



Berkshire Orienteers Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

**7.00 pm, 20th February 2015
The Bull at Theale, 41 High Street,
Theale, Berkshire RG7 5AH.**

Present:

Katy Stubbs, Derick Mercer, Andrew Graham, Ian Hudson, Fiona Clough, David Jukes, Brian Burt, Darrell Cruickshank, Peter Entwistle, Richard Rae, Denise Harper, Eric Harper, Simon Moore, Lynne Moore, Ken Ricketts, Brian Sewell, Sue Parker, Stefan Stasiuk, Neil Frankum, Martin Wilson, Judith Jefferies, Nigel Jefferies, Catherine Springett, Mark Foxwell.

Apologies for absence

Dave & Oone Rogers, Andy Parry, Anne-Marie Hillier, Nigel Holt, Eoin Sharkey, Dan & Lenka Straka, Glen & DI Wass, Toni & Eddie Whittle, Alain & Sue Wilkes, Pete Wilson.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Minutes of the Last Annual General Meeting (February 2014)

The minutes of the 2014 AGM had been circulated and were unanimously agreed by the meeting.

2. Chairman's Report

Katy Stubbs presented the following account of the year's activities;

Katy gave thanks to Dave Rogers who has stepped down from the Committee due to work commitments for all his efforts both on the Committee and with Training.

Events

BKO put on a total of 15 events, 8 training evenings out in the forest and 13 club nights over the last year.

On the larger events, Colin and Gil Godbold organised our SCOA league event at Rushall Wood in May, with Mark Foxwell planning and myself controlling. Being in the west of our area numbers were down from last year but we still had 178 competitors.

In September, Fiona Clough organised a SCOA league event in Black Park. The area has a number of environmentally sensitive areas and the planner, Ken Ricketts had some challenges to plan testing courses. I was very grateful, as controller, that Mark Foxwell and Mark Chapman of TVOC were able to check sites on the day as I was unable to be there. Again around 191 competitors seemed to enjoy the event despite the restrictions on the planning.

This year's Concorde Chase in Cold Ash was again an event I couldn't be at but from all reports it went very well on the day. The organisers, Alain and Sue Wilkes returned to the area where they assisted as organisers for JK 2013 and Dave Rogers planned the courses with assistance on the weekend from Andy Parry. From reports I have seen a total of 499 competitors seemed to enjoy the event.

We have had eight Saturday forest events at Bloom Wood, Swinley West (2), Burghfield North, Burghfield centre, Benyons's Enclosure, Langley Park and Yateley Heath. They continue to be very popular with between 70 and 140 competitors, equating (with pairs and families) to between 75 and 180 actual runners. Di and Glenn Wass have continued being organisers for nearly all of these events this year with Fiona Clough and Derick Mercer stepping for one. Thanks also to the various planners, Andrew Southwood (2), Annika Hermik and Doug Southwood, Ian Hudson, Mike Pemberton, Mark Foxwell (2) and Andrew Graham.

BKO owes Glenn and Di Wass a big thank you for their continued commitment over the last few years for all their hard work organising so many of our Saturday events. They intend to take advantage of retirement and do much more travelling over the next few years so the club will need to find more Organisers if we intend to continue with the successful Saturday series.

The Summer Saturday Park/Urban series continued with four races in 2014 with events at Whiteknights, Ashenbury, Lower Earley and Great Hollands, planners included Andy Parry, Ken Ricketts and Brian Burt. The organisation was done by collaboration with a number of people contributing including Fiona Clough, Brian Sewell, Mark Foxwell and Andrew Graham. The number of attendees averaged around 55 runners which is slightly up on last year.

Maps were resurveyed for many of these events, some surveys minor, some major. Dave Rogers did updates to the Cold Ash map and Andrew Southwood made corrections to the Langley Park map. Forest maps were surveyed for nearly all of the rest of our events by myself (Katy Stubbs), some with minor changes taking a day, some more significant. Over the last year I have updated all the Burghfield Common maps (Benyons Enclosure, Burghfield North and Burghfield centre), Black Park, Rushall Woods and both West and East Swinley forest, as well as the permanent course maps for Star Posts and Black Park. In the next couple of years large scale rhododendron clearance and pipeline work will mean that Star Posts will need a major resurvey and probably both of the Swinleys will need more work as clearing and spraying is still ongoing in these areas. Eric Harper has done a great deal of mapping for the club over many years but is no longer doing so. I have said this before but the club do need to get more people into mapping in the future otherwise we will have to pay for many more professional map updates. I should point out that it can cost thousands of pounds for a full resurvey of one of our larger areas.

