



East Lothian Orienteers Annual General Meeting 2023 Minutes

Held at The Compass School, West Road, Haddington
7:30 pm 13th September, 2023

Welcome and Present:

Jamie Wilson(chair), Michael Atkinson, Tim Harding, Duncan Leishman, Ross Lyall, David Robertson, Martin Robertson, Trina Rogerson, Robin Strain, Sheila Strain.

1. Apologies:

Jennifer Atkinson, Saartje Drijver, Duncan Edmonson, Mike Ling, Rosemary Ling, Martyn Pegg, Brian Porteous, Ian Roland, Nigel Schofield, Pete Younger.

2. Minutes of 2022 AGM: 23/11/2022

Unfortunately, the minutes of the last AGM on 23/11/2022 were not available. It was believed that there were no outstanding matters arising.

3 Officials' Reports

a)Chair & Events Report

Jamie, chair, said that the club was in a great state, with good numbers of adults and juniors coming to events. As Pete describes in the next report, we have been frustrated by ELC's policy to protect ground nesting birds over an extended period which takes out most of our usable areas in the summer.

WOC will be discussed later?

Jamie thanked to everyone who contributes to the success of the club.

Pete, events, apologised for his absence and had submitted a report which is appendix A

There was discussion about the problems with lack of permission to use many of our coastal areas in the late spring, summer and early autumn

Trina and Pete are keen to take it further as unlike dog walkers, we are an easy target for the council. MapRun may be an alternative which SOA supports, but misses the social aspects of "real" events.

Planners and, particularly, Organisers have been difficult to find. Michael going to coordinate sprintelopes (thanks) but event coordinator depute required.

b) Treasurer's Report:

Ian had circulated income and expenditure accounts and a breakdown by event and Jamie summarised them for the meeting. There were suggestions for what the reserves could be used for. In addition to mapping, these were computers, tablets and mapping software.

The club was prepared to make a contribution to WOC2024 of £1500 to £3000, possibly even £5000 if this was matched by other clubs and there were arrangements for redistribution of any contributions not required.

c) Membership Report

Sheila reported that we have finished the membership year with 108 members, plus a further eight juniors from the North Berwick Youth Project. This is down 2 on the 110 total from 2022.

There were 25 non-renewals from 2022, of which eight had family reasons for not participating, one moved to ESOC, four or more were family who moved to university etc. Nine, from five families, did not respond to a reminder.

There have been 23 new members (plus the 8 from NBYP), most getting involved, but a couple of random juniors from outwith East Lothian.

Ratios are similar to previous years.

BOF/SOA - 35/73 Seniors/Juniors - 66/42 Male/Female - 70/38

Sheila was thanked for the effort she takes to contact new and prospective members by sending out emails.

Sheila was also thanked for Eloquence

d) Juniors Reports

Club Results

Ross has been keeping track of junior progress and awarding Junior Participation (5,10, 25) badges when achieved and also Colour Standard Badges. A good number have been awarded.

Several Juniors took part in the Scottish Schools Championships at Falkirk. Emily Atkinson won S3 Girls, Peter Atkinson was 2nd in S1 Boys, Emily Fairfull 2nd S1 Girls. Jonah Pegg, Toby Cumming, Jonah Henderson, Ben Davison Ellis were all well placed in their classes.

Windygoul was 2nd and Pencaitland 5th for P5/6 boys; Windygoul 5th for the 5/6 Girls

Emily Atkinson has been selected for ScotJOS

Coaching, White and Yellow within club

Ross has put on some training for juniors, one good session having been before the Whitekirk Hill event in April. There may have been coaching at the Feb event at John Muir.

Coaching Orange and Light Green at ESOC level

It has been difficult to get interest within the club for attending the ESOA coaching sessions aimed at Orange and Light Green standard, though the Atkinsons did find one at Kinnoull recently was worthwhile.

At the moment there is not a coordinator in ESOA and not enough notice is being given of forthcoming sessions. The plan was that each club would offer a session but this has not been happening . (Interlopers claim to have no juniors so do not feel they need this).

It was suggested that we should fix a date and offer it for one session, perhaps in the spring.

Wider Participation

David Robertson has been doing a great job with introducing orienteering through the Active Schools groups, and a few have followed up with attending our events.

North Berwick Youth Project have brought a group of teenagers to a couple of events.

There have been fewer sessions for youth groups this year. David did a maze with Longniddry Gala which resulted in one father and son coming to the next event. Sessions for Dunbar Beavers to come in September.

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

The committee 2023 2024 will be

| Position | Nominee |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Chairperson | Jamie Wilson |
| Secretary | Robin Strain |
| Treasurer | Ian Rolland |
| Reviewer | John Sparksman |
| Events | Pete Younger |
| Membership | Sheila Strain |
| Equipment | Trina Rogerson |
| Webmaster | Michael Atkinson |
| Welfare Officer | Martyn Pegg |

The expanded list of Club Officials as required by British Orienteering is largely unchanged as in appendix C

During the discussion on the Officials, we heard that BOF have suggested a poster about child protection at events. We should increase the number of people who are trained.

