

NOC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018

Chairman's Report

This is my last report to you as Chair of NOC after five years service. It really is time for someone with a new vision to undertake the role. At the same time both Andrew Ridgway (Fixtures & Volunteer Secretary for five and a half years) and Peter Cholerton (Treasurer for three years) are also tendering their resignations. My thanks to them on your behalf for jobs very well undertaken in two vital areas of our club activity.

We indicated during the summer that these roles would become vacant and that in order to ensure the smooth handover of business it is vital that these tasks be undertaken. So please when you receive these papers do consider how you might contribute to the future of NOC. Any of the committee will be delighted to share with you their understanding of the commitments and responsibilities of the posts, so please do contact us to offer your time and expertise.

Now, however, my thanks on your behalf to the existing Committee, team leaders and their event day volunteers with all the dedicated organizers, mappers, planners and controllers who made it possible for us to pursue our sport over the last year.

During that time the club promoted some **18** events that were enjoyed by **1486** competitors (**1266 Seniors** and **220 Juniors**). There were no events at level B, six were at level C and twelve at level D, including five 'Explore the Parks'.

Plus there were fortnightly activities in the Bassetlaw area and monthly coaching sessions in Rushcliffe.

The series of development events (Explore the Parks) led by Hilary Palmer on Saturday afternoons was the subject of a piece of research by BOF and the Metropolitan University of Manchester that recorded responses of participants to the location of the event, the training provided and their satisfaction levels. In all, some **150** individuals completed courses over the five weeks and in the events surveyed **18%** were newcomers. Perhaps the most gratifying aspect of the research was that the friendliness quotient was particularly high for those volunteers who helped to coach at the events.

However, the report also raised questions about the ways in which we might transfer the enthusiasm for running in a park to urban and forest events, especially for children and young people. Indeed who exactly might be our target audience and what kind of progression event might they find of most interest? Might they be families with children (of any age, or those with youngsters who are ready to learn to read a map). Could they be older young people, or adults in their thirties/early forties?

More broadly, what images do we use in flyers/or on social media posts? How to get around the impression of Orienteering being an 'older persons' sport? Might we want to set a target for the recruitment of new members? How do we address the technical aspects of publicity distribution? What are the advantages/disadvantages of email in contrast to traditional mail-outs when communicating with the membership?

Furthermore, what are the best formats for introductory events (score, sprints or line courses) to maximize social interaction? Might there be team events and prizes? How might we use the existing membership to encourage social interaction, thereby assisting in the recruitment and retention of new club members? The report will be an agenda item at the AGM, so I am asking the membership to give these questions some consideration.

One of the major tasks of this year has been ensuring the compliance of our Privacy Policy with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). My particular thanks goes to Ray Barnes, for supervising the development and delivery of this documentation.

As the Treasurer will report we made a small operating deficit as a result of the ETP events and grants towards international participation. The committee positively sought to spend some of our income to promote membership, encourage training, support individuals and upgrade our equipment and software to ensure we can always provide first class activities.

I made no apologies last year for re-stating that the principal cause for concern that had animated the discussions of your committee over the previous year was, who might we 'volunteer' to undertake tasks that are essential to the smooth running of the club and our events? Those concerns still animate most committee meetings, so once again I urge the membership to come forward and help with the essential tasks required for our sport to function. There is training and mentoring support available.

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

Major Events

- Peter Hodkinson M21 – 1st British Long. Member of World Championship and World Cup Teams including lead runner in UK Relay Squad (6th in World Championships).
- Richard Robinson M35 - 4th British Middle Distance & 8th Sprint Championship in Mens Open
- Anthony Squire M40 – 1st JK & British Middle, 2nd British Sprint
- Hilary Palmer M70 – 1st JK, British Long & Middle 2nd British Sprint

- James Lowthian M16 - 1st UK Urban League Junior Men 2017

Lastly, 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 are interested in organizing an event, planning courses, mapping a wood, or improving your own performances through training and 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 help spread the word about the pleasures and joys of participating in Orienteering.

Andrew Breakwell
NOC Chair 2018