

# Quantock Orienteers' Annual General Meeting 2017

Held at COACH, French Weir Park, Taunton from 14.45 on Saturday 24 June 2017.

The meeting was held after the Club Championships which was won by Brian Pearson. Roger Craddock thanked Richard Sansbury for planning and organising an interesting event with extra TrailO content. He also thanked Ray Toomer for his video presentation "Orienteering with Ski and Kite" which was enjoyed by all and produced a barrage of interested questions. Prior to the meeting the QOFL awards were presented. The trophy winners were:

- **White – Matilda Andersen**
- **Yellow – Ben West**
- **Orange –Heather Green**
- **Light Green – Jenny Wood**
- **Short Green – Tony Milroy**
- **Green – Graham Hartley**
- **Blue –Peter Ward**

Minutes:

1. Apologies for absence – Brian Pearson and Graham Hartley. 15 members present.
2. Minutes of the 2016 meeting – proposed Roger Craddock, seconded Jeff Pakes - agreed.
3. Matters arising –none
4. Roger Craddock presented his Chairman's report: reproduced as follows:

Thanks to the Committee and Club Members for their support during my year as Chairman. I had been brought out of retirement after Bob Lloyd completed his maximum term of 3 years.

The major achievements since the last AGM have been: Progress with QO map conversion to OCAD; the successful staging of Quantock Weekend of Orienteering, incorporating the Army Inter Corps Orienteering Championships and the QO Galoppen; the use of the new building, COACH, at French Weir Park as a centre for training and development (as well as shorter Committee meetings!); and the launch of the new QO website as an alternative to the Quonicle magazine. Turning to the 'credits' for our extended 'season'.

- In partnership with DEVON, the Long 'O' team of Andy Rimes, Rosie Wych, Bill Vigar, and Richard Sansbury at Belstone on Dartmoor
- The new QO Website created by Paul Frost with much work done by Jeff Pakes. Thanks to Nathan Fernandes for the previous website, and for Mike Crockett, Adrian Edwards and Gavin Clegg for their contributions to keeping the Quonicle going. Hopefully a new editor will be found for the future. Thomas Hasler has fed us with QOinfo on a weekly basis.
- The Quantock Weekend of Orienteering was planned by Richard Sansbury. The expansion to include the Army Night and then the Reserves Championships meant continual revisions, so the organisation became too much for him, especially when the QO Galoppen and an Avon Schools event were added on the Sunday, so a Steering Committee was formed and worked well to produce a worthwhile weekend. Extensive management of the Forest commissioned by the Forestry Commission now has meant limited use of the area for the next two years. Thanks to Bob for liaising with the Forestry and Quantock Wardens about areas we hope to use for the next Level B (Regional) event for early in 2018.
- Steve Robertson joined the Committee and has headed up the Mapping sub-Committee to oversee the conversion from Bill's highly respected, but non main-stream PS files to OCAD files. The decision made to progress this 'in-house' rather than seeking outside professional help is a

considerable cost saving to the Club. Thanks to Bill Vigar, Andy Rimes and Jim Mallinson for making use of the latest technological skills to enable this.

- Julia Robertson has exchanged 'jobs' with Judy Craddock and will operate as membership secretary from outside the Committee. Judy continues with putting together a fixtures and activities list by 'twisting arms' to find planners and other officials throughout out the year. Chris Hasler has remained on the Committee, despite an extended illness. We wish him a speedy return to the Forest and to competition with the rest of his family!
- The QOAD series continues with a select group of night orienteering devotees. Often these come from other clubs and Robin Carter from DEVON won the series again. There is something magical about being lost in the dark as well as in the forest! Why not give it a go this year?
- JOG has continued to draw in newcomers and their families, thanks to Judy's persistence and persuasion. Her firm belief is that regular training and a progression route for children is the way forward for both the members and the Club. Thanks also to Tess Stone and Vikki Page for providing the coaching and to Angela Modica for initiating the 'buddy' system. Jeff Pakes has suggested renaming JOG to include the increasing number of seniors who take advantage of regular Saturday events and mid-week training. Any suggestions welcome!
- QO's recognition in the Orienteering world is retained thanks to the success of our 'super veterans' Bill Vigar and Mike Crockett. However we are hopeful that our age demographic is reducing with our 'O' tops appearing in the top half of the Galoppen and other Regional events. At the younger end the success of Andrew Page in Urban events has been re-enforced with his wins in the junior classes at the recent Poole and Bristol events.
- An underused resource which is being given increased emphasis by British Orienteering are our Permanent Orienteering courses in Somerset. Considering the popularity of Parkrun 'tourism', I am surprised we do not find more people 'exploring' the areas in Taunton, Minehead, and Yeovil that have been mapped and control sites identified. The maps are freely available on the QO website and members have been identified to keep an eye on them. Thanks to Mark Maynard, and Chris Page for looking after the Taunton areas.
- Ray and Sue Toomer and Vikki Page used World Orienteering Day last month to promote our sport in local schools. The 'Maze' style challenge has proved to be a convenient, simple method of getting children to read a map at speed and has been used at several events this summer.
- What of the future? Rosie Wych has wrestled with producing a two day Long 'O' event this year although Martin Longhurst (DEVON) is well ahead with planning the Sunday event. We are using the summer to encourage and recruit more juniors by our Thursday evening coaching and the Norton Manor Camp Orienteering Festival for about 850 primary school children in conjunction with the Somerset Activities and Sports Partnership (SASP). An amazing 17 members has volunteered to help. The StarTrack Athletic Summer School organised by Taunton Athletic Club includes an Orienteering session. The relays of Avon Schools tomorrow and the Peter Palmer Relay in Birmingham in September are great fun. Hopefully these will kick-start our JOG season with activities on Saturday afternoons and training and development courses at the COACH Club Nights on Thursday evenings. We have received a Sport England Lottery Grant to promote these and I hope you will support us. Our Level B (Regional) contribution next year will be the Preliminary Round of the Compass Sport Cup when we have high hopes of actually making the Final.
- Next year is the 50th Anniversary of Quantock Orienteers and you can read a splendid account of the history of the club on the website. I would like to suggest the next Committee look at producing a major event on the new OCAD version of the whole of the Quantocks to celebrate this milestone -but that will be up to the next Chairman to motivate the officials and mappers! Roger Craddock then presented the Chairman's Award to Jeff Pakes in recognition of his extensive work in developing the QO club website.

