



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Quantock Orienteers

Saturday 6th September 2014 at the Farmers Arms, West Hatch

Present:

Bob Lloyd (chairman), Richard Sansbury (secretary), Roger Craddock (treasurer), Chris Hasler, Mark Maynard, Spencer Modica, Vikki Page, Brian Fletcher, Rosie Wych, Andy Rimes, Mike Crockett, Judy Craddock, Bill Vigar, Jeff Pakes, Jim Mallinson.

1 Apologies for absence

Julia Robertson, Norman Harvey

2 Minutes of the 2013 AGM

Minutes of the last AGM had been available on the website since 16 October 2013. No amendments to the minutes were proposed.

3 Matters arising from the 2013 AGM

There were two matters arising:

Item 12a: Parkrun: At the 2013 AGM it had been noted that Parkrun would be starting up in Taunton. It had been queried whether this would have an adverse effect on JOG and QO. Parkrun has now been operating for about a year and has grown to 325 participants at the last occasion. There are also Parkruns at Montacute and Exeter. However there was no noticeable impact on JOG.

Item 12b: Long-O safety: At the 2013 AGM concerns about safety at the Long-O had been raised. This had been discussed by the committee and a number of measures had been introduced. In particular a minimum equipment list had been introduced. Courses for 2014 on Dartmoor had been planned so that there were exit routes available. These measures were thought to be as much as the club was able to do. It was noted that it was particularly necessary to have a good controller and risk assessment.

4 Chairman's report

Bob Lloyd presented the following report:

Hello Everyone,

I hope you've all recovered after your efforts at Orchard Portman or Piddle Wood, as the part you've been running round is really called.

In his President's Report a year ago, Mike Crockett described the preceding year as "challenging". When considering what to say about the year just gone, it occurred to me that perhaps nearly every year is "challenging". There have certainly been many minor and some major challenges to overcome in order to provide the full programme of events that the club has put on.

I must obviously thank and congratulate everyone who has helped to make this possible. In addition to those on the club committee, this includes our talented mappers, planners, organisers and controllers, those who man the events, coach beginners and produce the results. Also, more and more nowadays, we must thank those who obtain and maintain the increasingly complicated equipment that enables us to have our runs electronically recorded, processed and disseminated.

I must also mention those who produce and contribute to the QuOnicle. It always seems to have plenty of content.

I'd like to specifically mention Roger Craddock and Richard Sansbury who do much behind the scenes that is probably above and beyond the normal call of duty.

I should also mention that Julia Robertson has now taken over the vital role of Fixtures Secretary. Unfortunately tragic events in the first half of the year made it a bad time for her to have to cope with this but, with help from Mark Maynard, she is now up to speed, with a full schedule of events.

Sadly, two of our members, Keith Bolling and Tony Milroy suffered significant injuries during the course of the season.

Tony suffered his at Hay Tor in February, falling and snapping a tendon. He had surgery and has been under consultants and physiotherapists ever since but unfortunately thinks he is still a long way from being able to run and even farther away from being able to orienteer.

Keith suffered his very much in the course of duty, as he was just off to collect controls, after the St Audries QOFL, which he had planned, when he fell on a sharp rock and had to be carted off to Hospital with a bad injury to his knee.

Quickly running through the Events in the 2013-2014 season.

The Galoppen was in early February and the weather had been exceptionally wet even for that time of year, so the proposed parking had to be moved from a soggy field to a forest road at a fairly late stage, involving quite a bit of last minute re-thinking by the organiser and planner. The event went well on the day however.

A full QOFL series was planned and organised. Some of the events after the Galoppen were equally wet, notably Blackborough South. When I was asking the forester about permission before the event, he said "the tracks are like rivers". I assumed that he was exaggerating, as you do, but when I started running there I found it was true!

I think the Long "O" went well with the Score Event in the North Quantocks and the actual Long "O" in the Dunkery Beacon/Horner Woods area.

The usual loyal little band contested the QOAD Series, although the third event was effectively cancelled by the Forestry Commission because of forecast high winds.

