

Chairman's Report 2020

This year was to be such a big year with the region hosting the JK in April, and who could have predicted what was to happen globally from March onwards?

Before we cover the orienteering year, it was very sad to hear of the loss of two orienteers from the North East, Adrian Barnes (NATO) and Jon Williams (CLOK). These members will be fondly remembered by all for their input into orienteering over the many years that they gave to the sport.

From March this year, obviously, all orienteering activity stopped and it's only been in the past 8 weeks that we have started to see more regular events in the new guise of orienteering with social distancing. We are very fortunate to be involved in a sport that does so easily support social distancing whilst competing and it is great to see how the clubs have embraced the guidance from British Orienteering to be able to start events in the local area. How this pans out for the next few months is anyone's guess as the situation is changing constantly. It is clear that the sport is adaptable and can probably mould itself to fit with the ever-changing Government guidelines.

As previously mentioned, this year was supposed to be a big year with the JK, and following from our previous JK in 2009, was expected to be a great event. On behalf of the North East I would like to thank all organisers, planners, controllers and anyone else involved in the JK2020 who gave their time, input and effort into the event; which was cancelled with less than 6 week's notice.

Being quite new to orienteering, and being drafted in at short notice to chair during the NATO AGM, I have been a little unsure as to what the role really entails and would like to express my thanks to Duncan who has possibly taken the lead, more than he had anticipated he would do so, throughout the year. The clubs within the North East are very well established and function very well on their own basis. Therefore, I feel my role this year has been to Chair this year's AGM as due to COVID-19, (like everyone else) I have not been able to see or meet people, which I think might have made a difference as to how I conducted the role. I wish my successor well for 2020/21 and hope that all planned future events go ahead and are well attended; not only by current members, but new members also.

Thank you for the opportunity to be your Chair this last year, it has been a pleasure.

Let's all continue to try and beat this virus; stay safe and keep well.

Kay Clark

18th October 2020