

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SOLWAY ORIENTEERS HELD ON 24TH SEPTEMBER 2022 at Drumlanrig

Present: Tim O'Donoghue, Helen O'Donoghue, Stuart Graham, Alastair Murgatroyd, Glyn Jones, EG, Briony Kincaid, Ian & Diana Turner, Joyce Rammell, John & Linda Biggar, Scott family.

Apologies: Dave & Jane McQuillen, Fiona Penney, Derek Kennedy

Minutes: The minutes of the previous AGM, 18th September, 2021 were approved. There were no matters arising

Chairman's report

Another challenging year for the club – just as we could see restrictions arising from Covid coming to an end, Storm Arwen hit this region and took out the majority of our mapped areas. Pretty well all our plans changed following the storm as we realised that our bigger and technically more challenging areas were out of action – and are still out of action.

Particular points are:

1. Counting today there have been 20 events and activities run by Solway Orienteers for all members in the last 12 months. Juniors have featured in the planning and organising of 3 events. The winter night activities continue to be popular and have become an integral part of the club offerings. Planners have been challenged to make creative use of our smaller areas and have responded well to the requirements. Attendance at our events has stood up well.
2. We decided to create a Solway junior session early in the year, holding 3 well attended junior coaching sessions for this group. 20 juniors have attended one or more of the sessions and we will continue to run more of them in the coming year. We also ran the traditional 4 May coaching sessions for anyone who wishes to turn up.
3. Despite many Covid restrictions having been removed we are keeping the pre-entry system for events although we now also allow some limited entry on the day. Using pre-entry does keep low the required resource levels on the day of the event. Also Covid is still with us.
4. Club membership has fallen back from last year but is still higher than it was pre-pandemic and a high proportion of new members are enthusiastic about attending our events. The aim of broadening the skill base within the club for planning and running events has been vigorously pursued through the year with a significant number of members stepping up to take on the challenges.
5. While we only have one new map to show for the mapping work through the year (Heathhall), there has been plenty of effort along with several schools maps completed. The club now has 2 licences to use the latest version of OCAD complete with being able to produce Lidar plots of many areas. Mapping is in progress for another part of Dumfries and a team visited Dromore to check on the Lidar plots for that area (they are not sufficiently accurate in some parts of the map so more work is required there). Initial work has started on updating the Kilsture map – again this is proving to be a challenge. We also had an interesting morning with would be mappers checking on a section of the

Crichton map – everyone was surprised by the findings.

6. Joyce and Helen continue to provide excellent coverage and visibility in both the local press and on Facebook (where our number of likes has passed 600). Our media presence is excellent.
7. The club committee continues to be active even if all our meetings have been on Zoom. Our main focus has been on sustaining the club during a time of significant challenges and the results above indicate that this is being achieved. Numbers in the committee are dwindling though and in keeping with our goals of developing necessary skills across the membership and getting a good range of ages in the team, there is a need for a few more people on the committee.
8. Given the high profile report made a few months ago regarding racism in a Scottish sport, we can expect some increased focus on respectful treatment of people from bodies like SOA and SportScotland. With this in mind the club reporting form for Safeguarding has been expanded to cover other problematic behaviours and our Welfare and Safeguarding Officer has agreed to the expansion of their remit.

We will in the coming years look to introduce more people to organising/planning events (and helping on the day or night). It does take a while to acquire all the required skills to set up an event, which in turn means that we need a rolling plan of developing the skills to enable the club to function efficiently and without placing too much burden on a few people. So one of the continuing priorities for the next few years will be assisting people to gain experience and develop the required skills. The response from people asked to do so in the last 12 months has been both excellent and very encouraging and this approach will continue.

In summary, it has been an excellent and enjoyable year and I look forward to similar progress in 2023, but hopefully without any major issues like Covid or Storm Arwen. My thanks go to everyone who has attended events and has been actively involved in the team working required to deliver successful events and activities.

Treasurer's report

The high level of activity around events and coaching through the year and the good attendances has resulted in the club making a small profit through the year – one that is a bit higher than the loss the previous year. Turnover was above £2.5 k. The club financial position remains reasonably healthy.

Map and areas

There was some discussion about the loss of our larger mapped areas following storm Arwen and the need for some additional areas, some of which should be open areas. Mention was made of the plan for Dromore, and the issues around updating the map at Kilsture. Obtaining a Lidar plot for Kilsture on a more powerful computer may be useful. John and Linda suggested Torr Point as a potential area for mapping and effort will be devoted to gaining permission for the area to be mapped.

Membership

Membership peaked in 2021 at 101 which was an increase of around 35% against pre-pandemic levels and while it has fallen slightly in 2022 it now stands at 92 (35 BO members

and 57 SOA members). It was confirmed that any member joining from August 2022 onwards will have membership extended until the end of 2023.

Election of office bearers: The committee agreed to continue as last year. Briony Kincaid has joined the committee as the Membership Secretary.

The following were elected:

Chair: Tim O'Donoghue

Treasurer: Stuart Graham

Membership: Briony Kincaid

Secretary: Fiona Penney

Publicity: Joyce Rammell

Equipment: Tim O'Donoghue

Mapping Convenor:

Team Captain: Alastair Murgatroyd

Fixtures/Events: Derek Kennedy

Social: Kate Kennedy

Coaching/Development: Tim/Helen O'Donoghue

Safety: Tim O'Donoghue

AOCB None noted

Date of next AGM: TBC September 2023.