



**Minutes of the Northern Ireland Orienteering Association AGM  
held at Castle Leisure Centre, Lisnaskea, Co Fermanagh  
on 14 May 2022**

The meeting commenced at 12.39.  
26 members attended: (2 FermO, 21 LVO, 3 NWOC).

**Welcome**

Vice-Chairman David Blair welcomed members.

**Apologies**

Olivia Baxter, Gavin Cairns, Alan Gartside, Stephen Gilmore, Anthony McGonigle, Gordon Stephens.

**Previous Minutes**

Acceptance of the minutes of the last AGM held on 26 June 2021 was proposed by Helen Baxter, seconded by Ruth Blair and agreed.

**Chairman's Report.**

David Blair presented the Chairman's report on behalf of Anthony McGonigle.

Unfortunately, Anthony missed the Sprint, Middle Distance and AGM this year and thanked FermO for two enjoyable events and for the organisation of the AGM.

Despite the restrictions of Covid we managed to fulfil a complete fixture list of Colour Series and N Ireland Events. Thanks were expressed to all the planners, controllers and organisers who overcame many hurdles to put on a very enjoyable year of events. We had a significant number of female planners who were congratulated for their enjoyable and challenging courses.

Anthony thanked all team managers and coaches for going ahead with the Home Internationals, EYOC and the JIRCs despite the many problems caused by COVID. It was a shame that our selected juniors were not able to attend JWOC in Turkey due to the UK red list quarantine requirements at the time. Congratulations to all the members who were selected to run and thank you for making the effort to attend.

Thanks were expressed to Raymond Finlay for the many hours and emails spent sorting out the new rotation of the Home Internationals. The main purpose was to involve English Regions more in the organising the competitions and reduce the workload of N.I. clubs. The rotations for NIOA are 2024 VHI, 2026 SHI, 2028 JHI, 2030 VHI. LVO is also organising the JIRCs on 24/25th September 2022.

Much time has been spent starting preparations for the British Sprint and Middle Distance Champs on 6th/ 7th May 2023. This will be the weekend after the Irish Champs in Leinster. Armagh has been confirmed as the venue for the Sprint. It is now likely that the Middle Distance Event will be staged at Drumkeeragh Forest. Anthony

thanked the small committee who have made a great start with the preliminary planning and particularly like to thank Stephen Gilmore and Richard McCourt for the many hours spent trying to negotiate access to Gruggandoo Mountain in the Mourne. Unfortunately, we decided that it was not going to get sorted satisfactorily for this event. We will need a big team of helpers to make this event a great success. We know that we can rely on your support.

The pre-booking of maps for events became the necessary option during COVID. A big thank you to members like Mark Pruzina and Charlie Reid for their time and expertise organising these systems. The feeling is that we should remain with this system for the future as it greatly reduces the workload on the day and also helps with the printing of maps. However, we are aware that it does not suit new-comers and we would like to provide some flexibility on the day. We are also trying to introduce a group entry for a family or group wanting to take a course together.

Thanks were expressed to Philip Baxter and Raymond Finlay for organising the Controllers Workshop. The workshops were very worthwhile, particularly pointing members towards the guidelines for events. We had a very good involvement of Orienteering Ireland members who greatly appreciated the discussion opportunities.

Thanks were expressed to Graeme Francis, Des Fletcher, Stephen Gilmore and Colin Smith have spent a lot of time and energy organising a NI Urban League. The series of ten events had just started at the Sprint Champs in Lisnaskea.

Stephen Gilmore, Philip Baxter, Raymond Finlay and Anthony McGonigle had a zoom meeting with Ciaran Kearney of NI Sports Forum to discuss improvements to the NI Orienteering Association Constitution. The list of proposed modifications will be voted on at this AGM. It was not yet possible to include a modification for finance until a new bank account is selected. This is proving to be a complicated and drawn out process.

Thanks were expressed to Juls Hanvey and Ric Gamble for their great efforts during COVID restrictions. We gratefully appreciated their enthusiasm and energy during this frustrating period. It was great to learn from Juls Harvey that SportNI had awarded a transition year for a 5 day/week post until March 2023 at least. Ric is playing a great role with British Orienteering

Anthony thanked all the committee members for their time and effort during the year. We managed to hold ten committee meetings on Zoom. All meetings were well attended and very productive. Thank you for your co-operation and support through the last two difficult years of COVID. The involvement of younger members was appreciated but it was realised that this is not easy with study or work commitments and busy lifestyles.

