

North East Orienteering Association

Annual General Meeting 2021

Minutes

Date: Tuesday 26th October

Time: 7pm via Zoom

Present: Debby Warren (DW), Paul Taylor (PT), Peter Archer (PA), Frank Shillitoe (FS), Kim Sanderson (KS), Duncan Archer (DA), Allie Wilson-Craw (AWC).

1. Apologies for absence

None.

2. Minutes of the last meeting 25/10/2020

Accepted

3. Matters arising

It was noted that the split of the SI equipment between the 3 NEOA clubs had been successfully achieved.

4. Officers Reports for 2020/2021

- a) Chair/Secretary: DW briefly summarised her previously circulated report; notably the disruption at the beginning of the year due to COVID, the emergence of the NEOA clubs from lockdown 3 and the success of events since April, problems with permissions and finally expectations of successful collaborations between the North East clubs in the coming year.
- b) Treasurer: DA outlined the key financial transactions of the year. JK 2020 losses had no impact on NEOA finances as they were covered by British Orienteering; some O tops still remained and could be obtained from DA. The separation of the SI equipment has been beneficial as it has made it easier to manage the accounts. DA reported that the current bank account was subject to bank charges and he was therefore in the process of changing to another bank which he expected to be up and running in the new year. It was noted that NEOA now operated at little or no cost but that NEJS still required funding – recorded below. The accounts were accepted by those present (proposed by PA and seconded by KS)
- c) Fixtures: AWC was pleased to report that events in the region had been successfully organised since opening up after COVID. For the coming year, she confirmed that NATO were hosting the Northern Championships on 3rd April and had been approached by Paul Murgatroyd to put on a Junior selection race linked to the event. As a result, NN are hoping to use the Cragg Estate on 2nd April and NATO are planning a sprint event for the Friday evening.
Discussion moved onto BOC/BRC 2024 which might be a cross-border event with YHOA but as yet, areas have still to be decided. The provisional date is 13-14th April but it was pointed out that this can cause concerns over nesting birds and that an earlier date might be necessary. DA suggested we arrange a meeting between clubs to brainstorm areas and dates.
Action: AWC to convene a meeting for mid-November inviting 2 members from each club who have knowledge of areas and permissions.
DA asked AWC to circulate an updated schedule of rotating NEOA events (OO incl. NE champs, NE score/night champs, YBT heat, CSC first round when its our turn, etc.) for the next few years and make sure respective club fixtures secretaries are aware of what their clubs should be hosting.
Action: AWC
- d) Technical: PT reported that it had been an uneventful year on the technical side due to COVID. He is planning to organise a controllers/planners 2 day course, possibly opening it up to neighbouring clubs outside the region to boost numbers. He is also willing to put on a mapping course.

e) NEJS: FS began by summarising the year. Both he and KS took on the role last year with the aim of getting more juniors into the Junior Squad. This has been successful as they started with 6 members and now have 18. The JIRCS were a great success for NEJS and KS reported that having the JIRCS in the North East helped to encourage juniors to take part and they were hoping to build on this for the coming year in Northern Ireland. 13 juniors have signed up for a training weekend to be held in the Lake District in November – KS thanked DA for his contribution and felt that the training experience for juniors, although put on hold during COVID, was now moving forward in a positive way.

KS reported that both she and FS have now received their DBS and subscribed to the update service. All NEJS kit is to be recycled amongst junior members. KS discussed her intention to introduce an incentive scheme to motivate juniors to progress in the sport.

A discussion around funding of NEJS activities then ensued. FS pointed out that costs for the JIRCS in October 2022 would be elevated due to the long distance and wondered whether a contribution from juniors should be sought. DA suggested that events such as the JIRCS should be funded by NEOA but that training events such as Hawkshead and Lagganlia etc. should require a subsidy from participants. PT asked if we could do some fund-raising activities such as a cake stall and KS agreed to look into this for future events.

Action: DA to approach CLOK members. KS to coordinate

5. Budget 2021/2022

It was agreed by club reps to fund the NEJS in the coming year to the tune of £1000 shared out by the 3 clubs (CLOK £464, NATO £412 and NN £124). Proposed by DA, seconded by PA.

Action: DA to contact club treasurers

6. Appointment of Officers

Chair/Secretary – the role rotates around the 3 clubs on an annual basis. This year it falls to CLOK. PA agreed to take on the position.

All other officers (Treasurer, Fixtures Officer, Technical Officer and NEJS coaches) will remain in their roles for the next year

7. Discussions

- **NEOA Triple Sprint Fest - June 2022**

This will be a joint venture between the 3 clubs comprising of a Newcastle City Urban (NATO), a sprint around Durham Uni (NN) and an urban event using the Riverside area of Stockton (CLOK). DW reported that initial approaches to Durham Uni about mapping and using a new area close to the Botanic Gardens had been positively received. It was agreed that we should convene a meeting for early January 2022 to discuss publicity (flyers at JK?), progress with permissions (aim to get permissions agreed by this date), a suitable name for the event and which entry system to use. DW agreed to set this up.

Action: KS to investigate BO template for postcard flyer. DW to set up meeting

- **POCs**

AWC raised the issue of permanent orienteering courses in the region and, with the recent rise in download figures, whether they are linked to the BO data base. She noted that the management of Hetton Lyons, which is an area that has been mapped by NN in the past but has not been updated for a long time, has been taken over by Springboard Leisure and questions were asked about their remit.

Action: AWC to approach Springboard Leisure

8. AOB

PA raised the matter of virtual meetings. It was agreed that future meetings would continue to be held via Zoom as it was generally easier to attend and to share information electronically.

The meeting closed at 20.20.