Permanent Orienteering courses (POC): To raise profile of orienteering should we consider Levenhall, Whitekirk. Vogrie. Maprun could be considered to make them competitive.

It is not clear whether Coaching Coordinator is a position which should be notified to BO.

5. Chair

Jamie continued in the chair.

He will be added to the signatories for the club Bank of Scotland account.

6 Subscriptions for 2024:

| | 2018 | | 2019 | | 2020 | | 2021 | | 2022 | | 2023 | | 2024 | | | |
|------------------|------|----------|------|---|------|---|------|---|------|---|------|---|------|----|---|-----|
| | S | J | S | J | S | J | S | J | S | J | S | J | S | YA | J | Fam |
| BOF | 10 | 3.3 0 | 11 | 5 | 15 | 5 | 15 | 5 | | | 15 | 5 | 15 | 10 | 5 | 35 |
| SOA | 8 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 10 | 2 | 10 | 2 | | | 12 | 2 | 12 | 2 | 2 | 26 |
| ELO | 2 | 0.2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | | | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 5 |
| Total (club/SOA) | 10 | 0.2 | 10 | 2 | 12 | 4 | 12 | 4 | | | 14 | 4 | 14 | 4 | 4 | 31 |
| Total (incl BOF) | 20 | 3.5 | 21 | 7 | 27 | 9 | 27 | 9 | | | 29 | 9 | 29 | 14 | 9 | 66 |

7: AOCB:

- There is a need of Adult coaching. Post run feedback and monthly indoor sessions will be trialled this year.
- There has been interest Club jackets with a similar design to the O tops. It is hoped that an order can be put together soon.
- The club has access to the defibulator that Meadowmill parkrun bought after we contributed
- Tim and Michael have taken part in first aid training.
- Jamie was thanked for arranging the room and for chairing the meeting.

ELO Events Report 2023

Since the 2022 AGM, ELO has staged our most ambitious offering – the Wonderful Weekend of November 2022 which combined a SOUL with a SoSOL. Both events were successful and, although individual planners and organisers bore the main burden, required support from very many members to implement.

The Festive Frolic followed hard on its heels and after a January break for recovery our regular schedule restarted in February. April saw our SoSOL on a new map at Whitekirk Hill. Our spring and early summer Sprintelope programme thrived under Michael's overall guidance. Saturday event attendances are healthy by the standards of ten years ago but have not yet recovered to the boom we enjoyed just before Covid.

Our usual summer programme (April to August inclusive) was badly disrupted by restrictions on several of the areas which we historically use at that time – coastal areas which don't suffer from the dense undergrowth making most wooded areas unusable at that time. The restrictions are to protect ground-nesting birds who might be disturbed by runners passing by. I feel that the restrictions are over-cautious and that we are being harshly treated compared with some other groups – such as private and commercial dog-walkers.

I am still pursuing the local Ranger service and NatureScot for the evidence behind their refusal of permission for off-path orienteering. But I don't believe we will get a change of this policy for 2024. We could create a political grievance and involve councillors, SOA, SportScotland or even NHS Scotland but I don't believe the stakes are high enough for that level of escalation.

One simple option might be to use MapRun to set up courses which could be run over an extended period without the need for permission to place controls. I would prefer not to go down this route as I think it would not be available to all orienteers and would lose the social aspect which is an important part of our events in recent years.

Another alternative might be to offer more of the path-only events such as our compromise at Barns Ness in May – W, Y, and a long Yellow for adults wanting exercise with a mild navigational challenge. That event was popular and offering a couple of these next year would help keep our regular slot in the minds of local families who make up an increasing proportion of our attendances and membership.

Of our other areas very few are suitable for summer events – just Whitekirk Hill and Dunbar Hallhill perhaps.

The outlook for the autumn ahead is more encouraging with planning already well-advanced for most of the remaining 2023 fixtures.

This year we have one first time planner in Jeff Hodgson, and Duncan Edmondson planned a Level C event for the first time.

It has continued to be surprisingly difficult to find volunteers for the comparatively straightforward role of event Organiser. The NB Law event this weekend illustrated the value

of having a named organiser who was already in the loop able to provide continuity when our planner had to withdraw.

We haven't yet secured a new map for 2024 but I will pursue the Colstoun estate which looked potentially attractive when Godfrey and I recced in the spring.

I have previously asked Terry O'Brien of STAG about the possibility of ELO mapping a central Scotland area with a view to potentially holding a higher level event there. He is negotiating for an area S of Amulree which is on the A822 SW of Dunkeld – not quite what I had envisaged but we aren't committed to anything.

For 2024 our dates are already in the BOF diary on the assumption that we will repeat our similar programme. The only one with a venue attached is for our SoSOL in March at Balgone.