Anthony expressed the hope that Zoom meetings will continue in the future as it greatly reduces the time and cost of travel to venues and hopefully makes joining the committee more accessible to other members.

Anthony thanked our Secretary for all his organisation, preparation and recording of NI Committee meetings and minutes. Your attention to detail and constant reminders was very much appreciated.

Anthony noted that sadly this will be his final Chairperson's Report. This was his second period as Chairperson having completed my first session from 1987 to 1989. Anthony wished his successor well and pledged to support them as a committee member.

Finally Anthony conveyed thanks to everyone who has helped at or supported events during the last year. Our sport cannot exist without the input of many volunteers.

### **Financial Report.**

Hon Treasurer Philip Baxter presented the financial financial report (appended below).

After the financially disappointing 2020-2021, this year is beginning to show signs of picking up. Although not yet back at pre-pandemic levels of income or expenditure, we have seen some small growth in income and an expenditure growth that reflects the restart of international and other representative events.

Our income derives from: membership fees, event levies, development activity contributions, bank interest and grants.

- Membership fees recovered to £1493, up from £784 last year but well behind the 18/19 level of £2402.
- Levy income grew back to £917 from £295 last year, not yet close to the 19/20 level of £2123.
- Development activities contributed a net £238 to the Development fund.
- There was no grant income this year and bank interest brought in a historic low of £2.25!

We spend money on: mapping grants to clubs, athlete support, Junior support, trophies, publicity, administration and bank charges.

- No mapping grants were made this year or last. Previous years saw £1000 to LVO in 19/20 and £4500 to FERMO (£3500) and LVO (£1000) in 18/19. No grant this year reflects the carry forward of 18/19 grants which were not usable during the pandemic.
- Athlete support figures are artificially low as the 2021 VHI grants have not been finalised and we had no NI runners in the SHI team (travel restrictions).
- The normal vehicle for support to juniors is via a £1000 grant to the Coaching Juniors account. As it became clear that the early restart of international and representative events would overwhelm the Coaching Juniors account, junior support has been covered from the main account, to the tune of £2713.
- This year spend on development equipment (mostly repairs to SI units and battery replacement) is shown as a separate item. The £518 includes £225 to purchase kites which are being kept for the British Sprints and Middles next year before being used to replace the current development kit kites.
- Trophy costs reflect the engraving, repairing and replacing of our fine set of trophies and remain pretty constant. With little activity in 19/20 (£84) and the 20/21 (£337) inclusion of a donation to charity for the Colin Henderson Trophy, this year's £614 (which includes £150 towards the materials and a charity donation for a custom made carrying case for the CH Trophy) shows a return to more normal levels. Thanks must go to Ann Savage for all the work she puts in to preparing our mass of trophies for presentation and to Rod Steele who made the CH Trophy case.
- Publicity includes the cost of maintaining the NI Orienteering website as well as the occasional flier, while administration covers the costs of NIOA Committee meetings (largely now conducted through our Zoom account) as

well as the NI Sports Forum subscriptions (which covered 2 years this time, as last years were issued late).

Some years ago the NIOA Committee proposed that we should run deficit budgets (spend more than we earn) to reduce the funds that we hold which had been swelled by JK 2011 profits and other grant income. With the exception of 2019/2020 when we had bumper membership and income levels and the development team efforts brought in substantial contributions (net income of £2700) we have run at a deficit for 4 of the last 5 years (-£4500, -£4600, -£3500 and -£1900 this year) as planned. This year's figure however does not include our normal level of mapping support.

The net result of all of this is that the fund currently stands at £32,000 which is made up of £17000 in the development fund, £1500 in Junior Coaching, £7000 in reserves and £6500 as working capital. While this looks healthy we should note that:

- Unless membership and levy income increase our ability to continue to provide mapping and other support will erode the working capital to almost zero over the next 2 years.
- The costs of preparations for the British Sprint and Middle Championships in May 2023 will largely be met this financial year before any profit can be recorded after the event accounts are settled. We have already started to have to cover mapping and publicity costs; it is likely that all of these costs will come initially from the Development Fund and will be reconciled after the event.
- HSBC have started to charge for holding accounts (£5 per account per month) and for individual transactions. The Committee have agreed that we should seek to move our accounts to a non-charging bank; this is being held up by likely contenders (Ulster Bank and Santander) temporarily pausing the opening of new Treasurer Accounts.