Schools and Community Work

The Berkshire Primary Schools competition continued last year, again due to the contacts that Denise Harper has within Berkshire. More heats than ever before were run by BKO in West Berkshire (3 as one LEA needed two events), Bracknell Forest, Maidenhead and Slough with the final again at Wellington College. Thanks yet again to Denise for mapping the areas, planning the courses and (with Eric) organising the events, with the support of other BKO members.

Club Nights/ Training evenings

Weekly Wednesday Club Nights continued through the first part of 2014 in Birch Hill Primary School, Bracknell, moving out to urban/forest venues at the end of April.

Summer Wednesdays followed on with a progression of training exercises ranging from map memory, line event and using contour and vegetation only maps with some Sprint races thrown in. Andrew Southwood, Ken Ricketts and Andy Parry all planned 2, together with Mark Foxwell and myself with Andy Parry and Brian Burt helping me with the organisation. We again shared 6 evenings with Southern Navigators, they came to 3 of our events and we went to 3 of theirs which lightens the load to some extent.

In Autumn 2014 the committee reassessed how to continue Winter Club Evenings as numbers were starting to drop and grant funding from British Orienteering had stopped. Birch Hill School costs the club £35 pounds per night to hire the hall and the numbers of people coming were not justifying the expense. The decision was made to organise training sessions in either urban or park areas, varying from hill training in South Hill Park, urban map memory in Birch Hill and relay training in Lily Hill Park. Mark Foxwell and Katy Stubbs ran the majority of these, however Mark's work commitments mean that he cannot easily get there in time and I have had family illness which has meant that I am unable to commit to any specific dates. A change was also made from Wednesday to Tuesday evenings for those runners who compete at Army Wednesday events but that did not lead to an increase in attendance and actually lost us those juniors who had been coming. The evenings stopped in November and we have not been able to restart them so far in 2015 although Summer Wednesday evenings have already been planned beginning in late April. I would suggest to the new committee that if Winter evenings do restart, then we should return to Wednesdays.

Committee and Club matters

Committee members took on a number of different major tasks over the year. Brian Sewell has spent a lot of time looking into and testing results software and hardware systems and the club have bought some equipment and expect to buy more over the next year. Hopefully we will become self sufficient for all events except for the main Concorde Chase.

Andy Parry has taken control of the club's website and continues to solve problems as and when they arise. It is becoming more difficult to maintain club mailing lists for various reasons, and he has had to spend some time trying to deal with various issues as they crop up.

Fiona Clough has taken over as fixtures secretary which is a big job as she is also dealing with land permissions. Permissions are becoming more and more difficult and time consuming as both paperwork and restrictions imposed by bodies such as Natural England are increasing.

Fiona has also taken over as the club kit manager and many more BKO members are sporting club tops or sweatshirts nowadays. The club bobble hat is currently in development!

Peter Entwistle has been looking into our current financial and tax situation and the advisability of registering as a Community Amateur Sports Club.

David Jukes continues to edit and publish an excellent BKO Newsletter which has been listed as one of the top ten UK Newsletters by CompassSport for the second year running.

Ken Ricketts continues to manage the BKO Youth League and Dave Rogers has been running coaching sessions at some of our events in the last year. Dave has indicated that his job requirements mean that he will not be able to stand for the committee for the next year. Thanks to Dave for his contribution for the last 6 years on the committee.

Outside of the main committee Martin Wilson took on the role of Club Captain at last year's AGM and has encouraged and managed teams for the CompassSport Cup, JK and British relays. We have had some good relay results this year the highlight probably being 4th place in the M60 class at the British Relays for David Jukes, Martin Wilson and Stephan Stasiuk.

As I said at last year's AGM I am not continuing on the committee this year. I recently checked and realised that I have been involved on and off with the club committee since 1985, in other words for 30 years, and I think it is about time I left and allowed newer people to take the club forwards.

