

# Quantock Orienteers' Annual General Meeting

Held at The Castlebrook Inn (Compton Dundon) on Saturday September 10<sup>th</sup> at 5.30pm.

The meeting was held after the Club Championships which was won by Richard Sansbury. Mike Crocket thanked Ray Toomer for planning and finding the buffet venue and Julia for organising. Prior to the meeting the QOFL awards were presented. The winners were;

- White – William Toomer
- Yellow – Ben West
- Orange – Kieron Hopkins
- Light Green – Stephen Hopkins
- Short Green – Ruth Chesters (Devon)
- Green – Fiona Boyd
- Blue – Ben Chesters (Devon)

Minutes:

1. Apologies for absence – Roger Dickey and Gavin Clegg. 21 members present.
2. Minutes of the 2015 meeting – agreed.
3. Matters arising –none
4. Chairman's report: reproduced as follows:

Hello Everyone.

I hope you all had a good run this afternoon.

We don't use this area very often but it is good to be able to ring the changes.

Peter Clothier who owns part of the area is actually an orienteer. That's certainly a help for the permissions officer, which is me!

The club has again put on a large number of events, greater, I think, than most other clubs of our size.

As usual, I must sincerely thank and congratulate everyone who has helped to make this possible. Those on the club committee, our mappers, planners, organisers and controllers, those who look after our equipment, man the events, find people to man the events, and produce the results.

Running through the events during the year

Judy and Roger again organised a full Junior Orienteering Group program in the autumn and spring terms. They decided, however, not to run JOG in the summer term, as the attendance has been patchy, possibly because there are so many other things on. Conversely, quite a few of those coming once were found not to return.

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.

The JOG event planned for 6th of Feb had to be cancelled because of strong wind and heavy rain and that for the 31st of October because a shoot that we had no notice of was taking place.

A new area, Henlade Wood, was used by JOG for the first time in March. This was mapped by Simon Beck, who has done several other mapping jobs during the year. We're building up quite a good number of areas suitable for JOG within a short distance of Taunton

A small group of regulars have been given coaching at most JOG events.

Five Quantock Orienteers After Dark events, or QOADS took place over the winter, usually after a JOG.

There were about 15 at each event with 45 in all over the five events.

QOAD 3, on the second of January, was combined with an urban night event run in and around Bridgwater. This was a leg of the Western Night League and was mapped, planned and mostly organised by Gavin Clegg. Thirty-two competitors took part.

In March, the same map was used for a daytime urban event in the Southern England Orienteering Urban League series.

Andrew Page is now 6th of 32 in the Young Junior Men category and Gavin Clegg 2nd of 159 in the Supervet Men category.

Novelty events were put on in addition for youngsters and were very popular.

There were many club helpers and the event could have coped with a larger turnout.

Six Forest League events were organised during the year.

QOFL3 on the first of the first of 2016 doubled as a Christmas/New Year event.

I think the weather was reasonable at most of them, although I wasn't at the New Year's day one.

QOFL 1 at Triscombe Stone on the 18th of October highlighted a problem that has arisen over the last few years with unauthorised mountain bikers in Forestry Commission woods. At Triscombe, we were told that we couldn't use the FC woods to the east of the car park. This was because the foresters, when considering their duty of care, decided that there was too great a risk of an accident between a mountain biker and an orienteer.

You might say "why not do something about the unauthorised mountain bikers" but no one has enough manpower to police the situation and, anyway, if they were stopped at Triscombe they would just go somewhere else.

You might also say "what about ordinary members of the public getting run over". I think the answer to that is that we would have been given written permission to use the area, whereas the general public have not (although they are perfectly entitled to walk in the woods).

So, as is often the case, we seem to suffer because we put in a written application and do what we're told to do.

The club put on two Long O events over the weekend of the 3rd and 4th of October 2015.

Day one was run from Wilmot's Pool, near Crowcombe Park Gate, on the Quantocks and day two from Brendon in the wilds of northern Exmoor. Bill Vigar, Martin Longhurst, Rosie Wych and Richard Sansbury put in a lot of work to make these happen.

The club put on a Try Orienteering event in Taunton Town Centre on November 21st to help mark the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the South Western Orienteering Association.

A JOG was run at the same time.

Although lots of club members came, not a lot of the general public had a go.

The 2016/17 Galoppen was at St Audries, run from the Beacon Hill car park on 28th Feb.