Chris Hasler organised a team for the Compass Sport Cup Heat at Hay Tor in February. Despite performing well they didn't progress further, being beaten by a couple of larger clubs. Still, good experience all round.

Congratulation to the juniors for qualifying for the final of the Yvette Baker cup competition and thanks again to Chris Hasler for organising a trip to West Sussex to take part. With a slightly understrength team they couldn't manage a trophy but performed well individually. We apparently need more juniors to enter the SW area eliminator event next year.

Captain Chris also organised teams for the Summer Relays. Quantocks took part in all six events and finished second overall, a reward for consistency.

Several club members helped Dave Bullock of the Somerset Activity and Sports Partnership with a huge event he put on at Norton Manor Camp in June. About 600 youngsters were given a taste of orienteering and virtually all seemed to enjoy it. I helped to man the finish and it was a bit like working on a factory production line but rewarding to see orienteering being publicised so well to the young.

Thanks to Rosie Wych and others for organising the Christmas Novelty event. I believe the weather was cold but bright and there were mince pies and mulled wine at Broomfield Church Hall.

Regarding the Junior Orienteering Group, I can hardly say too much. After years of trying different ideas and formats, Judy and Roger seem to have fixed on a winning formula in the last few years. They have generated a very loyal nucleus of juniors and parents who turn out regularly every Saturday afternoon in the school terms. This has involved Judy in making sure

that there is an event within easy reach of Taunton every weekend during each school term, which in turn means organising up to eight purely JOG events to fill in between the QOFLs, etc.

A pay-back is definitely happening, or has happened, as several parents and juniors have now become full and very active members of the club.

I hope this continues.

I keep thinking that Judy and Roger may suffer burn out or nervous breakdowns but they seem to be pretty bullet proof.

Richard Sansbury did all the organising and planning for this Club Champs with Bill mapping and Jeff controlling. It was a rather messy area permissions-wise and I seemed to end up with a very large number of emails at the end of the whole operation. Although Wessex Water have been happily disrupting the streets of Taunton for quite a while, I didn't expect to be told that they were going to be trenching a water pipe through the depths of the Orchard Portman Woods at some stage.

At this point I'd like to read out a short summary of the activities of a University of the Third Age group who mostly come from SE Somerset and NW Dorset. They are led by Pete Akers, who some of you know, and this is what he says

In September 2013 I started an 'Introduction to Orienteering' group for Sherborne U3A. This was much more successful than I had anticipated, and we introduced 18 people to the sport of orienteering, 11 of whom became regular participants. The group participated in 1 WIM event, 1 SARUM event, 2 WESSEX events and 5 QO events. All of these people are mature, focus on navigation rather than speed, and most participate in pairs, but many of them have become keen and 11 have stated their intention to continue on this year's group starting later this month. New members to that group will be known after the enrolment meeting tomorrow (5.9.14). Some of the group have expressed an intention to join QO.

Regards, Pete Akers.

I think it's great to hear of people at the higher end of the age range taking up orienteering. We often concentrate on juniors, for obvious reasons, when looking for new members.

I know that some committee members, Roger and Judy in particular, are trying to give Pete as much support and encouragement as possible.

And now a bit about making events happen.

As you probably all know, virtually all of the work that goes into the production of our events is done by unpaid volunteers. I think I'm right in saying that even travel expenses, etc. are rarely claimed.

It's probably the case that most of you in this room help with events during the year when you can but it would be great if we could all manage to squeeze in helping at an extra event now and then. This would make it just a little bit easier for the event organisers, who have the responsibility of getting enough people to man the events. I know from experience how disappointing it is to still be short of helpers after making umpteen phone calls.

Many of the jobs are not at all difficult but nonetheless necessary. If an organiser cannot quite get a full set of helpers, the event will probably go on but there may be a greater likelihood of mistakes or safety being compromised. This in turn will cause more soul searching by the organiser and controller.

