

East Lothian Orienteers Annual General Meeting 2014 Minutes

Monday 3rd November 2014, 7.30 pm. Tranent

 Present: Tim Harding, Julian Hall, Trina Rogerson, Ian Rowland, Robin Strain, Sheila Strain, Pete Younger
Apologies: Benji and Duncan Edmondson, Terry O'Brien, Kirsten Strain (no longer a member), Brian Porteous, Martyn Pegg, Sue Langlands, Neil McMillan, Jack Poole.

Minutes of 2013 AGM:

Proposal to accept the minutes: Pete Younger seconded: Trina Rogerson

Treasurer's Report:

The accounts were summarised by Trina Rogerson who explained that the financial year had been changed to finish at 31st July, so the accounts were for 11 months.

Club events made a surplus.

One difference from previous years is that the club has paid for relay entries.

Julian Hall queried what kind of account the money is kept in, it is a Bank of Scotland account which is not earning any interest. Trina agreed this was something that could be reconsidered, although it is difficult to get an interest earning account for a club.

A big number of expenses are expected soon: mapping of Saltoun; renewal of Autodownload licence; O-tops; (and O-Cad, see later).

Applying for mapping grants is a possibility that has not been explored recently.

Proposal to accept the accounts: Pete Younger seconded: Ian Rowland

Subscriptions for 2015: Have already been set. ELO part: Seniors £3; Juniors £1. (Total: Seniors £15; Juniors £3). Agreed to keep at that for 2016 if an AGM is not held by 31^{st} October next year.

Robin had tried to update the membership status on British Orienteering but the club membership, £46, had not been paid as BO no longer take Direct Debit for this. ACTION: Robin and Trina

Encouraging membership: Everyone should be encouraging people to join up. Action should include having forms available at events, making an offer to those who has been a number of times (junior record cards help with this), offering discount of the £2 extra adults have paid as a non-member over the year, putting up notices about this at events. 'Free' membership was discussed but had not been found to be useful when tried in the past.

To achieve the SportScotland target of 2.5% growth on our 2014 membership of 36 means increasing by one to 37 in 2015.

Levies: Entry fees for local events: Juniors £2; Adults £3/£5; Groups £3/£5 with £1 for each additional map. The problem arises in what constitutes a group. Hard to clarify.

Annual Report for 2014:

Orienteering is a sport which it totally dependent on orienteers putting on events and taking on the various tasks involved in keeping the sport going. This has been a better year for the club in that more different people have taken on more different tasks, so many thanks are due to everyone who has helped with the Club in any way.

Membership

Membership works on calendar years. 2013 was the first year of the simplified membership system which removed the family and group categories and a drop in membership from 22 to 18 was explicable. However, this year membership has doubled, from 18 to 36. The increase was helped by the juniors wanting to attend Ian Pyrah's coaching sessions for which membership of a club is expected.

Membership is important as we are judged on this by, for example, SportsScotland. It is important, therefore, that application forms are available at events and newcomers are encouraged to join up. Incentives such as the £2 extra they may have paid already at events during the membership/calendar year being subtracted from the membership fee should be publicised to people when they register.

Events

It has been good to have some new people planning courses for local events – Martyn/Andy and Tim. Julian has been unfortunate to have his two events both cancelled but is doing the planning for Saltoun.

Eight events were held in the eight months of November to June, but this term has been a blank, with the Prestongrange family day cancelled by the museum and no-one taking on 1st November. If all of these had taken place we would have hit our target of ten events. Also, with Purple Thistle, WOLF and Race the Castles, it has been difficult to find Saturdays when it would be possible to put on local events.

Nevertheless, eight events is two more than last year.

2013				
2 Nov	Binning Wood		Sheila	Robin
17 Nov	Duns Wood	SoSOL	Pete	Sheila
28 Dec	Vogrie	Festive Frolic	Sheila	Robin
2014				
1 Feb	Levenhall Links		Martyn & Andy	
5 April	North Berwick Lodge		Tim and family	
26 April	Vogrie		Sheila	
10 May			Julian	Cancelled due to clash with Junior trainings
7 June	Binning Wood		Sheila	Robin
28 June	Yellowcraig	BBQ	Pete	
23 Aug	Prestongrange	Open Day	Julian	Cancelled by Museum
1 Nov	???????????????????????????????????????		???????????	

