

EAST ANGLIAN ORIENTEERING ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD ONLINE ON WEDNESDAY 24 JUNE 2020

In attendance: Peter Woods (WAOOC/Chair), Barbara Beckett (HAVOC/Secretary), Andrew Elliott (Suffoc/Treasurer), Paul Beckett (HAVOC/Vice Chair), Sarah and Rod Mansel (Suffoc), Clive and Sally Wilkinson (Suffoc), John and June Webb (Suffoc), Helen Nisbet (SMOC), Rachel Thomas (SMOC), Ros James (SMOC), Michael Chopping (NOR), Leanne Bailey NOR), Ursula Oxburgh (WAOOC), Helen Hague (WAOOC), Bruce Marshall (WAOOC), Janet Biggs (HAVOC), Chris Shaw (HAVOC), Graham Batty (HAVOC).

1. Apologies for absence: Anne Braggins (WAOOC), Caroline Louth (WAOOC).
2. Minutes of the last AGM (15 June 2019) were approved unanimously.
3. Matters arising. Nil (Note by BB: the Action point under item 5 to raise the capitation fee had been discussed in Committee and agreed not to be necessary)
4. Chairman's report. Peter Woods had circulated his report. He noted Clive's request for Helen Hague's support and role as EA League Junior Squad Co-ordinator to be acknowledged and would add this to a revised report (done – see revised report below).
5. Treasurer's report. Andrew had circulated the Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 December 2019. He thanked Nancy P-D for inspecting the accounts and noted that she has now added her signature to them. He thanked the Club Treasurers for paying the capitation fees. Andrew noted that although there has been no levy income since March due to the coronavirus, the cancellation of the JIRCs and junior summer training camps have saved money. It was noted that the CSC made a loss but the YBT event made a £1400 profit. Ros J noted that the CSC could have made more money, but entry numbers were strictly limited by the landowner.

The Accounts were approved unanimously.

6. Election of Officers

Peter thanked Paul for being his Deputy and Barbara and Andrew for their work as Secretary and Treasurer respectively. There were no other candidates for Chair, Treasurer and Secretary and they were re-elected unanimously. Paul said that although he had said he was standing down, due to the current circumstances, he would be willing to carry on as Vice Chair for the time being. Approved.

8. EA Leagues' reports. The reports had been circulated. Sarah said hopefully the Urban League would continue in 2021 but orienteering in towns and cities will be problematic.

9. AOB. A vote of thanks was proposed and endorsed to Sarah M and Tony Biggs for managing the League scoring.

AGM closed at 19.56.

There was then a short discussion about the Leagues, noting that rolling forward the scores may not be agreeable to competitors who are changing age class. Sarah agreed to look at the numbers affected. **Action:** Sarah

Barbara Beckett,

EAOA Secretary

10 July 2020

EAOA Chairperson's Report for 2019-2020

The past year divides inevitably into two parts: the period up to and including March 15th, and the period since.

There are a lot of positive things to say about the first period. Last July, EAOA hosted the Finals of the 2019 Yvette Baker Trophy and Shield competitions, at Sandringham Park. The competing junior teams included WAOC in the Trophy and SOS in the Shield, and SOS duly won the Shield competition!

Over 300 orienteers competed at WAOC's event at Rowney Warren in March this year, this being the local Qualifier round for the 2020 Yvette Baker competition.

Having qualified for the final of the 2019 CompassSport Trophy, WAOC competed in the final at Pippingford Park in October, and were 2nd placed out of 12 teams, just 4 points behind the winners (HOC).

EAOA hosted the 2020 CompassSport qualifier match at Apsley Heath in March. SMOC must take credit for most of the organisation and planning of the event, including dealing with the limitations on entry imposed by the landowner, and providing a bus shuttle service from the terrain to the assembly. Thanks are also due also to Paul Beckett for dealing with entries.

This year WAOC were competing in the Cup along with NOR, and were narrowly beaten by LEI. SOS are through to the final of the Trophy competition. I wish SOS success in the final, although it remains uncertain whether and when this will go ahead.

In October, WAOC and SUFFOC collaborated to lay on the first "Autumn in Anglia" weekend, which was seen as a positive experience by both clubs and the intention is that this will be repeated bi-annually.

Clive and Sally continue to look after the regional squad. This year, with assistance from Helen Hague of WAOC who acted as JIRCS coordinator, they took a group of 15 of our junior squad to the JIRCS in South Yorkshire. (The JIRCS for 2020 has been cancelled). Last September two EAOA juniors (Oliver Prince and Barney Steventon-Barnes) were selected to run for England in the Interland competition. WAOC's Juniors won the Daybreak relay at the Peter Palmers, also in September. NOR hosted the EA Schools Champs in November.

Several clubs in the region have set up programmes of regular local events to encourage newcomers to the sport, and these were proving popular, so it is a great shame that the momentum that had been built up around these events has been lost with the suspension of organised events due to the corona virus.

And this brings me to the second period. Since mid-March, orienteering events have been suspended, and from Mid-March until late May, most orienteering venues in the region were inaccessible even for the purposes of mapping and planning.

CUOC were intending to lay on the BUCS in Epping and at Trumpington in Cambridge in March. This has been provisionally rescheduled for March 2021. EAOA were intending to host a weekend of orienteering including the British Middle Distance Champs in March 2021, this has moved a year and will now happen in March 2022.

I can speculate that low key orienteering events will be able to be scheduled from sometime in the next month or so, with limitations on numbers, with the number of participants allowed being raised in stages over a period of time. Orienteering is a sport that can be made "social-distancing compatible" relatively easily and can be conducted safely in a way that many other sports cannot in the current situation. We can only hope that the various landowners and institutions who grant us permissions to hold our events will understand this.

In the meantime, circumstances have forced some changes which are likely to stay with us post COVID-19: Technologies such as MapRun have developed quickly over the past months, to allow courses to be set up which don't require SI cards or physical controls to be set up and collected, and don't involve gatherings of people, but nevertheless give feedback to the participant (via their smartphone) when a control is visited and which allow conventional results to be generated. Some clubs in the region had already started to explore using this for low key evening events, and we can all now benefit from the expansion of this as a result of its more intensive use during lockdown.

We can all now enter and participate in international lockdown orienteering challenges including TrailO, without venturing outdoors. The Virtual British Orienteering Champs are imminent!

Another example is the way we have adapted to using on-line meetings, including this AGM. EAOA committee meetings are likely to all be on-line from now on even after the guidelines are eventually relaxed, since this makes it much easier for us to attend. Hopefully we will meet each other in the real world soon once orienteering events begin once more.

Finally, some committee business. I am pleased to say that Andrew is happy to stay on in his role as treasurer, and Barbara has agreed to remain in place as secretary, although she is intending that this will be her final year in this role. I would like to thank Paul Beckett for being the Deputy Chair, and for standing in for me during my absence in the first part of the year. This arrangement was intended to be temporary when I took over as chair, and Paul is intending to step down from the Deputy role at the year end, or as soon as a new Deputy is appointed. If anyone is interested in either role (Deputy chair or Secretary) or finding out more about what the role involves, please contact me.

Peter Woods 24 June 2020