



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Quantock Orienteers

Saturday 11th July 2015 at West Bagborough Village Hall

Present:

Bob Lloyd (chairman), Richard Sansbury (secretary), Roger Craddock (treasurer), Chris Hasler, Julia Robertson, Adele Appleby, Mike Appleby (non-member), Judy Craddock, Ed Reay, Thomasina Mallett, Mark Maynard, Andy Rimes, Rosie Wych, Mike Crockett (president), Bill Vigar, Graham Pearson (for 1st half), Jim Pearson (for 1st half).

1 Apologies for absence

Spencer Modica, Norman Harvey, Rachel Bussell. [Post-meeting note: apologies for absence from Brian Pearson, Chris Phillips and Pete Akers should also have been passed on]

2 Minutes of the 2014 AGM

Minutes of the last AGM had been available on the website since 17th September 2014. No amendments to the minutes were proposed.

3 Matters arising from the 2014 AGM

There were no matters arising.

4 Chairman's report

Bob Lloyd presented the following report:

Hello Everyone.

I hope you all had a good run this afternoon.

We had hoped to use some of the upper open area of Cothelstone Hill but the AONB are firm about not disturbing ground nesting birds in the summer.

The club has again run a full programme of events and, as usual, I must thank and congratulate everyone who has helped to make this possible. Those on the club committee, our mappers, planners, organisers and controllers, those who man the events, find people to man the events, coach beginners and produce results. Also, those who obtain and maintain our equipment, particularly the electronic kit that enables us to run such sophisticated events with results on the internet amazingly quickly that should keep the nerdiest amateur statisticians amongst happy.

I must also mention those who produce and contribute to the QuOnicle (of which more later). It always seems to have plenty of interesting content. If there's any group I haven't mentioned in the list above, I should have and apologies.

Running through the events during the year:

The Double Dartmoor Long "O" Event in October, run in conjunction with the Devon club, went off with no major problems but I believe the number of competitors from QO was a bit disappointing.

Andy Rimes and Rosie Wych put in a lot of time planning and Judy Craddock and Julia Robertson did some good catering.

The Galoppen, in Ramscombe and all points north went well with a good attendance Andy planned again for this and Steve Robertson was very efficient in his first organising job for the club. I think the general consensus was that this was a good event in a good area.

A full Forest League series of six events was run with no cancellations but the increased land access fees and levies reduced the income from these. It's just as well that planners and organisers often don't claim all their allowable expenses.

Bill and Sue planned and organised a successful Christmas Novelty event with a meal afterwards at the Beam Bridge hotel. There had to be a bit of hasty reorganising of the meal venue at a late stage, as the original venue couldn't be used but the meal was apparently fine.

There were five QOADs (Quantock Orienteers After Dark events) over the winter but these were not well attended. Although those who take part are very keen on this form of orienteering, there do not seem to be enough of them. The committee is considering how to proceed.

Roger and Judy Craddock have run a full programme of Junior Group events during term times over the year and Judy is going to give a full report later.

However, I know there is a question of whether it is worth running JOG events in the summer term, as attendances have been low but the mapping, planning and event staffing levels are much the same.

I suppose there are many more alternative activities and events on Saturdays in the summer than in the autumn and spring. The committee will be considering this question in conjunction with Judy and Roger.

However, the events in the autumn and spring terms are usually very well attended and JOG is a fruitful source of club members, some of whom have gone on to do good work for the club.

Several club members have done well in the South West Galoppen Series. I can't run through them all but feel I must mention Luke Shopland being top male, top junior and overall winner of the Orange course.

QO members and teams have taken part successfully in several other outside events over the year and Chris Hasler has agreed to give a Captains Report on these, as he is much more knowledgeable about them than I am. Chris must be thanked for organising expeditions to several of these events and successfully coercing people into taking part. He must also be awarded ten and a half out of ten for his infectious enthusiasm.

Regarding the QuOnicle, Adrian Edwards, the editor, has announced his intention to step down at the end of the year, so we are looking for someone to take over. Adrian has done an excellent job during his tenure and the magazine has certainly moved on during that time.

The committee is currently discussing whether or not it is necessary to distribute paper copies of the magazine or just make it available electronically. You will find in the current edition of QuOnicle an item about this with a request that you give your opinion on the matter. When the committee has the replies to this, it should be easier to decide what to do.

