

# BRITISH ORIENTEERING FEDERATION LIMITED

Registered in England & Wales No.1606472

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## 43rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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SATURDAY, 5<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 11:00

At

**The Studio**

7 Cannon Street

Birmingham

B2 5EP

## Proposals

- Proposal 1:** To appoint the auditors for the 2024 and authorise the board to fix their remuneration;
- Proposal 2:** To approve the member and club affiliation fees from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025;
- Proposal 3:** To approve the levy fees from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025;
- Proposal 4:** To appoint the President of British Orienteering;
- Proposal 5:** To elect the Directors;

## PROPOSALS

**Ordinary Resolution 1: To APPOINT the auditors for the 2024 accounts and authorise the Board to fix their remuneration.**

### **Supporting Statement**

British Orienteering Federation Limited's articles of association and company law do not require us to undertake a full audit. However, the Board continue to take the view that the reassurance that a full audit brings to the members in respect of the finances is appropriate, given the staffing levels of the Federation.

Following an open and competitive tender exercise in 2023 the Board appointed [Bates Weston](#) as auditors for the 2023 accounts and within the tender exercise agreed remuneration for the 2024 audit and accounts.

The Board therefore recommends the appointment of Bates Weston as auditors for the financial year 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024.

**Proposed:** The Board of Directors

**Ordinary Resolution 2: To APPROVE the member and club affiliation fees from 1st January 2025**

### **Supporting Statement**

The last increase in British Orienteering membership fees took effect in January 2020. Consumer price inflation between January 2020 and June 2024 is 22.7%.

Although British Orienteering currently holds reserves in excess of the level required by the reserves policy, the Board have set a deficit budget over the next year in order to invest in the delivery of the strategic plan. The Board believes this investment is vital to safeguarding the future of the sport but recognises that this approach long term is not sustainable. Given the challenging financial environment, British Orienteering needs to increase its income in order to remain on a sustainable financial footing in the long term.

Recognising the challenges that sporting organisations more widely are facing in recruiting and retaining members, the Board is proposing a measured response aimed at ensuring the sustainability and continued growth of our organisation in making a small increase in some of the membership categories and increases in the club affiliation fees. Even with these adjustments, our fees remain below the market rate in the sports sector.

The proposed fee structure, to have effect from 1st January 2025 until amended, is as follows:

<b>Membership and Levy Fees</b>		
	<b>2024 Fees</b>	<b>2025 fees</b>
Senior	£15.00	<b>£16.00</b>
Junior	£5.00	£5.00
Young Adult	£10.00	£10.00
Family	£35.00	<b>£37.00</b>
Club affiliation	£80.00	<b>£90.00</b>
University Club	£25.00	£25.00

British Orienteering will retain the system of part-year fees for new members agreed at the 2023 AGM, where new members joining between 1st May and 31st August pay two-thirds of

the annual membership fee and those joining between 1st September and 31st December pay one-third.

**Proposed:** The Board of Directors

### Ordinary Resolution 3: To APPROVE the levy fees from 1st January 2025

#### Board Proposal

The Board are open to suggestions and new ideas on levy and membership, but any plan must maintain current membership and participation levels and be financially sustainable.

#### Context

Event levies are one of three ways by which the “normal” activities of British Orienteering are financed (together with membership subscriptions and surpluses generated from British Orienteering Major events).

These income streams are crucial as they support the servicing of our members, the employment of staff in the National Office, and the payment of necessary costs. These include membership management systems, rules, map copyright, event and public liability insurance, health and safety, safeguarding, Great Britain Team support, and other statutory and non-statutory obligations of our sport obligations of our sport.

Race/event levies are the norm across many National Governing Bodies of sport; we are no different.

The Board have recommended an increase in levy income overall to help cover off inflation.

#### Why was non-member levy implemented?

While many participants who are not British Orienteering members will be new to the sport, a significant proportion are regular orienteers who have, for whatever reason, chosen not to join British Orienteering. This includes people who have joined a club and/or association but not British Orienteering.

Since January 2020, as requested by clubs, British Orienteering has provided liability insurance for all participants who reside in the UK at registered events. This removes the administration burden that required clubs to track how many events each individual non-member had attended.

British Orienteering's insurer's considers non-member participants to be a higher risk than members. Therefore, our insurers charge an additional fee for this cover, based on the number of declared non-member participants each year.

To ensure that British Orienteering members are not subsidising the additional expense of providing liability insurance to non-members, the board proposed a non-member levy fee at the AGM in 2023 for implementation in 2024. This was approved by the AGM with a majority of 71%. There is no evidence that the additional levy charge has had a negative effect on participation by senior non-members, and in fact the number of runs by senior non-members during the period Jan-Jun 2024 is up by 15% compared to the same period in 2023.

