



**Report on the AGM of Quantock Orienteers held on
Saturday 10th October 2009 Old Civil Service Club, Queens College at 1600**

Apologies

Mike Crockett, Dave Holmes, Lennox Heath, Nick Fernandes, John Trayler, Mark Maynard, Judy Craddock, Andy Bussell

Present

Roger Craddock, Brian Fletcher, Sue Gard, Norman Harvey, Ted Heath, Bob Lloyd, Bill Vigar, Tony Milroy, Andy Rimes, Brian Pearson, Jeff Pakes, Richard Sansbury, Rachell Bussell, Jenny Tennant, Andy Rimes, Rosie Wyche, Tamsin Rayson, Sam Hollingsworth, Adrian Edwards, Jim Mallinson.

Minutes of the last AGM

The Minutes were accepted as correct.

Matters arising from those minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes that were still outstanding. Any matters that required attention had been dealt with in Committee and the results could be viewed in the Minutes of those meetings on the website.

Chairman's report by Richard Sansbury

Richard read his report as follows

It has been a busy year for Quantock Orienteers. The committee started ambitiously with an early commitment to two initiatives - one was to apply for an Award for All grant, and the other was to work towards clubmark, although in the event our limited resources meant clubmark got put on hold, while we concentrated on the grant project.

However these were not the only club development initiatives. We have been working hard with the schools for some years now. Huge numbers of children have had a taste of orienteering as part of their schools activities. They have always enjoyed the experience and often comment they would like to do more but until now it proved difficult to translate that interest into attendance at weekend events. However, now the Junior Orienteering Group has found a successful formula for involving families and newcomers in our sport. JOG has now become very successful as you will hear in a separate report. But certainly the success of JOG has been one of the highlights of the year.

For me personally the Award for All project has been the main focus of the year. A lot of work was needed to bring this project to fruition. As well as devising the format of the series, there was equipment to purchase, new maps to produce, permissions to obtain, budgets to keep and of course publicity and promotion. I am not a natural at much of this and am therefore very grateful to those who helped me. As a result we have reached out to new people and we have some brand new equipment to keep. I hope you feel it was worthwhile - I certainly do.

As well as all this our traditional series of events has carried on. It shows the strength of the club that these have carried on without needing much committee involvement, thanks to the efforts of planners, controllers, organisers and helpers.

There are a large number of people to thank for a successful year. I'll just pick on a few people to mention:

Brian Fletcher and Nick Fernandes - who have decided to leave the committee at this time due to other commitments. All have been strong supporters of club initiatives and the committee will miss their contributions. Brian has done so much to promote our sport to schools over the last few years.

Bill Vigar - for operating and maintaining the Joe Lee system so efficiently for many years. Now that we have decided to move to SportIdent Bill will be taking more of a back seat on the electronics side of things but Bill remains our main source of maps

Andy Rimes - for taking on the role of operating our new SportIdent system.

David Holmes - despite serious illness, Dave has still managed to give me a lot of help with the mapping element of the Award for All project

Judy & Roger Craddock - who have showed such enthusiasm for the Junior Orienteering Group and have made it such a success, as well as giving me personally a lot of assistance with the Award for All project.

Bob Lloyd - who manages to obtain permissions and maintain good relations with landowners on whose cooperation we are dependent.

Mike Crockett - who has worked hard at making the QuOnicle an excellent club magazine.

Treasurer's report and accounts for the past 12 months ending 31st August 2009,

Roger Craddock read out the following report (All attendees had a copy of the Income and Expenditure Sheets). He said that that some of the Awards for all items were shown in this year's a/c, but other items will appear in the 2009/10 a/c.

Income:

- 1. Net profit from events remains steady. An analysis of income and expenditure for each event has shown a steady increase in participation in our QOFL's and a healthy surplus from our Galoppen.*
- 2. The increase in income from memberships subs. has increased slightly and together with the increased membership fee for 2010 agreed at the last AGM should continue to finance our administrative expenses.*
- 3. Grant applications have been successful this year for the Lottery funded Award for All grant of £8350, a Business Link Train to Gain award of approx £600 (awaiting receipt) and various donations from outside agencies. Other opportunities exist for accessing funding through British Orienteering, and we have been informed that we can apply to become a Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) and recover Gift Aid on subscriptions. Coaching, First Aid, and Club Development have been funded by BOF.*
- 4. A small loss on food sold at last year's Long 'O' resulted in costs of refreshments being included in Long 'O' fees this year.*

Expenditure:

- 1. Investment has been made this year in a new Electronic Punching System (EPS) and laptop together with some new equipment to support them. Software to run this EPS, the latest mapping software (OCAD10) and an accounting package (SAGE Instant) have been purchased while the training in the use of these has been subsidised by the Business Link grant.*
- 2. Training of coaches and in First Aid will assist with the development of the Junior Orienteering Group (JOG) and progress towards ClubMark status. The series of Street Events, sponsored by the Awards for All grant has increased the awareness of the sport in Taunton and will hopefully expand our membership base.*
- 3. In view of the generous award obtained by your Committee this year and the planned increase in fees for 2010, I propose that we keep the fees at the 2010 level for 2011.*

The Club's thanks are due to Norman Harvey for giving freely of his time and efforts to verify our accounts. (The meeting endorsed Roger's remarks)

A copy of the Income and Expenditure account can be obtained from the Treasurer on request.