If the final decision is to issue paper copies, a decision will have to be made on how much colour to use in them, as this can be fairly expensive. However, the committee will investigate this further.

A milestone has been reached with the retirement of Mike Crockett, the Club President.

He joined the club in about 1979 and was on the committee for decades, taking on the roles of Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Editor of the QuOnicle at various times. He achieved a high standard in competitions and became a grade one controller. He has planned, organised, controlled and mapped for QO events as well as controlling for other clubs.

After becoming President (a non-executive position), he still made very active contributions to the clubs activities, the most notable recently being driving through the renewed use of Great Breach Wood and Combe Hill for firstly a QOAD and then a QOFL.

The committee tried to get him to stay on president but although fitter than most at 80, he has made a definite decision to step down. I assume that he will continue in the club and wish him all the best for the future.

Other senior officials who have decided to step down are Richard Sansbury, Secretary and Roger Craddock, Treasurer. I mentioned last year the large amount of work that Richard and Roger had done beyond what would normally be associated with their posts and that has

continued this year. The club owes them a big thank you for doing their jobs and much more so efficiently. They are going to be very hard to replace.

I also understand that Vikki Page is standing down from the committee. She has done good work, helping with the JOG training and I hope she will continue with that.

If anyone feels they might be interested in having a go at Richard's, Roger's or Adrian's job, please come forward. The current incumbent will be happy to tell you what is involved and give advice and assistance to get you started and afterwards. Luckily, as far as I know, none of the three will be moving to Outer Mongolia in the near future.

On this general theme (without banging on about it as much as I did last year) I hope that all club members will consider helping at events as much as they can in the coming year. You will almost always be able to get a run, as well as helping and you will be surprised at how delighted Jeff Pakes (our Volunteer Coordinator) will be to hear from you.

I should mention that Gavin Clegg has now re-joined the club. Some of you may know or know of Gavin. If you don't but you see a chap whose great long legs come up to his armpits that will be him. He joined Quantock Orienteers back in the nineteen seventies but left later, as he moved away. However, he continued to be very active in orienteering in the south west and has now moved back into our area. One of the things he has done is to make an urban map of Bridgwater that QO can use for future events. He has also expressed an interest in joining the committee and has already come to one of our meetings as an observer. His great experience could be extremely useful to the club.

You may remember that Tony Milroy and Keith Bolling, two club stalwarts, both received serious injuries last year.

Tony suffered his at Hay Tor in February, falling and snapping a tendon. He had surgery and has been under consultants and physiotherapists since then. He can now walk quite well but I understand isn't able run yet.

Keith suffered his very much in the course of duty as he was just off to collect controls, after an event 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. I'm happy to say that he has made a good recovery and can now run well enough to orienteer.

Regarding the future of the club, as last year, I am still optimistic. You might think that three of the key officials leaving at the same time is a cause for concern but I'm sure that people will step in to continue their good work, as the club now seems to have strength in depth that it did not have years ago.

Finally I wish you all a successful year's orienteering during the rest of 2015 and into 2016.

May some mysterious power guide you straight to that irritatingly small pit in the huge area of head high bracken?

Thanks very much.

Bob Lloyd

Bob invited Chris Hasler to give a report as Club Captain:

Chris said it has been a pleasure to act as Club Captain for the year.

Chris noted there had been strong deep participation from the club, especially at the CompassSport Cup with over 40 members taking part ranging from primary school age children to very senior adults. QO had come 2nd in the trophy competition with Luke Shopland a top scorer.

In the Yvette Baker competition many juniors had stepped up to the challenge and taken part. It was a big event for most, and QO almost qualified for the final.

In the SWOA relays, QO had won the first event, narrowly beating Wessex. QO had been the only club to attend all relays, often fielding 3 or 4 teams, and were currently leading the series.

Chris concluded by saying it was always good fun to take part as a team - long may this continue.

5 Secretary's report

Richard Sansbury presented the following report

This is a report on those things the committee has been discussing and deciding over the past year. Since the last AGM 10 months ago, the committee has met 4 times. The main items discussed are finance and upcoming events. Together with membership, team events and JOG, these topics are covered by other reports to follow, so this report is about the other discussions and decisions that the committee has made.