In July/Aug 2024, there was a full consultation with clubs to ascertain if they wanted to continue with the model of providing 3<sup>rd</sup> party liability insurance to non-members at competitions and 73% of clubs voted to continue this arrangement.

How the levy is paid and or absorbed is very much up to the club, in most cases it is passed directly on to the participants via the entry fees, but clubs are able to either pay or subsidise this

We accept that there are different models to funding the sport at a club and national level and are happy to listen to alternative models providing they are financially sustainable and will grow membership and participation.

The proposal is as follows:

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
Senior Members	£1.65	£1.80
Junior Members	£0.55	£0.60
Senior non members	£2.50	£2.75
Junior non members	£0.55	£0.60

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

### Steve Cram CBE

Steve Cram is a British retired track and field athlete and former orienteer and has been President since 2022.

Along with fellow Britons Sebastian Coe and Steve Ovett, he was one of the world's dominant middle distance runners during the 1980s. Nicknamed "The Jarrow Arrow", after his home town, Steve set world records in the 1500 m, 2000 m and the mile during a 19-day period in the summer of 1985. He was the first man to run 1500 m under 3 minutes and 30 seconds. He won the 1500 m gold medal at the 1983 World Championships and the 1500 m silver medal at the 1984 Olympic Games.

In 2000, Steve co-founded international children's charity COCO (Comrades of Children Overseas) with British Army Major Jim Panton after running the Bosnia Comrades ultramarathon in 1998. Steve remains chairman of COCO, an organisation which currently provides sustainable sources of quality education to children living in poor, remote parts of East Africa.

In 2008 Steve was appointed Chancellor of the University of Sunderland, replacing Lord Puttnam, and in 2009 was elected as President of Jarrow & Hebburn Athletics Club.

Steve now works as a television presenter and athletics commentator, motivational speaker and athletics coach.

Steve's introduction to Orienteering as a teenager seemed like a marriage made in heaven for a map-loving, running enthusiast. He has so many happy memories of belting through forests and across moorland, often recklessly, occasionally with surprising accuracy! *"The thrill of the find always outweighing the sense of bewilderment at my own navigational shortcomings. It also gave me on my mantras I hold to this day....the map is never wrong!"*.

**Proposed:** The Board of Directors

## Ordinary Proposal 5: Election of Elected Directors

The Articles of Association require that Board of Directors of British Orienteering constitute eleven members, including:

- The Chair, appointed in accordance with Article [26](#);
- Six Elected Directors, elected by the membership in accordance with Article [30](#);
- Three Independent Directors, appointed in accordance with Article [31](#); and
- The Chief Executive, ex officio.

At the 20243 AGM, two Elected Directors, Scott Collier and Andy Robinson, reach the end of their terms respectively of office.

Scott Collier is not seeking re-election.

We have received two nominations for the vacant positions. Article 30.4 states *“If there are the same number of candidates as there are vacancies for a post, those candidates shall be declared elected unopposed at the annual general meeting.”*

Therefore, Andy Robinson and Keith Willdig are elected unopposed.

### 1. Andy Robinson (LOC)

#### Statement

Six years down and three to go. That’s the plan if you will approve me. For most of that time I have been in the Treasurer position and feel that has worked well with the office staff. I have also been the liaison Director for three of the regional associations. These are roles that I’m happy to continue with. The Board currently seems well-balanced and works effectively together. However in the next few months there will have to be changes in the positions of CEO, Chair and Vice-chair. So some continuity in other roles will be vital.

**Proposed by:** Don McKerrow (South London Orienteers)

**Seconded by:** David Roach (South London Orienteers)

### 2. Keith Willdig (OD)

#### Statement

Having considerable background as a director and trustee, years of experience as an orienteer and club official in a number of sports, currently as OD chair, equips me to make a contribution to the sport as a BOF elected director. Having been a member of the IoD for many years and part of their East Midlands Leadership Team in the past, I am well aware of the stewardship requirements of a board director which do differ from operational input.

Orienteering faces challenging times with exciting adventure sports vying for the attention of the demographic that we are trying to attract. Progressive clubs are showing the way, we have to carry the good things forward but development and change is inevitable. I hope to help the board refine its strategy to make orienteering and its clubs an attractive proposition for the current and future digital/mobile savvy, often pay-and-play leaning, generations.

**Proposed by:** Jane Kayley-Burgess (Derwent Valley Orienteers)

**Seconded by:** Bob Brandon (Octavian Droobers)