



**Minutes of the Northern Ireland Orienteering Association AGM held at
The Newcastle Centre, Newcastle, Co Down
on Saturday 21 June 2014**

The meeting commenced at 11:15. 16 members attended (10 LVO, 3 NWOC, 1 FermO).

Apologies. Ruth Blair, Noel Bogle, Raymond & Teresa Finlay, Wilbert Hollinger, Susan Lambe, Anthony McGonigle.

The minutes of the last AGM held on 6 June 2013 were agreed, proposed by Philip Baxter and seconded by Alan Gartside. There were no matters arising.

Chairman's Report. The Chairman, Richard McCourt noted that the timing of the AGM was not ideal, but there had been no Colour Series events in May or June.

The 2013 championship events had been of high quality with LVO staging the long distance at Meelmore and NWOC the Score and Night on a new map at Loughry College and Mid Ulster Sports Arena. The Colour Series events for 2014 had been split into 3 Colours of Spring and 3 Colors of Autumn mini-series. It might in retrospect have been possible to include a 7th summer event.

The Chairman congratulated Olivia Baxter and Rosalind Hussey, for selection to run for Ireland in Finland at WOC13. Olivia had also been selected for WOC14 in Italy. Jack Millar and Aine McCann were selected for JWOC13 and Paul Pruzina, Peter Meehan for EYOC13 with Jack Millar and Mark Stephens selected for JWOC14, Frazer Howe, Peter Meehan and James Millar for EYOC14.

Alan Elwood had been awarded the 2013 Coach of the Year award. Effective Apr 13, staff were employed by BOF and not NIOA. Allan Bogle continued as Performance Development Officer and had also taken the Junior Development role. Conor Fadian had been appointed as Participation Development Officer with Stephen Gilmore on a part-time temporary contract until Mar 14.

NIOA had staged Sprint, Middle and Long Distance events at the World Police and Fire Games, a culmination of 7 years coordination by Stephen Gilmore with Des Fletcher as liaison. Allan Bogle had at considerably less notice coordinated a successful "Legenderry" weekend with 5 events over the St Patrick's weekend.

Gordon Black had recently taken up the child protection role. Charlie Reid, an unsung hero in developing the website, had stepped down from committee. Philip Baxter and Conor Fadian were taking forward redeveloping the website.

Financial Report. Accounts were circulated and Philip Baxter presented a report on behalf of the Treasurer Susan Lambe.

The fund had increased by £6,500 following a more tranquil year with the transfer of employees to BOF, removing £60,000 of income and expenditure. A budget had been prepared for the next 6 to 7 years to redistribute the surplus with plans for support for mapping for NIOC and higher level events and support for international representation at home international level or above.

Key items in the income account included a small increase in membership income, development team income of £600, which was down from previous years due to the change in team structure. The Schools Association had generated £1,150. World Police and Fire Games and Legenderry had generated surpluses of £3,350 and £400.

The balance sheet shows bridging loans made to the development team for purchases which had since been repaid. A Good Relations Grant of £2,900 had been received for an innovative community project with sprint orienteering potential. The surplus of £40,000 was represented by £15,000 development fund, £2,400 NI Schools OA, £26,600 general fund. The outline budget would attempt to reduce this by £4,600 in the next years.

Philip expressed thanks to Susan for preparing the accounts and a comprehensive report. Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Greg McCann, seconded by Helen Baxter and carried unanimously.

Development Report. Conor Fadian, Regional Participation Development Officer, gave an overview activity since his appointment in Sep 2013. This had been focused towards the targets set by Sport NI.

5 schools with a target number of 3 were supported to achieve Active School grant aided programs. Coaches were trained to Teaching Orienteering Part 1 (TOP1) to assist in the delivery. Schools events had continued with 300 children participating in 8 events.

3 community projects were targeted and 3 were delivered at Gortin (FermO), Carntogher (NWOC) and Craigavon (LVO) with the latter being less successful. TOP1 courses had been delivered by Helen Baxter and Teresa Finlay.

The role of RDO was set to change to a more club focused approach. An application for funding by Sport NI had been made with 18 posts available to all governing bodies to achieve a total of 18,000 joining clubs or associations, with an emphasis on 14-25, females and areas of high social need. These were more likely to be community clubs than traditional orienteering clubs.

Conor also suggested that the Millennium Volunteer program could be of interest to juniors. Conor thanked all those who had supported him to become established.

Coaching, Performance and Juniors Report.

Coaching Development Officer Allan Bogle gave an overview on the recent change of Sport NI towards a performance focus. In the past 20 years the best result had been Steven Linton finishing 54th at WOC. The goal of achieving a podium position had been made more difficult with the reduction to 1 place for Ireland. Smaller countries were therefore more likely to concentrate on Sprint. A promising pool of athletes included Paul Pruzina, James Millar, Peter Mein, Frazer Howe, Jack Millar and Mark Stephens.

Realistic achievement for Ireland would be top 20 with top 15 better. A top 5 place could be achievable for GB. The best opportunity for success would be in Relay with the potential for one junior on the GB pathway. Bringing World Ranking Events to NI would help bring experience and improvement in ranking.

Alan Gartside noted that podium success had been achieved at WTOC, but Allan said that Sport NI only recognize foot O.

Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults.

Gordon Black reported that he had recently been appointed as Safeguarding Officer. He had had a meeting with Paul Stevens of NSPCC to overview the role and would be following up with updates to the website.

Charity Commission

Stephen Gilmore reported that NIOA was in process of registering as a charity with The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland. Unlike other parts of the UK, registration was mandatory for any organization with a charitable purpose and the promotion of amateur sport was a charitable purpose. Clubs are therefore also required to register unless they opt for registration with HMRC as a Community Amateur Sports Club. Registration was required by the end of 2014, although it will then likely to take some time to process.

Presentations

A presentation in absentia was made to Ivan Millar retrospectively for services to orienteering in 2011. Ivan had been Director of High Performance for Ireland until he had relocated to New Zealand for a period. A presentation was made to Helen Baxter for services to orienteering in 2014.

Election of Committe. Alan Gartside kindly agreed to chair the elections and noted that Charlie Reid had stood down from committee during the year.

The reappointment of the outgoing committee of Philip Baxter, Jim Fallis, Raymond Finlay, Lyle Fleming, Stephen Gilmore, Susan Lambe, Greg McCann, Richard McCourt and Joe McClure was proposed by Olivia Baxter and seconded by Helen Baxter and agreed.

The appointment of Gordon Black was proposed by Richard McCourt, seconded by Fred Corscadden and agreed.

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

Election of Secretary. Stephen Gilmore was proposed by Alan Gartside and seconded by Philip Baxter. This was agreed by all present.

Election of Treasurer. Susan Lambe was proposed by Harry Bell and seconded by Greg McCann. This was agreed by all present.

Richard McCourt resumed the Chair.

Any Other Business

Alan Gartside reminded that PreO was available at the Tollymore campsite from 16.30.

The meeting closed at 12:50.