The committee has reviewed and revised the club first aid policy. With the assistance of a JOG parent who is a first aid trainer, a first aid refresher course took place and it is now our policy to have a first aider at all events and activities wherever possible.

The committee has recognised that some JOG helpers require Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks. (This is the successor to the notorious CRB checks). Our chairman has recently had a check done and others in the club have also been checked.

At the last AGM I reported that the committee intended to commission a new website sometime in the coming year. Although some progress has been made on this matter, we have not completed this task yet and so a new website is not yet imminent. However the club has a Facebook page and now has a Twitter account.

For many years we have had a number of permanent courses in our area. As stated at the last AGM the committee had identified that we could do more with these assets and we have now taken steps to take a more active role in their maintenance. We are grateful to Jeff Pakes, who is our club volunteer coordinator, as he has found a number of people willing to check the condition of these courses and report back where maintenance is required.

Continuing on the subject of permanent courses, a new course at Yeovil Country Park is going to be made. The linear park has now been remapped by Simon Beck for South Somerset District Council. We are grateful to Peter Akers for helping make this happen.

Following a number of events where we had a shortage of maps, a new system for judging the numbers of maps to be printed is in operation. While we can never guarantee we will not run out, this should hopefully be far less likely in future.

Finally, and perhaps most controversially, we have had long discussions about QuOnicle printing. It is fair to say that there are varying opinions on this within the committee. There are those who feel that the days of printed newsletters are over, and the club should move with the times and go online. Others believe that the printed copy has a high value and we should invest in colour printing to make the most of it. At the last meeting the committee voted by 5 to 4 in favour of no longer printing at all, but discussions are continuing, and the matter is not settled yet.

The committee does its best to represent the membership, but it has been observed we are not always able to judge the opinions of all our members. As always the committee would welcome hearing from any member with opinions on the direction of the club.

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 2014 to 31st May 2015, to be read in conjunction with the Income, Expenditure and Balance sheet in Appendix 1.

To be read in conjunction with the Income & Expenditure and Balance sheets. The layout of the Income & Expenditure summary shows:

- Income on the L.H.side – mainly subscriptions, events, JOG, and sales.*
- Expenditure on the R.H.side – Both have comparison figures with 2013/14.*
- A large amount of income is received in cash, so the I&E summary shows both ledger and petty cash balances.*

Income:

1. *Subscriptions income has increased without changing membership fees. This covers membership services provided including QuOnicle*
2. *The usual variety of income from events provided a modest surplus.*
3. *The Committee agreed to provide subsidies for family food, QO tops, and relay entries for members, reducing income from these sources.*

Expenditure:

1. *A noticeable increase in access and levy expenditure in 2014/15 is still sustainable with current levels of entry fees. These expenses should now have stabilized.*
2. *JOG made a small loss this year, mainly as a result of purchases of badges, shirt, and free maps for QO members. Some new and replacement equipment had to be purchased.*
3. *The SI licence has been renewed for 5 years.*

This summary shows approx. £500 (5%) excess of expenditure over income which was covered by a drawdown of £1000 from the Deposit account. The balance in the Deposit account now stands at £12765. We have 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

The accounts were accepted by the club (proposed Mike Crockett, seconded Chris Hasler.

b. Membership fees for 2015

Roger Craddock proposed that membership fees for 2016 remain unchanged, i.e. as follows:

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

The membership fee proposal was agreed with no objections (proposed Roger Craddock, seconded Andy Rimes)

7 Fixtures Secretary's report

Julia Robertson presented the following report to be read in conjunction with the Events List in Appendix 2:

Since the last AGM in September 2014 QO have put on an incredible number of fixtures for a small club. These include a Club Championships, 6 QOFLS, 1 Galoppen, 5 QOADS, a Christmas Novelty Event and collaboration with Devon OC to produce an excellent Long-O weekend. This is without the 28 JOG activities, for the organisation of which I must thank Roger and Judy Craddock and their band of helpers who have planned, organised and run these almost every Saturday in term time – in addition they also organised all the QOAD events. A full list of events is attached at the end of this report [see appendix 2].

