

# Scottish Orienteering AGM Minutes

Hosted at Crathes Hall, Crathes on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May at 5pm.

## Welcome and apologies

FK welcomed everyone to the virtual AGM. In attendance: Roger Scrutton, David Summers, Sally Lindsay, Crawford Lindsay, Ben Hartman, Anne Hickling, Fran Britain, Richard Oxlade, Sheila Strain, Keith Dawson,

Apologies received from: Sarah Dunn, Jon Musgrave, Terry O'Brien BEM, Robert Philp, Colin Matheson, Judy Bell, Fran Loots, Michael Atkinson, Tim O'Donoghue, Anne Thom.

FK announced that there 21 proxy votes submitted prior to the AGM.

FK acknowledged the low numbers in attendance at SOA first in person AGM in 3 years and noted the Board would discuss the timing and format of the AGM for future years.

## Approval of minutes of AGM Minutes

Minutes approved

## President's Address

Richard Oxlade (RO)

Thank you to clubs through covid, our response Junior Series and thanks to ESOC for hosting a Scottish Championships that was fraught with uncertainty until very close to the event date. It was clear everyone was so happy to be out orienteering again and none of these events would be possible without volunteer commitment and expertise. Clubs and volunteers also made a significant contribution to make Lochaber 2021 happen.

Producing covid guidance with support from sportscotland and input from Fiona Keir and Tim O'Donoghue changed our relationships with clubs.

Staff changes. 2021 saw Colin Matheson move on from SOA after over 10 years in post. He brought the organisation substantial experience and networking across a number of sectors including Forestry and Land Scotland and Event Scotland. He has been replaced by Nikki Howard who is already doing a fantastic job. The role has adjusted and Nikki will be working with clubs on the sustainability of the network of organisers, planners and controllers as we recognise the aging workforce of our volunteers and need to bring more young people into these roles. Sarah left her role last month which is a big loss for the staff team. Sarah has been instrumental to development and partnerships during her time in post. Fran Loots has stepped in as interim development manager. We have found it difficult to recruit throughout the last two years and are looking at a different staffing model as we seek to rebuild our Development team. 2021 also saw Denise Martin move on from the role as Coaching and Volunteering Officer, Suzanne Robins-Bird was appointed and I am sure will be known to many of you. We have seen coaching workforce evolve and

Suzanne is working alongside Fran Loots to make sure young people are central to our work moving forward.

I would publicly like to thank the outgoing Directors of the Board, Bridget Khursheed as Communications Director and SCORE editor, Neil Rankin as Welfare and Peter Heffernan as our Independent Director.

Thanks to our staff team, Fiona Keir, Fran Britain and Fran Loots for all they do for the Association. We are also working closely with BOF to build staff capacity and hopefully recruit someone in to ensure we make the most of the opportunity of WOC 2024.

Lastly thank you to Anne Hickling as our outgoing Chair. I have hugely appreciated working alongside Anne throughout the past few years and think it has worked well to split the role of President into a President and Chair position.

Question: Roger Scrutton asked is the number of events being run sustainable? There seems to be less participants at SOL's and wonder if the sport need to look at how many events are in the calendar.

RO commented that the championship entries have maintained a consistent ~400 competitors. Even last year at Craig-a-Barns there was around this number of entries.

Sheila Strain asked if the focus should not be on SOL/SOUL leagues but the success and numbers at local events which show the 'health' of clubs. That there is maybe too much emphasis on pushing people through the pathway to participate at bigger events rather than be happy they are coming along to local events.

Dave Summers commented that INVOC has seen a split of around 50% SOA members and 50% BOF members and that a number of their members are not interested in bigger events and attending championships especially with travel involved but they do attend their local events and those of neighbouring clubs. There is a challenge about volunteers progressing through the system with those attending local events not necessarily wanting to get involved with the organisation aspects of the sport.

ACTION: RO agreed to raise the question for discussion at SOA Board around 'what does thriving and healthy' sport look like?

Keith Dawson added that there is real concern out there about volunteer burnout.

