



## **Berkshire Orienteers**

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

**7.00 pm, 8 February 2013**  
**The Bull at Theale, 41 High Street,**  
**Theale, Berkshire RG7 5AH.**

#### **Present:**

Brian Burt, Fiona Clough, Jason Edwards, Peter Entwistle, Neil Frankum, Bryce Gibson, Janet Gibson, Andrew Graham, Alan Harper, Denise Harper, Eric Harper, Nigel Houlton, Ian Hudson, David Jukes, Katy MacDonald, Stephen McNab, Derek Mercer, Sue Parker, Andy Parry, Richard Rae, Ken Ricketts, Dave Rogers, Oone Rogers, Brian Sewell, Katy Stubbs, Simon Turton, Di Wass, Glenn Wass, Alain Wilkes and Sue Wilkes.

#### **1. Apologies for absence**

Martin Wilson

#### **2. Minutes of the Last Annual General Meeting (February 2012)**

The minutes of the 2012 AGM had been circulated. Andy Parry proposed that they be accepted. This was seconded by Ian Hudson and unanimously agreed by the meeting.

#### **3. Chairman's Report**

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

##### *Events*

BKO have again had a busy year putting on more activities for club members than ever during the last year.

To start with events, Helen Fraser organised our SCOA league event at Swinley East in May, with Ken Ricketts planning. The map was updated by Katy Stubbs due to quite a lot of felling over the last couple of years. We had pre-entry for the first time for an event like this due to the numbers at the Hawley event the previous year and 451 competitors enjoyed the beautiful day.

In September, we put on our first Level C urban event, in Windsor and Eton. The new map was done by Tim Booth who also planned the courses and David Jukes was the organiser. We had just under 200 runners, which was down on the usual numbers for a SCOA league but still a good number for an urban event.

We didn't put on a New Years' Day event as we couldn't find officials.

This year's Concorde Chase at Barossa was very successful, organised by Peter Entwistle and Ken Ricketts, and planned by Dick Rae. Courses were very well received especially as Dick was able to use the ranges which meant that the very best parts of the area could be used. Numbers were down from the previous year with 563 runners on the day, at least partly due to the fact that we could not take entry on the day for security reasons. The event has still made a good surplus, because the map had already been paid for and due to a change in the British Orienteering levy this year. This change means that all events will incur levy charges, which means that we will make much lower surpluses on the smaller events (where everyone will pay a levy) but correspondingly larger ones on the bigger events.

We have had seven Saturday forest events at Bloom Wood, Rushall Wood, Langley Park, Swinley West, Hawley and Benyons's Enclosure, as well as a joint one with BADO at Snelsmore. Unfortunately the January 2013 event had to be cancelled due to the snow. This would have been on our latest new map by Eric Harper of Yateley Common. The maps of Benyon's Enclosure and Swinley West were updated by Katy Stubbs for these events. 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 commitment. Thanks also to the various planners, Dan Straka, Andrew Graham, Andy Parry (2), Tony Ludford of BADO, Stefan Stasiuk with Derek Mercer and Steve Fletcher with Jane Courtier. Two of these are 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 2012. Two of these were on new areas and maps of Easthampstead and Wildridings in Bracknell and Sandhurst Memorial Park, both mapped and planned by Eric Harper. The Lower Earley map was updated to full Sprint specification and courses planned by David Jukes and Great Hollands was planned by Alan Philips. The organisation was done by collaboration with a number of people contributing, Andrew Graham, Gil and Colin Godbold, Katy Stubbs, Glenn and Di Wass. Numbers averaged around 40 runners.

I have already mentioned that whilst we have new planners coming forward we seem to have even fewer people willing to take on the role of organiser. It is quite simple, if we don't have an organiser we don't have an event! So please search your consciences and offer occasionally. I am sure Helen Fraser would be happy to let you know how she felt about offering to do her first event.

### *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) and Bracknell Forest and the final was held at St Andrews school. We have again been asked to run competitions in for 2013 in additional LEAs and we have seen children coming from the schools events into our Saturday events and participating in the Youth League.

