

**Minutes of the Northern Ireland Orienteering Association AGM held at  
Tollymore Forest Park Group Campsite, Co Down  
on Saturday 24 June 2017**

The meeting commenced at 16:30. 16 members attended (15 LVO, 1 NWOC).

**Apologies.** Ann Bell, Harry Bell, David Blair, Ruth Blair, Gavin Cairns, Des Fletcher, Alan Gartside, Juls Hanvey, Richard McCourt, Dee Orwin.

Acceptance of the minutes of the last AGM held on 7 May 2016 were agreed on the proposal of Helen Baxter, seconded by Stephanie Pruzina. There were no matters arising.

**Chairman's Report.** The Vice Chairman, Philip Baxter presented a report on behalf of Chairman Richard McCourt. It was noted that the AGM was being held later than usual to coincide with the Sprint and Middle Distance Championships that had been held in conjunction with the Tollymore Weekend. Thanks were expressed to LVO for staging the weekend's events and to all clubs for the NI events in the year: 6 NI Series, NIOC Long Distance at Rostrevor by LVO, NI Score and Night Champs staged by NWOC at Drumphna. A new innovation was a Sprint Series with 2 races each staged by QUBOC and LVO. The Armagh Sprint weekend, held in conjunction with the Armagh 5km road race was the brainchild of Allan Bogle supported by a team of officials notably Kieran Rocks. 4 orienteering races were held in 3 days attracting over 100 visitors including GBR and IRL teams and internationals from Belgium, Canada, Hungary, Norway, New Zealand and Sweden. However the weekend was not so well supported by local orienteers.

With Allan Bogle stepping down from several roles, Steph Pruzina had taken the role of NI Juniors coordinator and Susan Lambe as SHI Manager.

At last year's summer training camps Peter Reed was selected for Lagganlia and Rachel Collins and Andrew Elwood were selected for Hawkshead training camp. A team of 9 travelled to JIRCS in Aberdeen. There were also good representations of NI Orienteering members at JHI, SHI and VHI. Paul Pruzina and Peter Meehan competed at JEC in Scotland and JWOC 2017 in Switzerland. Rachel Collins ran at EYOC 2017 in Poland and Oliva Baxter and Aine McCann competed at WOC in Sweden. Selections for this year have recently been announced with Olivia Baxter to run at WOC in Estonia, Paul Pruzina at JWOC in Finland and Rachel Collins and Andrew Elwood at EYOC in Slovakia.

An innovation which began in the last year has been workshops as an opportunity to discuss and upskill our officials and volunteers. Two have been held considering the use of social media and controlling and a further series of 3 is planned for the autumn.

Membership significantly up to 316 at end of 2016 from 232 at end of 2015. However this has been in large measure due to Active Club members and this is unlikely to be repeated this year.

The Chairman recorded thanks to Joe McClure stepping down from committee and Fixtures Secretary, to Conor Fadian who had moved from Active Clubs Coordinator to GAA during the year and welcomed Juls Hanvey who had enthusiastically taken up the role. Thanks were recorded for the services of Allan Bogle who had sadly lost his position as Coaching Development Officer due to funding changes. Tribute was also paid to Noel Bogle on entering the M80 class. The Chairman thanked committee members for their support, particularly Dee Orwin who had been co-opted during the year and Gordon Black who had taken the role of Hon Treasurer and Stephen Gilmore continuing as Hon Secretary.

**Financial Report.** Accounts were circulated and the Hon Treasurer Gordon Black presented a report.

The consolidated accounts had opened with £41,559 and closed with £41,421, a small decrease of £135. This was a smaller decrease than expected as the Armagh weekend had been very successful producing a surplus of £1,707. However the plan to reduce the balance through support for international representation and mapping was continuing.

The NIOA levy had compensated for the lower membership fee, although the increase in members due to Active Club activity had given a small boost of approx. £400.

The main account continued to support the coaching juniors account by £1,000pa and the welcome efforts of Ursula Meehan to raise funds by the foodstalls had produced an additional £557.

Vice-Chairman Philip Baxter said that around k£17 of the fund had been generated by development activities and, in addition to mapping for high level events and international representation, grants for sustainable development activity could be considered.

Acceptance was proposed by Ann Savage, seconded by Lyle Fleming and agreed.

### **Active Clubs Report**

Vice Chairman Philip Baxter presented a report on behalf of Active Clubs Coordinator Juls Hanvey. The target set by SportNI was 80 new members in a year with a focus on young people, women and areas of high social need.

