

Draft Minutes of the (online) EAOA AGM on 2 July 2025

In attendance: Peter Woods (Chair), Paul Beckett (Vice Chair), Barbara Beckett (Secretary), Andrew Elliott (Treasurer), David Coton, Michael Chopping, Helen Nisbet, Bruce Marshall, Clive Wilkinson, Sally Wilkinson, Rachel Thomas, Bob Hill

Apologies for absence: Richard Powell WAOC.

1. Approval of the Minutes of the 2024 AGM. Accepted as a true record of the meeting.
2. Matters arising. The Committee had agreed that they would publish the EAOA Committee meeting Minutes and publicize the dates of the meetings, but this had been overlooked. A commitment was agreed to carry this Action forward. (PW noted that he has been forwarding them to WAOC Committee).

Action: BB to flag up in her email when sending out the Minutes that they should go on the EAOA website with the date of the next meeting. Also, put this issue on the Agenda of the next meeting in September.

3. Annual review of capitation fee. Deferred to after Item 6.
4. Chair's Report. (full text inserted below). Sarah has stepped down as Fixtures Secretary; the Committee thanked her and thanked Bob for joining the Committee. Peter confirmed that he does not want to continue as Chair because the Regional events are too much of a long-term commitment. Peter therefore formally stood down as Chair but agreed to continue as a caretaker in the expectation that there will be a new Chair before the next AGM.
Bill Stevens Trophy - Peter said he was very pleased to award the Bill Stevens trophy to Ben Bethell and would present it as soon as possible, maybe at the Sprints Weekend.
5. Treasurer's Report. Andrew had sent out the Accounts and a report. He thanked all the EAOA Treasurers for paying their Club event levies on time. There was a surplus of c£1095. The bank balance is c£18k and as planned it is reducing gradually to the agreed £10k.

Review of Club capitation fee. Andrew recommended that the capitation should continue to be zero. PW therefore formally proposed this, and the meeting agreed.

Andrew noted that Clubs put on fewer events in 2024, so the levies were lower. However, the 3 Regional events made a surplus. Some costs for the British Sprints weekend in August have already been paid. The EA Junior Squad costs were lower in 2024. Clive noted that 4 EA Juniors were selected for tours this year and should put in expenses claims to EAOA ((Andrew will send an email).

6. Election of Officers. The Secretary (Barbara Beckett) and Treasurer (Andrew Elliott) had agreed to continue in post.
Clive proposed and Paul seconded – approved by show of hands.

No nominations had been received for the position of Chair. There was a discussion about publicising the role of the EAOA Committee and encouraging wider involvement and interest by the Clubs.

Action: PB agreed to write a guide to what the Committee does and the roles of its members in order to take this forward.

8. Any Other Business

Paul B thanked Peter for his many years of service as Chair (since 2018). In his turn Peter thanked Andrew, Barbara and Paul. Peter also noted that Clive would be standing down as EA Junior Squad coach and thanked him for his 14 years of service.

The dates of the next 2 EAOA Committee meetings are: **Friday 12th September and Friday 14th November 2025.**

The AGM closed at 20.02

Barbara Beckett, EAOA Secretary, 14 July 2025

EAOA Chairperson's Report for 2024-2025

The region successfully hosted the Junior Home International competition at Sheringham in October 2024. This was an EAOA event with some involvement from pretty much every club in the region, but the bulk of the effort came from NOR. In preparation for this event we set up regular on-line meetings and this approach has continued for the preparation for the Sprints Weekend coming up at the end of August and the JIRCs which the region is hosting in September 2026.

The region was represented in the 2024 CompassSport final, on Holcombe Moor last October, by WAOC in the Cup competition and by NOR in the Trophy.

This year NOR and SOS are both through to the Final of the Trophy competition in the Redcar area on 14th Sept – good luck to both teams!

The region's juniors seem to be doing well nationally – At the Yvette Baker final in 2024, WAOC were placed 3rd in the Trophy competition whilst SOS came 5th in the Shield.

WAOC and SUFFOC both fielded teams at the Peter Palmer relays in the Lake District last September. A squad of 17 EA juniors travelled to the Forest of Dean to take part in the JIRCs, also in September.

This year looks even more competitive. The 2025 Yvette Baker final is imminent - on 6th July at Capite Woods in the South Downs area. WAOC and NOR are both competing in the Trophy final after a very close qualifier match at NOR's event at Broadland Country Park in February, whilst SOS and SUFFOC are both through to the final in the Shield competition.

Two EAJS squad members, Kate Jarrett and Hebe Darwin (both WAOC) represented England at the Interland event in the Netherlands earlier this year.

Officers

During the year, Sarah Mansel from SUFFOC has stepped down as Events Secretary. Once again on behalf of the region I would like to thank Sarah for her hard work in this role over many years. I would also like to thank Bob Hill for taking on this role as our new events secretary.

I am once again grateful to Andrew and Barbara for agreeing to stay in post for another year as Treasurer and Secretary respectively, in the absence of any alternative nominations, and similarly to Paul Beckett for his support as Deputy Chair.

I am not standing for re-election as Chair. At the time of writing, I know of no nominations for a new chair, so the position will become vacant as of the AGM unless a nominee is put forward and elected. In the absence of a new Chairperson, I am happy to continue as caretaker for the time being.

Bill Stevens Trophy

I am pleased to award the Bill Stevens trophy this year to Ben Bethell of NOR, who has not only contributed a great deal of enthusiasm and a wealth of good ideas in the preparations for the major events in the last year or so, but also plenty of practical involvement ranging from planning Level A courses to buying sticks of rock and sourcing customised medals.

Peter Woods - 29 June 2025