

NOC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017

Chairman's Report

I began my remarks at the last AGM by posing three questions for the membership to consider: who are the members of Nottinghamshire Orienteering Club, where are they and what do they want the club to provide? Those questions have been, sadly, the core of much discussion by your committee throughout the last year.

However, firstly my thanks on your behalf to the existing Committee, the volunteers with specific roles and all the dedicated organizers, mappers, planners and controllers who made it possible for all of us to pursue our sport over the last year.

During that time the club promoted some **16** events that were enjoyed by **1708** competitors. One event was at level B, five were at level C and ten at level D. This was quite a major undertaking and many of those events required a large team of volunteers to marshal the car parking, take entries, organize the start and finish, administer the download, post the results and pay the BOF levy.

Significantly there was a series of development events led by Hilary Palmer to 'Explore the Parks' on a Saturday afternoons. Although superficially simple to deliver, there were courses to plan, publicity to write and post, the volunteer coaches to organize and the new competitors to welcome. That, in all, some **468** individuals completed courses over the seven weeks and that **32%** were newcomers was gratifying (please see the attachments for a more detailed breakdown of attenders).

As the Treasurer will report we made a small operating profit principally from the larger events. The committee has positively sought to spend some of our current income to promote membership, encourage training, support individuals and upgrade our equipment and software to ensure we can provide first class activities.

I make no apology for re-stating once again the principal cause for concern that has animated the discussions of your committee over the last year. Exactly who might we 'volunteer' to undertake those tasks that are essential to the smooth running of our events and fill key committee posts?

Andrew Ridgeway who has effectively become the Volunteer Co-ordinator alongside being Fixtures Secretary has analyzed the number of event officials (organizer, planner and controller), that have been trained, those that are available and those that feel able to undertake the work of an event; and the numbers don't match. Indeed this coming autumn, we have already had to cancel an event, which has consequences for our standing with other clubs in the region, our finances and those that undertake the work of organizing fixtures.

So I urge the membership, again, to come forward and help with the essential tasks required for our sport to function. There is training and support available.

I would like to use this opportunity to remind members that we operate a 'team' system for supporting event organizers and planners. Can I ask the membership to firstly reply to 'availability' e-mails from their team leader and secondly offer up an hour of their time at an event so that a 'shift system' can be set in place to ensure everyone has a run on that day.

On a more positive note, I would like to pay tribute for the resolute determination shown by Pauline Olivant and Ray Barnes in developing and organizing the new web site. There is work still on-going, there is so much material to be edited, but I hope you agree with me that the new site is clear, easy to navigate and has all the relevant information we would expect. I hope that the regular postings that you receive from Mark Webster also provide event information club news and make you feel that we are an inclusive and networked organisation. Indeed, much of the marketing for the 'Explore the Parks' events was undertaken using Facebook

We must not let this opportunity pass, to congratulate the following club members who have had some national and indeed international success this year:

World Championships

- Peter Hodkinson –13th Sprint & 31st Middle (top UK athlete in both events).
- World Games Poland 12th Sprint
- Beijing World Tour 3rd Place

JK

- Peter Hodkinson –3rd Sprint, 4th Overall, M21E
- Hilary Palmer –2nd Sprint, 2nd Overall, W70
- John Palmer –2nd Overall, M70S
- Ant Squire –2nd Sprint, 2nd Overall, M40
- Richard Robinson, Dave Schorah, Peter Hodkinson - 3rd JK Trophy
- Ant Squire, Kevin Lomas and Andy Llewellyn - M120+ JK Champions

British Champs

- Hilary Palmer – 2nd W70L
- Kevin Lomas, Mick Lucking, Paul Morris – 3rd M60 Relay
- Richard Robinson, Dave Schorah, Peter Hodkinson - Open 2nd MP RelayTeam

Beat The Street

- All those club members who took part in the 'Beat the Street' event in Nottingham where NOC won the Club Prize worth £500.

Lastly, I began this report with a series of questions, to try and answer some of them we intend to work with BOF officers to improve our communications, raise our profile and attempt to halt the decline in membership. However, the challenges will remain.

The club will only function for the benefit of the whole membership if those members contribute to the organization and delivery. So please if you think you might be interested in organizing an event, planning courses, mapping a wood, improving your own performances through training and skill development then contact the appropriate committee member and let it be known. We work on your behalf but we need your support. Do join in, come to the AGM, have your say, put up your hand to volunteer and spread the word about the pleasures and joys of participating in Orienteering.

Andrew Breakwell
NOC Chair 2017