

North East Orienteering Association

Minutes of the 34th Annual General Meeting of the North East Orienteering Association, held on Tuesday, 9th October 2001, at Vane Tempest Hall, Durham.

Meeting opened 7.45pm

Present:

Patrick Smyth (Vice chairman), Rob McKenna (secretary), Peter Firth (treasurer), John Crosby (president), Andrew Berne, John Dixon, Craig Hall, Colin Matheson, Ed Nash, Mike Rickard, Maurice Swales.

1. Apologies for absence.

Katherine, Margaret and Nicola Crosby, Carol Firth, Mike Hardy.

2. Minutes of the 33rd AGM held 10th October 2000.

2.1 It was proposed by John Crosby, seconded by Andrew Berne that the minutes be accepted as a true record, this was agreed by those present.

3. Chairman's Annual Report-Patrick Smyth.

This year started out very well - the good weather and courses saw a good turn out for the October Odyssey at Kyloe. B Foot and Mouth has dominated the remainder of the year, stopping almost all major events from February onwards. This! affected both the JK and BOC with both being cancelled early on. NATO and CLOK both seemed to have come up with a successful solution with their programme of 'local' events. These events generally used new areas with new maps and overall participation figures were relatively high. These types of events are what the region and clubs need to attract new people to the sport. With the declining membership and participation at events, it is noticeable that NEOA is about one third the size of the next biggest region - this does have a knock on effect when trying to source officials and volunteers to stage events.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support throughout the year.

4. Coaching report- there was no report available.

5. Treasurers report- Peter Firth.

5.1 Participation figures for the past year were circulated to those present.

5.2 The treasurer presented the signed and audited accounts to the meeting ( a copy is shown below).

5.2.1 It was noted that levies were less than expected, being about 50% down. This was thought to be due mostly to the number of events cancelled as a result of the Foot and Mouth crisis during the year.

5.2.2 Membership was again slightly down on last year - showing a worrying trend. 5.2.3 NEON budget was under spent due to fewer issues this year.

5.2.4 The miscellaneous sum under income, accounts for the welcome sale of some Colour Coded badges.

5.2.5 It was noted that the Junior Squad had been fairly inactive throughout the year and the sum set aside for their use had not been touched.

5.2.6 The senior tour fund amount was to cover John Crosby's Trail '0' event in Scandinavia.

5.2.7 The sum noted under Trophies was for a special purchase of awards for members who had won all NE events last year.

5.2.8 Affiliation fees are to the English Orienteering Association in support of the Home Internationals.

5.2.9 The miscellaneous item under expenses covers the auditors fee.

5.2.10 The Hi interest account includes a sum of £3000 set aside for

special purposes.

5.2.1 1 John Crosby proposed that the accounts be accepted as presented, this was seconded by Andrew Berne and agreed by the meeting.

5.2.12 The appointment of the same auditor (Ida Bradford) was agreed by the meeting. 5.3 NEOA restructuring.

5.3.1 The following statement and motions were set before the meeting. The subject of changes to NEOA has been debated for several years without any formal conclusion. While the subject has been tabled at this AGM for discussion, the motions below seek to direct that discussion by presenting a set of proposals.

The aim of these proposals is to maintain NEOA as the voice of orienteering in the North East at National level and to ensure that the North East is represented at that level. However at the same time there is the need to reduce the organisation (and consequently effort / work) which has remained unchanged for twenty years, so that the efforts of our volunteers is directed into the sport, rather than administration of the sport. Essentially NEOA is there to co-ordinate the activities of the NE Clubs. To do this, it is best for NEOA to be an association of those clubs, rather than have a membership of its own. This will allow a slimmed down

Executive, which at its simplest could consist of the three club chairmen, plus the representatives of N1 BOF committees. I would hope the few jobs could be rotated around more easily and shared between t In the age of modem communication, there is no longer a need for formal meetings to run the association especially if the Executive is slimmed down. Business can quite easily be conducted by phone, email and informal meetings.

