

NGOC AGM 2017 – Reports from Committee Members

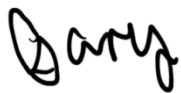
NGOC's Chairman's Report 2017

Where has this year gone? It seems to have flown by. I remember planning New Year's Day Event, fast forward to the Chairman's Challenge and now the AGM. It has been very busy for volunteers and the committee alike, with a full league, including Urban races.

One highlight of many was Pat's development of the R2T2, which aimed to bring in the running community with longer running courses, coupled with mountain bike orienteering. They seem to have been well received and bodes well for 2018. Paul's revival of the Sylvan Sprint, whilst not getting the numbers attending it should have, looks likely to become a future favourite, with a specially commissioned sprint map for 2018. The numbers attending the Clubs events have increased to average over a 100, for the league, with record attendance at Andy's event at Highmeadow.

So we seem to be part of something vibrant and evolving, which can only be good. Next year's league is up for discussion, as to whether we include extra courses, so have your say, so we can keep moving on. Simon's taking over of the Volunteer Coordinator's role has been vital and it makes event organisers' jobs easier. He is going on holiday in the early New Year and we need someone to fill the role. If you feel like you have the time to help with this vital Club job, please let Simon know?

Finally, this is it, my last AGM. I enjoyed my extra year, who wouldn't with such a nice group of people. Many thanks to the committee who made it easy with their help and knowledge.



Secretary's Report 2016-2017

The committee has met five times this year at the Oxstalls campus. A wide range of topics were discussed, as always. We are very grateful to the University of Gloucestershire for allowing us to use their rooms completely free of charge for at least the last 7 years. We may be meeting at a new (but still convenient) location in 2018 now that a charge is being introduced, since we prefer money to go directly back into the sport wherever possible.

After several people commented on how nice it'd be to have a club jacket, we decided to ask Trimtex to design one based on their top design. The sample jackets they sent felt like very good quality so I placed the order in late summer so that they will arrive in time for the club outing to the Compass Sport Cup final. They may even be available at the AGM.

Sheila and I have continued to provide exciting string courses at all but one League event, where unfortunately the nearby slopes were just too steep and slippery to be fun. Pat stepped things up another level still, adding zoo animal inflatables (with SI controls) a little way off the string to form a score course for older children. Our hope for 2018 is to attract more customers, particularly those at Yellow course level, for which running through the terrain of the string course gives a taste of the excitement and adventure that they'll have when

dashing through the forest on the more technical courses that stray off paths. I always pick the most exciting route I can find and this is rarely on a proper path. Hopefully we'll achieve this by adding an "off string" course with SI controls, where there's more challenge than "just following the string" and there's a competitive element too.

Caroline Craig, October 2017

Treasurer's report to 2017 AGM

As last year, at the time of writing the accounts have not been examined, so at the AGM you will be invited to approve the accounts subject to examination.

The Income and Expenditure page shows what happened during the year, with figures for the previous year down the left-hand side for comparison. The Balance Sheet shows how the year's results affect our overall financial position.

Bottom line: a surplus on the year of £1400, despite spending heavily on map data and more O-tops. There would have been a loss of nearly £1100 but for the Croeso 2015 surplus of £2500, but overall we are still in a good position financially.

Income and Expenditure

General Income (everything except income from events)

Membership - similar to last year - I see no need to raise our club membership fee.

Mapping - a small amount for other clubs - not always for orienteering!

SI hire - several loans to other clubs.

Shop/café income outstrips expenditure (it's actually better than shown, as there is another £50-plus from the Chairman's Challenge non-BBQ, received after the end of the FY).

Routine Expenditure (all the things it takes to keep us going, apart from spending on events)

Committee expenditure - mileage for SWOA meetings, plus refreshments at our December gathering.

Subscriptions - our British Orienteering Club membership, and Woodland Trust membership.

Mapping - despite giving people a free map by using the reverse of old maps for many of our Saturday events we still need to spend a fair bit on waterproof paper. The main expense on actual mapping was urban map data as the basis for new maps, including Longlevens and Chalford.

Legend costs - More is due here as nothing has been claimed since February, despite several excellent issues. Thanks and congratulations are due to the editor.

Equipment - we have made useful additions to our stock of SI boxes (spending over £900), replacement batteries (£150) and a new splits printer. We also ventured into the mobile control world with a set of equipment for the POC at Bournside school (£130, for which we have yet to be reimbursed). Much equipment expenditure is on general bits and pieces, especially in connection with large events where there may be extra signage etc required. Printer costs (we pay quarterly fees based on the number of pages printed) are included under Equipment, and amounted to £762 this year.

Course fees/travel - £275 of this was for the hall hire and first aid course several of us attended in July, so we do at least have reasonable cover now at our events.