The weather was good and most seemed to enjoy the event, although the attendance was lower than for the last couple of years. Maybe the north end of the Quantocks is a bit too far out for some people.

A tricky situation and consequence arose during and after this event when a horse shied and kicked a car, damaging it slightly. The rider claimed that his horse had been frightened by the QO banner and the number of people and cars around. Club members who were in the area didn't remember the situation being as difficult as he described. He implied in a letter that he expected some help from those running the event but did not state what he had expected them to do about a frisky horse. In the end the secretary sent the papers to British Orienteering (as their insurers require) and I don't think we heard any more about it. Presumably BOF's insurers dealt with it.

This incident does demonstrate that this sort of unexpected thing can happen and that everyone at an event should always keep their eyes open for difficult or dangerous situations that are starting to occur.

The committee and others are currently beavering away trying to sort out the details and requirements for two large events on the 26th and 27th of November, the Southern Night Championships and our Galoppen.

The events will be based in Ramscombe in the Quantocks and a large army contingent will be joining us, treating the Galoppen as their Inter Corps Orienteering Competition.

Adding the expected turnout of regular orienteers and the predicted army numbers together, we're expecting over 400 to take part. The army will be giving us a lot of help with equipment and marshalling but it's hoped that as many club members as possible will be able to help. as  
Other items.

After a long period of on/off research and decision making the club is going ahead with a chosen web site provider for a new club site. Jeff Pakes has done the final detailed research with a small team of people and provided the final push to get decisions made.

We must thank Nathan Fernandes, who has provided and maintained our current web site for several years.

The club magazine, Quonicle, is on the back burner at the moment, not having been produced since April.

Updating the web site has been the main objective on the communications side recently and consideration of what is or is not to be done about Quonicle will be up to the new committee. If it is decided not to continue with it, it will be rather sad, as it has run for a very long time under various editors. The main problem recently is that a new editor cannot be found after Adrian Edwards, who edited it very well for quite a long period decided to retire from the job.

In the meantime, Gavin Clegg has been sending out excellent more or less weekly newsletters called OINFO via a yahoo newsgroup. These give very up to date information about recent results, particularly of club members and notification of events in the near future. I believe that you still have to sign up to get into the group and receive these but a link is going to be put on the new website to make them universally available.

Coaching sessions have been organised by Tess Stone from Devon during the summer at several venues close to Taunton. It is to be hoped that these will continue into the winter, using the new COACH facility being completed at French Weir Park. Taunton.

The annual Schools Orienteering Festival was held at Norton Manor Camp on the 30th of June. 700 year 4 children were bussed into the camp during the day. The Somerset Activity and Sport Partnership provided coaching in the form of introductory talks and then various exercises on the playing fields. QO then provided a timed Orienteering course through the woods. The kids were generally very enthusiastic. They went out into the woods in pairs but some did not remember their safety instructions to stay together. In the case of a few, the first one back (when quizzed about his partner's whereabouts) waved towards the woods and said something like "he's back there somewhere".

The Taunton Athletic Club Startrack 16 training week in July included a morning of Orienteering in their program.

Permanent Orienteering Courses are fully functional at Vivary Park and Longrun Meadow and being checked regularly by QO members. Chris Page has taken responsibility for strimming round some of the marker posts, to stop them becoming overgrown and has taken a course in order to do so.

There are other permanent orienteering courses that need people to check them at intervals.

Simon Beck re-mapped Huish Woods (the scouting area) and Mark Maynard planned a new permanent orienteering course there.

Several instruction courses have been run during the year.

Becca O'Mahony ran a first aid course, Andy Rimes a SportIdent usage course and Mike Crockett a Planning course.

Thanks to them for giving their time to run these.

QO members and teams have taken part successfully in several outside events over the year and Chris Hasler will give a Captains Report on these later.

Chris must be thanked for organising expeditions to several of these events and successfully coercing people into taking part. He must be thanked for his energy and enthusiasm.

At the risk of cutting across Chris's report, I must mention that, when I looked recently, Gavin Clegg was first of 370 in the national rankings for his age group and Bill Vigar 4th of 47 in his age group.

Finally, I hope you all have an enjoyable and successful year's orienteering and I will leave you with a technical tip.

Try not to fall down a steep slope and land in a huge bramble patch. I tried it at Ham Hill and, apart from losing quite a lot of time untangling yourself, it's very painful. I would have used a more extreme adjective but there are ladies present. Thank you.

