

**Minutes of the Northern Ireland Orienteering Association AGM held at  
Ecclesfield Equestrian Centre, Fintona, Co Tyrone  
on Saturday 12 May 2018**

The meeting commenced at 12:40. 37 members attended (5 FermO, 26 LVO, 6 NWOC).

**Apologies**

Cecil Armstrong, Ann Bell, Harry Bell, Noel Bogle, Gavin Cairns, Colin Henderson, Francis O'Reilly, Anthony McGonigle, Wilbert Hollinger.

**Previous Minutes**

Acceptance of the minutes of the last AGM held on 24 June 2017 were agreed on the proposal of David Blair, seconded by Des Fletcher. There were no matters arising.

**Chairman's Report.**

Pro-tem Chairman Richard McCourt noted that he had been in the chair for 6 years and did intend to stand down. He thanked the committee for their support over his years in office. Thanks were expressed to FermO for the Sprint Champs which had just taken place and the Middle Distance Champs to follow and to FermO for hosting the 2017 NI Long Distance Champs and SHI, to LVO for hosting the 2018 Score and Night and for all clubs participating in the NI Colour Series League.

Juls Hanvey had developed the 3 hubs and whilst on maternity leave Susan Lambe was a natural to cover the role. Gordon Black had stepped down at the end of December due to health reasons and Susan had also taken over the role of Acting Treasurer. Stephanie Pruzina continued to coordinate NI juniors.

During the year 14 officials had been trained to Rescue Emergency Care Level 2 and 8 had taken a Controllers Course. 4 workshops had been held during the year, notably a session delivered by Steven Linton on use of LiDAR and mapping data.

A solution to coordinate the fixture list was being trialed but with some issues which may not be able to be resolved. The case to reduce levies for midweek events has been made at the BOF conference but was not well received. Ongoing committee work includes access discussions with Forest Service and National Trust.

There had been no selections from NIOA for training camps. Olivia Baxter had represented Ireland at WOC. Paul Pruzina competed at the Junior World Orienteering Championships in Finland, performing exceptionally well by qualifying for the A finals in both Sprint and Middle Distance. Rachel Collins and Andrew Elwood ran at the European Youth Orienteering Championships in Slovakia A team of 8 had attended JIRCs and NIOA members were well represented in JHI, SHI and VHI teams.

Membership at the end of 2017 had stood at 293, which was down slightly on an inflated figure of 316 at the end of 2017 but well up on 232 at the end of 2015

The next major event for Northern Ireland which would be a challenge to all was the staging of the British Sprint and Middle Distance Championships in 2022. Richard again thanked all members for their role in staging all events.

**Financial Report.** Accounts were circulated and the Acting Hon Treasurer Susan Lambe presented a report. Susan extended thanks to Gordon Black for his tenure as Treasurer, for doing such a fine job and wished him well.

The consolidated accounts had opened with £41,421 and closed with £37,539, a small decrease of £3,881. Membership income was £1565, in line with the previous year. Levy income at £900 was down although payment from one club had still to be paid. The Development Team was cash neutral, with little movement in funds– due to the Active Clubs priority on building membership rather than delivering Development events.

Athlete Support of £600 covering SHI & VHIs was lower than the previous year. £2000 had been allocated to our Juniors funds which continue to receive zero grant funding. This was 2 years contribution. Junior funds sit at £2700, not least due to superb fundraising from the soup kitchen of almost £600. Courses were an intentionally large spend during the year funding a REC First Aid Course, Controllers Course, and a Mapping Course. Home Internationals are usually cash neutral – we pay the deposit and then are reimbursed by athletes but this year there was a deficit of £900. Two-thirds relates to an early deposit payment for VHI 2018, with the remainder split between VHI 2017 (due to late withdrawals from the team) and SHI 2017 (due to a bank error still under query). The final transactions for the Armagh Weekend were cash neutral.

No mapping grants were made compared to £2400 in the previous year. Publicity spend of £400 was mostly on maintaining the NI Orienteering website & new fixtures list. The remainder of the amounts are smaller administrative & running expenses, in line with last year. These include trophies for all NI Championships, and room hire for NI Committee meetings & Championships. Of the surplus approximately £13,400 is Development Fund, £3,900 was in the NI Schools Orienteering Association and £22,200 was in the General Fund.

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

Philip Baxter suggested that the underspend in mapping should be used to support mapping for IOC 2019.

It was also noted that mapping would be required for NIOC and JHI in 2019.

### **Juniors Report**

Stephanie Pruzina presented the Juniors Report.