This would be a good time for someone else to have a shot at scheduling the events with a fresh perspective. If nobody does want to try it then I am willing to continue for the coming year but I would like some guidance on what our summer programme should look like – and more volunteer organisers.

Pete Younger 10/09/2023

Appendix B

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

| | <u>2022</u> | | <u>2023</u> | | |
|--|------------------|--|------------------|--|--|
| INCOME | | | | | |
| Club Events | 2,702.63 | | 3,365.16 | | |
| Sprintelopes | 321.24 | | 956.34 | | |
| SoSOL +SOUL | 1,349.85 | | 3,563.67 | | |
| Miscellaneous | 21.00 | | 68.50 | | |
| | 4,394.72 | | 7,953.67 | | |
| T Shirts | | | 36.00 | | |
| O Tops | 638.50 | | 496.06 | | |
| Equipment: Refund | | | 48.00 | | |
| CSC:Transport rebate + top up | | | 66.86 | | |
| SI Hire | | | 2.50 | | |
| BOF: Club fees | 64.00 | | 70.00 | | |
| SOA: Club fees | 140.00 | | 138.00 | | |
| | 5,237.22 | | 8,811.09 | | |
| EXPENDITURE | | | | | |
| Maps: Club events + misc | 715.80 | | 639.74 | | |
| Sprintelopes | | | | | |
| SoSOL + SOUL | 243.60 | | 471.50 | | |
| Expenses: all events | 315.75 | | 677.00 | | |
| Levies: Club Events | 742.50 | | 697.50 | | |
| Sprintelopes | 292.50 | | 315.00 | | |
| SoSOL | 207.00 | | 472.50 | | |
| | 2,517.15 | | 3,273.24 | | |
| Mapping fees: | 750.00 | | 2,160.00 | | |
| Relay entry fees | 192.00 | | | | |
| BOF membership upgrade | | | 15.00 | | |
| BOF Affiliation | 70.00 | | 70.00 | | |
| SOA Junior Membership fees | 2.00 | | | | |
| Training Courses | 25.00 | | 50.00 | | |
| 5Day Co SIAC Hire | 35.00 | | 20.00 | | |
| Equipment | 461.26 | | 70.93 | | |
| -SOA Badges | 25.00 | | 23.75 | | |
| Club Trophies | | | 121.32 | | |
| T Shirts + postage | | | 153.01 | | |
| Donations | | | 435.00 | | |
| CSC Fuel costs | | | 66.86 | | |
| O Tops - Cost | 610.74 | | 285.24 | | |
| -Charges | 239.63 | | 79.07 | | |
| | 4,927.78 | | 6,823.42 | | |
| DEFICIT/SURPLUS FOR YEAR | 309.44 | | 1,987.67 | | |
| BANK BALANCE: Previous year end | 13,344.14 | | 13,653.58 | | |
| BANK BALANCE: Year end. | 13,653.58 | | 15,641.25 | | |
| Approved by the committee and signed on their behalf. | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Treasurer | | | | | |
| Inspected and found correct in accordance with the records exhibited | | | | | |

Appendix C

Accreditation+Qualification list (ELO)

| | |
|------------------|------------------------------------|
| Jamie Wilson | Club Chairs |
| Robin StCrain | Club Secretaries |
| Sheila Strain | Club Membership Secretaries |
| Sheila Strain | Club Treasurers |
| Pete Younger | Club Treasurers |
| Ian Rowland | Club Treasurers |
| Robin Strain | Club Fixtures Secretaries |
| Trina Rogerson | Club Fixtures Secretaries |
| Pete Younger | Club Fixtures Secretaries |
| Michael Atkinson | Club Fixtures Secretaries |
| Robin Strain | Club Activities Fixtures Secretary |
| Trina Rogerson | Club Activities Fixtures Secretary |
| Pete Younger | Club Activities Fixtures Secretary |
| Robin Strain | Club Results Secretary |
| Michael Atkinson | Club Results Secretary |
| Pete Younger | Club Publicity Officers |
| Michael Atkinson | Club Publicity Officers |
| Duncan Leishman | Club Publicity Officers |
| Michael Atkinson | Club POC Manager |
| Robin Strain | Club Mapping Officer |
| Godfrey Beddard | Club Mapping Officer |
| Tim Harding | Club Mapping Officer |
| Michael Atkinson | Club Mapping Officer |
| Peter Brownsort | Club Mapping Officer |
| Trina Rogerson | Club Equipment Officer |
| Robin Strain | Club Webmaster |
| Pete Younger | Club Webmaster |
| Michael Atkinson | Club Webmaster |
| Robin Strain | Club SI Co-ordinator |
| Robin Strain | Club Incentives Scheme Reports |
| Sheila Strain | Club Incentives Scheme Reports |
| Martyn Pegg | Club Welfare Officers |
| Sheila Strain | Club Coaching Coordinator |