

AGM 2011

Chairman's Report

The main business of an AGM is inevitably the financial performance of the club based on the last financial results that have been prepared and these will be presented in detail by Steve Dempsey, our treasurer, later on during this meeting.

In summary the club has continued to be run on a sound financial basis and fortunately we do not appear to have been significantly impacted by the downturn in the wider economy. We have continued to generate good income from our events and as a consequence the committee have been able to support the majority of expenditure proposals presented. In terms of financial management I believe one of the clubs and therefore the committee's key objectives is to support the development and governance of our sport, the club, and its membership through appropriate and considered investments. I believe we have mostly achieved this objective but also accept that there is always more that can be done. I therefore strongly encourage you to raise potential new opportunities and demands with the committee and I know that the new chairman and the committee can provide assurance that such proposals will be discussed and in many cases approved.

This meeting provides you with the opportunity to question and seek clarification from myself, Steve Dempsey and the committee regarding the running of the club. I know we can always do better, but I hope you will agree with my view that the club committee primary purpose is to facilitate the delivery of a wide range of orienteering opportunities, events and activities perceived as important and demanded by you, its membership. If however it is your opinion that the club is failing to meet this primary need then I believe that through the AGM, committee meetings and easy access to the committee members, you have the opportunity to voice any concerns, raise any new requirements and even propose suggestions for improvement.

Unfortunately we still continue to see a gradual decline in membership, however on a positive note we do have some new members and very much welcome them to the club and the sport of orienteering in the Greater Manchester area.

Continuing on the theme of participation and support for potential new members, I would like to provide an update on the BOF/MDOC participation initiative in our local region. The participation club night is now into its 2nd year and following initial good levels of attendance we have unfortunately seen a significant decline in recent months, particularly from new and non-orienteering people. I know the small number that do attend, myself included have benefited, but I appreciate it is likely with current numbers, that the initiative will not be sustainable over the longer term. Dan Riley, Steve Vernon, Dave McCann and I will be undertaking a review with a desire to initiate a re-launch. I would like to thank all those involved for their perseverance and support, and hope that we will find a way to develop this initiative into a success with the benefit of developing the skills of our existing members as well as bringing in new participants to our sport.

Events

As I said before the club's primary purpose is to facilitate the delivery of a wide range of orienteering opportunities, events and activities perceived as important and demanded by

you, its membership. I would now like to give a brief summary of events over the last year and refer you to the events document for more detail. I think you will agree this again has been a very full and busy year with many events; Wednesday night runs – continue to flourish; Saturday mornings/Lyme Park – a key stepping stone for potential new members; night events – a new and different challenge on well known areas; countryside score – a great alternative to the regular Wednesday night run, Twin Peak/Town and Country – our flagship event; the list goes on. Importantly we have continued to add to the number of areas and update the maps available to us, which of course is fundamental to supporting our desire to develop and grow the sport within this region.

Also, I would like to acknowledge the efforts of all those in taking a lead to organise and stage events over the last year. In particular I want to say a big thankyou to Sue Birkinshaw and the Series Coordinators (Chris Rostron, Alison Doyle, Tony Wagg, Andy Thornton and Pete Lomas). Their efforts are appreciated.

Conclusion

I would like to finish now by saying thankyou to a number of people

Firstly, I would like to thank you and the wider membership for your commitment and all you do in support of MDOC and orienteering. I continue to be so impressed by the way in which so many members (both established and new) rise to the challenge and contribute time and experience in support of our events. All contributions, big and small are important and key to making our events so successful and enjoyed so much by the competitors.

Secondly, I would also like to record my sincere appreciation to the committee for the support they have given me over the last 3 years. In particular to Margaret Gregory in her role as club secretary, who has continued to support me and quietly prompt me to complete my actions, and to Steve Dempsey for delivery of our financial plan and the efficient ongoing management our club finances.

Finally, I would like to offer best wishes to Dave McCann, who has agreed to take on the role as Chairman of our club. I wish him well and know with the support of the membership he will undoubtedly prove to be a big success.

Thankyou

Steve