

EAOA AGM 01.07.2012

Chairman's Report

The past year has witnessed a number of changes starting to take place in orienteering, not so much on the ground and in the forest but in management and governance. Whether they are all to the good is somewhat debatable in some people's eyes, but we must wait and see what develops from them.

One change which I welcome is the new membership scheme which, by reducing the cost of membership, will hopefully increase the number of people joining their local club. Although the cost of entering events may have to rise slightly to cover the cost of the increased levies, I think it only right that those who benefit most from the sport should expect to pay accordingly. However, I think it important that the cost of Level A and B events be kept in check.

A change I am less happy with is the disbandment of many of the BOF committees which had regional representatives, and the way in which this is being brought about. It is important that the views of the lower profile regions should still be heard, and the Association and Club Conference held last autumn in Sheffield gave a number of us from this Region the opportunity to do this.

We also have seen two members of the Region appointed to positions of importance in the future running of orienteering. Congratulations to David Maliphant of CUOC who becomes a BO Director, and Keith Downing who is now a member of the new Events and Competitions Committee.

The Region has run two large events this year, the Compass Sport Cup and Trophy eliminator in Thetford Warren and the Junior Inter-Regional Competition at Sandringham. Both relied on volunteers from most of our Regional clubs, and I want to thank all of them. This Region appears unique in staging this type of event as a Region rather than asking an individual club to hold it, and I believe this is a practice which should continue. It is also important from the aspect of financing the Region.

Congratulations to WAOC and SMOC for their successes in the CSC heats. There have also been some other notable successes in the Region this year. Ursula Oxburgh won the W75 in the UK Masters Cup, St Andrews School had success in the British Schools Score Championships, and Barnardiston School at the British Schools Orienteering Championships. Although they did not win the JIRC, congratulations to the Junior Regional Squad for their performances at both the JIRC Individual and Relay Days.

And this is a good place to mention the large amount of work that Clive Wilkinson and his helpers have put into training the Junior Squad this year. It is very encouraging to see the larger number of juniors taking part in this.

Another success in the Region this year was Peter Leverington's award of the Chichester Trophy for his mapping of Sheringham and Kelling for the Midland Championships.

There have been several courses held in the Region this year, in particular on Event Safety, so thanks to Michael Chopping and Caroline Louth for running them. There have also been courses for Planners and Organisers, and I would encourage anyone wanting more courses to ask for them so we know what is needed. It has been suggested we should hold updating courses for controllers, possibly an annual controllers conference similar to the ones held some years ago, and an appeal has gone out for a 'controller of controllers' who would be prepared to organise this. Anyone interested in doing this should let me know.

The EA League has continued to flourish in the safe hands of Tony Biggs, and he will announce the winning club shortly.

No new club has been awarded ClubMark this year, but I believe NOR and SUFFOC are now well on the way to achieving it.

We have seen the start of various Club Nights this year; numbers of participants appear to be low in most cases, but we hope the initiatives will prove successful.

Finally, I would like to thank all the committee members for their work and support this year, and particularly Barbara Fothergill who has proved to be an excellent appointment as Secretary. The support of Natalie Shaw, BO Regional Development Officer, and Judith Holt, BO Director with former responsibility for this Region, is also appreciated. Judith has now been replaced by David Maliphant.