

MINUTES OF THE 56th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE EAST MIDLANDS ORIENTEERING ASSOCIATION HELD ON ZOOM ON MONDAY 14th SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 19.30.

Present: Sal Chaffey (DVO), Trudy Crosby (LOG), Ann-Marie Duckworth (DVO), Roger Edwards (LEI), Mike Gardner (DVO), Mike Godfree (DVO), John Hurley (DVO), Vic Knight (NOC), Randal Macdonald (DVO), David Olivant (NOC), Pauline Olivant (NOC), Chris Phillips (LEI), Hilary Palmer (NOC), Amanda Roberts (LOG), Ant Squire (NOC), Ernie Williams (LEI), Ursula Williamson (LEI), John Woodall (NOC), and Paul Young (DVO).

Amanda Roberts started by welcoming everyone to our Zoom AGM, obviously the first time this way has been used to host our AGM.

1. Apologies for absence:

No apologies for absence were received.

2. Minutes of the 55th EMOA AGM held on Monday 23rd September 2019.

It was agreed that the minutes were a true record. Proposed by John Hurley (DVO) and seconded by John Woodall (NOC).

3. Standing Order Change:

There were no standing order changes submitted to this AGM.

4. Chair's Report:

I have now completed my third and final year as Chair and what a very different year it has been.

The year started off in the normal way. The first major event was the EMOA Championships hosted by LOG at Grimsthorpe Estate on 8 Dec 19, and after a very wet November the usually empty beck had become an uncrossable watercourse so courses had to be adjusted to keep competitors safe. Luckily the weather was kind to us on the day as the venue layout meant there was a 2km warm up/warm down to the remote start and finish. With the 2019 Leagues completed, it was all minds on 2020. Diaries were full with club events, EM League Events, Championship Events and the large regular orienteering festivals like the JK that we expect to attend each year.

Then Covid-19 brought everything to a halt. For most of us the last event we competed in was the CST qualifier on 15 March 2020 with all orienteering events being suspended from 17 March 2020. Both LEI and DVO qualified for the CSC Final and NOC qualified for the CST Final, a fantastic result for our region but unfortunately, the final has had to be postponed for now.

Our Clubs have all tried to entertain their members and keep up the interest despite the restrictions. DVO have run a Maprun league and put on map quizzes on their Facebook page and held weekly quiz nights. LEI have run an Up and Out initiative using their Permanent Orienteering Courses with members submitting their course times. NOC have also been using their Permanent Orienteering Courses with members comparing times on maprun. LOG used Strava and Facebook to organize scavenger hunt challenges, a virtual relay covering the region and a regular weekly quiz. Zoom/Teams meetings has become the new norm for both socialising and running our clubs – a new experience for many of us and subject to the quality of the internet in our more rural areas!

For nearly 5 months we had no orienteering competitions in the usual format, but since 1 August we have been able to run local events by adhering to the British Orienteering Guidance on resuming the sport in a COVID secure manner. Our clubs have used this opportunity to update the way they take entries and payments and organise start times for club events. Maybe it has been the catalyst needed to make changes to the way we have always done things. It has meant more effort has been put into Maprun events, and use of POC's; maybe a more appealing way to access orienteering for busy families with multiple diary clashes.

Going forward is going to be a slow business – many of the landowners/Forestry Commission etc. are reluctant to allow events to be held on their land and this had added to the already long list of reasons they have to turn down access. The latest casualty to be announced is that JK 2021 is cancelled, primarily due to being unable to secure access. Some League events may be able to go ahead – unfortunately the EMUL has to date only had 1 event, with hopefully 3 events that will be able to be take place – so 4 in total. The EML has had 6 events, with a further 4 events hoping to go ahead – so 10 in total. Whether the Leagues will be completed this year or just run on through 2021 is still to be decided.

During all this there has been some good news. Ernie Williams (LEI) and EMEWS (Produced by Mike Gardner, DVO) were awarded the Cover of Year Award in the Compass Sport 2019 Newsletter Awards, recognising that Ernie has produced covers for over 36 years. Paul Murgatroyd (LOG) was awarded the Coach of the Year in the BOF Awards for his contribution to training within the sport.