## Finance Report

Ben Hartman(BH) presented the final accounts, these were only available from Tuesday of the week of the AGM and will be made widely available. There is no significant changes other than typo errors from the draft accounts which were made available from early May on the SOA website. Hard copies of the final accounts were handed out at the AGM. Electronic versions of the final accounts available [2021 Finalised SOA Accounts](#)

BH noted that the SOA had managed to navigate financially through 2021 largely thanks to a Covid Recovery grant provided by sportscotland and also the kind donations of entry fees provided through Scottish 6 Days following change of format at Lochaber 2021. Both of

these made a considerable difference to the financial position at the end of 2021. The SOA would again like to thank all the competitors who donated their entry fees from Scottish 6 Days and reflects the connection the members have to the sport.

BH noted that the SOA intend to continue to work down their existing reserves and the proposal for limited change in the SOA membership pricing in 2023 reflect this. However, there is still a need for the SOA to increase it's income in coming years and members can expect a proposal at the AGM in 2023 to reflect the need to increase event levies and membership fees in order to maintain current structure of the SOA. Further it would be disappointing if this was not supported and a change in structure was required after all the good work done by the SOA and it's staff team past and present as well as the opportunity that WOC2024 presents for the sport.

BH asked if those present had questions or if they were happy with accounts presented?

Question: Dave Summers asked where the membership fees feature in the accounts (page 12).

BH explained they are in the legacies and donations section. Dave Summers suggested these could be clearer if separated out.

Accounts approved by Keith Dawson and seconded by Roger Scrutton.

### Appointment of Independent Examiner

Brian Miller was appointed for a further year. Keith Dawson approved with Sheila Strain seconded.

### Proposal Voting

No		For	Against
1	Proposal for maintaining Junior/student SOA fees at £2 in 2023	29	1
2	Proposal for increase in Senior SOA Membership fees by £2 to £12 in 2023	28	2
3	Proposal to maintain event levies, retaining them in 2023 at £1 per senior and £0.40 per junior for all events where the entry fee for seniors is >£10.	29	1

Dave Summers had raised he was hoping for a discussion on the proposal on age class versus age category and suggested this needs to be brought back to the AGM next year.

Crawford Lindsay noted he thought that the winner in each category should be recognised.

Sheila Strain commented that previously only the winner would be awarded medals and that 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> places could receive certificates that this may be more financial sustainable and environmentally responsible. Also the importance of recognising 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> places and not just winners in each class/category

Proposal : Should champions be announced by age class or age category for seniors in: the

		Age Class	Age Category
4	Scottish Sprint Orienteering Championships?	13	17
5	Scottish Middle Distance Orienteering Championships?	13	17
6	Scottish Night Orienteering Championships?	13	17

Proposal : Should champions be announced by age class or age category for juniors in: the

		Age Class	Age Category
7	Scottish Sprint Orienteering Championships?	27	3
8	Scottish Middle Distance Orienteering Championships?	27	3
9	Scottish Night Championships?	27	3

## Elections to the Board of Directors

		For	Against
10	That Keith Dawson be formally appointed as Chair	29	1
11	That Paul Rayner be formally appointed as Communications Director President	29	1
12	That Fanni Gyurko be formally appointed as Performance Director	30	0
13	That Liz Orr be reappointed as secretary	30	0

## President's Medal Announcement

RO announced the winners of the President's medal following an online process to nominate worthy individuals. The SOA had had a good response this year however the winner had received an unprecedented number of nominations for their work both with ScotJos and their club. The President's Medal **was** introduced by Donald Grassie in 2001 to be awarded by President primarily for services to Scottish Orienteering.

Judy is to be presented with the President's Medal for her ongoing commitment and coaching within ESOC. She regularly organises and delivers excellent club sessions which allow members to improve their skills and confidence. The appreciation of the work and her contribution to ScotJos also was very evident in the nominations. She has done a tremendous amount for the sport and is a worthy recipient of the President's Medal.

### AOB and any questions

Keith Dawson raised that he felt the SOA should make a formal thanks to sportscotland for their support. This was supported by Roger Scrutton

FK concluded the AGM.

### Note of actions

1	SOA to discuss AGM date, location and format to maximise attendance
2	Discuss at SOA Board around 'what does thriving and healthy' sport look like in relation to attendance at events? National/Regional/Local event participation being taken into account.
3	Consider separating membership fees from the Legacies/Donations section in accounts.
4	Bring the proposal for discussion at the next AGM on the awarding of Championship prizes.
5	SOA to present the President's Medal to Judy Bell at an appropriate time to show recognition and appreciation of her volunteering with ESOC and ScotJos
6	A formal thanks for support to be written to sportscotland