It was Proposed by Philip Baxter, seconded by Richard McCourt and agreed that the attached draft accounts be accepted, subject to the usual independent inspection by Alan Gartside.

### **Sporting Clubs Report**

Juls Hanvey presented the Sporting Clubs report in verse:

The AGM already, another year done before ya know it  
So, here's a report from your favourite development officer, who also happens to be a poet  
A moment to reflect, on our association, 3 clubs and 3 hubs  
From our most experienced members right down to our wee cubs.

In the Northwest we worked with other sports, on a project called OATS  
Alongside athletics and triathlon, the initiative went way beyond our hopes  
Over the course of the year, 725 young people experienced our sport  
Thank you to Anthony and Des for their unwavering support.

In the west we ran with the FOOT Series, Fermanagh Omagh Orienteering Trails  
Thanks to Fin, Teresa and Robbie who had it covered down to the last details  
We had 1692 registered and 981 goes  
We were on the radio and everything, not bad I suppose!

And then down in Gosford, we held a couple of Trail-O events  
Made possible by Alan and Wilbert, two absolute gents.  
Memorable days in the summer sun, 161 people had a go  
What trail-o made me realise is, just how little I know.

LVO has worked hard with their juniors thanks to Steph and her motley crew  
The Running Wild Programme kicked it all off, some regular faces and some brand new  
Lots of Sundays out in the rain; learning, racing, and having the craic  
And thanks to the hard work of the coaches, they all keep coming back!

And what about our hubs? Did they make it through covid?  
Sure, everyone was busting to get back out, so the participation exploded!  
The Tollymore Summer Series saw a 250 strong crowd  
And for a wee hub that only started in 2017, we're feeling pretty proud

Orchard County are leading the way with the brand new Urban League  
And if I know Graeme Francis, its sure to bring intrigue (and fatigue)  
And Urban O Explorers continues to work in Parks across Belfast  
Showing the people of the city that our sport is a blast.

Ric and I developed and delivered a course called Equipping Teachers  
37 of the countries' educators now have a much better eye for features  
We also partnered with the IOA to provide further online study  
We had 131 log-ins for these, but we'd still rather be out getting muddy.

So that's a wrap on another year, I know I say it all the time  
But you guys really are the best – you've even listened to my stupid rhyme  
Keep doing what you do for the sport, your devotion is beyond price  
I'd be lost without all your competence, goodness, and invaluable advice!

## **Juniors Report**

Stephanie Pruzina presented the Juniors report.

Orienteering was significantly disrupted by Covid during the early part of 2021, but last summer we still had endless hoops to jump through to allow international travel. Daniel Earnshaw, Meadow McCauley, Daniel Murphy and Oliver O'Kane were all able to travel to Lithuania thanks to the efforts of the Team Leaders, Denis Murphy, Martina Rowe and Brendan O'Brien. As usual standards in Europe were very challenging with long, relay and short courses but overall they all had a worthwhile and enjoyable trip.

Things did not work out so well for Daniel Earnshaw, Rachel Collins and Peter Reed, who were selected to the Irish squad for Junior World champs. This was held in Turkey at a time when UK rules required 2 weeks of quarantine on return and unfortunately all three had to decline to offer to compete.

Our next trip away was to Middlesbrough (which I now know to be on the east coast and not in the middle!) The Junior Inter-regionals were hosted by CLOK and both the individual and relay events were held at South Gare, a long spit of vegetated industrial spoil and more recent sand dunes with plenty of complex contour detail. We took a team of 8, welcoming Liam Hopkins on his first outing and with thanks to Mark Hopkins, Stephen Gilmore and Steven Linton for their help leading the group and

with catering and sandwich making! Our combined result at the end of the weekend was 11th from 12 regions so there is certainly some scope for improvement but the main objective, for the team to have a great time away and to enjoy their orienteering was definitely achieved.

A fortnight later the Junior Home Internationals were held in Surrey and hosted by SLOW. For this event we join forces again with the rest of the Irish juniors. Once again we were well represented on the team by Ben Cairns, Daniel Earnshaw, Meadow McCauley, Rebecca Linton, Dan Murphy and Oliver O’Kane. The individual day took place at Hindhead Common and the Devil’s Punchbowl, which was described in the pre-event info as Spectacular and tough, and lived up to both adjectives. The relay was in the slightly easier but over-brackened area of Bramshott common and apparently the planner was out with a trimmer in the days before the event. Overall, Ireland came 3rd, retaining the coveted Judith Wingham trophy in the Ireland v Wales Sub-competition.