Thank you to everyone (Martyn, Andy, Tim and Family, Julian, Pete and various helpers – Godfrey, Trina, Jack, Neil, Ian and everyone else) involved in putting these on, they are the most important aspect for the continuity of the club. Thank you also to Robin for all his work on preparing the maps and courses for printing at all of these.

* Plus Scout evening, registered as an Activity.

There have been problem with fixing dates for next six months due to clash with ESOC and also Junior Coaching sessions. This is to be discussed at then next ESOA committee meeting.

Competitions and Results

The Inter-Club Relay became an Eight-Person event this year, and a team combined with KFO & STAG, The KELTS, took part. The team included Tim, Julian, Pete, Trina and Neil, with Robin as reserve.

British Champs and JK: JK was in Wales, Sheila produced some good results: sprint 1st; individual 2nd. Kirsten, 11th; Trina, 21st.

British long and relays, Northumberland: Kirsten 5th W21E; Sheila, 8th; Trina, 13th. British Sprints, Keele University: Sheila 3rd.

Scottish Champs and Relays – Perthshire. This was hosted by East area so we were involved in helping, mainly at the Individual, but all also were able to compete:

Aaron McLeod; Sheila Strain, 4th; Trina Rogerson, Neil McMillan, Robin Strain, Kirsten Strain, 4th; Jack Poole, 8th in M18E; Pete Younger

Relays: ELOngators (Pete, Sheila, Kirsten) beat ELOquents (Robin, Trina, Jack) 11th and 12th in the 17+ point category.

SOL: 10 members took part in at least one and six had the four to maximise points

1st W65L Sheila Strain; 2nd M16B Jonny Harding; 5th W21E Kirsten Strain; 7th W60L Trina Rogerson; 8th M60L Robin Strain; 8th M55L Pete Younger; 8th M60S Terry O'Brien; 8th M18 Jack Poole; 20th M40L Ian Rowland; 39th M50L Tim Harding

SOUL: Sheila, 1st Ultravet Female

While some people have tried urban orienteering and decided against it, others should be encouraged to try it and decide after experiencing the different challenges which urban orienteering present.

SoSOL: Certificate to Sam Jones – 3 runs on White course; Robin Strain – 4^{th} man on Green course; Martyn Pegg – 5^{th} Man on Green Course; Sheila Strain – 6^{th} Senior Woman on Blue Course; Kirsten Strain – 1^{st} Woman on Brown Course; Jack Poole – 3^{rd} Junior on Brown Course

Kirsten represented Scotland in the SHIs and was 8th Brit, 30th overall, at Balmoral. Sheila represented Scotland at the VHIs in Forest of Dean.

Ranking positions

See the current ELOquence. We currently have more than 10 ranked members (with at least two results) so appeared in the CompassSport list (unlike last year).

Mapping

Map of North Berwick Lodge Grounds was finished and used in April.

Saltoun is being remapped. The Saltoun side was done earlier, and the Humbie side was finished by Stirling Surveys this week.

Foxlake. Has been visited. A Lidar plot including the area has been received from SOA but can not be opened on OCAD9.

The urban extension of the Lochend Wood map has almost been done. The base map covers the whole of Dunbar so more could be checked out and used.

Pathhead urban, Oleg mapped this for a training event and will give us the map for our use.

Committee

Despite the intention to hold committee meetings, this failed and committee work has been conducted by e-mail, and some discussions at events.

Robin and Sheila took part in the SOA Club Development conference in May and this focussed on the tasks involved in running clubs and putting on activities. One key outcome was to establish clear remits for the various tasks and share them out so that committee members and other club members can each do their part.

Social

Meal after Festive Frolic at the Longniddry Inn. Barbecue in June at Yellowcraig.

Juniors

This year has been good for junior development, with junior members benefiting from the East of Scotland Junior trainings which have been coordinated and led by lan Pyrah of ESOC, and we are very grateful to him for his time and efforts. Numbers attended: November, Ravelston night O - 1; January, Royal High - 2; February, KB - 2; March, Yellowcraig - 8; April, Castlelaw - 5; May, Vogrie - 11.