Bob Lloyd then presented the Chairman's Award to Roger and Judy Craddock in recognition of their extensive work for the club.

5. Secretary's report: reproduced as follows:

I offered to act as secretary to fill the role after Richard Sansbury stepped down from the committee after the AGM last year. I will never take for granted or take for granted the production of minutes as it is not such an easy task as it may appear.

I've done my best over the 5 committee meetings since then to record the ever more complex nature of orienteering management. It is increasingly evident that more and more administration and organisation go into each seemingly simple event. Bureaucracy, health and safety and the fear of litigation are ever more present nowadays and events must adhere to the rules. We may complain, but were happy to let BO take over in the "horse v. car" incident Bob has described. It seems a far cry from getting into orienteering through an enjoyment of running in the forest. From January 2017 all planners, organisers and controllers must have attended an ESW and Richard is again to be thanked for providing these in a relaxed and informal manner. Although most attendees were not exactly enthusiastic all will agree that they were valuable and enjoyable – especially if Julia's cakes were included! Those members who haven't done a workshop – please do so as without enough appropriate volunteers it will be difficult for the club to provide the same level of event schedule in the future.

Orienteering relies on volunteers. There has been much discussion of how to encourage and reward them and the provision of a QO club "garment" has been debated. To help clarify ideas and make the best choice there is a survey which some of you will have completed on line. As I gather it was not accessible to all there are some paper copies here for anyone to complete please. Discussions at meetings cover events, mapping, equipment, finance, permissions etc. – the committee always have lengthy discussions over the best way forward. New members and contributions are always welcome – especially – as like orienteers generally, we are an aging demographic.

6. Treasurer's report: Balance sheet attached as appendix. Comments in addition:

Quantock Orienteers year 2015/16 Financial Report:

Period from 1st June 2015 to 31st May 2016

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 2014/15.
- 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 decreased slightly without changing membership fees. These cover membership services provided.
2. The usual variety of income from events.
3. The Committee agreed to provide subsidies for JOG, QO tops, summer coaching, and relay entries for members, reducing income from these sources.

Expenditure:

1. The decrease in access and levy expenditure in 2015/16 is noted. It is likely that event levies will increase this year.
2. JOG made a loss this year, mainly as a result of purchases of shirts, compasses and provision of free maps for QO members. Some replacement equipment had to be purchased.

This summary shows approx. £1000 excess of income over expenditure. The balance in the Deposit account now stands at £14880. We have a reserve of funds to protect the Club against a future need to pay for surveying, mapping, publicity, and replacing equipment, but the Committee has decided to use some of these funds for major items of expenditure such as:

- A new website
- Advance payments for the Quantock Weekend of Orienteering.
- Volunteer 'rewards'. A questionnaire is being circulated for preferences.

There will be a need for expenditure to re-house the Club Equipment to a central location in Taunton.

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

Membership fees for 2017.

The QO Constitution requires us to fix membership fees at the AGM for the following year. The Committee had discussed these after looking at the End of Year accounts and agreed to recommend they stay unchanged at:

Seniors £8, Juniors £2, Family £12

Currently the SWOA fees are zero.

There are discussions about the level and balance of B.O. subscriptions and levies which are due to be discussed at an EGM at the end of next month. Whatever is decided the fees will be increasing by somewhere between 20% and 100% for 2017. The treasurer will keep you informed when it is confirmed.

Roger Craddock, Treasurer.

8th September, 2016

Membership fees for 2017 to remain unchanged. Steve Robertson queried what would happen if BO policy changed at their EGM and the view was that if QO fees were then found to be inadequate they could be made up from club reserves.

Proposal to accept Treasurer's report – Bob Lloyd.

Seconded by Richard Sansbury.

Passed unanimously

7. Fixtures Secretary's report. Julia concurred with the proceedings described in the Chairman and additionally thanked all those involved in the running of events.

8. Club Captain's report:

Chris reported that over 20 members took part in the Compass Sport qualifier. In the Yvette Baker cup 12 youngsters competed against strong teams from Devon and BOK. After attending the finals in Hertfordshire some have been invited to attend SW coaching. Successes in the Galoppen series where Brian Fletcher who won the Blue league and Luke Shopland the Light Green. Members have also enjoyed competing in some of the summer relay series of events.

9. Coaching review:

Review of Tess's coaching

Light summer evenings have seen various QO members enjoying coaching provided by Tess Stone from Devon orienteering club. Initially we were dodging the dog walkers at Longrun Meadows and latterly we've been startling the deer at Castle Neroche.