The Treasurer raised the question of the timing of the AGM. He said there was a conflict between the need to have the AGM within 50 days of the end of the Financial Year, have the Accounts audited and give the Members 28 Days notice of the AGM. It was agreed this item would be taken up at the next Committee meeting.

The meeting expressed its appreciation for Roger's work during the year.

Membership Secretary's report by Judy Craddock

Judy's report was read out by Roger Craddock

This year we have a total of 125 paid up members of the Club.

Membership is subdivided into:

- 16 Senior Local*
- 33 Senior National*
- 4 Junior Local*
- 2 Junior National*
- 38 Family Local (Individuals)*
- 32 Family National (Individuals)*

20 members have not renewed and 9 new members have joined.

Hopefully the latest Sprint O initiative and the continuing JOG events will encourage more families to join.

67 children have participated in the first 4 Sprint O events and 155 children have attended Jog events.

Membership Fees

In line with the Treasurer's Report Brian Fletcher proposed that the 2011 Membership Fess remain the same as the approved increase for 2010 ie. Seniors £8, Families £12 and Juniors £2. The proposal was seconded by Richard Sansbury and carried unanimously.

Quonicle

Mike Crockett's Report

Six publications were issued during the year coinciding with the issue of SINS to reduce postage.

I have been doing this job for nearly eleven years now and you should seriously consider recruiting a new editor for two reasons.

- 1. I am getting older and a younger person would bring new ideas.*
- 2. I am getting older and won't be able to carry on for much longer.*

I also welcome any contributions whether of orienteering interest or personal interest.

Fixtures Secretary's report by Richard Sansbury

Richard read out the following to the meeting.

When I first joined Quantock Orienteers the club was putting on about 12 events per year. Things have changed quite a bit since then - in the year since the last AGM we held a massive total of 38 events! These are made up as follows:

6 Forest leagues, 1 Long-O, 1 2x2 Relay, 1 Christmas Novelty, 6 Schools events, 18 Junior Orienteering events, 5 Sprint-Os

For a small club this is a phenomenal output and represents a huge effort. Many of the extra events are aimed at newcomers especially children and will be covered by the next report. I have been keen to ensure that this extra effort has not come at the expense of our more traditional events, the core of which is the

forest league series. I am pleased to report that our attendances at forest league events has continued to climb as it always has done year on year and we now frequently have over one hundred taking part.

We have just had our third consecutive long-O on Exmoor, adding some variety of terrain to our series. The long-O is the most logistically complex of all our events in the year, so well done to the team involved. The Long-O will now be moving into a new phase as it seems likely that we'll have our next one back on the Quantocks with a new planning team.

Soon we'll have something we've not had for a while - we host a regional event in January. We don't know what interest this will get, but I'm sure we are perfectly capable of putting on a good event. I remember when I attended my first orienteering event I was immediately impressed with the quality of the event - and that was in the days of pin punching, marking up your own map, and results in the post. Since then the quality has increased yet further - a recent runner coming to one of our street events commented how professional it was. This quality has not come easily - it is a result of all the hard work freely put in by club members. Thanks for your efforts.

Roger asked if the Club was extending itself too much and placing too great a burden on the few. Richard said he didn't think so and he was happy to continue with our programme as long as people continued to show the same level of interest. There was some discussion on this point and it was agreed that we must be careful not to overstretch ourselves. In answer to a question about the work required for permissions Bob said new areas and use of private land increased the workload significantly whilst Forestry area requests were usually relatively routine

OO Junior Squad Manager's and Schools Initiative Report by Brian Fletcher

Brian read for the following report

I joined the committee in October 2004. One of my first tasks was to look at junior development. Although the club has had juniors that have gone through the ranks, it is not an area which we have had the greatest success.

In January 2005 we were introduced to the Sport Initiative that is going on in schools. Essentially this is driven by the Government who are afraid that 'we' are getting overweight and that it will cost the country billions in health care etc. They have also got an eye on the London Olympics in 2012 so are keen to push sport. To tell a story about a colleague at work who has a heart murmur, his specialist stated that it is better to exercise and smoke rather than not exercise and not smoke, though smoking is worse than they thought!!

There are two reasons for getting involved with the schools.

1. *They have teachers who have trained to teach orienteering. We have helped in mapping school grounds. We have also helped the schools put on major orienteering festivals. Over 8000 children have attended orienteering our schools events. This exposes a lot of children to the sport.*
2. *A big part of the 'schools initiative' is to foster links with local clubs to get children into these clubs and help them to develop good habits in exercising that they can take forward in life. It is also important that, whenever possible, parents are drawn into the programme. It follows that this is an opportunity for us to try to get youngsters into orienteering. We haven't had the best results so far and there is a problem with the overbearing regulation and the bureaucracy which has acted as a disincentive to many otherwise willing volunteers.*

Why this effort?