Sundries - we supported Rebecca Ward's attendance at the summer Lagganlia training camp. There will be more spent on prizes as new trophies are being made for our club competition winners. The aim is to present these at the 2018 New Year's Day event.

Our Routine Expenditure far exceeds our General Income, because we derive most of our income from events.

Events

With good turnouts at NYD and the Chairman's Challenge, and low costs for these and the three training events, we made a substantial surplus this year on Informals/training. League events are doing well, even more so since the start of the new FY, but the WNL was slightly down on last year. The Galoppen, the various BOK Army events, including one put on for the Midlands military league, and the summer evening urban events mostly attracted higher numbers than the previous year. From the figures it looks as though the new R2T2 venture made a large loss but most of the entry fee income for the second event was received from Fabian4 after the end of the FY. Expenses include an Ordnance Survey licence for 1:25000 mapping data for the whole of the Forest area, so this will cover future bike events as well.

As in the previous year problems with access meant many late changes to the programme, which probably affected numbers in some cases and certainly caused headaches for organisers. Forestry Commission fees are unchanged at present (typically £50 for our Saturday events and £150-200 for Galoppens) but the National Trust are now asking for £50 plus VAT or 10% of entry fees plus VAT, whichever is the greater. However, with a healthy surplus overall on events I see no need to raise League/Informal/WNL fees and propose they remain at £5 for seniors and £2 for juniors, with an extra £1 charge for non-BOF seniors. If there is a large increase in levy amounts due to British Orienteering and SWOA we can review this before the start of 2018. We will continue to subsidise team events and coach fares if needed for the CS cup. Fees for larger events are decided on the basis of event budgets and comparable events elsewhere but we will aim to keep these at a reasonable level, especially for juniors.

Balance sheet

The second page shows our overall financial position. I transferred £8000 from our current to our deposit account (at which point the bank reduced the interest rate from 0.05% to 0.03%). But with some £19500 in cash assets overall we are in a very healthy position.

Club Membership fees

I propose that we keep club membership at £4 seniors, free for juniors. 'Club-only' membership, at the same rates, will be available to full members of other clubs who wish to join NGOC as a second club.

I will be happy to provide further detail or explanations at the AGM.

Carol Stewart
4 October 2017

Membership Secretary and Volunteer Coordinator's AGM Report 2017

Previous membership figures 5/10/16:

Category	Current	Other	Lapsed
Senior	132	2	24
Junior	27	0	7
Total	159	2	31

Current membership figures 10/10/17:

Category	Current	Other	Lapsed
Senior	134	2	15
Junior	21	0	7
Total	155	2	22

Membership numbers slightly down on last year mainly in juniors offset by some gain in seniors. There have been 12 new members over the year.

At the end of 2016 I took over the Volunteer Coordinator role and I have managed to get help from across the senior membership of the club with relatively few exceptions. To this end I have implemented a spreadsheet to assist in identifying appropriate people to approach based on their proximity to the event, frequency of attendance, previous volunteering and any expressed volunteering preferences. As I will be taking a leave of absence in Feb 2018 I have started enquiries to find a successor for this role.

Simon Denman

Event Permissions and Officials Recruitment Annual Report 2017 (in lieu of Fixtures Report)

My first year in this post has been a busy one. I now have a better idea of how much goes on behind the scenes for an event to take place!

We have put on an impressive 27 events this year (12 league events, 2 training days, 1 galloppen, 3 night events, 2 R2T2s, 5 evening urbans, 1 NYD, 1 chairmans challenge and 1 army event). Each of these has required permissions to be sought from the various landowners and event officials to be recruited. In addition, I have also sought permissions for 2 BOKArmy mid-week events. I soon realised that all this required an extensive spreadsheet to monitor progress and to clearly see what remains outstanding

Each landowner has its own requirements and idiosyncrasies for permissions and it has taken time to get to grip with these. I have dealt very much with the Forestry Commission, of course, but also with the National Trust, Natural England, Natural Resources Wales, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, Cheltenham Borough Council, plus a number of private owners. Some areas have access restrictions that need to be taken into account, particularly in the spring and summer months. Unfortunately, we are currently faced with a blanket ban on night events in the Forest of Dean, meaning we are having to restrict these events to other areas.

Our 27 events needed 47 different event officials to be recruited, and these roles were filled by 36 different people. Thank you to all those who volunteered their services this year. This is key to the club being able to continue to put on such an active calendar of events. I made an effort to encourage some new faces to have a first go at organising, planning or “advising” for us and am happy that 8 new people took on the challenge this year. Help will be offered to any first time planners/organisers, so let me know if you’d fancy giving it a go....

I am building up a pool of people who are happy to take their turn as an “advisor”. This is an important role as it ensures that controls are in the right place and courses are fair. I am still looking for more people to occasionally perform this role, so let me know if interested. Many hands make light work!

