

North East Orienteering Association (NEOA) Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Chair and Secretary's Report

Since the last AGM the Region has continued to thrive and members have worked tirelessly to promote our sport. With the Regional Clubs planning, organizing and staging challenging events, in which competitors at all levels had the opportunity to test their abilities inviting competition and determination. This was highlighted in April when the Region hosted the British Orienteering Championships (BOC) with exceptional results.

The BOC required detailed planning and organizing to cover the two-day event. The months leading up to the event had seen heavy rain fall throughout the UK which put extra pressure on the officials over both days. Notwithstanding this challenge, the teams worked very hard under the management of Duncan Archer the Championships Co-ordinator along with Keith Tonkin (BL) and Graham Nilsen (DEE) the Championship Controllers. The end result was a very successful Championships.

NEOA annual events continued throughout this year, with;

CLOK: October Odyssey: (5/6th October)

NATO: NE Score Championships: (25th February)

NN: NE Night Championships: To take place on 16th November. The club will also host an Urban event (17th) on the Sunday morning.

NEJS: The Junior Squad continues to take part in many events, along with their ongoing efforts to strengthen the size of the team, hopefully with new family groups coming into the sport we will see an increase in numbers.

These achievements and the overall success of Orienteering in the NE including the BOC is down to the volunteers within Clubs, who willingly take on committee appointments within Clubs along with the enthusiastic and committed members of each Club who turn out to help and support each event. Hopefully we can harness this commitment to bring Orienteering into more local Schools which has been very successful in the past, with many schools now taking part in Orienteering activities.

For the remainder of this year and 2025, I am sure Clubs will continue to organize high quality events. Notwithstanding the fact that, trying to obtain permissions for new areas can be problematic, with Landowners reluctant to give permissions for environmental reasons, trying to protect habitats. Along with the high cost (payments) required by some organizations like FE. We can only keep trying, it is good to see CLOK have permissions in place for the final of Compass Sport Cup / Trophy next year.

Boris Spence

NEOA Chair and Secretary (20th October 2024)