I therefore appeal to everyone to consider very carefully if they can manage to help when called upon, partly to make life easier for the organisers but also to ensure that the events are fully up to standard for the competitors

Regarding the future of the Club, I am fairly optimistic (which those who know me will say is quite surprising).

A few years back, the aging committee were getting rather worried about where the future committee and leading club members were going to come from but we now have several younger people taking a leading role and I think things are looking better for the future. I would just say to any of the younger members who are toying with the idea of doing a bit of mapping, planning,

organising or even, at some time volunteering for the committee, have a go. To paraphrase one of Bill Vigar's favourite phrases "no one will die if you don't do a perfect job!" and there will be loads of experienced advice to call on.

And finally, I wish you all a successful year's orienteering going into 2015.

May your pace counting always come out spot on and the control you arrive at be the one you're looking for.

Bob Lloyd

5 Secretary's report

Richard Sansbury presented the following report

This is a report on what the committee has been discussing and deciding over the past year. The committee has met 4 times over the year and our meetings are notoriously long! The main items discussed are finance and upcoming events. These matters together with membership and JOG are covered by other reports to follow, so this report is about other discussions and decisions that the committee has made.

The committee recognises that volunteering is an important aspect of the club. We have now appointed Jeff Pakes to be a volunteer coordinator for the club. His role is to be a point of contact for volunteers, to encourage and promote volunteering and to work towards an even and fair distribution of volunteer workload. Jeff will have been in contact with most of you, and I trust the club membership will support his requests for helpers.

We have recognised the club's participation in inter-club competitions. With Chris Hasler as our enthusiastic team captain we have taken part in the CompassSport Cup and sent teams to every event in the SWOA relay series, finishing second. But the top achievement was for the juniors to qualify for the Yvette Baker Trophy final, and taking a minibus full across to Sussex to compete alongside the best in the country. Well done.

Maintaining our maps is an ongoing task and Bill Vigar and Jim Mallinson have been busy at numerous locations. Andy Rimes has also produced new maps at Kingston and Ash Priors. New technology can potentially reduce effort and increase accuracy, and Bill and Andy attended a course to show how Lidar data can be used.

Mark Maynard has updated the permanent course at Vivary Park, and the permanent course at Fyne Court is also now operational. The committee has identified that QO could do more to monitor the condition of permanent courses - this is something to be worked on in the year ahead.

Nathan Fernandes does a great job updating and maintaining our website for us, but the committee has decided the time has come to give the website a fresh look. The committee also feels the club needs more direct control over the website in order to keep the information fresh and up to date. A group is looking at what we want from the club website as a first step towards commissioning a new website sometime in the coming year.

Richard Sansbury

6 Treasurer's report

a. Accounts for the year ended 31 May 2014

Roger Craddock presented the following financial report for the Period from 1st June 2013 to 31st May 2014, to be read in conjunction with the Income, Expenditure and Balance sheet in Appendix 1.

The layout of the Income & Expenditure Account shows:

- Income on the L.H. side – mainly subscriptions, events, JOG, and grants.*
- Expenditure on the R.H. side – Both have comparison figures with 2012/13.*

- *A large amount of income is received in cash, so the I&E account shows both ledger and petty cash balances.*

Income:

1. *Subscriptions income is down as a result of reduced membership subscriptions agreed last AGM, but covers QuOnicle and administration expenses.*
2. *Income from events is mainly from the QOFL Series, but a variety of types of events is important for raising profile and commitment.*
3. *The Junior Orienteering Group (JOG) has made a surplus this year. It also helps the club because:*
 - *It is a source of new members, both families and juniors – even Committee members!*
 - *Source of map updates, events, clothing, and equipment.*
 - *Perhaps the Committee should consider removing the map charges for members and their families?*
4. *£2,000 has recently been transferred to the deposit account. The balance now stands at approx £13700.*

Expenditure:

1. *Increase in access and levy fees in 2013/14. Further increases are anticipated next year as levies are increasing.*
2. *Items of expenditure on equipment this year have included replacement SI items, and a set of a new design of QO tops (available for purchase at a subsidised rate!)*
3. *The voucher incentive to promote coaching and planning introduced last year was deemed by the Committee to have tax implications and has had to be withdrawn (as shown in the accounts)*

The accounts show an increase in funds of approx. £1100 this year. We are building up a reserve of funds to protect the Club against a future need to pay for surveying, mapping, publicity, and replacing equipment.