5. Rosie Wych presented her Secretary's report: reproduced as follows:

As secretary my main task is to record committee meetings. As they can be read on the QO website I won't repeat them here! The attempts to keep the infamously long committee meetings to a reasonable length has generally succeeded – helped by the production of reports to be viewed pre-meeting and the formation of sub-committees to deal with aspects which require more time and specialist expertise. The length of the minutes is evidence of the dedication of club officials in producing an increasingly varied programme of activities which is a credit to what is classed as a small club. I think it is mainly due to the enthusiasm of Roger and Judy who never hesitate to encourage us to embark on new initiatives and challenges. For this to continue the club does need the commitment to help from the next generation of orienteers.

6. Treasurer's report: Steve Robertson took over as Treasurer mid-year.

- a. He explained the summary financial status sheet [*which was distributed at the meeting and which is available to members on request*]

#### Quantock Orienteers Financial Years 2016/17 – Treasurers Report Administrative

- ☑ Treasurer responsibility transferred from Roger Craddock to Steve Robertson effective January 1, 2017.
- ☑ Effective December 2016 Santander Bank Accounts (Current & Deposit) transferred from Business to 'Treasurer' accounts and online transaction capability activated
- ☑ Signatures to accounts – Steve Robertson, Roger Craddock and Jeff Pakes.
- ☑ Approval levels established at up to £200 one signature, up to £1000 two signatures, above £1000 Committee review and approval required.

#### 2016/17 Financial Summary

- ☑ Spending has been higher than previous year resulting in a net deficit of £4150.
- ☑ Income from Membership fees is slightly reduced at £568 and event income at £2337 was boosted significantly by the Quantock Weekend of Orienteering in October incorporating the Army Championships.
- ☑ Increased expenditure has been in four specific areas (see facer2nd box):
  - Upgrading of lock-up garage and transfer of equipment storage to Staplegrove Road;
  - Mapping updating and purchase of OCAD12 software;
  - Development and launch of new QO website;
  - Launch of Thursday Coaching and Club evenings
- ☑ The equipment storage and website expenditures are non-recurring in the medium term. Future software and coaching activities will be funded separately – see future outlook.

#### Future Outlook

- ☑ Membership fees will remain unchanged for 2017-18.
- ☑ Event entry fees will be reviewed by the committee during 2017-18 and adjusted as appropriate to remain competitive and continue to encourage participation levels.
- ☑ A successful application resulted in a grant from Sport England to stimulate increased participation and will support increased club/coaching activities plus specific equipment/software purchases – a total of £6294 was received in June 2017.

☑ An additional application has been submitted to Cash4Clubs for funds of up to £1000 for publicity activities.

Commenting in addition that the Santander account had changed to permit electronic transfers (necessitating a constitution change - see later). Accounts show a grant of £6294 from Sport England to promote orienteering activities through financial support for coaching, room hire, SIAC cards, mapping software etc. A further grant has been applied for from Cash for Clubs for promotion of QO. Proposal to accept Treasurer's report – Richard Sansbury, seconded by Jeff Pakes - passed

b. Membership fees for 2017.

The QO Constitution requires us to fix membership fees at the AGM for the following year – Richard Sansbury queried charges which are seniors £8, juniors £2, family £12. Proposal they stay unchanged Julia Robertson, seconded Bob Lloyd - passed

7. Fixtures Secretary's report:

This autumn term we have decided to experiment by having the QOFL series on Saturdays instead of the usual Sundays.