Junior badges awarded: Jonny Harding; Angus and Innes Wright; Freya Edmonson and Sam Jones all for 10 events Benji and Anna already have the 10 badge and are working toward 25.

Juniors took part in the Jamie Stevenson Trophy competition for the first time for a few years. Anna Harding did very well, 2nd on Yellow Girls, with Benji Edmonson and Jonny Harding also taking part.

East of Scotland team for the Junior Inter-area – Jack Poole and Jonny Harding took part.

A competition for Haddington Scouts was put on at Butterdean (registered as an activity). *

Publicity

Robin had continued to improve the content of the web-site. Sandy then did a complete upgrade and moved it to a Wordpress format. This will make it much easier for everyone to add reports and comments. Hopefully from now on reports and members' results will be uploaded week by week, rather than in ELOquence, and the site will have a more relevant and current appearance. Up to date photos needed!

ELOquence has come out monthly in the MailChimp format.

There were items in the local papers for the first part of the year, but not recently. Very few posters or leaflets have been put up in places like sports centres to advertise events.

Election of Office Bearers, committee and/or working group.

		Proposer	Seconder
Chairperson	Sheila	Trina	Tim
Secretary	Robin	Trina	Julian
Treasurer	Trina	Pete	Sheila
Reviewer	John Sparksman	Trina	Sheila
Rep to ESOA	Pete	Sheila	Robin
Committee	Tim H.	Sheila	Pete
	Julian	Sheila	Robin
	Martyn Pegg	Sheila	Robin

Jack Poole to be invited to be co-opted.

Several people have offered to help with events – Ian Rowland; Terry O'Brien; Sue Langlands; Jack Poole

Review Plans and Priorities for 2015

1. Fixing of dates for club/local events.

Agreed that we should use the same equivalent date for our SoSOL in 2015, ie 29th November. By rotation it should be at Lothian Edge, unless a better area is agreed.

Possible dates for Club events in 2015 were looked at. Pete will take these to the ESOA meeting at the end of the month for discussion there. They can then be registered with BOF.

Clash with Junior Trainings – might be possible to arrange for Junior training to precede Club event at same venue.

Suggested that a Park/Urban Event Series, perhaps four events, in the summer might be worth trying, following on from the success of the one in North Berwick Lodge Grounds. Could do a mix of park and urban, to give something for the adults as well, particularly when the woodland areas are overgrown with nettles! eg Neilson Park (Haddington); Polson Park (Tranent). Extra mapping would be required to extend these maps.

2. Volunteers for tasks:

Pete offered to be Fixture Secretary. This will tie in with the ESOA meetings. He also volunteered to take over the writing of reports for the local papers, and to do some maintenance on the equipment.

Tim has already done much to learn about using Autodownload. He offered to help with co-ordinating Junior activities, and/or membership. There was discussion as to whether Jack could take on some of the encouragement of Juniors.

Robin will continue to prepare maps and courses for sending for printing. Julian will investigate areas for mapping.

3. It was agreed to buy **OCAD 11**, in addition to the OCAD 9 licence so that Lidar data can be opened, and that OCAD can be used on two computers.

AOCB:

!. SoSOL certificates were awarded to:

Kirsten Strain 1st woman on Brown Course

Jack Poole 3rd junior on Brown Course

Sheila Strain 6th Senior Woman on Blue Course

Robin Strain 4th man on Green course

Martyn Pegg 5th man on Green course

Sam Jones completing 3 White courses

2. Facebook, Website and Newsletter:

Julian offered to set up a Facebook page for the Club. More use to be made of website now that the new format makes it possible for everyone to add items. More links to be added. ELOquence format generally liked.

3. Club nights.

It was agreed to hold a monthly club night. It was suggested that it could start with either a run or a coaching exercise, then some food (eg Interlopers have 'soup, and EUOC have 'pasta') and then an opportunity for discussion such as committee matters; helping newer planners and organisers; updating maps etc. Mondays and Wednesdays possible, could vary.

Also suggested that a coaching day would be a welcome idea. Perhaps invite someone like Lynne Walker to put one on.