St Andrews School went to the British Schools Championship and this year they won the Middle/Preparatory school championship.

### *Club Nights*

Weekly Club Nights have continued throughout 2012, based in Bracknell. We moved from Easthampstead Baptist Church following the summer break to Birch Hill Primary school which is marginally cheaper and also has the advantage of an enclosed school map so we can allow juniors to run around unsupervised and without crossing streets. We have had further grant support from British Orienteering which continues until March 2013.

The summer Wednesday evening events followed on from the Club Nights starting with Lily Hill at the end of April. They were designed to follow a progression of training exercises ranging from map memory, line event and using contour and vegetation only maps. Again we have introduced a couple of beginners to planning at these, Annika Hermik and Jillian Ullersperger, with others being done by Steve Fletcher, Martin Wilson, Brian Burt, Andrew Southwood and Andy Parry. These continued to be successful with numbers ranging from 8 to 42.

### *Committee matters*

This year the committee has been working with reduced numbers due to a lack of volunteers. At the AGM we did not fill the post of Development Officer and one of the Committee Members. Despite repeated requests in both Newsletter and club email updates no-one came forward in 2012 to take on these roles.

Due to continued ill health, Alan Springett has resigned as Membership Secretary. Many thanks to our Committee Member, Ian Hudson, who has been standing in as Membership Secretary for 2012. Keith Ellis has resigned as Newsletter Editor and thanks also to David Jukes for stepping in and producing the latest Newsletter. David has indicated that he would like to take on the role permanently and consequently will be resigning as Secretary. Andy Parry has done a great job as Fixtures Secretary this year and has also just taken over as Webmaster as Tim Booth, who has done this for many years has just moved permanently to Boston, USA. Eric Harper has continued to take on the land permissions (as a non committee post).

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.

### *2013*

This coming year is a very busy one for BKO as many of us are heavily involved with the forthcoming JK international weekend at Easter. Many club members have been very willing to offer help, and nearly all for more than one day. Thank you to everyone and I anticipate that it will be a great event, even if I am slightly biased.

Most of the experienced club members are taking lead roles, which reduces the number of potential officials for our own club events even more. We currently need organisers for our SCOA league events in May and September, for the summer Urban Parks series and for next year's Concorde Chase on Star Posts which will be the Southern Championships.

It is very simple, if no-one is willing to take on positions then the events will not happen! It was interesting the number of people who asked me where the New Year's Day Score

event was going to be in December last year. My answer was simple, if they weren't willing to organise it it wasn't going to happen. It didn't.

If members want to have events, then they have to be willing to help put them on.

#### **4. Treasurers Report**

Peter Entwistle circulated the audited accounts for 2012 along with a proposed budget for 2013.

##### *Audited accounts 2012*

The club made a cash deficit on the year of £213 and, taking into account a provision for future Emit replacement, there was an overall deficit of £883. It was noted that the events had made a good surplus during the year. However overall income was down from that in 2011. Expenditure was similar to 2011 although there had been increased equipment purchases and the cost of producing and circulating the newsletter had risen. Overall though the bank assets are strong at £13399 of which £8692 has been set aside for eventual replacement of our Emit stock.

In discussion it was noted that changes to the levy system had been introduced from January 2013 and this would change the balance of costs with large events paying less but small events (including our Saturday events) paying levy for the first time. Charges for the Saturday events had been increased from September in anticipation of this change.

Dave Rogers proposed that the accounts be accepted. Seconded by Andy Parry and agreed unanimously.

##### *Budget 2013*

Turning to the proposed budget for 2013, it was hoped that the club would make a modest cash surplus of about £300 but with a further allocation of about £1000 to our reserves to cover equipment replacement there was an anticipated deficit of nearly £700.

In response to a question it was commented that, with changes to technology, we could not yet anticipate the type of equipment that might be purchased when the bulk of our current Emit stock starts to fail. Emit have recently introduced a new type of control and card and there would need to be discussions with the region before reaching any decision.

