

## **NEOA AGM 2023 – Chair and Secretary’s Report**

It’s been a good year for orienteering in the North-East with NN, CLOK and NATO all putting on a healthy programme of events.

In January Paul Taylor and Ray Barnes held a Level B controllers’ course in Hexham which was well attended by aspiring Level B and Level C controllers and those who were there just to listen in and hear what it takes to organise and plan a well run event.

NEJS is going strong but is suffering from a lack of young juniors in the North-East which is affecting the number of competitors that can be fielded for the JIRCs. We do need to get more families involved in orienteering.

Our NEOA and NE orienteering stalwart Duncan Archer has moved out of the region. Fortunately Duncan will continue to act as overall co-ordinator for the British Championships in 2024. Duncan has passed on his NEOA Treasurer duties to Joanne Field and also moved the NEOA bank account from HSBC to Lloyds to avoid paying an annual fee. Duncan has also handed over web master duties to Allen Bannister. Thank you to Joanne and Allen for taking over those roles.

All major officials are now appointed for the British Championships in 2024, so we look forward to a big volunteer effort across the region for that weekend. It is expected to be a World Ranking Event.

NATO has been able to get more volunteers involved with the club and as such has held a good programme of events between October 2022 and September 2023 comprising 3 National, 1 Regional and 6 Local Sunday events, and 11 of its low key LOP events. NATO does suffer from a lack of coaches and is not currently able to offer training.

NN hosted a very successful October Odyssey weekend: an urban at Brandon and cross-country at Doctor’s Gate. They have attracted some new members including families through their regular club night on Wednesday. These club nights have used some interesting training formats such as Mobile Phone-O.

CLOK are putting on a wide range of events. They held their first urban event in Darlington and the council suggested returning next summer. There were sociable winter dusk / night events on two golf courses which were well received and very family friendly, so more will be run next year. EBOR invited CLOK to share the running of the White Rose this year and they successfully led the Classic Sunday event. The club has received a third year of Club Development Officer funding from the Orienteering Federation. Their two autumn and spring Couch 2 Green courses have been successful in attracting a broad range of new members.

Francis Shillitoe

NEOA Chair and Secretary

4 October 2023