- a) *To introduce children to a sport that can only have a beneficial effect on their confidence, attitude to life and fitness*
- b) *to get members into the club to help secure it's long term future*
- c) *to increase the potential number of volunteers for event planning etc. I'll come back to this later.*

The initiative has had 2 good spin offs for the club.

1. JOG. Judy Craddock has done an unbelievable job in organising a series of informal orienteering events, initially for juniors and now for all club members. This has ensured a consistent programme, created more opportunities for juniors to try the sport, develop their orienteering skills and improve their life skills . I would recommend that more club members attend. The events are local, not too far to go, and are provide an opportunity to improve navigational techniques involving co-ordination map reading and physical endurance sills on appropriate terrain.

2. The Awards for All Project (AfA). Richard Sansbury and Bob have done an excellent job in getting a grant application together, getting an £8000 award, managing the project, getting new state of the art Electronic Punching kit (SI), co ordinating publicity and making 6 events happen.

We have had a lot of juniors attending events and some are improving a lot. We are strengthening our links with schools. The feedback we have had is that a lot of school children say it was their favourite activity for the year and the teachers feedback that a lot of children actually find the time to run to get to controls.

The AfA initiative has highlighted what a lot of work has been put in by Club members to make things happen. The AfA grant has allowed us to buy a new SI Kit, train people in the use of OCAD and stimulate interest in coaching thus improving our ability to put on quality orienteering events.

It has been noticeable however that the load for much of the work has fallen on the few and this should not be allowed to continue so I would ask all club members to become involved and learn and become competent and involved with key skills. The jobs and effort are there to be shared around. I'll list a few; some BASIC surveying; some BASIC OCAD Cartography; ability to operate the SI equipment competently during an event; some BASIC Planning for a JOG Event; some BASIC Organising for, say, JOG event; First Aid; helping on the day of an event with parking or registration and starts; help to train novice volunteers.

Finally, well done again to the AfA and JOG teams, a lot of energy and runs created, some good press coverage and perhaps a future national champion came along!

Roger said Judy is keen that the Senior's Orienteering Group (SOG) should become significant addition to the JOG sessions and he said she asked that the planners not forget this when going about their event planning.

At this stage there was some discussion on the lack of helpers but in the end it was accepted there was no easy solution to the problem. Richard said he hoped that by encouragement the we would bring more members into the various helper roles.

Election of Officers

The officers were elected as follows

Position	Name	Proposed by	Seconded by	Vote result
Chair	Richard Sansbury	Norman Harvey	Jim Mallinson	Carried
Secretary	Ted Heath	Norman Harvey	Jim Mallinson	Carried
Treasurer	Roger Craddock	Norman Harvey	Jim Mallinson	Carried
Committee 1	Jeff Pakes	Andy Rimes	Rosie Wyche	Carried
Committee 2	Bob Lloyd	Richard Sansbury	Roger Craddock	Carried
Committee 3	Bill Vigar	Richard Sansbury	Roger Craddock	Carried
Committee 4	Adrian Edwards	Richard Sansbury	Roger Craddock	Carried
Committee 5	Mark Maynard	Richard Sansbury	Roger Craddock	Carried
Committee 6	Brian Pearson	Richard Sansbury	Roger Craddock	Carried

Richard expressed his thanks to the committee members for their hard work during his term of office.

During the meeting thanks were also extended to Tony Milroy for his work in scoring the QOFL series and to Dave and Jan Holmes for looking after and storing the club equipment.

Any other business

Roger asked the meeting whether they thought having the AGM after an event was a good idea. The discussion that followed did not indicate a majority feeling either way however the point was made that an AGM after an event did open it up to people who might not consider coming out just for an AGM. Norman Harvey suggested a survey be carried out of members at QOFLs etc and the Chairman said it was an idea worth considering and it would be put on the agenda for the next Committee meeting.

Rosie Wyche asked whether the Club had done an Inventory of all their equipment. She pointed out that at the moment equipment was held by a number of people and without a list this made it difficult to know what was where. It was agreed this was not an ideal situation and Richard agreed to put the matter before the Committee.

Norman asked why we did not have a generator at events now we were using SI. It was pointed out that as there were no reliability issues with batteries there seemed little point in spending money on a generator. It was agreed that if we staged a large event such as a National we might need a generator but that in that case one could be hired. Sue pointed out that orienteering was a sport that was proud of its green image and a generator would hardly enhance that image. Andy agreed to keep a watching brief and advise the Committee as appropriate. He added that generators were quite cheap now so even if it was necessary to buy one it would not place a great strain on the club's finances.

Jenny said she had recently been to another Club's 40th Anniversary celebration and wondered if QO were approaching such a landmark. Ted agreed to look back in the records and see just how old the club was.

Ted Heath (Secretary)