



## **Berkshire Orienteers Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**

**7.00 pm, 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2018  
Sand Martins Golf Club,  
Wokingham, Berkshire. RG40 RQ.**

### **Present:**

Derick Mercer, Fiona Clough, Brian Burt, Peter Entwistle, Mark Foxwell, Neil Frankum, Annika & Doug Greenwood, Denise & Eric Harper, Anne-Marie Hillier, Pete Wilson, Nigel Houlton, Ian Hudson, David Jukes, Trevor Etherington, John Methven, Lynne & Simon Moore, Sue Parker, Brian Sewell, Andy Parry, Richard Rae, Mark Saunders, Stefan Stasiuk, Katy Stubbs, Martin Wilson Jane Courtier, Bo Oqvist, Christine Artus, Jacqui & John Briggs.

### **Apologies for absence**

Toni & Eddie Whittle, Janet & Bryce Gibson, Eoin Sharkey, Terry Hosking & Glyn Thomas.

### **1. Minutes of the Last Annual General Meeting (February 2017)**

The minutes of the 2017 AGM had been circulated and were Proposed as correct by Fiona Clough and Seconded by Katy Stubbs.

### **2. Chairman's Report**

Simon welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave the following account of the year's activities;

#### **Events**

The framework for our orienteering events is usually structured around holding;

- One level B event per year – the Concorde Chase
- Two Level C events
- A range of Level D events - usually on Saturday mornings
- Summer park events – Only one this year
- A number of summer training events –

The total number of the smaller events is determined by how many organiser/planners/helpers the committee feels we will be able to recruit to handle these events.

In addition this year, we also held an additional Level B event - the CompassSport Cup heat at Cold Ash in early March – Planned by Mark Foxwell and organised by Peter Entwistle. We had 3 clubs including BKO competing in the Cup competition and 4 in the trophy competition (This is for smaller clubs) – a total of over 300 runners.

Since last year's AGM, we have held 2 events to finish off our Saturday series for 2016-17. These took place at Swinley East and Langley Park. A third event scheduled to take place at Rushall Woods was cancelled over concerns the M4 closures would cause serious access difficulties.

Our spring Level C and South Central League event took place at Black Park in May – Organised by Colin Godbold and planned by Annika Greenwood. Concerns that new (and higher) Land use fees

could price us out of the area in future were ironed out following careful negotiation by Club Treasurer after the event.

We held only one summer parks event this year – the club picnic at Sandhurst Memorial park in August – Planned by Eric Harper. Once again thanks to Fiona Clough for organising the food and drink.

A range of Wednesday evening training events were organised by Mark Foxwell across both forested and urban areas. – The turnout is not large, but it does provide the ability to focus on particular skills without the usual pressure of a standard event.

The 2017-2018 Saturday series started with our event at Benyons Enclosure followed by Snelsmore Common – this was originally cancelled due to forecast high winds – It was then rescheduled instead of our planned Bramshill event in December.

Our New Year's Eve event at Whiteknights Park proved especially popular. – This was planned by Mark Saunders and organised by Eoin Sharkey – They were keen to publicise the event after a low turnout at Snelsmore. Eoin contacted TVOC about how they promote their events on Facebook and arranged some FB boosting of our own. In combination with other promotion, this increased our attendees to over 220 - The caused some admin headaches as it was all EOD and maps were having to be recycled. In future we will need to provide pre-entry for this type of event.

The Concorde Chase this year took place at Star Posts – very ably organised by Fiona Clough and planned by Stefan Stasiuk with over 600 competitors. The biggest challenge before the event was arranging the parking given that Crown Estate would not let us park on-site.

We have since run one more event at Swinley West - again using Facebook promotion and again large numbers of news faces at the event – this is great, but it's starting to challenge our assumptions about how to handle 'small' Saturday events.

## **Schools**

Once again Denise Harper has organised a number of events for the Berkshire Schools Games – This included 2 heats in west Berkshire, Bracknell, Slough, and Ascot & Maidenhead and a final at Bisham Abbey. Denise was supported by Eric and a number of BKO volunteers.

## **Behind the scenes**

There is a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes to keep the club running. – Eric Harper still keeps all the club equipment. He has recently passed over printing of maps for our smaller events to Andy Parry who holds our new printer.