Greg Best

Mapping Officer's Report for 2017 AGM

[Mapping Officer, Paul Taunton, was busy dealing with printer problems at the time of writing, so a very brief summary follows instead.]

As in recent years, a large number of “events” were printed, making use of both the main printer held by Paul and the backup printer held by Pat Macleod.

A few new maps are now available, including:

- **Leckhampton Hill**, a completely new area mapped by Greg using LIDAR data
- **Headless Hill**, significantly updated by Pat using LIDAR data

Other minor map updates, to incorporate changes noted by event planners, have continued as usual.

Data for various urban maps has been procured and there are various people making these maps for use in future summer street events.

NGOC Equipment Report for 2017

Last year we spent quite a bit on equipment – cafe flasks, radios, a start clock, tent poles and a second laser printer. This year we have bought very little general equipment, but have invested in more SI units, and other related bits and pieces such as base plates for the poles, and new finger loops for our dibbers.

By and large our set of equipment has worked well, and has been adequate for our somewhat increased programme of activities. However, a lot of effort has had to go into ensuring the the SI kit is fully functional for each event. The issue is that most of our SI units are over 10 years old, with the result that battery failure is a regular problem. We also have a handful of units which we cannot repair, and will have to go back to Sportident, or have already gone. We bought 10 new units at the beginning of the year, but these were quickly swallowed up in the battery replacement cycle, so they did not greatly add to our overall capacity.

Currently we have 90 units, including the 2 master/clear stations. Of these, about 50 have had new batteries fitted in the last year or so, about 23 are with John fallows for battery replacement, and 7 are either lost or awaiting Sportident attention.

For day to day operation we can manage – it simply means that before each event I have to do a careful status check, and renumber working units to replace ones required for a particular set of courses that have 'died'.

However, it is probably the case that over the last couple of years the kit has had much greater use than previously. As well as our own events, our SI kit has been used for a variety of other events such as BOK Army ones, a couple of school activities, and commercial hiring out to a Mountain Bike Enduro event. This naturally adds to the general wear and tear on the kit, and means that we will probably need to look at buying more units progressively over the next few years. At around £100 each they are our most expensive asset, given the numbers needed, and so can be expected to make a bit of a dent in our bank balance.

Pat MacLeod

Captain's Annual Report 2017

This has been my first year as captain, and I have tried to come at the role from a different perspective. Rather than just co-ordinating club entries, as captain, I feel I need to work towards bringing the club together “as one”, so that we do act like members of a club and not as a collection of individuals. I want you all to have a sense of belonging, to be a member of North Gloucestershire OC *by choice*, and not just by virtue of where you live!

Over the last 12 months we have brought in various new initiatives to try and make our club better for you such as the regular email updates and the club championship. I am keen for feedback and suggestions for other ideas which help us be a club so please speak to me if you have any. The club has agreed to support weekly training runs but was not able to start this year as there was no volunteer available to co-ordinate these runs this year – we will hope to start them going before the next AGM!

In terms of club results in Orienteering – well, there haven't been many. All of the big relay races and major events were far away; the cost plus travelling put many people off from going. Next year will be different with the JK in the West Midlands. We entered a running team for the Cotswold Way Relay and had some very strong results to finish in the top quarter despite an “ad hoc” team.

Individual results have been much stronger, and one of the aims of the club championship have been to encourage people to go out to more races to compete. Richard Purkis, Pete Ward and Andy Monro (the latter M45 Champion at the British Middle Champs) have all been at the top of the results throughout the year. Rebecca Ward, Jess Ward, Reuben Lawson, Paul Murrin, Paul Horsfall (plus many others – please don't be offended!) are all developing quickly and are showing real potential for the future. We have a large team travelling down to the CompassSport Cup Final (I believe this is our first time in the “Cup” final – albeit qualifying on a by!); I don't expect us to finish in the top half of finalists but mobilising so many people and having our name alongside the big-boys is some achievement for our club.

Further mention must be made to Richard Purkis who has been attending local running races, and winning them, whilst entering as North Gloucestershire Orienteering and wearing his club singlet. This is a great way to advertise our club to a wider audience without any effort and I encourage everyone who runs, and especially those who do Parkrun, to wear their club colours too. You can be an ambassador for both NGOC and Orienteering and you will be surprised just how many have tried out our sport after the idea was put in their head at parkrun etc.

Following on from the above, and in the absence of a publicity officer, I am keen for us all to embrace Facebook and other social media more. Please do take photos at races and share them – this is the best way to communicate Orienteering as a “sport”, and everybody likes a good photo. I am now creating Facebook events for every race we organise, and within a couple of days I will often have over 20 non-members “interested” in attending. Facebook news feeds speed up word-of-mouth spread so again, just signing up to say you are going on Facebook can actually then share details of our race to a lot more people.

