

# East Anglian Orienteering Association AGM 12<sup>th</sup> July 2015

## Chairman's Report by Paul Beckett

While chairing the meetings of the East Anglian Committee I have become aware of the wide range of East Anglian orienteers contributing to the sport in different ways. Volunteering is essential to our sport and needs to be enjoyable and appreciated for it to be sustainable. We try to do that in East Anglia and to strike the right balance between contributing to the wider sport and operating within our volunteer resources and the limitations of our terrain.

During the past year the region has made contributions to the sport nationally. In March 2015 some East Anglian volunteers provided support for the British Trail-O Championships held at Twywell in Northants. Robert Dove of SMOC produced the map for Trail-O and this year was also highly commended in the Chichester Trophy national mapping awards for his Rushmere map.

We combine as a region to stage training sessions for orienteering volunteers to update their skills such as the one-day controllers' course held in Nov 2014 and the planners' course scheduled for 19<sup>th</sup> Sept 2015. East Anglian clubs are also combining to stage the British Schools' Orienteering Championships that will attract over 700 schoolchildren to Sandringham, Norfolk on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2015. East Anglian clubs will play different roles on the day and you are all strongly encouraged to volunteer to help stage the event. Any funds raised by the event will be used to support our East Anglian juniors.

Our juniors have been doing well under the coaching guidance of Clive Wilkinson and Steven Partridge. More than 100 juniors took part in the East Anglian Schools Championships at Hylands Park in May 2015 and the leading teams were 1<sup>st</sup> Hedingham, 2<sup>nd</sup> Barnardiston and 3<sup>rd</sup> Ramsey Academy. Daisy Partridge and Tim Harrison were selected to run for England at the World Schools' Orienteering Championships in Turkey in April 2015. Chloe Cracknell, Matthew Clarke, Daisy Partridge and Ella Gilbert have been selected to attend training camps this summer in Scotland and Sweden. We have used EAOA funds to support our juniors.

Orienteering competitions across the region have continued to be popular during 2014/15 with good attendances at the East Anglian League events (6 events in 2014 attracting over 350 different entrants and 6 events scheduled for 2015) and at WAOC's East Anglian Championships at Croxton Heath in February 2015 (212 entrants). Traditional forest orienteering events remain popular but increasing environmental and operational constraints are making access difficult at certain times of the year. Clubs have responded by experimenting with a range of sprint, urban and relay formats that make good use of East Anglia's limited terrain.

Finally, I would like to thank all the East Anglian committee members for their work and support this year, and all those volunteers who have contributed in various ways to some enjoyable orienteering in our East Anglian region during 2014-15. Let us hope that next month's World Orienteering Championships in Scotland will be a success and will stimulate additional interest and participation in our challenging and enjoyable sport.