Thanks to the hard work put in by Anne-Marie Duckworth (DVO) and Ant Squire (NOC), EMJOS had a structured training programme in place to ensure our Juniors had the best chance of doing well over the year. Unfortunately, again, a lot of this has had to be cancelled or reorganised for small groups. Some of the notable successes over the year are:

Jake O' Donnell (DVO) was selected for the England M 14 Team at Interland 2020. Rachel Duckworth (DVO) and Hannah Mather (LOG) also went as travelling reserves.

Both Ben Squire (NOC) and Rachel Duckworth (DVO) are members of the Junior GB Talent Squad. And it is so disappointing for Ben and Rachel, who were recently selected to represent GB at the European Junior Orienteering Championships in Hungary, that the event has now been cancelled

EMOA are pleased to have been able to support these young orienteers. EMJOS have also been fundraising. They ran the Strawberry Hill league event not only to raise funds for their Swedish Tour in Summer 2020 but to give their members experience in organizing events. Unfortunately, this Swedish Squad Trip has been postponed to another year.

BOF ran an excellent Development Conference, attended by 7 of our members, in January. But Covid-19 has meant that the EMOA Planners and Controllers Course and Development Conference have had to be postponed. In the meantime, Ranald Macdonald (EMOA Development Co-ordinator, DVO) has been producing bite size articles covering key planning points and reviewing Rules and good practice for EMEWS.

Finally, I would like to thank the Committee, Club Reps and Job Holders for their contribution over the last 12 months. It has been a strange year when a lot of planned events have had to be cancelled and it is difficult to get enthusiastic about future events when there is continued uncertainty that they will go ahead. But the more we are prepared the quicker we can react when the restrictions are lifted. Particular thanks must go to Chris Phillips (Vice Chair) for his support over the last 3 years; Ranald Macdonald, who kindly took on the role of Development Officer; Mike Gardner (Secretary) who really does deserve a long service award for his commitment to this role and the production of the EMEWS; Ursula Williamson (Fixtures Secretary) for her continued work liaising with the Events Scheduling Group and club fixture secretaries, and finally, Paul Young who took over the role of Financial Secretary at the last AGM.

Amanda Roberts

5. Financial Secretary's Report

Paul Young circulated the accounts before the meeting. Below are Paul's accounts with in italics comments raised during the meeting.

Membership

Membership as at 15 August 2020 is down by 78 members. *Membership has continued to decline which is not a healthy sign for the region. Most memberships are renewed Jan / Feb so the figures may not have been impacted too much by COVID. It is sad that we are seeing this trend.*

	Members	Units
2020	504	367
2019	582	422
2018	604	425
2017	613	427
2016	648	444
2015	660	445
2014	690	459
2013	687	444
2012	802	464
2011	838	477

2020 figures compared with 2019

	2020	2019
Senior	267	295
Junior	10	25
Family	90 (161s, 66j)	102 (178s, 84j)
Totals	367 units	422 units

2018/2019 Accounts

The EMOA year end is 30th June 2020, Roger Edwards has reviewed the accounts and issued the following statement

"I confirm that the accounts for the year ending 30th June 2020 are consistent with the underlying records of the Association" Roger Edwards CPFA

Roger was thanked for being the independent financial examiner of the accounts and for all his support over a number of weeks in helping Paul present them.

EMOA generated a surplus of £2,018.87 for the 2019/20 year. The Budget was for a loss of £(385.00).

Material variances to the budget are set out below:

- Membership – Year on year membership of EMOA clubs reduced in all categories. The majority of renewals taken place from November to February; it may be that some members were put off by the emerging concerns of COVID-19 in the early part of 2020.
- Event Levies – A number of events had to be cancelled or delayed during the 2019/20 year in the first part due to extreme weather conditions and in the latter part by COVID-19 restrictions.
- Sponsorship Income – The Budget assumed a catch up in income for 2018/19 and 2019/20 in relation to EMEWS sponsorship. Unfortunately, the previous sponsor ceased trading and a replacement has not been found.
- EMJOS income and fundraising – Income relating to EMJOS was higher than budgeted, largely due to the Strawberry Hill event.
- EMJOS expenditure – Expenditure was lower than budgeted largely due to the impact of COVID-19 on the number of training events which could be undertaken during the year.
- Other costs – Expenditure in the following areas were lower than budgeted; volunteer development, external conferences, coach development and support for talent. This was due to a combination of fewer opportunities during the year and very limited activity after March 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions.

This is my first year as the treasurer and I wish to thank Mark for his support in the handover of the accounts.

