

Scottish Orienteering (Virtual) AGM Minutes

Hosted on Zoom on the 25th June 2021 at 7.30pm. AGM chaired by Fiona Keir and minutes taken by Denise Martin

Welcome and apologies

FK welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced that there 11 proxy votes submitted prior to the AGM.

In attendance: Anne Hickling, Ben Hartman, Bridget Khursheed, Peter Heffernan, Sheila Strain, Robin Strain, Phil Smithard, Terry O'Brien BEM, Pauline McAdam, John Tullie, Anne Thom, Steve Scott, Roger Scrutton, Pat Squire, Sheila McCartney, Tim O'Donoghue, Fiona Keir, Denise Martin

Apologies: Sarah Dunn, Jon Musgrave, Fran Britain, Lynne Walker, Michael Atkinson, Richard Oxlade, Liz Orr, Fran Loots.

Achievements of 2020

FK gave a short presentation on review of achievements in 2020 including

- growth in membership (+27 in 2020 taking total SOA membership to 1927)
- new partnership developments with Local Authorities, Outdoor Learning providers and with our existing partners within British Orienteering and sportscotland
- growth and adaptation of MapRun (479 courses listed on SOA website, over 500 created in Scotland with 4811 recorded runs in 2020)
- connectivity with clubs and within clubs over the past year and the tremendous work done by volunteers to keep club members engaged and keen to return to sport when restrictions allow. Delighted to see almost all clubs have now returned and organised at least one event or activity.
- acknowledgment of benefits from covid (such as more online meetings, courses & workshops)
- dedication of the Board and acknowledgement of the ongoing work through the re-working of policies and procedures, updating Covid restrictions and frequent meetings to review updates

Approval of minutes of EGM Minutes

Approval of EGM minutes proposed by Steve Scott and seconded by Roger Scrutton

Finance Report

Ben Hartman (SOA Finance Director) provided a summary of the financial health of SOA. In summary, given the commitment from sportscotland plus the contributions from the Scottish 6 Days, SOA is in a healthy situation. Financial risk remains around Lochaber 2021 Scottish 6 Days event which may have an impact on SOA finances but this will be addressed by Board and budgets discussed in September when we have a clearer financial position.

Approval of the accounts was proposed by Bridget Khursheed and seconded by John Tullie

Question from Roger Scrutton regarding evidence of SOA following through with our charitable obligations - answered by Ben and Fiona. Examples of development work over the past year was cited to show our commitment to developing and supporting the sport within the communities, broadening the audience and addressing inclusivity. FK noted that future reporting will include a breakdown of inclusion based activities to meet our charitable objectives. As a charity SOA has been able to claim £2000 in Gift Aid.

Comment made by Phil Smithard that our language used around 'approval of financial report' is not the correct manner in which the process should be described. Ben confirmed the Board had approved the accounts at their June meeting and subsequently Anne and Richard had signed the accounts along with the Independent Examiner, Brian Miller. These will be submitted to OSCR and Companies House. Fiona addressed this and will ensure it is correctly referred to in future meetings.

Proposal Voting

- Retain 2020 Junior SOA Membership Fees at £2

14 virtual votes For, 1 chat function vote For and 13 Proxy votes For.

- Retain 2020 Student SOA Membership Fees £2

13 virtual votes For, 1 chat function vote For and 13 Proxy votes For. I vote against.

- Retain 2020 Senior SOA Membership Fees £10

14 virtual votes For, 1 chat function vote For and 13 Proxy votes For.

- Retain 2020 SOA Event Levies at £1 per senior and £0.40 per junior for all events where the entry fee for seniors is >£10.

14 virtual votes For, 1 chat function vote For and 13 Proxy votes For.

Elections to the Board of Directors

- Finance Director

A second poll was taken to address the re-appointment of Ben Hartman as Finance Director. This was approved unanimously with 14 virtual votes, 1 chat vote and 13 proxy votes. Ben is therefore re-instated as the Finance Director

- Performance Director

There were no expressions of interest or nominations placed. SOA continues to seek to appoint as Performance Director and would seek to do this asap. Any interested persons to be in touch with Fiona (Fiona@scottish-orienteering.org) or Anne (Chair@scottish-orienteering.org) Any interested persons can be co-opted onto the Board prior to the next AGM, so no need to wait next year!

It was highlighted that Richard Oxlade would like to concentrate on his role as Operations Director beyond Scottish 6 Days in August and therefore when a suitable candidate is found would like to step down as the president. Anyone who may be interested in the role and would like to learn more about what is involved please do contact either Fiona (fiona@scottish-orienteering.org) or Richard (president@scottish-orienteering.org) for an informal chat.

President's Medal Announcement

AH announced the winners of the President's medal on behalf of Richard Oxlade. The President's Medal was introduced by Donald Grassie in 2001 to be awarded by President primarily for services to Scottish Orienteering.

As usual we received a number of very worthy nominations for the President's medal which is awarded for services to Scottish Orienteering and as usual the award was a difficult decision as all the nominations would have been worthy recipients.

This year Richard Oxlade in his position of President has great pleasure in awarding it to Tim O'Donoghue. Tim probably needs little introduction as an active member of the Scottish Orienteering community owing to the number of roles he fulfils as Solway club chairman, SOA coaching coordinator (in partnership with Helen), safety director on the SOA board and tireless supporter of Scottish orienteering.

As we all know this has unfortunately been the year of COVID and it feels appropriate to award a volunteer who has really helped us keep the show on the road. On a regular basis we have had to deal with new government guidelines that have had to be translated into practical guidance for our clubs. This takes a lot of thought, time and effort and Tim has been at the heart of this, always ready to use his knowledge and experience to support Fiona Keir and the board in the development of new risk assessments, procedures etc. I think it is safe to say that it would have been much harder to support and guide the clubs through this difficult period without Tim.

This was also the year that Tim and Helen stepped down as Coaching Coordinators and I would like to thank them for their many years of unwavering support, hard work and tireless attention to detail in this role.

At the same time Tim has actively guided Solway through the pandemic, organising events and activities, and attracting new orienteers to our sport.

In summary I have really appreciated Tim's support to Scottish Orienteering over the last few years and I think his tireless commitment and contributions make him a worthy recipient in this most difficult of years.

Appointment of Independent Financial Examiner

Ben Hartman highlighted the role of the auditor and suggests that SOA continue to use Brian Miller in this role. Brian has fulfilled this role well over the past 5 years and it was agreed he be retained to the SOA

AOB and any questions

The meeting was concluded on time and with no further comments or questions.