I must also thank all club members who have mapped, planned, controlled, organised and helped in all manner of ways at these events and have made my life as Fixtures Secretary much easier by always responding to a cry for help, sometimes at short notice. As a club we are fortunate to have so many willing volunteers, ably co-ordinated by Jeff Pakes.

As you may have guessed from the above I am now looking for volunteers for the forthcoming season! Dates are set, locations are being finalised and now I need to fill all the vital roles. Please see me at the end of the AGM.

2016 will be the year of the two Galoppens. Our 2015-16 season Galoppen takes place on 28th February 2016 at St Audries, and our 2016-2017 Galoppen will take place at Ramscombe, we hope, on 27th November 2016. This will be preceded by the Southern Night Championships on 26th November 2016, also at Ramscombe, which will be the first Level B event staged by QO for some time. We are also hoping to have an urban event in Bridgwater, and to run one of our QOAD events as part of the Western Night League.

A question was raised as to why QO does not contribute to the SWOA relay series given the club's keen participation.

Chris Hasler replied to say that this had been discussed by the committee a while ago. The main reason for not doing one is that QO already does a lot of events. He was not aware of any complaint from the rest of SWOA that QO is not contributing to the relay series.

Roger Craddock noted that QO had experimented with a 2x2 relay twice, but the second occasion had not been well attended. The club had decided it did not fit into the SWOA series.

Bob Lloyd said the committee should reconsider the question.

Julia said she would like to set up a subcommittee to help with fixtures.

8 Membership Secretary's report

Judy Craddock reported that there had been several new members. Although some members had left, overall there was a slight increase in membership this year.

[Note: the following report was received after the meeting]

As usual we have a slight fluctuation of membership 2 or 3 seniors and a similar number of families joining or leaving.

At the moment we have

- *49 Seniors*
- *22 Families*
- *4 Juniors*

Membership this year has shown:

- *a decrease in family membership 23 down to 22*
- *an increase in senior membership 46 up to 49*
- *a decrease in junior membership 5 down to 4.*

This makes 75 membership units – in fact the same as last year. .

We have welcomed five new seniors to QO:

Neville Bibby

Sue Toomer

Ray Toomer

Andrew Lukes

Gavin Clegg

and two families:

Emma and John Wood with their children Adam and Erin

Ed Reay and his children Thomasina and Daisy

Our fees are made up of 2 component payments to:

- *BOF, £5 per adult and £2 per child.*
- *QO , £8 per adult, £2 per junior,*

The new Club shirts have arrived, the Committee have agreed to subsidise them so they are very good value.

Judy Craddock

9 Junior Orienteering Group Report

Judy Craddock presented the JOG report

There have been 28 events during the last 3 terms including 5 QOFLs and 1 Galoppen.

JOG is dependent on QO members being prepared to plan events and this year 23 have planned with 5 of them doing 2 events, this is an amazing figure when you look at the membership numbers and see that this is just under 1/3 of the membership units.

4 of the JOG juniors Kieron Hopkins, Lucy Bussell, Tom Hasler and Luke Shopland have all planned this year, so well done to all of those for the preparation and work they have put into this.

An interesting development this year has been the increased use of JOG courses by adult QO members. We have been trying to offer training opportunities in the Fox course and have had an average of 6-9 adults at each event.

Again JOG/QO are booked to help SASP with a schools event at Norton Camp on 15th July. Thank you to everyone who has offered to help, if anyone else is available and willing let Roger know!

Chris Hasler and Vikki Page took over the QOTS training from Nick Fernandes this year and have been using a course designed by Jo and Crag Purchase. They have had 3 sessions each term of just over an hour each. The idea was to have a regular group of children so that sessions could build in progressions. However it has proved difficult to keep this group together and so we are considering a more pragmatic approach next year.

Pete Akers has worked with the Charton Sea Scouts on 3 occasions this term, once at their village hall, once at Ham Hill and once at Combe Hill. Many thanks to Pete for picking up the challenge in the South of Somerset.

Bill Vigar and Jim Mallinson have continued to update and adapt maps to suit the courses set in each area. I think that we have developed some of the most readable maps for juniors in the country!