##### *Membership Fees 2014*

Ian informed the meeting that we had at present got 152 members of which 146 had joined via BOF. Current club fees are £6 for seniors and £1 for juniors.

There was some discussion as to the difficulty of discussing and agreeing fees so far in advance of the start of the year. During 2012, with changes to the national membership arrangements, the Committee had had to adopt appropriate rates during 2012.

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

## 5. Changes to the Constitution

Following a request from the Treasurer, the committee had recommended updating two provisions in the Constitution relating to finances. The first concerned the increasing use of e-banking in place of cheques. Currently the constitution only makes reference to the use of cheques and so technically any bank transfers are unconstitutional. The proposal would remedy this. The second concerned a byelaw which makes reference to a separate account ('BKO Concorde Account'). This account has been dormant for at least 5 years since all funds now pass through the main BKO account.

The Committee had circulated the two proposals.

- a) Add to end of Clause 4: "Club payments may also be made by Bank Transfer by one of the cheque signatories. Where a payment exceeds £1000 prior written or email approval for that payment must be obtained from one of the other signatories."
- b) Delete Bye Law 2 in its entirety.

Both were adopted unanimously.

## 6. Awards

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

It was announced that **Tim Booth** had been awarded the Derek Harding award for his services to the club. Unfortunately as he has recently left for the USA he was not present at the meeting.

*Jim's Jug (For best junior)*

**Jacob Marwick** had been nominated by the Executive Committee as having had the best season as a junior. He was not present and the Chairman would find a suitable occasion to present it to him.

*Club Champions (Based on results at the Championship, 18th November 2012)*

- Richard Powell (Seniors),
- Gill Godbold (Veterans),
- Ian Cooper (Super Veterans),
- Alexandria Marwick (M/W12),
- Jacob Marwick (M/W14).

Overall Club Champion was **Gill Godbold** who unfortunately was not present.

## 7. Election of Executive Committee:

*Chairman:* Katy Stubbs was willing to stand again and was proposed by Peter Entwistle and seconded by Ian Hudson. She was returned unopposed

*Secretary:* Derick Mercer was willing to stand and was proposed by Steve McNab and seconded by Fiona Cough. He was returned unopposed.

*Treasurer:* Peter Entwistle was willing to stand again and was proposed by Andy Parry and seconded by Dave Rogers. He was returned unopposed.

*Fixtures Secretary:* Andy Parry indicated that he was willing to stand again. He was proposed by Di Wass and seconded by Denise Harper. He was returned unopposed.

*Membership Secretary:* Due to his long-term illness, Alan Springett remains unable to resume his position. Ian Hudson, who has been performing this role during the year was willing to take on the full responsibility. He was proposed by Andy Parry and seconded by Neil Frankum. He was returned unopposed.

*Development Officer:* The post had been vacant for 2012. However Ken Ricketts agreed to take on the task. He was proposed by Katy Stubbs and seconded by Brian Sewell.

*Committee Members:* There are four additional posts provided under the constitution. The following were willing to act in this capacity:

- David Jukes, nominated by Katy Stubbs and seconded by Fiona Clough.
- Dave Rogers, nominated by Derick Mercer and seconded by Ian Hudson.
- Brian Sewell, nominated by Sue Parker and seconded by Di Wass.
- Fiona Clough, nominated by Denise Harper and seconded by David Jukes

## **8. Any Other Business**

- a) Ian Hudson mentioned the detailed work undertaken by Andy Parry at short notice over Christmas to transfer the club's membership data onto the club's website (but held securely with restricted access). He expressed his thanks to Andy for this work.
- b) Ken presented Katy with her certificate for her performance in Light Green in the SCOA League as it had not been possible to present it at previous events.
- c) Andy Parry informed the meeting that he would be seeking members for the BKO relay teams at the forthcoming JK. He would be circulating his request in the near future.
- d) Peter Entwistle wished to record a vote of thanks to Katy for her continued active leadership of the club and her willingness to continue for a further year. This was supported by the meeting.

*The meeting closed at 8.15 pm*