



**Minutes of the Northern Ireland Orienteering Association AGM
By Zoom
on 24 October 2023**

The meeting commenced at 19.05

22 members attended:

FermO -Robbie Bryson, Raymond Finlay, Teresa Finlay, Pauric Quin.

NWOC - David Blair, Ruth Blair, Anthony McGonigle.

LVO - Helen Baxter, Philip Baxter, Olivia Baxter, Michael Burton, Gavin Cairns, Heather Cairns, Barbara Foley-Fisher, Nigel Foley-Fisher, Stephen Gilmore, Wilbert Hollinger, Conor McKernon, Dee Orwin, Stephanie Pruzina, George Savage, Gordon Stephens.

Apologies

No apologies were recorded.

Welcome

Chairman David Blair welcomed members to the meeting.

Membership Structure and Fees

Hon Secretary Stephen Gilmore presented the rationale behind the proposals which had previously been circulated. At the AGM of British Orienteering in September several proposals were passed which affected the membership structure. To encourage young adults to remain member a category of Young Adult up to age 25 was introduced with lower fees. British Orienteering also had introduced family membership which NI Orienteering already had. For new members only joining part way through the calendar membership year, reduced fees were introduced for new members joining after 1 May and 1 September at approximately 1/3 and 2/3 of the full year fee. This was to avoid new members attracted to the sport over the summer being encouraged to wait until November to join.

Having examined the new structure, the NI Orienteering committee had recommended following suit in Northern Ireland by introducing a Young Adult membership category which would replace Student membership and part year membership for new members. With the ongoing agreement that the 3 clubs in NI all charge identical membership fees, the opportunity was also taken to rationalize the fee structure so that the club fee and NI Orienteering fee was the same for every category. The aim however was that the overall membership fee of club plus NI Orienteering plus British Orienteering remained identical, with the exception of Family membership. To encourage more Family members, which was an area we wished to target new membership the suggestion was to reduce the total family membership fee to equate to two seniors.

The proposals were subject to the agreement of the clubs to align with the new membership fees. Representatives from FermO and NWOC reported that their clubs

had already agreed all members of LVO present indicated that LVO would be supportive.

Stephen proposed the new category of young adult membership. This was seconded by Wilbert Hollinger and agreed.

Stephen proposed the introduction of part year membership fees for new members. This was seconded by Raymond Finlay and agreed.

Stephen proposed the NIOA membership fees for 2024, subject to the agreement of all clubs to modify club fees to be identical:

Full year: Junior £2.50, Young Adult £5.00, Senior £5.00, Family £7.50.

Part year for new members from 1 May: Junior £1.50, Young Adult £3.75, Senior £3.00 Family £4.50.

Part year for new members from 1 Sep: Junior £1.00, Young Adult £2.50, Senior £2.50, Family £4.00.

This was seconded by Philip Baxter and agreed.

In response to a question from Nigel Foley-Fisher, Stephen clarified that current members could renew for the 2024 membership year from 1 Nov onwards. New members joining from 1 Nov could enjoy up to 14 months of membership for the price of 12 for this year until the new pricing structure was introduced.

Chairman David Blair thanked the members for attending.

The meeting ended at 19:20.