



**Minutes of the Northern Ireland Orienteering Association AGM held at
Mussenden Temple and Downhill Demesne (Peter Thompson Hall, Castlerock)
on Saturday 8 June 2013**

The meeting commenced at 14:25. 25 members attended (16 LVO, 7 NWOC, 2 FERMO).

Apologies. Lyle Fleming, Fred and Daphne Hamond, Colin Henderson, Steven and Violet Linton, Declan McGrellis, Gordon Stephens, Richard Williamson.

The minutes of the last AGM held on 26 May 2012 were agreed, proposed by Philip Baxter and seconded by Therese Finlay. There were no matters arising.

Chairman's Report. The Chairman, Richard McCourt highlighted three events as examples of a good year for NI Orienteering. NWOC had staged an excellent NI Championships on a revised and extended Binevenagh map. FERMO had included a very enjoyable social program with the NI Score and NI Night Championships. In very challenging conditions LVO provided a great VHI and Colour Series 5 at Meelmore.

The Chairman congratulated Olivia Baxter, Rosalind Hussey and Susan Lambe, for selection to run for Ireland at the forthcoming World Championships and to Jack Millar and Áine McCann for selection for the Junior World Championships.

The committee had been working hard during the year particularly in embracing changes in funding from Sport NI with a change in emphasis from participation to performance. Whilst membership was slightly down, this was largely due to the change in membership structure by British Orienteering with families opting for individual membership and therefore non-competing family members not continuing with membership.

Financial Report. The Treasurer Susan Lambe presented a report together with draft accounts to 31 Mar 13, subject to final verification of payment from SportNI. Income from membership was similar. SportNI funding had been consistent with the 4 year cycle which ended in Mar 13. The Development Team had saved costs with the reduction in hours of Assistant Regional Development Officer Mark Hudson allowing equipment investments. The team had generated course fees of £2,000. With significant help from Sport NI, UKCC Level 1 and 2 courses had been run.

Other items of expenditure included: a contribution to the costs of the training weekend with Thierry Gueorgiou, mapping grants and committee costs. The year had ended with an increased surplus of £2600 raising the fund to £33,552.98. This could be broadly represented by £14,000 development, £1,000 schools and £18,000 general including the surplus from JK11.

The committee was currently considering a 5 year plan to feed the surplus back to clubs and membership. This would include:

- Significant grants for mapping costs for NIOC and IOC etc.
- Funding for juniors especially progressing juniors.
- Individual athletes at representative level including Home Internationals
- Publicity

Funding from World Police and Fire Games should help a healthy surplus to be maintained for 2013/14.

David Blair proposed that the accounts be accepted, seconded by Raymond Finlay; the motion was carried unanimously.

Development Report. Regional Development Officer, Helen Baxter gave a final report on anticipating “retirement” at the end of June, following over 6 years of service. Following an indication from SportNI that participation funding would completely cease, funds had now been found to support an interim RDO for a 9 month period up to the start of the 2014/15 year.

Helen gave an overview of the 6 years and reported on a sustained level of increased participation at schools. This was not feeding into clubs, but more children were now gaining a positive experience of the sport, in contrast to the experience at many outdoor centres. The NISOA group was now well established but would require further support. Outside of schools activity, participation at informal and summer events had seen a sustained increase. However entries at larger events, further afield including the NI Series were down. This could be due both to new participants not grasping the opportunity to travel and also to established members being content with informal local activity.

Coaching, Performance and Juniors Report.

Coaching Development Officer Allan Bogle reported on the change of emphasis of Sport NI towards performance at a representative level. Results were now being achieved with 3 ladies representing Ireland and 2 juniors who both had World Championship potential. Allan highlighted the two options of competing for Ireland or Great Britain. He is working with a number of talented juniors and noted the potential of Paul Pruzina to run for GBR. Coaching is concentrating on running fitness as well as orienteering skills. Facilities at UUJ are being used to analyse fitness and recommend programs.

A steering group of Raymond Finlay, Anthony McGonigle and Greg McCann representing the 3 clubs was working with Allan. He had visited Switzerland to analyze their very effective team selection and coaching process and was implementing a pilot in Northern Ireland for British Orienteering. Over 20 coaches had now been trained which would be useful at club level. Alan Elwood was engaging well with LVO juniors who could feed into a performance program. Allan also thanked Helen for her support to him.

Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults.

Philip Baxter reported as acting Safeguarding Officer that the audit was up-to-date. He requested that clubs seek to nominate a replacement. The role is not an onerous one as orienteering has considerably less contact with juniors than other sports.

Presentations

A presentation of flowers by Ruth Blair and Chairman Richard McCourt was made to Helen Baxter in appreciation of her significant role as Regional Development Officer and

indeed her additional voluntary contributions which were always away and beyond the call of duty as Regional Developments Officer.

Election of Officers. Noel Bogle kindly agreed to chair the elections.

Chairperson. Richard McCourt was proposed by Ruth Blair and seconded by Helen Baxter. This was agreed by all present.

Secretary. Stephen Gilmore was proposed by Charlie Reid and seconded by Theresa Finlay. This was agreed by all present.

Treasurer. Susan Lambe was proposed by Wilbert Hollinger and seconded by Philip Baxter. This was agreed by all present.

The following were agreed on block, proposed by Helen Baxter and seconded by Harry Bell:

Philip Baxter – Technical Support
Jim Fallis – FERMO representative
Raymond Finlay- Vice Chairman
Lyle Fleming-Membership
Greg McCann-Junior Coach
Joe McClure-Fixtures
Charlie Reid- NWOC representative

Richard McCourt resumed the Chair.

A.O.B.

World Police and Fire Games

Stephen Gilmore gave an overview of the orienteering events at World Police and Fire Games. For the first time Sprint and Middle Distance disciplines would be staged as well as Long Distance. Dates venues and officials were:

Sprint: Mon 5 Aug. Belfast City Centre. Igor Stefko, Controller Richard McCourt, Organizer Stephen Gilmore.

Middle Distance: Thu 8 Aug. Barnett Demesne. Planner Philip Baxter, Controller Wilbert Hollinger, Organizer Alan Elwood.

Long Distance: Fri 9 Aug. Tollymore (Outdoor Centre) and Meelmore. Planner Harold White, Controller Richard Williamson, Organizer Colin Henderson.

Mapping on all venues was substantially complete and plans were well afoot.

Besides the 9 officials, 31 other members had submitted accreditation forms with the expectation that one day of duty each would be allocated and this roster had still to be drawn up. Expenses would be payable as the event was well funded.

International TrailO

Alan Gartside noted there was a high proportion of representation for the Ireland team and requested consideration of funding.

Closing Remarks. On behalf of NI Orienteering Richard thanked NWOC for organizing the AGM and for the fine Colour Series event which had preceded.

The meeting closed at 15:30.