



Berkshire Orienteers Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

**7.00 pm, 7 February 2014
The Bull at Theale, 41 High Street,
Theale, Berkshire RG7 5AH.**

Present:

Brian Burt, Fiona Clough, Darrell Cruickshank, Peter Entwistle, Neil Frankum, Helen Fraser, Mark Foxwell, Andrew Graham, Eric Harper, Anne-Marie Hillier, Nigel Hault, Ian Hudson, David Jukes, Katy MacDonald, Derick Mercer, Sue Parker, Andy Parry, Richard Rae, Nick Rayne, Ken Ricketts, Debbie Robinson, Dave Rogers, Oone Rogers, Brian Sewell, Keith Skipsey, Katy Stubbs, Di Wass, Eddie Whittle, Toni Whittle, Martin Wilson, Pete Wilson

Apologies for absence

Bryce Gibson, Janet Gibson, Denise Harper, Steve McNab, Glen Wass

1. Minutes of the Last Annual General Meeting (February 2013)

The minutes of the 2013 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:

Events

BKO put on a total of 16 events, 9 training evenings out in the forest and 28 club nights over the last year.

To start with the larger events, Jane Courtier organised our SCOA league event at Bloom Wood in May, with Andrew Southwood planning and Mark Foxwell controlling. A new parking field was found by Andrew and we had around 265 competitors.

In September, Andrew Graham organised a SCOA league event in Yateley Heath. The planner, Ken Ricketts had many challenges with new quarrying blocking off a large part of the western area and felling restricting the use of the northern block. Again around 260 competitors seemed to enjoy the event despite the restrictions on the planning.

A New Years' Day score event was organised by David Jukes and planned by Katy Stubbs and despite the pretty foul weather we still had 115 runners.

This year's Concorde Chase in Star Posts was a Level A event, the Southern Championships, and had a number of challenges. The main one was the parking, which involved multiple visits, refusal of permission from Natural England for the best tracks, then flooding of the alternative parking areas that didn't involve going into the competition area. The size of the parking teams was much bigger than normal which did put a bit of a strain on the rest of the organisation, but with the assistance of many BKO members the event itself went very well. The organiser, Fiona Clough really jumped in at the deep end for her first event, but was ably supported by Derick Mercer with some assistance from myself (Katy Stubbs) and Martin Wilson's courses certainly seemed to go down very well.

We have had eight Saturday forest events at Bloom Wood, Swinley East (2), Rushall Woods, Black Park, Cold Ash, Benyons's Enclosure and Yateley Common. They continue to be very popular with between 60 and 125 competitors, equating (with pairs and families) to between 80 and 170 actual runners. Di and Glenn Wass have continued being organisers for all of these events this year and we thank them for their hard work. Thanks also to the various planners, Steve Fletcher (2), Alan Phillips, Ian Hudson, Stefan Stasiuk, Andy Parry and Eric Harper. Ian is new to planning, partly as a result of a planning course put on at our Club Nights.

The Summer Saturday Park/Urban series continued with four races in 2013. We returned to Sandhurst Memorial Park, Easthampstead and Wildridings, Lower Earley and Birch Hill, planners included Eric Harper, Andy Parry and Ken Ricketts. The organisation was done by collaboration with a number of people contributing including Derick Mercer, Fiona Clough, Peter Entwistle, Ken Ricketts, Katy Stubbs and Glenn and Di Wass. Numbers averaged around 40 runners.

Maps were updated for many of these events, some minor, some major. Ken Ricketts re-surveyed the Yateley Heath map, Eric Harper updated some of the urban maps and created the new map of Yateley Common, and David Jukes extended the Lower Earley map. Forest maps were corrected for nearly all of the rest of our events by Katy Stubbs, some minor changes taking a day, some much more significant taking weeks (Star Posts for example). We do need to get more people into mapping in the future as one person can't take on the responsibility for updating every forest map, alternatively we will have to pay for more professional map updates.

Schools and Community Work

The Berkshire Primary Schools competition continued last year, again due to the contacts that Denise Harper has within Berkshire. Heats were run by BKO in West Berkshire (both LEAs), Bracknell Forest and for the first time in Slough, with the final at Wellington College. Thanks to Denise for mapping the areas, planning the courses and (with Eric) organising the events, with the support of other BKO members. We have again been approached about the forthcoming year.

Club Nights/ Training evenings

Weekly Club Nights have continued throughout 2013, based in Bracknell in Birch Hill Primary school. We had grant support from British Orienteering which will maintain the cost of hall hire until March 2014, after that we will need to consider whether to continue to subsidise these evenings as they do not pay for themselves with the room hire being relatively high. Mark Foxwell and Katy Stubbs ran the majority of these, with Jason Edwards continuing to support these evenings when he is able to do so.

The summer Wednesday evening events followed on from the Club Nights starting with Swinley West at the beginning of May. They were designed to follow a progression of training exercises ranging from map memory, line event and using contour and vegetation only maps. This year the club coaches took the lead in planning these events, Mark Foxwell, Jason Edwards and Katy Stubbs. 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.