We had always hoped that people attending JOGs would come to QOFLs when there wasn't a JOG on the Saturday. In essence JOG was intended to be a low key event to lure families into Orienteering. This has happened with some families but in order to make it more attractive we are moving the QOFLs to Saturdays to see if we get more JOGGERS coming. This is only for the autumn and they will go back to being on Sundays next spring.

QOADs have continued to be popular with a small, select group of runners from various SW Clubs. We usually try to put a JOG beforehand so that if you wish to come and try a QOAD for the first time you can familiarise yourself with the area beforehand.

Last November we had an ambitious Weekend of Orienteering based in Great Wood, this included a level B (now Regional) event on the Saturday evening. The Club was fully extended putting this on but with a lot of goodwill and many members contributing generously it was a great success. At the moment we have offered to hold a preliminary round of the Compass Sport Cup on 11th March 2018, watch out!!

As usual Bob Lloyd must be thanked very sincerely for his work gaining permissions for all the events we have. This is becoming much harder at the moment as the Forestry Commission have embarked on numerous felling projects throughout the South Quantocks.

Steve Robertson explained the value of recent meetings with officials from the Forestry Commission and Quantock AONB to clarify availability of orienteering areas. Due to increasing restrictions there is some need for new areas.

8. Membership Secretary's report:

9. Junior Orienteering Group report:

We have had 18 JOGs in the 2016 autumn and 2017 spring terms, with Henlade Woods and Huish Woods now on our regular list of venues.

A summary and a few photos of each event are easy to access on the website so I shall just give some overall figures regarding attendance.

Overall attendances for the autumn term were 348 and for the spring term 388. Of these attendees the number of juniors at any one event ranged from 15 to 38 and the adults 7 to 14.

We should like to thank the many members who contribute in different ways, either planning, updating maps, getting permissions or helping newcomers on their way, for such a small club a lot of people put in a great deal of effort to make each event successful. Judy Craddock

Club Night Coaching with Tess Stone and Vikki Page.

After running successful summer training Tess and Vikki were keen to go on a BOF Coaching Course at Crewe in January, they returned with masses of ideas and enthusiasm and it was decided that QO would develop the idea of a Club Night, this would include fitness and orienteering skill training each week. In addition QO would use the COACH venue to run training courses for Planners, SI teams, mappers and use of the GPS system and First Aid.

There was a trial period of 5 training sessions based at COACH, using Longrun Meadow, this proved popular and an average of about 15 attendees.

Summer Training has been taking place at Netherclay (2), Castle Neroche (3), Thurlbear Wood (2) and Buckland Wood (3) with the last at Henlade Wood. There have usually been about the same number of adults and children with an average of 14 attending each session.

Judy Craddock

Roger Craddock reminded the meeting that the Sport England grant aimed to improve participation by 100. Increased use of COACH facility as a coaching base would be an integral part of this. Julia Robertson described the recent WI orienteering evening at Fyne Court which could be extended to other groups and expanded into a whole day from the COACH facility.

#### 10. Amendments to the constitution

- i. 6.3 Finance – Existing constitution “All cheques written against a Club account shall have two signatories; the Treasurer and one other elected officer or Committee member”. Change to “Cheques up to £200 require one permitted signatory, £200-£1000 two signatories. Larger amounts need committee agreement”. Richard Sansbury sensibly suggested that “cheques” be replaced by “payments”. Proposed Steve Robertson, seconded Rosie Wych – passed.  
John Traylor questioned how large amounts were recorded – and the answer supplied was that it would be in committee meeting minutes which are published on the website.
- ii. Rosie Wych stated the British Orienteering requirement that all clubs include the following statements which is part of the increased awareness of the need for safeguarding of children and at-risk adults:

A. Quantock Orienteers agree to adopt the up to date British Orienteering Policies, Procedures, Rules and Regulations as published on the British Orienteering website.

B. All individuals involved in orienteering through QO, in any capacity, are deemed to have assented to and abide by and adhere to the British Orienteering Policies, Procedures, Rules and Regulations as published on the British Orienteering website.

C. Both QO and its members agree to abide by the final outcome of any disciplinary and appeal proceedings.

Bob Lloyd queried the requirement which is a standard expectation from BOF whether for insurance or other statutory purposes.

#### 11. Elections.

Chairman: Roger Craddock – proposed by Rosie Wych and seconded by Jeff Pakes – unanimous

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

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

Committee members to continue: Bob Lloyd, Chris Hasler, Bill Vigar, Jeff Pakes, Judy Craddock

Proposed by Roger Craddock and seconded by Julia Robertson – passed

Julia Robertson has stepped down from the committee members (but will continue as membership secretary) and was thanked for her work. Roger also proposed that Mike Crockett continue as President and he agreed.

12. AOB. Mike Crockett queried the whereabouts of AGM minutes and Jeff Pakes confirmed that they are on the QO website.

The meeting closed at 15.50.

Minutes signed:

Chairman.....