



**Minutes of the Northern Ireland Orienteering Association AGM
held at Tollymore Forest Park
on 26 June 2021**

The meeting commenced at 15.00.
36 members attended: (2 FermO, 30 LVO, 4 NWOC).

Welcome

Chairman Anthony McGonigle especially welcomed to attend the meeting Joan Henderson, Jenny, Matthew and Rachel Dalzell and Jim and Honor Stevens.

Apologies

Cecil Armstrong, Michael Burton, Fred Corscadden, Daniel and Mark Earnshaw, Nigel and Barbara Foley-Fisher, Stephen Knight and Wilbert Hollinger.

Previous Minutes

Acceptance of the minutes of the last AGM held on 30 June 2020 were agreed.
There were no matters arising.

Chairman's Report.

Chairman Anthony McGonigle presented the Chairman's report.

Anthony thanked LVO for staging an excellent Colour Series event which had preceded the meeting and also all those who had volunteered during a year when Covid-19 had a devastating effect on orienteering as most competitions had to be cancelled.

Anthony thanked all the committee for their work during the year. There were about twelve Zoom meetings trying to predict when rules would be relaxed and activities could begin again. Sadly the pandemic continued for much longer than most of us had predicted. A special thanks were due to our Secretary for all the preparation he does behind the scenes.

Two of our committee have decided to step down. Anthony thanked Jane and Dee for their great contribution over the year. Also Fred Corscadden has decided to step down as Safeguarding Officer. He feels that he has not been able to give the role the time that it deserves. We are all very thankful for his involvement over a number of years in this role.

A lot of effort and work was put into organising Maprun courses so that at least some of us could get out for a run with a map in our hands. Thanks were expressed to all the members who spent many hours planning and organising these activities. We initially had a working group on zoom trying to get their heads around this new technology. Thanks to Ric Gamble, Charlie Reid, Des Fletcher, Robbie Bryson, Colin Smith and Stephen Gilmore for the hours spent and the advice then passed on to clubs to get us started. We had three very interesting workshops about Maprun presented by Stephen Gilmore, Graeme Francis and Charlie Reid. Thanks were expressed for the time and effort put into these informative sessions and also to Philip Baxter and

Stephen Gilmore for the workshop for novice planners covering Condes and planning Maprun courses.

Anthony thanked Juls Hanvey and Ric Gamble for the great work they have done during this frustrating year. They spent a lot of time and effort planning and organising activities such as the October Outdoor Series, Secondary school projects and Fermanagh Omagh Orienteering Trails. Another project that Juls initiated was the refurbishment of Eco- Trails project which had been set up over many years by Colin Henderson. Many members were involved checking the condition of the sites but Anthony singled out Stephen Gilmore and Bill Simpson for their work updating maps and booklets to go with the project. Thanks were expressed to Juls for keeping going and remaining so enthusiastic through this challenging year. Regretfully her time was reduced down to a four day week from April 2021. Anthony congratulated Ric on his new role working for BOF. It was great to have someone from Northern Ireland keeping us informed about what we could or could not do during the many months of lockdown.

Anthony thanked Raymond Finlay for all his work communicating with the Home Nations about the Home International rotations. Just recently, the English regions have agreed to increase their role in the competitions and this will allow Wales and N.Ireland to reduce their commitment to two events every four years instead of three events every four years.

A group was set up to start organising the British Sprint and Middle Distance Champs in N.Ireland in 2023. Armagh is the likely venue for the Sprint and a number of areas are being considered for the Middle Distance.

Twelve members attended an outdoor REC 1 First Aid Course this year at Castlewellan. Seven members also attended a REC 2 Course at Tollymore in May. Thanks to all who attended.

Mark Pruzina and Ric Gamble presented a very good workshop on Covid Protocols for returning to safe competition, which were very helpful for clubs and the organisers of events in particular.

Congratulations were expressed to Wilbert Hollinger on his appointment as Orienteering Foundation Ambassador and also to Paul Pruzina on his selection to the Irish Team for the World Orienteering Championships in the Czech Republic this summer. We wish him all the best in the Sprint, Middle and Relays.

Anthony thanked to all our members for their work and support during the year and expressed the hope that in the near future we can get back to a normal program of events.

Financial Report.

Hon Treasurer Philip Baxter presented the Financial report and indicated that it had not been a busy year with most events and activities cancelled.

Income had been reduced with membership fees down by approximately £500 and event levies by £1800. The development fund had been reduced by £2000 as previous income from hub activities had been transferred to LVO. Expenses had included refunds and maintenance of equipment

Of the total fund of £37,386 approximately £7,000 was to be held in reserve, £14,000 was in the development fund and £14,000 was working capital.

Philip also informed the meeting that Wilbert Hollinger had been appointed as Ambassador for The Orienteering Foundation for the NI region. Clubs could apply for support for projects.