Current projects include: Tollymore Orienteers with 66 attending, supported by Greg McCann. An Active Belfast project in North and East Belfast was being set up as a partnership between LVO, Beat the Street and YouthBuild. Help would be required with this project. A Hub in Fintona was being planned at Ecclesville Estate. The Craigavon Hub, which was successfully set up and run by Conor would start again in September supported by Graeme Francis. In the North West the work of Fred Corscadden in schools would be strengthened. Sessions were planned working with QUBOC in conjunction with QUBOTC for Freshers to explore the campus.

Thanks were expressed to Juls for the excellent start to her new role.

### **Junior Report**

Stephanie Pruzina reported that a small group of juniors was planning to represent NI at JIRCs. Team O-tops would be purchased. There would be training over the summer, commencing at WEE and moving to Belvoir on Sunday afternoons in Aug aimed at all 12-18s up to light green level. Olivia Baxter was hoping to run complimentary activities for mothers. A weekend at Castle Saunderson was being

planned in conjunction with IOA over the NIOC weekend. It was also hoped that a group could go to the Hawkshead training weekend in November.

### **Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults.**

Gordon Black reported that no issues had arisen during the year.

### **Change to Constitution**

Hon Secretary presented changes to the constitution, which had been recommended by British Orienteering. This was a complete replacement of section 14 Policies with the wording recommended by British Orienteering with the addition of the phrase “including Safeguarding Children and At-Risk Adults and Anti-Doping policies”, for the avoidance of any doubt. This acceptance of British Orienteering policies meant the former Section 1c was redundant and was deleted. Section 1 was also amended to show the name of the Association and the trading name NI Orienteering. Stephen Gilmore proposed acceptance of the revised constitution. This was seconded by Helen Baxter and agreed.

### **Prizegiving**

Presentations for the NI Sprint and Middle Distance Championships and NI Sprint League were deferred to the barbeque which followed the meeting.

### **Presentations**

The Coach of the Year Award was presented to Stephanie Pruzina.

The Volunteer of the Year Award was to be presented to Kieron Rocks in recognition of his work with the Armagh Sprint Weekend.

The committee had selected Noel Bogle to be presented with the Services to NI Orienteering Award in recognition of his continued service as he enters the M80 class. It was also noted with pride that Anthony McGonigle had been selected to receive the Silva Award by British Orienteering.

**Election of Chairman.** Wilbert Hollinger took the chair. Richard McCourt has completed 5 years. It is customary that the chairperson serves for 3 years. With no other nomination forthcoming Philip Baxter proposed Richard McCourt as pro-tem Chairman. This was seconded by Graeme Francis and agreed.

**Vice Chairman.** Philip Baxter was proposed by Olivia Baxter. This was seconded by Jeff Johnston and agreed.

**Honorary Secretary.** Stephen Gilmore was proposed by Helen Baxter. This was seconded by Ann Savage and agreed.

**Honorary Treasurer.** Gordon Black was proposed by Philip Baxter. This was seconded by Lyle Fleming and agreed.

**Election of Committee.** During the year Dee Orwin had been coopted. Joe McClure did not wish to be reappointed to committee. The reappointment of the remainder of the outgoing committee of Philip Baxter, Gordon Black, Jim Fallis, Raymond Finlay, Lyle Fleming, Des Fletcher, Stephen Gilmore, Greg McCann, Richard McCourt, Anthony McGonigle and Dee Orwin was proposed by Ann Savage. This was seconded by Helen Baxter and agreed.

The appointment of Wilbert Hollinger was proposed by Gordon Stephens. This was seconded by Philip Baxter and agreed,

The appointment of Cara Lavery was proposed by Stephen Gilmore. This was seconded by Olivia Baxter and agreed.

Philip Baxter resumed the Chair.

### **Members Notified Business**

#### **Discussion on Membership Fees and Levy**

Harry Bell in absentia had requested discussion of the suggestion that membership fees be increased and NIOA levy be reduced or removed. Whilst there was sympathy for the suggestion, after discussion it was agreed that we should wait another year until the effects of the new arrangements had become more apparent.

It was also accepted that the membership fee was less of an issue than being welcoming to newcomers and giving a reason for them to wish to formally join.

#### **Discussion on fixture lists**

Jeff Johnston introduced the suggestion that clubs and association could share a multi-site. This could have a different look and feel for each, but would draw on the same database. This was potentially a considerable task which would probably require an external contract. There was general agreement that there was a multiplicity of information which was causing confusion and that this would be a preferable approach.

Philip Baxter and Jeff Johnston agreed to meet to scope this work.

#### **Any Other Business**

A request was made to consider another Armagh Sprint weekend. To tie in with the Armagh 5k road race, events could be in Newry, Craigavon or Lisburn. More support from the membership was required, some of whom appeared to be put off by the international field.

The meeting closed at 18.20.