Several training sessions were held during the year including a session following the NI Champs and a weekend in Waterford in conjunction with IOA juniors.

A team of 9 had travelled to JIRCs including a full contingent of 4 M16s with another M16 running up to M18. There was more potential for M14s in the coming year. The team had not come in last place. The JHI team had included Meadow McCauley, Daniel Earnshaw, Andrew Elwood and Peter Reed. Paul Pruzina had an excellent performance at JWOC coming 22<sup>nd</sup> in the sprint A final, 44<sup>th</sup> in the middle distance A final and 59<sup>th</sup> in the long distance. Paul was hoping to compete in the 2018 World University Championships and selections were being made for EYOC and JWOC.

Peter Reed and Odran McGoldrick had been selected for the Hawkshead training camp. It was hoped to recruit promising juniors from the hubs and WEE Series.

### **Active Clubs Report**

Susan Lambe, Active Clubs Coordinator (Maternity Cover) reported. The post was funded by lottery funding via SportNI with a focus on increasing membership. There had been 100 new members with a target of 80, 31 training opportunities with a target of 20 and all other targets were met with the exception of increasing participation in areas of high social need, all due to the support of clubs and volunteers.

The 3 satellite hubs had good visibility on Facebook as set up by Juls Hanvey. Urban O-Explorers has emerged from Beat the Street with a largely previously inactive group. The Craigavon hub had been reinvigorated and was being rebranded as Orchard County Orienteers. The Tollymore hub had a more outdoors orientated population and had benefited from the coaching of Greg McCann. The challenge was sustainability.

There had also been some youth groups attending sessions with Cub scout troops at Ormeau and Stormont. FermO had engaged with the Swanlinbar community who would also support IOC2019.

The Active Clubs programme would continue until March 2019 which would then change to Sporting Clubs through to 2021.

Graeme Francis noted that the success of the hubs had been more due to the input of individuals rather than clubs and asked for more commitment.

Thanks were expressed to Susan and Juls.

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

Fred Corscadden reported that no issues had arisen during the year. A meeting was arranged to meet with NSPCC in June.

### **Prizegiving**

Presentations for the NI Sprint Championships were made. Thanks were expressed from FermO to visiting controllers Conor McKernon for the Sprint and Charlie Reid for the Middle Distance.

### **Presentations**

The Coach of the Year Award was presented to Teresa Finlay.

The Volunteer of the Year Award was to be presented to Graeme Francis in recognition of his work in the Craigavon area.

The committee had selected Colin Henderson to be presented with the Services to NI Orienteering Award in recognition of his continued service as he recovers from illness.

Chairman Richard McCourt also noted the serious accident of former member David Hollinger, son of Wilbert and conveyed the best wishes of the meeting.

### **Elections of Committee and Officers**

Alan Gartside took the chair and expressed thanks to the outgoing committee. A minimum of 12 members were required. The outgoing committee was Philip Baxter, Jim Fallis, Raymond Finlay, Lyle Fleming, Des Fletcher, Stephen Gilmore, Cara Lavery, Greg McCann, Richard McCourt, Anthony McGonigle, Dee Orwin and

Wilbert Hollinger. Gordon Black had stood down during the year. Jim Fallis, Greg McCann and Richard McCourt did not wish to be reappointed.

The reappointment of the remainder of the committee was proposed by Helen Baxter, seconded by Ann Savage and agreed.

The appointment of David Blair was proposed by Des Fletcher seconded by Fred Corscadden and agreed.

The appointment of Gordon Stephens was proposed by Ruth Blair seconded by Geoffrey Collins and agreed.

The appointment of Eibhlin Largey was proposed by Raymond Finlay seconded by Jim Fallis and agreed.

The appointment Michael Burton was proposed by Stephen Gilmore seconded by Olivia Baxter and agreed.

**Chairman.** Richard McCourt has completed 6 years. It is customary that the chairperson serves for 3 years. With no nomination forthcoming the committee would seek to appoint a chairman.

**Vice Chairman.** Philip Baxter was proposed by Richard McCourt. This was seconded by Stephanie Pruzina and agreed.

**Honorary Secretary.** Stephen Gilmore was proposed by Helen Baxter. This was seconded by Gordon Stephens and agreed.

**Honorary Treasurer.** No nominations were received. Susan Lambe would continue as acting Treasurer and the committee would seek to appoint a Treasurer.

#### **Any Other Business**

Philip Baxter encouraged the meeting to chat to newcomers at events and noted that “Beat the Planner” workshops were being arranged which would be applicable to both competitors and planners.

The meeting closed at 14.10.