Sporting Clubs Report

Juls Hanvey presented the Sporting Clubs report in poetry, which was followed by a round of applause:

*I returned from my second Maternity Leave around this time last summer
To a VERY different job which to be honest was a bit of a bummer
Ric held the fort so competently; he was really on a roll!
But now it was my turn once more, I had to regain control.*

*It wasn't long before I got used to the weird new world of Zoom.
We had some great craic and learning on there over a long winter of gloom.
The online learning opportunities of last year totaled 152.
I think these zoom workshops should be carried forward with us into the blue.*

*From Georeferencing to MapRun to The Art of Planning a Good Course
Our participants listened intently; they were getting knowledge straight from the source!
So, a huge thank you to our tutors - Stephen, Charlie, Philip and Graeme
All the workshops provided were received to great acclaim.*

*One of the biggest developments of the past year is the use of the MapRun app.
Off the ground thanks to special working group, they endeavored to fill the gap.
Ric, Stephen, Charlie, Colin, Robbie and Des, thanks to you we have a new way of O.
This meant that during lockdown, our orienteers were still able to grab a map and go!*

*MapRun has been brilliant for development, sure I've hardly put out a control,
We all know it's not my strong point... and the biggest pain in my... neck.
Since June last year, the number of MapRun results has been 1233.
From Limavady to Crossmurrin to the moat at Donaghadee.*

*The revival of Ecotrails and Permanent Courses was our next big task,
A lot the of work we could do from home, so did not even need a mask.
Stephen and Bill led the way with support from many course rangers,
Out and about on the ground, reporting back on any dangers.*

*So, where are we at during this mad pandemic? Current NIOA membership sits at 221.
But with all these exciting projects in the works, we are ready for so much more fun.
The FOOT Series in Fermanagh, The OATS Project in the North West,
And hub activity picking up in LVO, it is great to see how we have progressed.*

*So, here's to another year of getting lost in the streets, on the mountainsides and among the trees.
I am only able to do this thanks to your expertise.
I really appreciate all your help, support and kindness over the last few years,
You are an amazingly dedicated, skilled and valued bunch of volunteers.*

Juniors Report

Stephanie Pruzina presented the Juniors report noting that the year had been very difficult for juniors.

British Orienteering had formed 3 coaching groups with NIOA allocated to Talent North, led by Richard Tiley from NWOA. Several juniors had participated with good online coaching including nutrition and periodised training advice. Unfortunately, it was not possible to travel to the training camps.

Following the Coaching Conference in Jan 2021, Steph had initiated local Zoom training sessions for juniors with an outdoor session on Slievenagore as soon as restrictions were relaxed.

JHI and JIRCs were scheduled to take place in England in the autumn, although prospects for sending teams were not hopeful. JIRCs were also to be hosted in NI in Sep 2022.

Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults.

Stephen Gilmore reported on behalf of Fred Corscadden that no issues had arisen during the year. Anthony McGonigle again thanked Fred who wished to step down from this role after a number of years.

NI Score Championships Prizgiving.

Prizes were presented for the 2021 NI Score Championships, which had been held at Parkanaur on 29 May 2021:

M14-	Liam Hopkins, LVO	W14-	Chloe Grattan, LVO
M18-	Daniel Earnshaw, LVO	W18-	Meadow McCauley, LVO
MOpen	Peter Reed, LVO	WOpen	Olivia Baxter, LVO
MVet	Paul Daniels, LVO	WVet	Susan Lambe, LVO
MSupervet	David Blair, NWOC	WSupervet	Teresa Finlay, FermO

Unveiling and Presentation of the Colin Henderson Trophy

Stephen Gilmore explained that the committee had wished to create a trophy in memory of Colin Henderson who had sadly passed away in late 2019. In consultation with Joan Henderson a perpetual trophy for the existing Services to NI Orienteering Award had been created by expert wood turner Jim Stevens. Stephen thanked Jim who had donated materials, time and skill and invited him to unveil the trophy. Stephen explained the appropriate nature of the purple heart wood trophy, with purple symbolising pancreatic cancer which Colin had suffered from. The exacting design spoke of Colin's passion for excellence, the spherical trophy spoke of Colin's passion for the environment of the world, and the petal like structure of his enthusiasm for new ideas. Stephen also noted that just as Colin always wore a head covering whilst orienteering in sunny conditions, the trophy should not be displayed in direct sunlight!

The committee had decided that the first name on the trophy should be the person who could be identified as the founder of the sport in Northern Ireland, having introduced the activity initially into Scouting and Duke of Edinburgh Award before forming NIOA and NWOC. He had encouraged many school pupils to take up the sport and has competed near and far, holding the NI record for the most consecutive number of JK runs.

As the recipient Noel Bogle was unable to be present due to ill health, Joan Henderson was invited to present to trophy to David Blair, Chairman of NWOC.

Elections of Committee and Officers

Alan Gartside took the chair and expressed thanks to the outgoing committee.

Chairman. Anthony McGonigle was proposed as Chairman by Ruth Blair, seconded by Ann Savage and agreed.

Vice Chairman. David Blair was proposed as Vice Chairman by Teresa Finlay, seconded by Helen Baxter and agreed.

Honorary Secretary. Stephen Gilmore was proposed as Honorary Secretary by Gordon Stephens, seconded by Harry Bell and agreed.

Honorary Treasurer. Philip Baxter was proposed as Honorary Treasurer by Helen Baxter, seconded by Joanne McCauley and agreed.

A minimum of 8 additional members were required. The outgoing committee was Philip Baxter, David Blair, Michael Burton, Raymond Finlay, Teresa Finlay, Lyle Fleming, Des Fletcher, Wilbert Hollinger, Stephen Gilmore, Eibhlin Largey, Anthony McGonigle, Dee Orwin and Gordon Stephens and Jane Wilson. Dee Orwin and Jane Wilson to step down.

The reappointment of the committee with the exception of Dee Orwin and Jane Wilson was proposed by Philip Baxter, seconded by Ric Gamble was agreed.

Any Other Business

There was no other business.

The meeting ended at 16:00.