



East Anglian Orienteering Association

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 1st July 2007

In attendance: Paul Lowe (*Chairman/SUFFOC*), Keith Downing (*Secretary/SMOC*), John Ward (*Treasurer/NOR*), Andrew Cordle (*Event Standards/SOS*), Richard Barker (*Juniors/SOS*), Bruce Marshall (*SI Equipment/WAOC*), Clive Coles (*Fixtures/SUFFOC*), Robert Dove (*Mapping/SMOC*), Maria Marshall (*WAOC*), Stephen Cartwright (*SOS*), Caroline, Thomas, Edward & William Louth (*WAOC*), Paul Beckett (*HAVOC*), Barbara Fothergill (*HAVOC*), Nancy Powell Davies (*SOS*), Clive, Sally & Bryn Wilkinson (*SUFFOC*)

1. Apologies for absence

Blanka Sengerová (*Junior Competitions/WAOC*), Ursula Oxburgh (*Coaching/WAOC*), June & John Webb (*SUFFOC*), Brian Daniel (*HAVOC*)

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true record, although the second item 6 was renumbered as item 7

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising

4. Officers' reports

4.1 Chairman's Report

Paul reported that the British Orienteering Federation had introduced a new membership for 2008 which would result in a £2 discount for all members at events across the region, although only for full members outside the region.

He was pleased to thank NOR for hosting the British Night Championships which were a success. The region had two RDOs, Helen Errington and Mike Chopping for the South & North respectively.

The region had no W14 Junior girls although there were more younger boys coming through, more were always needed.

William Louth was M10 British Champion, Thomas Louth 2nd M14 and Jo West 3rd W20E whilst at the JK Tom Birkett 2nd M10, William Louth was 3rd M10 & Jenny Collyer was 2nd SuperVet in the Sprint Race. Robert Dove had been awarded the Chichester Trophy for mapping.

4.2 Treasurer's Report

John reported that the accounts for 2006 had been audited. EAOA made a profit of £253 for the year which reversed the recent series of losses. Income from event levy, SI charges and SI card hire are all tending to decrease year by year, and costs such as insurance are rising. An active Junior Squad is also costly, but that is how it should be!

Nowadays, EAOA only has one regular income from inter-Regional competitions and this is the Compass Sport Cup for which we host an eliminator round biennially. In 2006 this contributed a net income of nearly £550, without which we would have continued to make a loss. In 2007, with no CSC event in the Region, we are certain to make yet another loss unless we increase our income in some other way.

The losses in recent years have been acceptable as our balance was unnecessarily high, but this has now changed with the purchase of the new SI equipment etc. If we accept that SI equipment has a realistic life of about 5-6 years, and that there is no guarantee we will receive any future lottery funding or other grants, we need to start considering the next replacement now. We also need to plan how we are going to cover the other increasing costs.

Assuming similar usage of SI equipment by the same number of clubs as in the past, I believe we should consider increasing our reserves by around £1200 to £1400 per year to put ourselves in a position to be able to replace equipment in 5-6 years time.

There are 2 ways of generating these reserves. Either we can work on the basis of 'those who run pay', and build the reserve through the SI charge or the event levy, or we could increase the capitation charge. However, the latter would be grossly unfair on clubs which do not hire the equipment or hold only few events.

The SI charge is currently 25p per senior competitor. It raised £687 in 2005 and £528 in 2006, an average of £607pa. This shows that an average of 2428 competitors used it. Assuming the same number of competitors in future years, a levy of 75p per senior runner would raise an additional income of £1214.

If it's accepted that total event fees should not rise by more than the above, other costs will need to be covered by an increase in capitation rather than the event levy. We are still unsure how the changes to the membership scheme are affecting membership in the Region, but if we assume that it will remain around 500 units (i.e. seniors + families), an increase in capitation of 50p to £2.80 would increase income by £250 which should be about adequate for us to achieve a break-even position (apart from the SI) averaged over CSC and non-CSC years.

The EAOA committee have discussed the various alternatives, and our proposal is to increase SI levy to 75p per senior competitor, starting on September 1st 2007, and the annual capitation charge to £2.80 per club member as of the next payment due on 31st December 2007. I would be grateful if the Chairman would put this to the vote.

It was suggested that since events for the Autumn were already publicised, the change in levy should be applied from January 2008 and John revised his proposal accordingly. Caroline Louth seconded it and it was accepted accordingly.

4.3 Election of Officers

Chair:	Paul Lowe	Proposed John Ward, Seconded Andrew Cordle
Vice Chair:	Caroline Louth	Proposed Paul Lowe, Seconded John Ward
Secretary:	Keith Downing	Proposed Richard Barker, Seconded Clive Coles
Treasurer:	John Ward	Proposed Paul Lowe, Seconded Robert Dove

All were agreed unanimously

Other regional officials were by appointment and continued unchanged with one exception.

Helen Nisbett (SMOC) had taken over as webmaster and needed people to submit reports, news etc.

4.4 Any Other Business

Clive Coles reported that registration of fixtures would change and it would be on-line.

Neil Cameron and Mike Hamilton the Chairman and Chief Executive of British Orienteering would attend the September EAOA committee meeting which would be open to all EA club members.

There being no other business, Paul declared the meeting closed at 14.35