation fees from 1st January 2027.</p> <p>Proposed by: The Board</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="323 757 839 1070"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3">Membership Fees</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>2026 Fees</th> <th>2027 Fees</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Senior</td> <td>£17.00</td> <td>£20.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Junior</td> <td>£5.00</td> <td>£6.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Young Adult</td> <td>£11.00</td> <td>£12.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Family</td> <td>£39.00</td> <td>£46.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Club affiliation</td> <td>£95.00</td> <td>£120.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>University Club affiliation</td> <td>£25.00</td> <td>£25.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Membership Fees				2026 Fees	2027 Fees	Senior	£17.00	£20.00	Junior	£5.00	£6.00	Young Adult	£11.00	£12.00	Family	£39.00	£46.00	Club affiliation	£95.00	£120.00	University Club affiliation	£25.00	£25.00	<p>The Resolution was approved</p> <p>For the motion – 527, Against – 42, Abstain – 28</p>
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Resolution 3:	<p>To approve the levy fees from 1st January 2027.</p> <p>Proposed by: The Board</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="316 1182 1018 1574"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>2026</th> <th>2027</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Senior members</td> <td>£1.85</td> <td>£2.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Junior members</td> <td>£0.60</td> <td>£0.65</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Senior non-members</td> <td>£2.80</td> <td>£3.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Junior non-members</td> <td>£0.60</td> <td>£0.65</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		2026	2027	Senior members	£1.85	£2.00	Junior members	£0.60	£0.65	Senior non-members	£2.80	£3.00	Junior non-members	£0.60	£0.65	<p>The Resolution was approved</p> <p>For the motion – 494, Against – 76, Abstain – 29</p>									
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Resolution 4:	<p>To appoint the President for the ensuring year: Steve Cram CBE.</p> <p>Proposed by: The Board</p>	<p>The Resolution was approved</p> <p>For the motion – 561, Against – 13, Abstain – 26</p>																								
Resolution 5	<p>Election of Directors</p> <p>Duncan Birtwistle and Alison Howe have reached the end of their second and first terms respectively of office.</p> <p>Duncan Birtwistle is not seeking re-election. Alison Howe is seeking a second term.</p>	<p>Votes for:</p> <p>Alison – 451 John – 329 Rob – 361</p>																								

	<p>Additional nominations have been received from: John Leeson (HOC) & Rob Lines (SO)</p> <p>The two nominees with the highest number of votes will be elected.</p> <p>Alison Howe and Rob Lines are elected as directors.</p>	
Resolution 6	<p>To approve the updated Articles of Association</p> <p>Proposed by: The Board</p>	<p>The Resolution was approved</p> <p>For the motion – 554, Against – 5, Abstain – 39</p>

Thank you to all those that attended and voted.

Full minutes of the AGM will be published shortly.