



**Minutes of the Northern Ireland Orienteering Association AGM held at
Magilligan (Bobs Bistro) Saturday 26th May 2012**

The meeting commenced at 15:35. 18 members attended (9 LVO, 6 NWOC, 3 FERMO).

Apologies. Harry and Anne Bell, Gavin and Heather Cairns, Jim Fallis, Lyle Fleming, Colin Henderson, Joe McClure, Richard McCourt, Ann Savage, Harold White, Richard Williamson.

The minutes of the last AGM held on 28 May 2011 were agreed, proposed by Raymond Finlay and seconded by Noel Bogle. There were no matters arising.

Chairman's Report. The Chairman, Philip Baxter, opened his remarks with the happy news that LVO members Bill Simpson and Jenny Currie had just become engaged.

The Chairman on his fifth AGM report thanked all who continue to volunteer to make the sport happen including officials, helpers, committee members of both clubs and association, noting the work of Susan Lambe as both NIOA and JK Treasurer. The event which has just been enjoyed was an example of the many events which were only possible by continued voluntary effort. The Development Team of Helen Baxter, Mark Hudson, Greg McCann in the earlier part of the year and latterly Allan Bogle were helping to increase the understanding of orienteering.

The year had been a successful year with 44 opportunities to orienteering in the LVO area alone and increasing opportunities being created by FERMO and NWOC. Fewer were travelling to large events, but there was increasing satisfaction with local events, a trend being experienced elsewhere. More were travelling to multi-day events, but attempts to stage multi-day events in NI were less successful.

Changes to the membership and levy arrangements were to take place from 2013 with a single tier of British Orienteering membership priced at £5 per senior and £3 per junior but with a £1 levy per run applying to all events.

The fourth year of SportNI funding would be ending in March 2013 and the bidding process for 2013 to 2017 was underway. The emphasis had changed from participation to performance which presented challenges.

Financial Report. The Treasurer Susan Lambe presented a report together with draft accounts to 31 Mar 12. Income had been broadly in line with 2011. The Development Team which are fully funded by SportNI had also generated k£6 in income. The NISA had held 5 events including a Schools Championships. The finances of the Association were well positioned with a fund increase of k£15. Ruth Blair proposed that the accounts be accepted, seconded by Declan McGrellis; the motion was carried unanimously.

Development Report. Regional Development Officer, Helen Baxter reported on some evidence of schools now attending local evening events. The Teaching Orienteering Course had been delivered to 4 groups of teachers, to 3 activity centres, to 1 active communities and to 1 Countryside Access and Activity Network. Some were now incorporating orienteering into the curriculum and holding after-schools clubs. Antrim, Armagh, Coleraine and Fermanagh Councils had been supported. Stormont Estate had been mapped with orienteering to be included as an activity for groups and recent contact been established with Castlereagh Borough Council. SportNI monitoring was a requirement which took a considerable amount of time. More evening winter training had been established and the membership was building slowly but unfortunately new participant were not always greeted.

Coaching, Performance and Juniors Report. Greg McCann, Irish Junior Selector and Manager reported on a highly successful JHI with a second consecutive victory over Wales and a closer result to Scotland. 2 NI juniors achieved podium positions. 15 juniors participated in JIRCs gaining 10th position overall. Jack Millar had attended JWOC with Harry Millar and Mark Stephens attending EYOC. NI Juniors were held in high regard as good ambassadors and were grateful for financial support.

Junior Coach Simon Reeve reported on successful tours to JK in Scotland and to training in October in Munster, January in Fermanagh and a February training camp for EYOC contenders. Fundraising activities including sales of JK hoodies had helped with expenses. In the coming year JIRCs in Norfolk, JWOC in Slovakia, EYOC in France, JHI in Surry and Croeso were anticipated.

Coaching Development Officer Allan Bogle reported on a range of activities since taking over from Greg McCann six months previously. O Days focusing on sprint performance and a Coaching Day had been held. There was an emphasis on high performance. Ciara Largey and Roz Hussey would be attending WOC. The record breaking performance of Ciara in mountain races and strong JK performance was noted.

Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults. On behalf of Colin Henderson, the Chairman reported that the audit was up-to-date Colin was stepping down as Safeguarding Officer and a replacement was needed. The Chairman noted the distinction between regular events when children remained in the care of parents and trips when they were in the care of coaches.

Presentations

Outgoing Chairman Philip Baxter presented the 2011 Award for Services to Northern Ireland Orienteering to Greg McCann.

He also made a special presentation to Noel Bogle in recognition of many years of careful care of trophies.

Election of Officers. Noel Bogle kindly agreed to chair the elections.

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

Secretary. Stephen Gilmore was proposed by Noel Bogle and seconded by Raymond Finlay Helen Baxter. This was agreed by all present.

Treasurer. Susan Lambe was proposed by Philip Baxter and seconded by Theresa Finlay. This was agreed by all present.

The following were agreed on block, proposed by Mark Hudson and seconded by Helen Baxter:

Philip Baxter – Technical Support
Jim Fallis – FERMO representative
Raymond Finlay- Vice Chairman
Lyle Fleming-Membership
Greg McCann-Junior Coach
Joe McClure-Fixtures
Charlie Reid- NWOC representative

Noel Bogle proposed a vote of thanks to Philip Baxter for 5 years of hard work and especially noted the development of relationship with SportNI, unanimously approved. Thanks was also expressed to committee members standing down: Colin Henderson, Ciara Largey and Harold White.

In the absence of Richard, Philip resumed the Chair for the rest of the election.

A.O.B.

Theresa Finlay requested clarification on the issue of eligibility for British Championships. Philip explained that previously the requirement was to be British or a member of a British Orienteering. Due to an English club engaging the services of Swedish orienteers to compete in a relay team, eligibility was changed to require entrants to be British citizens. The policy was now being reviewed with the likelihood that residents of the UK would also be eligible after a set period.

It was noted that the 2011 Trophies were distributed after the Night Championships and suggested that this be made more of a social evening to help to enhance the Night Championships.

Declan McGrellis asked if arrangements were in place for the 2012 NI Sprint Championships. NWOC indicated that they were considering holding the championships in October.

Noel Bogle noted the demise of the Relay Championships and suggested a Team Event could be used as a replacement.

Closing Remarks. Philip thanked NWOC for organizing the AGM on behalf of NI Orienteering. The meeting closed at 16:54