



**East Lothian Orienteers
Annual General Meeting 2021
Minutes**

Held online using the Zoom platform
Wednesday 13th October 2021, 7.30 pm.

Present: Pete Younger(PY), Michael Atkinson(MA), Saartje Drijver(SD), Duncan Edmonson(DE), Tim Harding(TH), Michael Ling (ML), Rosemary Ling(RLi), Ross Lyall(RL), Trina Rogerson (TR), Ian Rowland(IR), Debbie Riley (DR), Robin Strain(RS), Sheila Strain(SS), Jamie Wilson (JW).

1. Apologies: Jennifer Atkinson, Pete Brownsort, Duncan Leishman, Martyn Pegg, Brian Porteous

2. Minutes of 2020 AGM:

Matters Arising: Club Accreditation has not progressed this year, partly due to changes in the East Area Development Officer (currently vacant)

Proposal to accept the minutes: DE seconded: MA

3. Officials' Reports

a) Chair & Events Report

PY presented his report on the year 2020/2021 and a copy is attached as appendix A.

He highlighted that despite the difficulties with Covid, ELO had put on an extensive set of events.

Some events did not have an identified Organiser. This will be more formalised in the future.

Mapping: There may be possibilities of combining the Balgone and Leuchie areas to give a more useful map. Whitekirk Hill may be worth investigating

Social: SD has offered to help when we are able to hold a function to celebrate, belatedly, our 40th anniversary.

RLi Thanked SS for her work with the Guides at Dunbar.

b) Treasurer's Report:

IR presented his report, and the accounts are attached as appendix B

Ian noted that we had made a substantial surplus of over £1k over the year. There were no major items of expenditure during the year.

IR recognised that identifying the income/expenditure of some of events was complicated because Income for the (postponed) Vogrie event was used at other events or held for 2021.

Club members were given free entry to their first events in 2021

The current bespoke entry system allows great flexibility of charges and ensures contact with beginners but is very labour intensive.

Ian was thanked for his effort over the past year, particularly the extra effort with entries paid directly into the club bank account

c) Membership Report

SS's report is attached as appendix C. She emphasised the fact that 2021 was an extraordinary year and it is likely that many of the new members will not renew for 2022.

d) Juniors Report

TH's report is attached as appendix D.

Particular note was taken of Peter Atkinson's first place at the Scottish 6 Days.

Thanks to Tim for his report and his work with the Juniors

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

		Proposer	Second
Chairperson*	Jamie Wilson	RS	SS
Secretary	Robin Strain	TH	MA
Treasurer	Ian Rowland	RS	TH
Reviewer	Terry O'Brien	IR	RS

**In the initial discussions no new chair was appointed and PY remained in the chair for the rest of the meeting. Jamie's position was confirmed at the end of the AGM*

In the absence of a Chair, the committee structure for 2021/2022 was not formalised at the meeting.

MA will be the ELO rep on the ESOA committee.
 TH and RL will share the responsibility for Juniors.
 PY will coordinate events, choosing dates and venues and finding planners and organisers.
 PY will act as Club Captain.
 MA will replace PY as results secretary

Club Officials as required by British Orienteering

Club Chair	JW
Club Secretaries	RS
Club Membership Secretaries	SS
Club Treasurers	IR, PY, SS
Club Fixtures Secretaries	RS, TR. PY
Club Activities Fixtures Secretary	RS, TR. PY
Club Results Secretary	RS, MA
Club Publicity Officers	PY, MA, DL
Club Mapping Officer	RS, GB, TH, MA, PB
Club Equipment Officer	TR
Club Webmaster	RS, PY, MA
Club SI Co-ordinator	RS
Club Welfare Officers	MP
Permanent Orienteering Course Manager	MA

British Orienteering have explained the permissions which each role has

5. Subscriptions for 2021:

	2019		2020		2021	
BOF	11	5	15	5	15	5
SOA	8	0	10	2	10	2
ELO	2	2	2	2	2	2
Total (club/SOA)	10	2	12	4	12	4
Total (incl BOF)	21	7	27	9	27	9

T

It was resolved that the Club subscriptions should remain at £2 for seniors and juniors

Fees of club events will also be unchanged at present

6. AOCB

- a) Equipment: TR will continue to store the equipment, but would like it returned quickly after each use
- b) Permanent Courses: MA will look into setting up a permanent course at Leuchie House and updating the one at Vogrie
- c) O Tops: DE will investigate possible new designs, possibly using the Bryzos ready made templates.

