

**Minutes of the Northern Ireland Orienteering Association AGM held at
The Gortin Activity Centre, Gortin, Co Tyrone
on Saturday 11 April 2015**

The meeting commenced at 14:40. 36 members attended (1 FermO, 24 LVO, 8 NWOC, 2 QUBOC).

Apologies. Raymond Finlay, Daphne Hamond, Stephen Gilmore, Greg McCann, Harold White.

The minutes of the last AGM held on 21 June 2014 were agreed. There were no matters arising.

Chairman's Report. The Chairman, Richard McCourt particularly welcomed representatives of QUBOC who had recently re-affiliated, Eibhlin Largey (President) and Nicola Brown (Secretary).

The Chairman reviewed the highlights of the previous year. The NIOA website had been relaunched and revisions were also noted with the club websites. Following the experience of 2014, the 2015 Colour Series comprised of 7 events, with 3 events forming the Colours of Spring and 3 the Colours of Autumn. FermO had staged a successful NI Champs on a new area at Castle Saunderson whilst LVO had staged the NI Score and NI Night Champs on a new map of Crawfordsburn after a long fallow period. The committee was still considering the possibility of a sprint series. LVO were in the final throes of preparations for IOC incorporated in the Lisburn Festival of Orienteering.

The development team had been busy supporting those aiming for international selection by the provision of performance weekends with the expertise of Bashir Hussain and Scott Frazer. Participation was being developed in line with the Active Clubs scheme.

Registration to seek accreditation with the Charity Commission was ongoing. Davy Lambe was looking after the many trophies whilst Alan Gartside had been nominated to receive a Torch Trophy in acknowledgement of his dedication to the sport.

Colin Henderson asked if there was any advantage to NIOA through Charity Commission Registration. The Chairman replied that tax reclaim on gift aid would be the only potential advantage.

Financial Report. Accounts were circulated and the Treasurer Susan Lambe presented a report. Due to the recent end of the financial year the accounts were draft.

The general fund which with the benefit of the JK11 and WCFG legacy had opened with £40,348 and closed with £38,494, a decrease of £1853. This was in line with a plan to reduce the balance through support for international representation and mapping.

Key sources of net income included membership fees of £3,753, income from development team events £676, income from schools events and NISOA £608. Main items of expenditure included £1500 for international representation support and £1000 towards Coaching Juniors account, £1869 to website development, £466 to trophies and £607 towards the controllers course.

In response to a question concerning mapping grants, the Treasurer replied that grants could be requested by clubs staging NIOC events or higher.

In response to a question concerning the low interest received, the Treasurer replied that HSBC do not charge for business use, an advantage which outweighs potential interest income.

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Ruth Blair, seconded by Heather Cairns and carried unanimously.

Gordon Stephens presented a proposal that NIOA senior membership fee should be reduced from £13.50 to £5.00 for the 2016 membership year. After considerable discussion it was agreed that the committee would appoint a sub-committee and bring the matter to an EGM in the early autumn, in time for the requirement to submit membership fees to BOF.

Development Report. Conor Fadian, Regional Participation Development Officer, gave an overview of activity. The post had continued under Active Clubs funding.

5 schools events had taken place with 242 individual students and 2 new schools joining NISOA. Although 54 schools are members, few actually compete due to travel and teacher cover issues.

The aim of setting up 3 Active Clubs by Mar 15 had fallen short. Of a target of 60 new members, 52 had been achieved. Target groups were areas of high social need, women, 14-25 year olds and volunteer opportunities. Targets were met for women and volunteer opportunities.

Clubs to be set up for the year to Mar 16 will have a focus on the missed targets. Assistance is needed from clubs to deliver and mileage at 40p/mile is payable. Volunteer development is key, so opportunities are available to complete a disability inclusive training course, first aid, teaching orienteering parts 1 and 2 and a volunteer development team building day.

Projects starting in Apr 15 included Craigavon on Wed from 7pm to 8pm, Gortin after schools club, Dungannon on Mondays from 20 Apr for 5 weeks, Belfast Hills from 10 May. Projects in Castledearg, Carntougher and Rathlin Island were programmed.

Coaching, Performance and Juniors Report.

Coaching Development Officer Allan Bogle gave an overview on activity during the year. Coaching weekends has been held at home with Scott Fraser in Fermanagh, Bashir Hussain in Tollymore with a further weekend in Antrim and a Portrush weekend. Away coaching camps had been attended in Hawkshead, Lake District and Bergen, Norway.

UKCC Level 1 had been achieved by Conor Fadian, Stephen Gilmore, Wilbert Hollinger, Davy Lambe, Ann Savage with Philip Baxter, Allan Bogle and Teresa Finlay completing Level 2. There are currently 30 qualified coaches in NIOA. Helen

Baxter acts as coaching rep to link with British Coaching Steering Group. There were plans for monthly coaching sessions through the 15/16 winter period.

International selections during the year had included:

EYOC Macedonia - Frazer Howe, Peter Meehan, Paul Pruzina, James Millar. JEC Belgium – Paul Pruzina. JWOC Bulgaria Jack Millar, Mark Stephens. WUOC Czech Republic – Rosalind Hussey, Aine McCann. EOC Portugal – Oliva Baxter. WOC Italy – Olivia Baxter, Rosalind Hussey. World Cup Australia – Lauren Gillis. JHI – Frazer Howe, Peter Meehan, James Millar, Paul Pruzina, Jill Stephens. SHI – Oliva Baxter, Susan Lambe, Eibhlin Largey. A full boys and 1 girl per class represented at JIRCs.

Philip Baxter, Alan Elwood, Ivan Millar, Greg McCann, Steph Pruzina, Gerry & Ursula Mein were thanked for managing the trips.

Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults.

Gordon Black reported that no issues had arisen during the year. Some updates were required for the website. BOF policies were being followed.

Presentations

Coach of the year awards were presented by Allan Bogle to Fred Corscadden and to Teresa Finlay (in absentia).

A presentation was made by the Chairman to Bill Simpson (in absentia) and to Philip Baxter for services to orienteering in 2014.

Election of Committee. Noel Bogle kindly agreed to chair the elections and thanked the existing committee. Des Fletcher had been co-opted during the year.

The reappointment of the outgoing committee of Philip Baxter, Gordon Black, Jim Fallis, Raymond Finlay, Lyle Fleming, Des Fletcher, Stephen Gilmore, Susan Lambe, Greg McCann, Richard McCourt and Joe McClure was proposed by Ruth Blair, seconded by Gavin Cairns and agreed.

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

Election of Secretary. Stephen Gilmore was proposed by Geoffrey Collins and seconded by Gordon Black. This was agreed by all present.

Election of Treasurer. Susan Lambe was proposed by Helen Baxter and seconded by Marlene Stephens. This was agreed by all present.

Richard McCourt resumed the Chair.

Any Other Business

There was no further business

The meeting closed at 17:15.