The Club's thanks are due to Norman Harvey for giving freely of his time and efforts to verify our accounts.

Roger Craddock

There was a query why there was a line on the expenditure for donation to air ambulance at £0. This related to use of the Forest Glade campsite at Blackborough - in 2012 parking fees were donated as requested by the campsite owner, in 2013 this had also been done but the cash collected had been handed over without transferring through the accounts. A suggestion that the club could make a further charitable donation was made but was not agreed.

The accounts were accepted by the club (proposed Mark Maynard, seconded Chris Hasler.

b. Membership fees for 2015

Roger Craddock proposed that membership fees for 2015 remain unchanged, i.e. as follows:

family membership	£10
senior membership	£7
junior membership	£2

The membership fee proposal was agreed unanimously (proposed Roger Craddock, seconded Mark Maynard)

7 Fixtures Secretary's report

Mark Maynard presented the fixtures report on Julia Robertson's behalf, see Appendix 2. As from the meeting, Julia would be the club fixtures secretary.

Mark thanked all those who had help organise, plan and control events. It was noted there was almost a full complement of volunteers for the forthcoming year.

No Christmas event is currently scheduled but given there was a Forest League on 4th January, perhaps there was no need for one. This is to be discussed by the committee.

There had been a couple of occasions in the past year when other clubs had moved onto the dates of QO events, e.g. Sarum and Kerno Galoppens. This had been unavoidable. It was not practical to schedule QO's events without clashing with other events in the region. Generally attempts are made to avoid BOK, Devon and Wimborne as these are QO's neighbours. However this would become more difficult as BOK was intending to increase the frequency of its local events.

It was questioned whether the proposed date for the Forest League at Crowcombe Heathfield would be achievable. Bob Lloyd as permissions secretary advised that no difficulty was anticipated but it was too early to make enquiries - asking too early could lead to a refusal.

8 Membership Secretary's report

Judy Craddock presented the membership report

Membership this year has shown:

- *a increase in family membership 18 to 23*
- *an increase in senior membership 43 to 46 (2 previous members have rejoined)*
- *an increase in junior membership 6 to 7.*

This makes 76 membership units – a increase of 9 from last year.

This year we have welcomed the following families:

Jenny Wood and Peter West with son Ben

Derek and Nicola Nevell and children Zac and Amelie

Deepak and Lisa Mannari with children, Joseph, Felix and Max

Fiona Boyd and Oliver Moore with son Oscar

Oliver and Lisa Frost with children, Loralie and Zoe

Nigel McBrayne with children Connor and Emily

Georgina Selby and Alan Goodwin with children Edmund and Rosemary

Seniors

Phil Hyland

John Abbott

Alex Kendall

Roger Dickey

Juniors:

Danny Hill (Richie's son)

Adam Wood

Luke Shopland

Our last welcome must go to Emily Pye who attended at her first JOG event with her older brother and sister Shar and CJ at Ash Common in July.

Just to remind you that our fees are now made up of 2 component payments to:

- BOF, (£5 per adult and £2 per child).
- QO , (£8 per adult, £2 per junior, £12 per family)

SWOA have removed their membership fee.

Club shirts are on display, these are subsidised by the club so good value!

Judy Craddock

9 Junior Orienteering Group Report

Vikki Page presented the JOG report

There have been 34 events during the last 3 terms including 5 QOFL events and 1 Galoppen.

Many thanks to everyone who has given their time to plan events, it takes a lot of time to plan an event but on the positive side it could be viewed as a training ground, giving members a chance to plan on a regular basis and build up experience and expertise. Mike Crockett runs training courses periodically and we are very grateful for this. He is providing training on 2 evenings this term.