Sessions have consisted of Tess setting exercises focussing on certain skills. We started at Longrun Meadows by establishing our running and walking pace-counts over various terrains, estimating distances and working to a bearing. Longrun also provided a mix of urban and meadowland for working on our map symbols. One exercise involved using the descriptions alone to find control cones.

The symbol theme continued at Castle Neroche where we followed a line-course noting the IOF symbols of features as we encountered them. We all found this particularly tricky as great accuracy was required in keeping to the line.

The last few sessions involved working from a large scale map in the upper part of Neroche, honing our brown feature recognition and getting to grips with the complex maze of knolls and depressions. After a couple of sessions working here, including relay exercises and setting courses for each other, what at first seemed impossible to navigate by the end seemed much more manageable. Bring on those sand dunes!

These coaching sessions have been a fun way to spend a summer's evening and to prepare for the season ahead. Tess catered for all; walkers and sprinters, young and not so young, experienced and less so. We now see more on a map and relate it to the landscape and have more techniques to use including taking note of all sections of the control description. The refreshment section in column H is underutilised!

Thank-you to Tess, and Roger & Judy for organising these sessions.

Sarah Hasler

September 2016.

10. Membership report: reproduced as follows:

Quantock Orienteers membership Report for 08.08.2015-08.09.2016.

During this period we have:

47 Seniors

22 Families

4 Juniors                      47 Membership units

Membership numbers for QO remain remarkably similar over the last seven years:

Numbers are taken from August to August of each year.

	14/15	13/14	12/13	11/12	10/11	09/10	08/09
Seniors	47	45	44	42	48	48	45
Families	24	25	19	25	21	18	19
Juniors	1	2	1	2	6	6	4

At the moment our fees are made up of:

BOF £5 per adult and £2 per child  
QO £8 per adult and £2 per child  
QO family £12

Judy Craddock

11. Junior Orienteering Group report: reproduced as follows

JOG Report for the AGM on September 10th 2016

There have been 22 events from autumn 2015 to spring 2016 including 3 QOFLs, 1 Galoppen and an urban event. We have decided not to have JOG in the summer term but even with the reduction in the number of events there were 727 attendances during the year as opposed to 747 in 2014-2015 when we had a summer programme.

JOG is dependent on QO members being prepared to plan events and this year 13 have planned this year with some doing 2 events.

The FOX course is intended as a training course for adults and we have averaged 8 adults at each event.

JOG/QO helped SASP with an event at Norton Camp on 30th June for 700 schoolchildren. We are beginning to get a large group of regular helpers so thank you to those 11 people who gave up a day to help.

Chris Hasler and Vikki Page have been continuing the JOG training before the Saturday JOG events and we hope to have an input from Tess Stone this coming term

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 continues to gain permissions for JOG events and frequently comes to events as a helper. Others, particularly Jim and Graham Pearson have offered help on many occasions.

Thanks too to Andy Rimes who looks after and maintains our electronic timing system without which we couldn't run the JOG league.

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

12. Elections. Richard Sansbury proposed a vote of thanks to the outgoing Chairman and Treasurer

Chairman: Roger Craddock – proposed by Bob Lloyd and seconded by Julia Robertson – unanimous

Treasurer: Steve Robertson – proposed by Roger Craddock and seconded by Judy Craddock – unanimous

Secretary: Rosie Wych- proposed by Roger Craddock and seconded by Steve Robertson – unanimous

Committee members to continue: Bob Lloyd, Chris Hasler, Bill Vigar, Julia Robertson

Proposed by Rosie Wych and seconded by Jeff Pakes – passed

Vikki Page, Spencer Modica and Gavin Clegg have stepped down from being committee members during the year and should be thanked for their efforts. Roger explained that other members could join the committee during the year. Roger also proposed that Mike Crocket continue as President and he agreed.

13. AOB. Amendments to the constitution: Richard Sansbury queried the requirement for BO Safeguarding wording to be added. The secretary responded with the view that she had been aware of and looked for guidelines and had found information to indicate that it was sufficient to have the wording clearly displayed in club documentation. It is present on the QO website. However, post meeting the secretary further clarified with Mike Hamilton (BO chairman) who confirmed that the wording should be added and that it can be done at the next AGM.

The meeting closed at 6.30pm.

Minutes signed: Chairman.....