Katy Stubbs has updated the map of Star Posts for the Concorde Chase.

Fiona Clough has organised this year's Concorde Chase and is organising next year's JK Day 3 as well as being SCOA secretary. She's handed over the role of getting land permission to Andy Parry.

Brian Sewell has led our team who manage entry and results processing systems for our level C and D events – There's a lot that happens behind the scenes including cleaning up the results after the event, uploading results to the BOF website, putting maps and split times onto Routegadget etc.

We've had issues with the number of mis-punching occurring on cold days. This seems to have been traced to a combination low batteries in the EMIT cards and also in the controls. We have a policy of replacing 20 of the clubs EMIT cards pre year and have recently decided to send off our controls to EMIT in Norway to replace their batteries. We're doing this in 2 stages – the first group has just returned. You'll see in the accounts the cost for this is being met out of our equipment reserves. In the

longer term, we've instigated a review of punching systems inside SCOA – There have been advances by both EMIT and SI in terms of contactless punching and we need to start to understand the pros/cons of these systems. Given that I think all the clubs in SCOA have replaced the batteries in their existing EMIT controls, I can't see any new recommendations happening soon.

Martin Wilson has been busy as club captain – Organising our teams for the CompassSport Cup and relays at the British and JK. Fortunately, he takes the job seriously in terms of leading by example, encouragement and persuasion to extract the best from us as a club – He's also responsible for pushing through the design of the new club jacket which we should be seeing soon.

Our club magazine produced by David Jukes seems to get better and better. – He's also responsible for the email updates and our Facebook presence as well. He's produced a 50th Anniversary edition which is available to collect today. If you find this report doesn't have enough detail for you then I suggest looking at some of the past club magazines available on the website.

Fortunately we haven't had to call on the role of welfare officer this year – the position is held by Lynne, but I would urge you all to understand BOF's O-safe policy. The issues that have affected other spots have been in the news again only this week.

I'd like to thank all of the BKO committee for their support this year and all the other members who've been a helper or official at any of our events this year.

### **Next year**

Looking forward to next year we're planning the usual range of Saturday morning events, an urban event at Bracknell in June and a return to Black Park in October. In the New Year, we have JK2019 taking place in the region. Day 3 will be at Cold Ash with Fiona Clough as Organiser. Peter Entwistle is the Treasurer and Katy Stubbs is mapping co-ordinator and a Day 3 planner. This will take a considerable amount of effort and resources from all the clubs in the region. There's still uncertainty over some of the other areas to be used and Di Smith who is the overall event co-ordinator is looking for volunteers for a whole range of event officials including planner and organiser for the relays. Come and talk to me (or Fiona) if you're interested in one of these roles.

I'd like to continue using Facebook promotion of events – this does seem to be working as an effective means of attracting new (and sometimes old) faces to our events. We'll need to rise to the challenge of managing these newcomers and additional numbers effectively – but it's a good problem to have. This will only work if we as a committee continue to have support for the membership in terms of event officials and helpers at events. We have a core of people who regularly help at events – a I'd like to thank them one again. I'd also like more people to join this group, so if you've not helped recently or regularly over the past year, please volunteer when the call goes out.

## **3. Treasurers Report**

Peter Entwistle circulated the audited accounts for 2017.

### **a. Audited Accounts 2017**

The club's Financial results for 2017 are in good shape and showing an increase in the surplus over 2016

We recorded a SURPLUS of £1395 which was unexpectedly high and was an increase of £411 compared to 2016.

The biggest factors were the high surplus from the Bucklebury Level C event - £672 over Budget, and the delay of £340 o-top purchases into 2018.

Cash at the Bank was effectively totalling £18,839 at the end of 2017 up by £475 from 2016.

The £12,000 provision to fund the replacement of our battery powered Emit equipment was not changed in 2017.

But we have since arranged for the replacement of the batteries in all 91 Club Emit Controls at a cost of some £3,235 in 2018 to be covered by the provision. Emit UK have this month completed the work for the first batch.

The audited accounts were proposed by Lynne Moore and seconded by Stefan Stasiuk.

### **SUMMARY of 2017**

The Club is in a good financial position with a very comfortable surplus in 2017.