Amy Hallett and Keiron Hopkins have planned JOG events this year with the help of Adrian Edwards and John Fisher.

JOG/QO have been involved with promoting orienteering in other situations and venues and have put on a promotional event at Goodland Gardens. They have helped SASP with schools events at Norton Camp and Longrun Meadow and also planned and run a small event for Taunton Athletics Club with their Star Track programme. Thank you to everyone who helped with these events.

Nick Fernandes has coached the juniors for many years now but has decided to concentrate on other sports now. Chris Hasler and Vikki Page are going to head a team of coaches who will follow a course designed by Jo and Crag Purchase and have a training session in how to deliver the material from Jill Green (Devon OC)

Pete Akers has worked to promote orienteering throughout the season with his work with the U3A. He has encouraged a good number of adults to attend many of the QOFLs and other regional events in the SW.

Bill Vigar and Jim Mallinson have continued to adapt maps to suit the various courses set and Will Kromhout and Andy Rimes have mapped several new areas for us too.

JOG has still got orienteering T shirts and Sweatshirts available for sale, if you are interested please ask for more details.

Without the active support of so many QO members JOG would be unable to function, we would like to thank everyone who has given their time in: planning, coaching, drawing and printing maps, helping at registration, turning up to support and being roped in to help coach! We also appreciate that many people offer help on a very regular basis and are grateful for this.

Roger and Judy Craddock

10 Amendments to the constitution.

Any proposed amendments had to be notified in writing in advance, and none had been received.

11 Elections

a. Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer

Bob Lloyd was elected Chairman (proposed Brian Fletcher, seconded Jeff Pakes)

Richard Sansbury was elected Secretary (proposed Chris Hasler, seconded Roger Craddock)

Roger Craddock was elected Treasurer (proposed Vikki Page, seconded Mark Maynard). Roger announced this would be his last year in the role, and suggested it would be good to have a successor on the committee.

b. other committee members

Jim Mallinson has stood down from the committee but will still be involved in mapping

The following were re-elected as committee members: Bill Vigar, Rosie Wych, Mark Maynard, Chris Hasler, Vikki Page, Julia Robertson (all proposed Bob Lloyd, seconded Mike Crockett)

Spencer Modica was elected as a new committee member (proposed Chris Hasler, seconded Jim Mallinson)

c. President

Mike Crockett was elected President (proposed Rosie Wych, seconded Chris Hasler).

12 Any other business

a. Club Captain

It was noted that Chris Hasler had done a great job organising entries to team competitions as an unofficial club captain. Chris said he enjoyed doing this and was happy to continue. It was suggested that the committee could make this an official appointment.

b. Simon Beck's sand art

Simon was helping QO by planning the next QOFL although not currently a member. In turn he was looking for help with his sand art projects, so it would be good if any club members could help him.

APPENDIX 1 - INCOME & EXPENDITURE AND BALANCE SHEET

[Not included in website version of the minutes - QO members may contact the Secretary for a full version]

APPENDIX 2 - FIXTURES REPORT

Review of year's Events

Since the 1st September 2013 AGM Meeting, the following events have taken place:

Date	Event	Venue	Organiser	Planner	Controller
10 th November 2013	QOFL1	Culm Davy ST128167, EX15 3UX	Adrian Edwards 01823 325119	Richard Sansbury	Brian Pearson
15 th December 2013	QOFL2	Triscombe (Wills Neck area) ST164359, TA4 3HE	Richard Sansbury 01823 288405	Graham Hartley	Jeff Pakes
27 December 2013	New Year Event	Wind Down ST221342, TA5 2EF	Rosie Wych 01823 451942	Rosie Wych	Rosie Wych
12 th January 2014	QOFL3	St Audries TA4 4EB, ST117411	Chris Hasler 01823 338921	Keith Bolling	Rosie Wych
2 nd February 2014	QO Galoppen	Castle Neroche/Staple Common TA20 3LB, ST267158	Roger Craddock 01823 323850	Robert Green	Steve Robertson
30 th March 2014	QOFL4	Priors Park TA3 7EA, ST219161	Jeff Pakes 01823 321900	Bill Vigar	Sue Gard
27 th April 2014	QOFL5	Blackborough EX15 2DT, ST102073	Tim Spenlove- Brown 01749 670884	Andy Rimes	Rosie Wych
18 th May 2014	QOFL6	Kingscliff Wood TA6 6PH, ST270320	Andy Rimes 01823 451942	Mark Maynard	Richard Sansbury

QOADS.