Close

With thanks to the chair, the meeting closed at 9:30

Appendix A

Chair & Events Report

Introduction

Although CoVid19 virus continued to severely affect all aspects of life in 2021, East Lothian Orienteers was able to gradually work back to a more normal range of activities.

Events

The first two Saturday events of the planned programme had to be cancelled due to continuing restrictions on group gatherings. However from March onwards we have been able to offer all the scheduled events – and in fact two extra Sprintelopes were added to the projected four.

So 2021 has already seen 6 Saturday events and 6 Sprintelopes plus several special events staged by Sheila for various local groups such as Guides and Beavers. Before the end of the calendar year we will also stage October's Saturday event plus the East of Scotland Championships in November and the Festive Frolic in December.

Again we have to thank Sheila Strain for her work during 2020 in devising the CoVid measures template which is both rigorous but also achievable. This has meant we were able to go ahead with events while other clubs struggled to get going again.

There has been a high level of participation at the Saturday events we have staged with ELO members being in the majority in each case. Sprintelopes are less well patronised and tend to appeal to members of other clubs rather than ELO members – presumably because these events are less appropriate for the families who have driven our current membership boom.

Simon Fairfull has been our only new Planner this year and we had to rely on guest planners from ESOC for two of our Sprintelopes. There is clearly a need for more members to come forward if we are to continue to offer a monthly event plus a summer Sprintelope programme.

Membership

We currently have our highest ever number of members at 130 which is very gratifying in a time when our activities have been restricted.

Challenges for 2022 include retention of our current members and the need to convert newer SOA-only members into more active orienteers taking part in junior training and attending larger events. We also need more members to come forward to help plan and organise events.

Performance

Many higher level championships were again affected by CoVid restrictions on large gatherings. Some were able to go ahead in restricted form, such the Scottish Championships being held for Individuals but without a Relay event.

Similarly the Scottish 6 Days morphed into two 3 Day events. ELO's day was Day 6 at Creag Meagaidh with Trina Rogerson being a Planner and Michael Atkinson the Organiser.

Mapping

In 2020 we obtained permission to map the Balgone estate south of North Berwick but this has not yet been pursued. The best time slot for events is March so this should be a priority if it is to be used in 2022.

Pete Brownsort has been liaising for some time with ESOC over a joint project to map the Portmore estate in West Lothian. However it seems INT are also interested in the area so it is unlikely to become an ELO area – although of course we benefit from a new area becoming available for orienteering within close reach of East Lothian.

Leuchie House (south of North Berwick) has enquired about the possibility of having the grounds mapped and a permanent course established. The area isn't big enough for even a local event although it might make a suitable junior training venue.

Thanks to hard work by Michael Atkinson and others in expanding the map we are able in 2021 to add Vogrie to our small roster of SoSOL areas. But it remains a high priority to secure new areas capable of hosting Level C events.

Godfrey Beddard has continued to update several of our maps by adding extra detail and reflecting changes in undergrowth over time.

Social

Social activities have been proscribed for much of this year. In 2020 we planned to celebrate the club's 40th anniversary – perhaps we will be able to do that belatedly in the near future.

Publicity

Sheila Strain has continued her regular emails to members and interested parties which contain a wealth of helpful information covering events at various levels as well as summaries of results and achievements for ELO members.

Michael Atkinson has continued to modernise the ELO website (www.elo.org.uk) to make it more attractive and informative as well as easier to use.

Since the resumption of events we have been reducing the amount of advance information visible to the public on the club website. This is because entry has been restricted so we are not trying to attract people who are not already receiving info from Sheila by email. As restrictions ease there is a decision to be made regarding EOD: administratively it is easier to deal with entries which are known in advance and cash isn't needed on the day; but we also want to maximise participation.

