

Northern Navigators Orienteering Club

AGM Minutes - 25th November 2020 (hosted on Zoom by Boris Spence)

Meeting started 7.05pm

1. Introductions

Present - Nigel Wright (Chairperson), Boris Spence (Secretary), Kath Marshall-Ivens (Treasurer), Matthew Foskett, Kate Hampshire, Maya Hampshire-Wright, Rob McKenna, Dougie Nisbet, Dave Peel, Debbie Warren, Julian Warren, Barry Young (joined towards end of meeting)

2. Apologies - None received.

3. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes have been circulated, Rob requested an amendment relating to who was going to be on the committee for following year. Minutes were accepted with this amendment.

4. Chairman's Address

There was no formal written report, but the Chair reported it had been a strange year, the highlight was the Doctor's Gate event which was hampered by the weather. At Easter the orienteering year was very uncertain and it quickly shut down due to Covid. The Chair was very pleased with the way NN had been able to put on the Doctor's Gate event. We've had a very successful year in terms of new members, it's just a shame that we haven't been able to all meet up.

5. Secretary's Report - see attached report (members only).

The Secretary added that the Doctor's Gate event was fantastic considering all the restrictions and how well it went. Rob proposed thanks to Alastair Mackenzie (CLOK) for the pre-entry and registration system and also to Paul Boyles (NATO) for manning the SI system and 'swimming' for the lost control. The entry system worked well and everyone paid except one student (only £2 in fees).

6. Treasurer's Report - see attached report.

The Accounts haven't been audited this year due to Covid restrictions, so couldn't be accepted as a true record at the moment.

7. Election of Officers and Executive Committee

The following officers and committee members were elected:

- Chairperson - Debby Warren (Kath proposed, Boris seconded).
- Secretary - Boris Spence (Debby proposed, Julian seconded).
- Treasurer - Kath Marshall-Ivens (Rob proposed, Dougie seconded).
- Fixtures Secretary - Debby Warren and Dougie Nisbet.
- Mapping officer - Rob McKenna.
- Membership Secretary - Barry Young.
- Junior Rep - Maya Hampshire Wright.
- Welfare Officer - Julian Warren.
- Other Committee members - Kate Hampshire, Matthew Foskett, Dave Peel.

To satisfy the needs of British Orienteering other roles are to be decided at a later date - Results secretaries, Activities fixtures secretaries, Publicity officer, etc.

8. Any Other Business

1. Fixtures - it is currently unknown what the situation will be for next year. The FC and BO are still restricting events and although orienteering can go ahead, we haven't had anything from NEOA regarding fixtures.
2. JK 2021 has been cancelled, but CLOK are planning to use the Pickering areas at Easter for a colour coded event.
3. Boris suggested we have a meeting in late January by Zoom to discuss the fixtures for 2021 once we have a clearer idea of the situation at that point.
4. The Boxing Day event won't be going ahead as normal, however it was suggested that we could do a map run which people could do in their own time, looking for control sites marked by GPS co-ordinates. Action: Julian to investigate for Christmas week.
5. NEOA Chair - it is the turn of NN to put forward someone to be chair, which is usually the chairperson of the club that takes on the role. Debby said she is willing to take on this role.
6. A discussion was had around the NEOA SI kit. The kit is currently owned by NEOA, with financial support from all the NE clubs for its upkeep. There are currently some discussions around the future of this equipment in which ownership of the kit is to be given to CLOK and NATO - it was felt that NN should discuss this further at a future meeting. Boris asked to be trained in its use as we don't have anyone that can use it at present.

Date of next meeting: to be confirmed.

Meeting closed at 7.53pm



Annual General Meeting, 25th November 2020

Secretary's Report:

Northern Navigators like all other organizations and individuals have had a turbulent 9 months with Covid-19. The virus has had a major impact on all sports including Orienteering, with National lockdowns and the introduction of a Tier system of virus control.

Notwithstanding these challenges, as a club, we have hosted two events before the virus took hold and one event during the subsequent restrictions. The first event since the last AGM was the annual "Charity Boxing Day" event at Houghall Woods which attracted 97 competitors, a very good turnout. This resulted in a donation of £302 to the "Durham Food Cycle" charity. (Regrettably, although a charity event we still had to pay the normal British Orienteering levy, which reduced the donation). Following on from this success the club hosted a local event at Shaftoe Crags on Sunday 16th February with 60 competitors taking part. Due to the prevailing weather conditions (heavy rain) it was touch and go as to whether we should cancel, but with the normal NN determination we pushed ahead. The result was a very good event with lots of kind comments and smiling faces.

After the first Covid-19 National lockdown, limited local orienteering events were allowed to go ahead. Unfortunately, this meant that it was not possible to host a full 2-day October Odyssey National event and the decision was made to downgrade the event to a single day 'local' colour coded event on Cabin Hill, Doctors Gate and Gull Quarries area. The event was run under Covid-19 rules, with external support which was vital for the event to go ahead. We must thank Alastair Mackenzie (CLOK) for all the work he happily volunteered to undertake, dealing with pre-entries for the event. Also, to Paul Boyles (NATO) for not only dealing with all things SI, entries, programming, download and results, but also for collecting in the rogue 117 control from the murky, cold wet depths of a flooded depression!

Uncertainty over the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, the weather forecast and how many competitors would turn up increased the work load to ensure the event's success. The weather conditions during the Saturday evening resulted in one control underwater, (which was a first for the club). On arrival on the Sunday morning to set up for the event, the rain had stopped and there were no visual signs how heavy the rain had been. So, it was a surprise to hear of a control missing. (underwater) But, looking back at the event, overall, it was successful with 89 competitors having the opportunity to do some orienteering. The vast majority of whom were very grateful that we had taken the time to organize an event in very difficult circumstances.

Thank you to everyone who has taken up the challenge of planning, organizing and helping at events during these difficult times for the club and orienteering. Rob Mckenna has continued to be the main backbone of the club, mapping new areas, updating club maps and running the club Website.

We look forward to next year and the challenges ahead. Although the Club remains small in numbers it is very active throughout the local area and it is expected the Club will move from strength to strength.

Boris Spence