Other Events – JK2013

I can't make a report for 2013 without mentioning the enormous amount of work that was involved in staging the JK in SCOA. Many BKO members took leading roles over the 4 days of Easter weekend, most helping for more than one day and in some cases all four days.

A few of the names are given here; co-ordinator, mapping, programme; Katy Stubbs, treasurer; Jocelyn Anderson, safety officer; Dave Rogers, accommodation; Di and Glenn Wass, enquiries/EOD team leaders; Andrew Graham and Ian Hudson, day 3 planner; Eric Harper, day 3 assistant organisers; Alain and Sue Wilkes. The list could go on and on, but thanks again to everyone who helped, even if only for a short time on one day.

Committee matters

For the first time in a number of years we have had a full committee thanks to the new members elected this time last year. New members Derick Mercer (secretary), Fiona Clough and Brian Sewell have become very involved with the club during the year and Brian and others have recently researched and now purchased better equipment to allow us to manage entries and results which you will be seeing at future events. This will mean we will be more independent at our Level C events and potentially higher level ones as we get better accustomed to the software.

Thanks for many years service from Eric Harper who has recently passed over getting the land permissions (as a non committee post) to Andy Parry. Eric still keeps the club equipment so he is not completely out of a job.

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

2014

This coming year is a quieter one for BKO than last as we don't have the JK international weekend at Easter. That doesn't change the fact that we will always need organisers and planners. Looking forward we have our SCOA league events in May and September, the summer Urban Parks series and next year's Concorde Chase at Cold Ash.

We are already thinking about the next big event, which will be the British Sprint Championships in 2015.

I repeat what I said last year, if no-one is willing to take on positions then the events will not happen. If members want to be able to go to them, then they have to be willing to help put them on.

3. Treasurers Report

Peter Entwistle circulated the audited accounts for 2013.

2013 Results

2013 was a successful year for Club finances. All our Saturday events gave comfortable cash surpluses, and overall we recorded a Cash SURPLUS of £1193. This compares well with 2012 when there was a Cash Deficit of £213.

Since we expect to have to make substantial purchases of equipment in the next few years as the batteries fail in our Emit kit, we have changed our accounting treatment for major equipment purchases such as Electronic Punching equipment, computers, generators etc.

We are now capitalising the Equipment purchases to spread the cost over the expected life, and so the purchase costs are transferred from Current year expenditure to Fixed Assets, but are replaced by an annual depreciation charge at 20% or 33% of the cost. I have restated 2012 for this charge but earlier years are not restated.

As last year we have to set aside a provision to allow for eventual replacement of our battery powered Emit equipment. The provision is based on a 8 year life following previous experience of failure rates in the equipment in BKO and other Clubs. Much of the equipment is now 7 years old and will have to be replaced in the next few years. The provision for 2013 is £1832 versus £670 in 2012 and the total provision is now £10,524. Estimated replacement cost £12,500 (for a standard set).

So the Final OVERALL position was a SURPLUS of £656 (£203 deficit in 2012 after restatement).

The Club is in a good financial position with £18,346 in the bank (up by £4366) and our Total Net Assets have increased £3,168 to £16,568 (of which the major part is due to the capitalisation of the equipment £1,975).

- A query was raised by Eric as to why the Club only received £5.29 interest on a Bank balance of £10,000 – Treasurer for feedback.

Membership Fees 2014

Since the financial state of the club appeared healthy, it was agreed that fees should remain at their current level.

4. Awards

Derek Harding Award (For services to the club)

It was announced that **Andrew Graham** had been awarded the Derek Harding award for his services to the club over the past year.

Jim's Jug (For best junior)

Oliver Smith 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, 17th November 2013))

- Richard Powell (Stuart Parker),
- Gill Godbold (Eric Harper),
- Ian Cooper (Peter Bennett),
- Daniel Smith (M/W16),
- Oliver Smith (M/W14),
- Jacob Marwick (M/W12).

Overall Club Champion by the closest of margins was **Eric Harper**.

5. Election of Executive Committee:

Chairman: Katy Stubbs was willing to stand again on the understanding that this would be her final year. She was returned unopposed

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: Andy Parry indicated that he was willing to stand again and he was returned unopposed.

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 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.
- Dave Rogers, with additional remit of Training.
- Brian Sewell.
- Fiona Clough.

The Chair explained how the Committee operates the roles of the individual posts also asking if there were any other volunteers of which there weren't any.

6. Any Other Business

- a) Club Captain – After some discussion on the Club Captain's role and the need for a Captain Martin Wilson volunteered for the post. This was unanimously accepted by those in attendance especially with the Compass Sport Cup being so close.
- b) Di Wass gave forward notice that Glen & herself would be giving up there roles at BKO events at the end of 2014. The meeting thanked Di for their time and efforts at these events and the commitment they give will be sorely missed.
- c) Fiona Clough raised the question of Club Kit (trousers etc). After a short discussion it was decided that this subject will be taken forward to the next Committee Meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.14 pm and the Chair thanked everyone for attending.