Date	Event	Venue	Organiser	Planner	Controller
16 th November 2013	QOAD1	Wind Down ST221342, TA5 2EF	Judy Craddock 01823 323850	Spencer Modica	Spencer Modica
30 th November 2013	QOAD2	Castle Neroche TA20 3LB, ST267158	Judy Craddock 01823 323850	Richard Sansbury	Richard Sansbury
9 th February 2014	QOAD3	Ramscombe TA5 1HW, ST165377	Judy Craddock 01823 323850	Graham Hartley	Graham Hartley
1 st March 2014	QOAD4	Combe Hill (BA6 8TP ,ST503331	Judy Craddock 01823 323850	Mike Crockett	Mike Crockett
22 nd March 2014	QOAD5	Culm Davy TA21 9QH, ST126166	Judy Craddock 01823 323850	Richard Sansbury	Richard Sansbury

Planner and controller comments for the QOFLs are on the website so I will not repeat them here.

I have not included all of the JOG events as these are so numerous these days! JOG has put on approximately 30 events this year in a variety of locations around Taunton. A fantastic achievement.

Future Events

The diary (not including all future JOGs) looks like this:

Date	Event	Venue	Organiser	Planner	Controller
6 th September 2014	Club Championships	Orchard Portman TA3 5AZ, ST249194	Richard Sansbury 01823 288405	Richard Sansbury	Chris Hasler
4/5 October 2014	Dartmoor Double Long – O Day 1	Princetown PL20 6QL, SX589734	Rosie Wych 01823 451942	Andy Rimes	Andy Reynolds
12 th October 2014	QOFL1	Buckland Wood EX15 3TR, ST182171	Roger and Judy Craddock 01823 323850	Simon Beck	Spencer Modica
9 th November 2014	QOFL2	Cockercombe TA5 1HJ, ST186365	Mark Maynard 01823 251262	Brian Pearson	Jeff Pakes
30 th November 2014	QOFL3	Staple Hill TA20 3RA, ST245159	Chris Hasler 01823 338921	Sue Gard	Bill Vigar
11 th January 2015 [note: this will now be on 4th Jan]	QOFL4	Croydon Hill TA24 6TD, SS973419	Roger and Judy Craddock 01823 323850	Graham Hartley	Richard Sansbury
1 st Feb 2015	Galoppen	Ramscombe TA5 1HW, ST165377		Andy Rimes	
29 th March 2015:	QOFL5	Crowcombe Heathfield TA4 4BP, ST127343 <i>(Reserve Cothelstone Hill TA4 3DX, ST190330)</i>	Chris Philip 01823 252938	Rosie Wych	Andy Rimes
12 th April 2015	QOFL6	Copley Wood and Combe Hill BA6 8TP, ST505327	Jeff Pakes 01823 321900	Mike Crockett	Tony Hext

QOADS.

No QOADS have been arranged as yet, but these are being planned.

DISCUSSION

Actions to be undertaken before next meeting:

- Locations and Organisers/Planners/Controllers for next season now coming together, but an organiser for the Galoppen is still needed.
- Julia Robertson has agreed to take over as fixtures secretary for next season. As such this will be my last report. I would like to thank all the committee and all the planners, controllers and organisers who make the club function. Like being a parent, only when you have done the job do you realise what a mammoth effort it all takes.
- Julia sends her apologies for absence today, and would like to thank those who have already responded to her appeals for volunteers

Mark Maynard 6 September 2014