

Nottinghamshire Orienteering Club

Annual General Meeting 2020

Chair's Report

First of all, I hope this finds you safe and well. It hasn't been the year any of us would have expected and, naturally, our activity as a club has been significantly restricted this year. However, there is still much to celebrate in what we have done this year and it has been brilliant to see new members joining the club and coming to our events.

The committee have been a great support this year as I've got to grips with the structure of the club, and they have kindly all agreed to hold their post for the next year until we can have a 'traditional' AGM in person. However, it is worth pointing out that if anyone is interested in having an active role in the club, we can find room for you! Particularly for the role of Treasure, where I am grateful Peter Cholerton has continued in role while we wait for someone new to step forward.

We had a bright start to the year with the EMJOS juniors putting on a great event at Strawberry Hill in January. In February we held a very well attended Middle Distance event at Bramcote Hills and had the first of what was our planned monthly Explore the Parks Series at Bulwell Hall Park.

Post-lockdown we revised our event schedule with monthly park races following COVID-secure guidance from British Orienteering. I really enjoyed my run out and I hope those of you that made it did too. A lot of effort and planning went into adapting the structure for these, so a big thank you to Hilary Palmer and all the volunteers.

Competing as a club has been limited this year without any big relay competitions, but we did manage to run at the Compass Sport Trophy qualifier in Huddersfield in early March. Strong runs across the courses saw us qualify for the final in 2nd place! Thank you to everyone that turned out to run, it was brilliant to see such a strong club performance, I hope to see you all at the next Compass Sport Trophy, whenever that may be.

Again, individually we haven't had many opportunities to race at big competitions, but I'd like to highlight Ben Squire, who put in really strong performances in the junior selection races at the end of August. Finishing 2nd, 3rd and 4th was good enough to get selected to the (subsequently cancelled) European Youth Championships – well done Ben!

Looking forward to next year, I am hopeful of returning to the forest in a more social environment and enjoying competing as a club at what competitions we may have. It is also a good time for us to be thinking about how we want to advertise our great sport and how we want to invite more people to join in with us when things resume as normal. I would welcome anyone in the club who has ideas or would like to get involved in any way to get in touch on chair@noc-uk.org.

Dave Schorah