Pete Younger

Appendix B

Accounts for 2020-2021

Income	2020	2021
Club Events	2,153.20	1,672.00
Sprintelopes (SoSOL)	935.78	1,018.00
	3,088.98	2,690.00
VHI	95.00	
Active Schools	90.00	
Scot 6 Days share	141.18	
Subscriptions (BOF)	58.00	62.00
Subscriptions (SOA)	82.00	292.00
Lost Dibber		30.00
NB Scouts Event		18.00
Temp ELO Membership		2.00
T Shirts	48.00	192.00
	3,603.16	3,286.00
Expenditure		
Maps: Club events	422.98	483.14
Sprintelopes		
SoSOL	290.42	
Levies: Club Events	513.00	516.00
Sprintelopes		411.00
SoSOL	163.50	
	1,389.90	1,410.14
Event Expenses	266.66	150.67
SI Licence	633.60	
BOF Affiliation	70.00	70.00
SOA Junior Membership fees	42.00	2.00
SOA Training Courses		45.00
6 day event company SIAC hire	10.00	
Equipment-SI Units and stakes	228.53	
-Signage	44.32	
-SI Dibbers		60.01
T Shirts	831.84	461.28
NB Scouts event		18.00
BBQ hire (2019)	57.00	
Web Hosting fee		23.91
Land Registry search	24.00	
	3,597.85	2,241.01
SURPLUS FOR YEAR	5.31	1,044.99
BANK BALANCE: Previous year end	12,293.84	12,299.15
BANK BALANCE: Year end.	12,299.15	13,344.14

Summary of event income & expenditure

2020/2021							
		income	levy	organ- iser	other	maps	total
Barns Ness		127.00	40.50			39.70	46.80
Saltoun		216.00	52.50	16.94	30.00	42.64	73.92
North Berwick Law		269.50	73.50			62.60	133.40
Levenhall	Ff	83.00	40.50			52.60	--10.10
Binning Wood		38.50	51.00			52.12	-64.62
Butterdean		64.00	48.00			49.88	-33.88
Gosford		355.00	103.50			99.00	152.50
JMCP		393.50	106.50			84.60	202.40
Vogrie		125.50		12.00			113.50
		1672.00	516.00	28.94	30.00	483.14	613.92
Sprintelopes		1018.00	411.00		91.73		515.27
SoSOL							
		2690.00	927.00	28.94	121.73	483.14	1129.19

Appendix C

Membership Report 2021

130 members at the end of the membership year.

Up 8 in total and 29 excluding the Active Schools groups

	2021	2020
Final Membership	130	101 plus 21 Active Schools juniors
Membership listed at start	113 *	
Renewals	95	79
Non-renewals	18	5 (including 1 to ESOC)
	6	6 rejoined having skipped a year
New members	33(including 1 from Schools juniors)	16
Juniors : Seniors	56 : 74	41 : 60
Males : Females	77 : 53	63 : 38
BOF : SOA	31 : 99	29 : 72 (plus 21 juniors)

* This is higher than listed at the end of 2020 either because of (6) people who were members in 2018 but not 2019 or because of (10) people who joined between August and October whose membership was rolled over by SOA to 2020.

Sheila Strain

Appendix D

Juniors

- Events were severely disrupted because of COVID, and the usual key competitions in the junior Scottish calendar (the Jamie Stevenson Trophy and the Junior Inter-Areas) did not take place.
- Face-to-face coaching was likewise severely diminished.
- However, Katherine Ivory (INT) has done an excellent job of keeping ESOA junior coaching going, mainly via online sessions.
- More recently, face-to-face coaching sessions have started up again (along with events).
- ESOA coaching is concentrating on Orange+ (or currently progressing to Orange), with clubs in charge of beginners.
- Ross completed his Level 1 coaching qualification. He has held already a couple of training sessions, and has been available to help juniors at recent events. He is also managing the Star awards scheme, and the participation badges (badges for completing five, ten, or twenty-five courses can be requested from him). Ross could do more if he had support from a couple of parents, as it is expected that at least two adults should be present for him to do more active coaching away from Registration. Volunteers would need to be checked by the PVG scheme (which can easily be arranged through our Child Protection Officer, Martyn Pegg).
- Sheila ran events for Beavers in North Berwick and Guides in Dunbar (with support from Pete).
- There was a “Scottish Junior Cup” series (Auchingarrich, Tentsmuir, Anagach) but no one went from ELO.
- We have had some good results in recent local and non-local events.
- We have several new junior members (see Sheila’s membership report) although with membership being compulsory for attending events at the start of the year, we should not be surprised if active membership falls off.
- A few junior T-shirts were presented (T-shirts can be claimed by junior members who have completed courses at five events), but at a much low rate than the previous year: we have a sizeable stock left.
- During 2020, David Robertson (ESOC) ran beginners’ orienteering courses on Friday afternoons through the Active Schools programmes, and the course fees for these included membership of SOA and ELO. About 20 juniors took part and several came along to subsequent club events, but following the COVID break, none have so far returned nor renewed. He was part-way through one further course, at Gifford, when COVID struck, but one girl and her family have continued and did join the club. David has just finished with a very small group at East Linton, and one participant came to our last event at the Law (along with other members of their family).

Tim Harding