

Minutes of the EAOA AGM held online on 19 June 2024

In attendance: Peter Woods (Chair/WAOC), Paul Beckett (Vice Chair/HAVOC), Barbara Beckett (Secretary/HAVOC), Andrew Elliott (Treasurer/Suffoc), Michael Chopping, Helen Nisbet, Sarah Mansel, Colin West, Richard Powell, David Coton

1. Apologies for Absence: Clive Wilkinson, Rod Mansel.
2. Approval of the Minutes of 2023 AGM – approved as an accurate record.
3. Matters arising. It was noted that at the 2023 AGM it had been agreed that EAOA Committee and AGM Minutes would be more accessible to the wider membership and would be posted on the website with the dates of the meetings. It was also noted that it was good practice to review the AGM Minutes at the next Committee meeting rather than waiting till the next AGM.

Action: Secretary (BB) to put on the September meeting Agenda. Action: Webmaster (HN) – see below.

There was a discussion about whether it was advisable to include details about EAOA finances on the website and the Chair thought they were vague enough to not be sensitive. There was also a discussion about the inclusion of the names of juniors and the Webmaster noted that these are already widely included in web pages. It was agreed that the Minutes and dates of the next meeting would be posted on the website.

Action – Helen N.

4. The Motion that no capitation fee would be requested from the Clubs this year, but reviewed annually, was proposed by Michael C and seconded by David Coton and passed unanimously.
5. The Motion that the AGM agree the revised Rules and Eligibility for the EA Champs and EA Leagues was discussed and an amendment agreed following an objection by Sarah M about members of RAFO who do not live in the region being able to enter and be competitive. It was proposed that the wording in the 4th bullet point be amended to say: “whose individual affiliation is to EAOA”. The motion with this amendment was proposed by Paul B and seconded by Sarah M and passed unanimously.
6. Chair’s report. The Chair had circulated his report. This has been included below. Peter concluded his report by awarding the Bill Stevens trophy to Rod Mansel, who has masterminded download at many of the events mentioned in the report and whose efforts are crucial in the success of these events. Peter noted that this role involves a lot of work behind the scenes in correctly setting up the event software as well as being the face of the event at download on the day of the event, with a range of emotions being expressed by finishers, and working under pressure to produce results on the day.
6. Treasurer’s report. Andrew ran through his Financial Report, noting that the EAOA bank account was reducing gradually as planned. He referred to the expenditure on the JIRCs which had been anticipated. For the year there had been a loss of £3910. He thanked all the Club Treasurers. The accounts have not yet been reviewed but this is in hand. The Report was approved unanimously.

7. Election of Officers. The Chair, Secretary and Treasurer had expressed their willingness to serve another year, although the Chair noted that he was continuing to seek a successor. They were proposed by Sarah M and Seconded by David C and duly re-elected.

8. AOB. Nil

The next EAOA Committee (online) meetings are on **Friday 13th September 2024 and Friday 15th November 2024**

The AGM closed at 20.10.

Barbara Beckett

EAOA Secretary

11 July 2024

EAOA Chairperson's Report for 2023-2024

This has been a busy year for the region, with several high-profile events organised as EAOA events, and it looks like we have a busy year ahead of us, with the Junior Home Internationals happening at Sherringham Park in October, and planning in progress for the British Sprints weekend at the end of August 2025. In September, WAOC hosted the EA School Champs at their Amptill Park event, which was reasonably well attended, despite being a long way from the catchment area of the usual highest scoring schools. Also in September, SMOC hosted the Peter Palmer relay competition for junior teams, with 19 teams from 12 clubs competing overall, including representation from SOS, NOR and WAOC. For the 3rd year in succession the region hosted a CompassSport Cup and Trophy Qualifier match, this time in the Kings Forest in February, courtesy of SUFFOC. I remember the ground being very wet underfoot due to prolonged rain in the period before the event, which I suspect might also be the case for most events held in the region since then. From this event WAOC qualify uncontested for the Cup final, and NOR beat 6 other clubs to qualify for the Trophy Final. Good luck to both clubs in the Final which will be on 20th October in Lancashire (PFO territory). In March we hosted the Midland Champs, which the EA region has not hosted for some years, in an event at Sandringham which also incorporated the East Anglian Championships. The status of these area championships has evidently increased since we last organised them, in some ways now being more like a level A event compared to a typical level B event. It has been noted that we need to be fully aware of this for next time we host the Midland Champs. This event was also used for the BUCS individual Championships, which considerably complicated the allocation of start times as some courses were common to BUCS and championship entrants. In future, should the BUCS be combined with an event of this status, we would recommend BUCS classes are given their own dedicated courses. Well done to CUOC who hosted the BUCS overall including a Relay competition at Trumpington Meadows on Cambridge. CUOC also laid on an excellent urban event last September in the form of the Cambridge City Race. SUFFOC hosted the Yvette Baker qualifier

at their event at Ickworth in April. The SOS juniors qualify for the Shield final and WAOC juniors for the Trophy final (the Final will be on 7th July hosted by HH near Potters Bar). It is good to see clubs continuing to collaborate for example in coordinating events over a weekend as recently for the WAOC Bedford urban and SMOC double sprint in Milton Keynes, and in the programme of midweek MapRun events jointly run by HAVOC and SMOC. I am very pleased that the main officers of the EAOA committee are willing to stay in post for another year, (AGM votes today permitting) and I thank them for their continuing services to the region. I would like to extend these thanks to all the event organisers, planners, fixtures secretaries and controllers and their colleagues who continue to put significant efforts into scheduling and making events happen, and also to those laying on courses to train up new coaches, planners and controllers, and to develop our juniors. With those thoughts in mind, I am pleased to award the Bill Stevens trophy to Rod Mansel of SUFFOC, who has masterminded download at many of the events mentioned above and whose efforts are crucial in the success of these events. This role involves a lot of work behind the scenes in correctly setting up the event software as well as being the face of the event at download on the day of the event, with a range of emotions being expressed by finishers, and working under pressure to produce results on the day. Well done Rod, I look forward to handing the actual trophy to you in due course.