Bob Lloyd is, perhaps the most regular supporter not just as Permissions officer but as someone who is ready to fill a variety of requests, from introducing families to the sport and helping children master different orienteering techniques to following timid 6yr olds round their course.

Thanks too to Andy Rimes who looks after and maintains our electronic timing system without which we couldn't run the JOG league, he sometimes offers JOG the chance to have a full SI event.

JOG can only run with the VERY active support of QO members, So many people offer their help in a variety of ways: planning, coaching, drawing and printing maps, helping at registration, turning up to support and then finding themselves helping to coach. We really 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 Mike Crockett, seconded Andy Rimes)

There were no candidates for the role of Secretary

Roger Craddock was elected Treasurer (proposed Julia Robertson, seconded Rosie Wych) but this was on the understanding that he would give up the role at the end of the calendar year. Steve Robertson had volunteered to take the role on starting in the new year.

b. other committee members

The following were elected as committee members: Bill Vigar, Rosie Wych, Chris Hasler, Julia Robertson, Spencer Modica and Gavin Clegg (all proposed Bob Lloyd, seconded Mark Maynard)

c. President

Mike Crockett had offered to step down, but was encouraged to continue by many and was willingly re-elected President (proposed Roger Craddock, seconded Julia Robertson).

12 Any other business

a. Chairman's Award

It had been decided that the Dave Holmes trophy, first awarded at the Taunton Urban event in 2013, would become a Chairman's Award, to be awarded at the Chairman's discretion, with assistance from the President, for services to the club.

The inaugural Chairman's Award was presented to Bill Vigar for his long service to QO as mapper, event official and committee member.

b. QuOnicle

The question of whether to continue with printed magazines was open, awaiting feedback from club members. Mike Crockett wanted to discontinue the role of distributor. However the prime need was to find a new editor to replace Adrian Edwards. Adele Appleby said she would consider it, and it was suggested Vikki Page might be persuaded to assist with an online version.

c. Timing of Club Championships and AGM

It was suggested that holding the event in July was preferable to September from the point of view of avoiding clashes with other orienteering events. However vegetation and permissions restrictions were more difficult. Either way it is best to avoid the school holidays. The club championship works well with the AGM on the same day - this restricts the date to being after the end of May. The matter is to be discussed by the new subcommittee.

APPENDIX 1 - INCOME & EXPENDITURE AND BALANCE SHEET

Is available to club members on request to the treasurer

APPENDIX 2 - EVENTS LIST

2014/5 Events

Date	Event	Venue	Organiser	Planner	Controller
6 th September 2014	Club Championships	Orchard Portman	Richard Sansbury	Richard Sansbury	Chris Hasler
4/5 October 2014	Dartmoor Double Long – O	Princetown	Rosie Wych	Andy Rimes	Andy Reynolds
12 th October 2014	QOFL1	Buckland Wood	Roger and Judy Craddock	Simon Beck	Spencer Modica
9 th November 2014	QOFL2	Cockercombe	Mark Maynard	Brian Pearson	Jeff Pakes
30 th November 2014	QOFL3	Staple Hill	Chris Hasler	Sue Gard	Bill Vigar
27 th December 2014	Christmas Novelty Event	Blackborough North	Bill Viger and Sue Gard	Bill Viger and Sue Gard	N/A
11 th January 2015	QOFL4	Croydon Hill	Roger and Judy Craddock	Graham Hartley	Richard Sansbury
1 st Feb 2015	Galoppen	Ramscombe	Steve Robertson	Andy Rimes	Alan Simpson (DEVON)
29 th March 2015	QOFL5	Crowcombe Heathfield	Chris Philip	Rosie Wych	Andy Rimes
12 th April 2015	QOFL6	Copley Wood and Combe Hill	Jeff Pakes	Mike Crockett	Tony Hext

2014/5 QOAD Events

Date	Event	Venue	Organiser
22 nd November 2014	QOAD 1	Fyne Court	Roger and Judy Craddock
6 th December 2014	QOAD 2	Kingscliff Wood	Roger and Judy Craddock
17 th January 2015	QOAD 3	Culm Davy	Roger and Judy Craddock
7 th February 2015	QOAD 4	Lydeard Hill	Roger and Judy Craddock
28 th February 2015	QOAD 5	Cothelstone Hill	Roger and Judy Craddock