Meanwhile, partly because of a lack of events over the past couple of years, and partly because our older juniors are moving on, there appeared to be a scarcity of new young orienteers. So, with Juls Hanvey’s excellent help, we recruited a group of 12 -14 year olds, specifying, “they have to already like running”! I don’t know how she managed but a particular welcome to everyone who came to 4 weeks of Running Wild in Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park last November. With the help of Alison Collins, Alan Elwood, the Gardiner family and several parents we introduced about 14 newcomers to the joy of running through a muddy park looking for kites. After Christmas we had 4 more sessions in the more difficult terrain of Hillsborough Forest Park where some of our Running Wild graduates were joined by Tollymore and OCO hub members. We have a great group now, many of whom have joined the club and I hope will be ready to compete at the JIRC’s coming up in Ballykinlar this September.

Finally, we also are delighted to welcome a talented and experienced W16 to the club and to the Junior Squad. Anastasia Mahlych and Mum Katerina moved to Belfast in March and have been amazing in their enthusiasm and energy, to get to know everyone and to join fully in all the activities of the club.

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

Safeguarding officer Chloe Reed reported that there were no untoward incidents to report.

### **Orienteering Foundation**

Wilbert Hollinger gave a brief overview of the Orienteering Foundation charity, the potential support it offers to individuals and clubs and noted that any potential bids could be made through him, as the NI Ambassador for the charity.

### **Presentation of the Colin Henderson Trophy**

Vice Chairman David Blair announced that Harold White was the recipient of the Colin Henderson Trophy for Services to NI Orienteering. Harold had given much to the sport of orienteering both south and north of the border. Harold has often taken the role of a coordinator fulfilling this role for JHI in 2019 and IOC in 2015. However, Harold’s attention to detail in ensuring that JK 2011 was a very positive experience for both competitors, officials and helpers alike is fondly remembered.

As the recipient Harold White was unable to be present, David requested that the meeting did not share congratulations with Harold as an opportunity to present the trophy will be taken as soon as possible.

[After note. The presentation to Harold was made by Stephen Gilmore and Philip Baxter on 11 Nov 22, appropriately surprising him as he finished helping to put out controls at Cairn Wood for the following day.]

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

Richard McCourt took the chair and expressed thanks to the outgoing committee.

Chairman. David Blair was proposed as Chairman by Ruth Blair, seconded by Wilbert Hollinger and agreed.

Vice Chairman. There were no nominations for Vice Chairman. It was agreed to allow the Committee to agree the appointment from among its members. Proposed by Helen Baxter, seconded by Mark Pruzina

Honorary Secretary. Stephen Gilmore was proposed as Honorary Secretary by Wilbert Hollinger, seconded by Mark Pruzina and agreed.

Honorary Treasurer. Philip Baxter was proposed as Honorary Treasurer by Jenny Orr, seconded, by Anne Savage 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, and Gordon Stephens. Eibhlin Largey wished to step down.

The reappointment of the committee with the exception of Eibhlin Largey was proposed by Harry Bell, seconded by Ric Gamble was agreed.

Heather Cairns was proposed for committee by Wilbert Hollinger, seconded by Ruth Blair and agreed.

Robbie Bryson was proposed for committee by Teresa Finlay, seconded by Helen Baxter and agreed.

### **Proposed Changes to Constitution**

David Blair introduced proposals to change the constitution following a review of the constitution with NI Sports Forum earlier in the year.

#### **2(c) Management**

“An appropriate officer shall maintain a minute book.”

Change to

“An appropriate officer shall record the minutes of all meetings.”

Rationale: Minutes are no longer recorded in a book but are stored and circulated electronically.

The change was proposed by David Blair, seconded by Helen Baxter and agreed.

#### 6 (d) Fees

“If not paid by the first of March, membership will be deemed to have ceased.”

Change to

“If not paid by the first of January, membership will be deemed to have ceased.”

Rationale: Since British Orienteering now operate the membership renewal process, members are deemed to be lapsed if fees have not been paid by 1 January.

The change was proposed by David Blair, seconded by Mark Pruzina and agreed.