Given these conditions, there is almost no need for a large budget, which would allow monies to be retained at club level for grassroots development. The small amount of funding required would be raised by a levy; main clubs, based on membership levels at the end of the previous year.

5.3.2 Motions put to the AGM:

1. The AGM agrees in principal to the idea that the NEOA becomes a 'club cluster' representing the orienteering clubs of the North East from 1" January 2002 (or 1" August 2002) - this was agreed b meeting.

2. A working party (consisting of the NEOA and one representative from each club) shall be formed

determine the exact format of the new association and agree a constitution - this was agreed by the

3. An EGG shall be called as soon as possible to vote on this decision and if ratified, the new constitution

this was agreed by the meeting. 5.4 Membership fees and levies.

5.4.1 At present, membership fees to NEOA are as follows:

Senior - £4.00, Junior - £1.00, Family - £6.00, Group - £7.00.

Levies stand at 12.5% of net amount payable up to a maximum of £250

Following on from item 5.3, it was felt that it would be unfair to charge a membership fee for the coming if one was set then this may have to be refunded if the association structure and constitution was to change It was proposed by John Dixon, seconded by John Crosby that there should be no membership fee set f coming year - this was agreed by the meeting.

5.4.2 The treasurer proposed that there be no change to the levy structure, this was seconded by John Crosby agreed by the meeting.

5.5 The treasurer presented his draft budget for 2001/02 (see below). The budget had been set before the outcome item 5.4 had been decided and would have to be modified to take into account of any changes that were imposed by that decision. In principal, the budget was accepted by the

meeting.

#### 6. Election of officers

6.1 It was proposed by John Dixon, seconded by Andrew Berne that Patrick Smyth be elected as Chairman - this was agreed by the meeting.

6.2 It was proposed by Patrick Smyth, seconded by Andrew Berne that John Crosby be elected as Vice Chairman - this was agreed by the meeting.

6.3 There were no nominations for the post of Secretary and the post remains vacant.

6.4 It was proposed by John Crosby, seconded by Andrew Berne that Peter Firth be elected as Treasurer - this was agreed by the meeting.

6.5 It was proposed by Peter Firth, seconded by Ed Chester that Colin Matheson be elected as Fixtures secretary - this was agreed by the meeting.

6.6 It was proposed by Maurice Swales, seconded by Andrew Berne that Colin Matheson be elected as Fixtures Secretary - this was agreed by the meeting.

6.7 It was agreed by the meeting, that John Crosby be re-elected as President.

#### 7. Election of committee.

7.1 It was proposed by Patrick Smyth, seconded by John Dixon that Andrew Berne be elected as an elected representative - this was agreed by the meeting.

7.2 It was proposed by Patrick Smyth, seconded by John Crosby that Maurice Swales be elected as an elected representative - this was agreed by the meeting.

7.3 The post of the other elected rep would be considered outside the meeting. 7.4 John Dixon (mapping), agreed to continue in his role as co-opted member.

7.5 The roles of Coaching and Technical representatives were not filled. The Chairman is to approach Ed Chester to see if he is willing to continue in his role as Coaching rep.

#### 8. Trophies

8.1 The trophy for the best performance at the JK could not be awarded as there was no JK this year.

8.2 The Chairmans Trophy was awarded to Rob McKenna for his services to the region over the past few years as outgoing NEOA secretary and his continuing position as club secretary. He has also took on the role of Galoppen Fixtures and club newsletter editor as well as planning and organising various events.

#### 9. Any other business

9.1 Ed Nash raised the question as to NEOA's stance on the level of student entry fees at events in the region. He would like to see a reduced rate more widely adopted or even an intermediate fee for students. Whilst the meeting sympathised with his views, it was felt that although the region would support students, it could not impose a fee structure on individual clubs, but only advise clubs of the situation. Club reps should take these views back to their respective committees. It was pointed out that NATO have already introduced such a scheme.

9.2 The date for the next NEOA Executive committee meeting was set for Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> November 2001.

Meeting closed 8.47pm