I hope that 2018 will show a continuation of the successes of 2017 – and some more opportunities to compete. Save the dates! 11th March for CompassSport Cup heat and 2nd April JK relay!

Richard Cronin

Legend Editor's Report to 2017 AGM - Judith Austerberry

Since the last AGM, five issues of Legend have been published: November 2016; January, March, May and September 2017. Issues have been around 28 pages in length and the largest was 32 pages. There has been a superb range of submissions from club members, covering a wide range of topics: event reports from both UK and overseas events though to technical articles about mapping issues and reports from triathlons and mountain races. Thank you so much to everyone who has made the effort to contribute during the year.

Legend costs £48 per issue to print. Depending on the number of pages in each issue, this covers around 18 printed copies. 10 of these are currently sent out to hardcopy-only readers at a distribution cost of about 65p per copy, 2 are kept as file copies and the remainder are put in the tea tent for members and visitors to browse at events. It takes about 40 hours of editorial work to produce each issue. This includes arranging and setting articles submitted by members; writing Results, League Latest, Fixtures, Club News etc.; searching the internet for event photographs and making everything look pretty. The resources invested in each issue are considerable relative to the size of the readership and the aggregate time spent reading it.

I have taken a step back from orienteering this year. This has made editing Legend quite challenging as I no longer attend major events and only infrequently attend local fixtures. Given the shortage of volunteers for committee roles and the Legend production time/cost, I invite the AGM to consider whether or not there is still a need (as opposed to a want) for a bi-monthly/quarterly newsletter now that weekly news emails are distributed. Combined with the club website and Facebook updates, most members now have the opportunity to be thoroughly briefed on club news long before Legend is published.

NGOC – Welfare Officer's Report - AGM – 18th October 2017

- Risk Assessments are carried out for every event or activity and displayed. After the event the Risk Assessment must be sent to Pete Ward to archive.
- Event Safety Workshops (ESW) are run by Pete Ward and last for two hours. Pete Ward is a registered ESW tutor. Club members should contact Pete if they are interested in attending an ESW. It is a requirement that anyone organising an event has completed a workshop. Previous attendees have reported that this is a valuable session to attend.
- This year an additional seven club members have attended First Aid training, which brings our total number of First Aiders to ten. This ensures that at least one First Aider is available at all our events. Fortunately they are rarely called upon to administer first aid.

Ashleigh Denman, NGOC Welfare Officer

NGOC Development Report for 2017

The enhanced league has worked well, and although numbers are not yet as high as they were a few years ago, they are showing a healthy improvement this year. Regular string courses, and the cafe, both help, of course.

The committee have discussed potential further developments to the league, and informal chats at events have helped to identify some of the issues and opportunities around the league format. These are the subject of a short separate note and proposal for the 2018 league; please do take time to review this, and then either let us now what you think of the proposals by emailing me – equipment '@' ngoc.org.uk, or better still, coming to the AGM and contributing to the discussion we will have on this in the pre-meeting chat session.

Our other main initiative during the year has been the introduction of the R2T2 (Run, Ride, Tracks and Trails) series of summer evening events aimed at runners and bikers. Due to a late start we only managed to fit in 2 events, but with around 70 entries for each, these seemed to work well, and were well regarded by the competitors. The series is 'branded' separately from NGOC, in order to reduce its orienteering connection, and so avoid putting off runners who either think orienteering is for old people, or who don't do 'navigation'. We partner with Rogue Runs and Black Mountains Mountain biking in this, and this further helps to enhance the O-lite nature of the events. We have scheduled 4 R2T2 events in 2018. In addition, we need to find a way of drawing those who enjoy R2T2 closer into the realm of foot orienteering, and the 2018 league proposals include a means for achieving this.

Regrettably the Christchurch permanent course is no nearer completion than this time last year, but I am determined to rectify this over the winter, as we do get a small but regular flow of requests from people looking to use the course, but unable to find any way of getting hold of the map and details.

The other area that has been disappointing this year is the lack of training events. As I said last year we are very largely dependent on one person – Gill Stott – to plan these, and this hasn't changed. Gill is, however, getting close to finalising her level 2 coaching qualification, and we will try to schedule more training activities in 2018.

Our busy event schedule naturally increases the burden on club volunteers, and it could increase further with proposed changes to the league. We will look at organising some planner and adviser courses early in the year to help boost the number of people able and willing to undertake these key roles. For most other roles, on the job training is sufficient, but for registration and download jobs, it would be worth running a session or two specifically for these rather more technical jobs. Once again, let us know if you are interested in getting involved in these jobs; we need more backups and alternative volunteers for these roles.

Pat Macleod