I would like to thank all of the club committee and members for their support and everyone who has been either an official, or helped at any of our numerous events this last year.

2015

Looking forward we have our first major urban event which is a NopeSport Urban League event at the end of May in Bracknell and a SCOA league event September.

In between you will all have seen in the Newsletter that this year is the 25 year anniversary of the change from Reading Orienteering Club to Berkshire Orienteers. The Committee are planning that the summer BBQ will celebrate the formation of Berkshire Orienteers.

3. Treasurers Report

Peter Entwistle circulated the audited accounts for 2014.

2014 Results

The Club had made an overall cash surplus over the year of £1067 pounds (2013: £1193). However the Club has a policy of putting money into an equipment replacement reserve and if this money had been subtracted there was a small overall deficit of £347 (2013: surplus of 3656).

Income over the year had declined due to increased costs at the Southern Championships / Concorde Chase (mainly due to the need for tracking to maintain access to the car parking) and reduced numbers at our two SCOA League events in comparison to the equivalent events in 2013.

Expenditure was also down, mainly due to less mapping costs (Cold Ash had been used for the JK and needed only limited updating) and reduced equipment purchases.

The Club has a healthy balance in the bank amounting to £17,349 a rise of £781. However, nearly 70% of this is designated as the 'Emit equipment reserve'.

In answer to Martin Wilson's question on where the large lump sum of expenditure would take place;

Peter explained that much of our Emit equipment is now nearly 10 years old having originally been sold with a guaranteed life of at least 5 years. Failures of controls and Emit cards are now occurring and at some point a decision will have to be taken to completely replace the stock to avoid using unreliable equipment at events. This will be expensive and is the reason the Club has specifically built up a reserve to cover this. The equipment is now considered to be about equal the likely cost of replacement.

The Committee will however be watching for updated equipment being developed by Emit (such as touch-free cards) and will take this into account in deciding when to replace.

Membership Fees 2016

The Committee had discussed membership fees for 2016 and the Treasurer proposed to the meeting that the rate for Seniors should be increased from £6 to £7 (Juniors fees would remain the same at £1). It was explained that the changes in the regional finances meant that a new individual levy of £2 per member would be operating from 2016 and the increase was designed to partly offset this additional charge. The increase was proposed by the Treasurer and seconded by Fiona Clough. The meeting voted unanimously for the increase with no-one against.

4. Awards

Derek Harding Award (For services to the club)

It was announced that **Glen & Di Wass** had been awarded the Derek Harding award for his services to the club over the past year.

Jim's Jug (For best junior)

Thomas Inness had been nominated by the Executive Committee as having had outstanding performances as a junior this season.

Club Champions (Based on results at the Championship, 16th November 2014)

- M/W12: Thomas Inness
- M/W14: Oliver Smith
- M/W16 William Jeffries
- Senior: Helen Tyrell
- Veteran: Katy Stubbs
- Super Veteran: Gill Bennett

Overall Club Champion by the closest of margins was **Katy Stubbs**.

5. Election of Executive Committee:

Chairman: Katy stood down as Chair and with no volunteers the positions becomes vacant.

Secretary: Derick Mercer was willing to stand and he was returned unopposed.

Treasurer: Peter Entwistle was willing to stand again and he was returned unopposed.

Fixtures Secretary: Fiona Clough has been carrying these duties and stated that she was willing to carry on. She was voted in unanimously.

Membership Secretary: Ian Hudson was willing to stand again and he was returned unopposed.

Development Officer: Ken Ricketts was willing to stand again and he was returned unopposed.

Committee Members: There are four additional posts and two co-opted provided under the constitution. The following were willing to continue to act in this capacity:

- David Jukes, with additional remit of Newsletter for which he was praised by all.
- Andy Parry, with additional role of the BKO website.
- Brian Sewell.

The Chair explained how the Committee operates the roles of the individual posts also asking if there were any other volunteers of which Mark & Andrew put themselves forward and were voted onto the Committee.

- Mark Foxwell
- Andrew Graham (co-opt)

6. Any Other Business

- a) Club Captain – Martin thanked those who have put themselves forward for the forthcoming Compass Sport Cup. He asked anyone not running to consider putting themselves in for running to help the Club gain a good points total.

The meeting closed at 8.07 pm and the Chair thanked everyone for attending.