

EAST ANGLIAN ORIENTEERING ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD ON SATURDAY 15 JUNE 2019 BEFORE THE WAOC EVENT AT WIMPOLE HALL, CAMBRIDGE

In attendance: Paul Beckett (Vice Chair; chaired the meeting), Barbara Beckett (Secretary), Andrew Elliott (Treasurer) and 13 EAOA members (The Secretary holds the list).

1. Apologies for absence were received from 5 members including Peter Woods, Chair as well as an apology on behalf of SMOC who were unable to send a representative.
2. Minutes of the last AGM (23 June 2018) were approved unanimously.
3. Matters arising. Nil
4. Chairman's report. See Peter Woods' written report (copied in below). Attendees thanked Peter for his work as Chairman.
5. Treasurer's report. Andrew circulated the Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 December 2018. He thanked Nancy P-D for inspecting the accounts. Andrew noted that income is down due to a combination of membership, attendance and cancellation of events due to land permission being withheld. It was suggested that the capitation fee should be raised and agreed to Minute this for proposal at the next AGM.
Action: Secretary.

Approval of the Accounts was proposed by Paul Beckett, seconded by Sarah Mansel and approved unanimously.

6. Election of Officers.

Peter has served one year and has agreed to continue. Endorsed unanimously.

Andrew and Barbara had agreed to continue as Treasurer and Secretary respectively.

Andrew – proposed by Paul Beckett and Seconded by Sarah Mansel. Approved.

Barbara – proposed by Janet Cronk and Seconded by Helen Bickle. Approved.

7. Bill Stevens trophy. Peter had written a note for the AGM in which he said that it was not difficult to think of people who deserve the award but the difficulty lies in deciding which particular individual is most deserving. He had decided to award the trophy to Paul Beckett in recognition of his 5 years as EAOA Chairman and willingness to carry on as Vice Chair. Peter said he was personally grateful to Paul for his work in organising the Starts at the British Sprints in 2017 and in bringing substantial numbers of helpers from HAVOC.
8. EA League – see report below.
9. AOB. Janet C (WAOC) proposed that every EAOA Club should purchase its own defibrillator. She cited the ageing profile of the sport and the remoteness of many events. There was a discussion with some in favour and some against. It was agreed to discuss at the next EAOA Committee meeting. Action: Secretary

AGM closed at 13.06.

Barbara Beckett, EAOA Secretary, 24 July 2019

EAOA Chairperson's Report for 2018-2019

It is with some trepidation that I present this report in absentia, since having failed to turn up at last year's AGM I found myself elected to the position of Chair. I daren't think what you might vote for this time. I would really appreciate it if you left the treasurer and secretary in place, please!

I was very fortunate in taking over from Paul, that I didn't have to do much – the various officials all do their jobs well, but I realise I should not take this for granted. Thanks are due in particular to Barbara who continues to do a brilliant job as Secretary, and to Sarah who is pro-active as fixtures secretary. Clive and Sally continue to do great work developing our juniors; this year WAOC's Alex Wetherill ran for England at the Interland competition.

I would like to once again thank Robert Dove of SMOC who stood down as mapping officer this year, after many years in the role. I know that Robert put in a terrific effort in producing the maps for the British Sprints in 2017.

Note. Sadly, Robert has since passed away, on 29 June, after a long period of illness. An obituary written by his long-standing SMOC colleagues can be found on the SMOC website which gives some idea of his achievements as a mapper and the high regard in which he was held by his clubmates.

So, most of what I can say has happened over this year has been evolution not revolution, but there are some interesting, and I'm pleased to say mostly positive, trends.

Within the region, it had already been noted that some clubs were finding difficulty in appointing controllers for level B and C events, and steps were already in place to try to increase the number of controllers in the region and in particular to promote some of the existing Level C controllers to level B. I'm pleased to say that we now have 4 more level C controllers and at least one new level B, with I believe more to come, following courses laid on earlier this year by Michael Chopping and Keith Downing.

We have also trained several new coaches who are currently in the process of qualifying, following a course run by Caroline Louth.

Less positively, it is seemingly increasingly difficult to obtain permissions for forest areas, with events having to be cancelled or rescheduled due to a range of reasons including a specific case of a potential presence of protected bird species, general reluctance to grant access for orienteers for general concerns about potential damage to environmentally sensitive areas, and applications being rejected due to lateness. This experience is not limited to East Anglia and is unlikely to improve in the short term, so all we can do is make sure we put our applications in in good time.

This year, we have (or rather, Sarah has) initiated an East Anglian urban league to complement the existing East Anglian League which covers cross country (forest-based) events.

Although not known personally (as far as I am aware) to any of the EAOA committee, the new chair of British Orienteering, Andrew (Drew) Vanbeck, is from EAOA (SMOC).

Initiatives such as WAOC's Park-O and SOS's informal winter series have shown we can hope to bring a new generation of families and juniors into the sport, and other clubs in the region are planning similar initiatives. It will be interesting to see what impact this has on membership in the coming years.

British Orienteering has been reconsidering the timetabling and organisation of major events, and this could be important for our region. This time last year we were being asked by British Orienteering whether EAOA would like to organise the JK, which did not seem realistic either in terms of the availability of areas of adequate technical quality with scope to support the scale of numbers competing, or the person power needed to sustain a 4 day major.

In contrast, we are currently being asked to propose venues for the Midland Champs, the British Sprints Champs and Mixed Sprint Relays, and the British Middles Champs, and have been invited to contribute to a Midlands-based JK. All these are, in principle, practical propositions and I hope the region does get the chance to offer events at this level more frequently than has been the case. It should be noted that the region now has two grade A controllers and Michael Chopping acted as a controller at the JK this year.

In the very near future, we are hosting a national event – the final of the Yvette Baker Trophy and Shield competition for junior orienteers.

The organiser is still short of volunteers and would like to encourage any and all who can come to this event to turn out and help on the day.

EA League – report for 2019 AGM

In 2018 we had 250 individual competitors averaging 180 points each over the 6 events. This compares to 293 averaging 176 points - in 2017 when 7 events were held.

So far this year - after 4 events - we have had 239 which is looking as if we might get back towards the 2017 level.

The highest point scorer in 2018 was Oliver Prince - M12 - who amassed 574 points before dropped scores.

Thanks are due to all the Clubs, event officials and helpers that put on the events - without which there would be no league.

Tony Biggs, Co-ordinator