#### 7 (a) Finance

“The accounts of the Association shall be balanced on 31 March each year and submitted to the Annual General Meeting which follows for approval after independent audit”

Change to

“The accounts of the Association shall be balanced on 31 March each year and submitted to the Annual General Meeting which follows for approval after independent examination by a person who shall be appointed by the Committee.”

Rationale: Now that NI Orienteering is registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, the requirement is for an independent examination. An audit is a more comprehensive process requiring a professional auditor.

The change was proposed by David Blair, seconded by Wilbert Hollinger and agreed.

#### 5 (b) Voting:

”family - one vote per subscription”.

Change to

“family - one vote per member aged over 10”.

Rationale: It has become the practice that all members at a meeting have been given a single vote.

The change was proposed by David Blair, seconded by Richard Williamson and agreed.

#### 9 Annual General Meeting.

” The Association shall hold an Annual General Meeting between the first of March and the thirty-first of May each year.”

Change to

“The Association shall hold an Annual General Meeting between the first of April and the thirtieth of June each year.”

Rationale: Since the accounting year ends on 31 March, it is not feasible to hold the AGM before this date.

The change was proposed by David Blair, seconded by Mark Pruzina and agreed.

#### 11 Notice of meetings

“Notice of the Annual General Meeting or an Extraordinary General Meeting shall be sent to members one month before the date of the meeting.”

Change to



"Notice of the Annual General Meeting or an Extraordinary General Meeting shall be sent to members twenty-eight days before the date of the meeting."

Rationale: The number of days in a month vary.

The change was proposed by David Blair, seconded by Heather Cairns and agreed.

#### 12 Alterations to the Constitution

"Alteration to the constitution require a ten percent majority at the General Meeting to which they are presented for decision."

Change to

"Alteration to the constitution require a meeting with at least 25 members present, with at least sixty percent of members in attendance in favour, at the General Meeting to which they are presented for decision."

Rational: The interpretation of the wording is unclear.

The change was proposed by David Blair, seconded by Mark Pruzina and agreed.

#### **Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

The Chairman thanked all those present for attending. He made a plea for younger members of the Association to join club and Association committees in order to provide the basis for future leadership.

The meeting ended at 13.30.

*David Blair*  
22 Oct 2023

**Northern Ireland Orienteering Income & Expenditure Account**

**1st April 2021 - 31st March 2022**

Registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC100711

	Income	Expenditure
<b>Membership</b>	1,493.50	
<b>Levies</b>		
2021	917.25	
<b>Development Team</b>		
Courses & events run by team	1,443.20	1,195.00
Equipment		518.52
<b>Individual Athlete Support</b>		
<b>Junior Support</b>	145.41	2,858.38
<b>Publicity</b>		281.98
<b>Trophies</b>		614.20
<b>Administration costs</b>		336.88
<b>Bank interest &amp; charges</b>	2.25	20.60
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>4,001.61</b>	<b>5,825.56</b>

**Fund as at 1st April 2020** 32,299.72

**Income** 4,001.61

**Expenditure** 5,825.56

**Net increase / (decrease) in fund** (1,823.95)

**Fund as at 31st March 2021** 30,475.77

Prepared by:

*Philip Baxter*

(Treasurer)

I certify the foregoing Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure Account to be a true & correct copy of the Accounts of Northern Ireland Orienteering for the period 1st April 2021 until 31st March 2022 on the basis of the information & explanations supplied

Signed:

*A.T. Cantale*

(Auditor)

Adopted on behalf of the membership by the NI Orienteering Committee

Signed:

*Dan O'Blair*

(Chairperson)

**Northern Ireland Orienteering "Coaching Juniors" Income & Expenditure Account**  
**1 Apr 2021 - 31 Mar 2022**

	Income	Expenditure
NIOA 2021-2022		
JIRCs		80.00
Talent North Refund to parents	200.00	200.00
Bank Charges		15.00
Grand Total	200.00	295.00

**Fund as at 1st April 2021** **1,599.36**

**Income** **200.00**

**Expenditure** **295.00**

**Net increase / (decrease) in fund** **(95.00)**

**Fund as at 31st March 2022** **1,504.36**

Prepared by:  (Treasurer)

I certify the foregoing Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure Account to be a true & correct copy of the Accounts of Northern Ireland Orienteering 'Coaching Juniors' for the period 1st April 2021 until 31st March 2022 on the basis of the information & explanations supplied

Signed:  (Auditor)

Adopted on behalf of the membership by the NI Orienteering Committee

Signed:  (Chairperson)