The Final OVERALL position was a surplus of £1,395 for 2017 with positive Cash Flow of £1,343 and a closing Bank and Cash balance of £18,839.

### **b. Budget 2018**

For next year we are using the 2017 surplus to cover a projected deficit of £1251 in 2018.

This year we:

- are investing in club jackets with a £500 subsidy,
- have two events less than 2017 which had income of £643 last year
- have removed the windfall element from the Autumn Level C surplus

We are also spending £3235 on renewing the batteries on 91 controls but this is covered by the Equipment provision.

John Methven queried if other Clubs were going to change to SI or stay with Emit. Derick replied that all other Clubs in the region had already had the batteries replaced in their Emit units. Simon said that changing to touch free would be an ongoing debate. Peter also said that the cost of re battering is half the price of purchasing new units.

Martin Wilson asked if we are expecting a profit from events. Peter replied that we have budgeted for a small profit.

The Budget were proposed by Peter Entwistle and seconded by Ian Hudson.

### **c. Membership Fees 2019**

There is no proposed change to the fees for 2019.

Martin asked why the membership fees have stayed steady. Ian said that it was more to encourage new members/keep existing than generate an income. A small discussion took place on prices compared to other Clubs.

Proposed by Anne-Marie Hillier and seconded by Anika Greenwood.

## **4. Club Constitution**

There was no proposed update to the Constitution.

## 5. Awards

Derek Harding Award (*For services to the club*)

Simon presented the Derek Harding award for his services to the club over the past year to **Martin Wilson**.

Jim's Jug (*For best junior*)

**Amelia Wing** 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, 4<sup>th</sup> December 2016). Simon did apologise that the Committee had failed in selecting an event early enough / having the correct format which he promised would be looked at for next year. He also said that with Colin winning the Handicap trophy it makes the first couple to have won the trophy with Gill being a previous winner.*

- Women's Champion – **Fiona Clough**
- Men's Champion – **Simon Moore**
- Junior Champion (Girls) – **N/A**
- Junior Champion (Boys) – **Tom Innes**
- Handicap Champion – **Colin Godbold**

## 6. Election of Executive Committee:

*Chair:* Simon Moore stated that he was willing to stand as Chair, proposed by Martin Wilson & seconded by Brian Sewell.

*Secretary:* Derick Mercer was willing to stand again, proposed by Lynne Moore & seconded by Anne Marie Hillier.

*Treasurer:* Peter Entwistle was willing to stand again, proposed by Fiona Clough & seconded by Annika Greenwood.

*Fixtures Secretary:* Fiona Clough had stood down as Fixtures Secretary with Andy Parry fulfilling the duties recently. Andy was willing to stand as Fixtures Secretary, proposed by Eric Harper & seconded by Brian Burt.

*Membership Secretary:* Ian Hudson was willing to stand again, proposed by Fiona Clough & seconded by Mark Foxwell.

*Development Officer:* This position remains vacant with no-one volunteering to take the post.

*Welfare Officer:*

*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 with one additional volunteer Fiona Clough.

- David Jukes, with additional remit of Newsletter.
- Brian Sewell.
- Mark Foxwell.
- Fiona Clough.

These were proposed by Katy Stubbs, seconded Sue Parker.

Co-opted - By Officers of the Committee.

- Brian Burt has stated that he would be standing down from the Committee. Simon thanked Brian for all the work he has done in the past year. There were no other volunteers.

*Welfare Officer:* The position of Welfare Officer as a non Executive Committee post has been made as detailed at last years AGM and has been covered up to date by Lynne Moore. Lynne has volunteered to continue in the role.

Proposed by Andy Parry, seconded by Brian Sewell.

## **7. Any Other Business**

- a) David Jukes asked for the Club to recognise everything that Darrel Cruickshank has done for the Club over the years. *Darrell is a founder member and still turns out & helps on a regular basis.*
- b) Martin Wilson informed the meeting that he is hoping to receive the first delivery of the Club Jackets by the JK. After a quick discussion the new top design was agreed.
- c) Denise asked if the Club could offer a contribution for Glenn Wass who over many years contributed a lot to the Club. *Simon not sure what to do about this – Constitution sect 10 property & Funds. The way I read it, we can give him something.*

*The meeting closed at 8.19 pm and Simon thanked everyone for attending.*