



**Minutes of the Northern Ireland Orienteering Association AGM held at  
Necarne on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2011**

Twenty eight members attended (16 LVO, 6 NWOC, 6 FERMO).

**Apologies.** Gavin Cairns, Heather Cairns, Colin Henderson, Alan Gartside, Steve Linton, Violet Linton, Joe McClure, Anthony McGonigle, Rachel Reid, Mark Hudson.

The minutes of the last AGM were agreed, proposed by Ruth Blair and seconded by Richard McCourt. There were no matters arising.

**Chairman's Report.** The Chairman, Philip Baxter, opened his remarks with a big thank-you to all those present and to FERMO for hosting such a good Sprint event prior to the meeting. He especially commended Ciara Largey, the planner, for her excellent courses. This drew a full round of applause and was duly noted.

He went on to report on the fantastic success that was JK 2011. Many notes of thanks and congratulations had been received from far and wide, commenting on the consistently high quality of every aspect of the festival. The Chairman acknowledged that almost every member of NIOA and its clubs had contributed to some part of the weekend. He made particular mention of Harold White (Chief Coordinator), Murray Cowan (Assistant Chief Coordinator), Wilbert Hollinger (Chief Planner) and Colin Henderson (Chief Organiser). He also acknowledged the efforts of all the individual planners, the assistant planner, the assistant controllers, the day organisers, the map advisor and all those who made up the core planning group. He hoped that the experience would whet the appetite of members for multi-day events and that the newly developed planning and organising experience boded well for the future. He went on to thank the IOA for the Irish Orienteering Championships the following weekend, which was truly fun, well organized and much appreciated. This was warmly applauded from the floor.

The Chairman continued by elaborating the volume of events and activities that had taken place since the last AGM, including the 2010 IOC capably delivered by NWOC, with the innovative Sprint race in Coleraine. We had all enjoyed a full Colour Series, club calendars bursting with weekend and evening events and activities at a level envied by many larger English regions. On the performance side Ciara Largey had won the W21 Elite class at the Irish Championships, Alan Gartside was the reigning British TrailO Champion, we had podium places for junior relay teams at both the JK and the British Championships and our Home International teams had excelled themselves, even giving the Scots a fright at one stage! He thanked Greg McCann, Niamh O'Boyle and Raymond Finlay for their contributions as Team Managers.

On the Development front, the Chairman bid farewell to the ARDO, Christine Carson, as she moved to a full time appointment with the NI Paralympic Organisation and thanked her for all her work. He went on to welcome Mark Hudson as her successor. Although

Helen would elaborate later, he noted the fantastic efforts of the Development Team, who were exceeding all their targets working on our behalf. He emphasized, though, that they needed more club involvement to convert their effort into long term success. The coaching front was also progressing well under Greg's leadership, although there was a disappointing return on the investment of over £300 each in training Level 1 coaches who were not putting back into their clubs.

Turning to the need for volunteers, the Chairman made what was becoming a repeat call for more members to volunteer their time to support their clubs and Association. He thanked Bill Regan for all that he had done for FERMO, NIOA and orienteering in general and wished him well now that he had hung up his O shoes! He also thanked Noel Bogle for all his efforts in maintaining the NIOA Trophy record and trophies year after year – indeed for longer than most could remember; Davy Lambe had agreed to take over the role, much to Noel's relief, and Davy was also thanked.

The Juniors, escorted by Greg, Sharon, Christine, Simon and some of the parents had had a brilliant trip to take part in the world's largest orienteering festival, the O Ringen in Sweden. This was an excellent example of what could be achieved with volunteer effort and all were congratulated.

The Chairman finished by highlighting 2 new initiatives being developed by BOF – a governance review which should not impact heavily on NI Orienteering and a Levy and Membership Review which probably would, but not until 2013.

**Financial Report.** The Treasurer presented a report together with draft accounts to 31 Mar 11. This had been an exciting year in which the Treasurer had qualified as an accountant and in which she had taken great pride in being part of the JK organization. Next year would be Year 3 of the Sport NI Performance in Sport grant. Charlie Reid proposed that the accounts be accepted, seconded by Harold White; the motion was carried unanimously. A vote of thanks to the Treasurer followed.

**Development Report.** Helen Baxter noted that there was considerable activity, with a particular focus on starting a NI Schools Orienteering Association. There were now 20 primary schools and 8 secondary schools that had joined. We were 5 years behind GB who were now moving away from schools to 'participation clubs'; however we would continue for at least one more year to see whether investment in schools would increase participation. She noted the importance of capturing participation data in the Sport NI PIMS database. She also highlighted the Event Safety Package which had been delivered to a number of NIOA members and which would be rolled out to each of the clubs; this was an essential, but one-off, evening course to qualify organisers and planners to sign off Risk Assessments to the satisfaction of our insurers. She commented on numbers – recruiting members was like keeping a leaky bucket full, as we were losing almost as many members as we recruited. She asked for more positive and active support from clubs and club members to help generate a more sustainable route to increased participation and membership. Her report was followed by a vote of thanks.

**Coaching, Performance and Juniors Report.** Greg McCann amplified the remarks made by the Chairman as he reported a full and successful year. He made a plea for more classic distance orienteering to be included in club plans, as this was vital for effective performance training. His report was followed by a vote of thanks from those present.

**Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults.** On behalf of Colin Henderson, the Chairman reported that up-to-date NI Orienteering policies are up on the website. All members were urged to note them as well as noting the details of their Club Safeguarding Officer.

**Election of Officers.** Noel Bogle kindly agreed to chair the election for the Chairperson. Before doing so he thanked the outgoing committee for their work over the year especially those who would be standing down.

**Chairperson.** Philip Baxter was proposed by Ruth Blair and seconded by Bill Simpson. This was agreed by all present. Philip then took the Chair for the rest of the election.

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

**Treasurer.** Susan Lambe was proposed by Helen Baxter and seconded by Harold White. This was agreed by all present.

The following were agreed on block, proposed by Teresa Finlay and seconded by Richard McCourt:

J McClure-Fixtures  
G McCann-Junior Coach  
R Finlay- Vice Chairman  
C Largey-Member  
J Fallis -Member  
C Henderson-Publicity  
L Fleming-Membership

Noel Bogle proposed a vote of thanks to long standing committee members standing down, unanimously approved. He also proposed a vote of thanks to Philip Baxter, again unanimously approved.

#### **A.O.B.**

Murray Cowan noted that, for Sport NI future funding, that the rate of conversion of participants to members was vital.

**Closing Remarks.** The Chairman thanked FERMO for organising the AGM on behalf of NI Orienteering and again thanked those responsible for the Sprint event which preceded the meeting.