2019/20 Income from event levies.

LEVY INFORMATION 2019/20

Event	2019/20 Income (less £25)	Seniors 50p	Juniors 10p
East Midlands Urban League 2019/Race the Castles (UKOL) Lincoln City	91.40	229	19
British Sprint Championships (UKOL) Loughborough University	283.00	569	235
British Middle Distance Championships (UKOL) Chinley Churn	363.10	751	126
East Midlands Urban League 2019 Retford	22.70	94	7
East Midlands Urban League 2019 Ashby Urban	21.40	90	14
East Midlands League 2019 Longshaw	42.30	125	48
East Midlands League 2019 (cancelled) Shirebrook Wood	0.00	0	0
East Midlands Urban League 2019 University of Nottingham	59.70	164	27
East Midlands League 2019 Allestree Park	43.00	130	30
East Midlands Championships 2019 Grimsthorpe Castle	52.40	147	39
East Midlands League 2019 Cademan and Thringstone Woods	66.70	179	22
East Midlands League 2019 Sherwood Pines	89.10	222	31
East Midlands Urban League 2020 Wirksworth	47.30	141	18
East Midlands League 2020 Strawberry Hill (EMJOS)	54.70	152	37
East Midlands League 2020 Castle Hill Country Park	65.90	177	24
East Midlands League 2020 Harlaxton	21.10	90	11
East Midlands League 2020 Bramcote Hills & The Hemlockstone	60.90	166	29
East Midlands League 2020 Lindop Woods (re-scheduled from 9th February)	49.70	144	27
East Midlands League 2020 Linacre	70.70	185	32
Totals	1,505.10	3,755	776

The total event levy income show above is reported as follows within the accounts:

Event Levies	£1,450.40
EMJOS Fundraising	£ 54.70
Total	£1,505.10

Levies

	Events	Levy	Entrants	Seniors		Juniors	
				Qty	%	Qty	%
2019/20	19	1,505	4,531	3,755	83%	776	17%
2018/19	24	1,502	4,739	4071	86%	668	14%
2017/18	25	1,367	4,560	3840	84%	720	16%
2016/17	30	1,747	6,093	4718	77%	1375	23%
2015/16	32	2,036	6,917	5360	77%	1557	23%
2014/15	24	1,665	5,744	4497	78%	1247	22%
2013/14*	24	1,153	5,941	3868	65%	2073	35%
*713 juniors 0 Seniors at Shipley Park Event							
2012/13	24	1,413	6,121	4671	76%	1450	24%
2011/12	22	963	4,973	3675	74%	1298	26%

There are mixed feelings about the generated surplus in the accounts. Predominantly it reflects the fact that EMOA has raised money but not been able to use it. Often the first 9 months of the financial year are where funds are generated and the final 3 months are when the funds are spent funding coaching, trophies, conferences and junior squad expenses. However, with COVID the impact has been that EMOA has not spent the funds it has generated. We had expected to make a small loss, but both the Accounts and the Junior Squad have seen a small increase in reserves. Paul also thanked Mark Webster for his support during the handover period.

Questions – The event at Strawberry Hill was an EMJOS event and were the funds ring-fenced for the junior squad. Yes, the funds were ring fenced for the Junior Squad.

6. Election of Principal Officers:

John Woodall took the chair for the election of principal officers and thanked Amanda for all her hard work as chair over the last 3 years.

John stated that the following were the proposed nominees to stand as principal officers next year:

Post	Nominee
Chair	Chris Philips (LEI)
Vice-Chair	
Financial Secretary	Paul Young (DVO)
Development Officer	Ranald Macdonald (DVO)

The meeting agreed unanimously with the proposed principal officers. It was suggested we need to try to find a new vice-chair as soon as possible.

7. Other EMOA Officers:

The club representatives on the EMOA Committee are nominated by clubs. Members holding non-elected roles with the association are currently:

Post	Nominee
Mapping	David Olivant (NOC)
Coaching	Hilary Palmer (NOC)
EM Junior Squad	Ann-Marie Duckworth (DVO), aided by Ant Squire (NOC)
EM League	Ursula Williamson (LEI)
Urban League	Ursula Williamson (LEI)
Regional Fixtures Secretary	Ursula Williamson (LEI)
President	John Woodall (NOC)
Minutes Secretary	Mike Gardner (DVO)
EMEWS Editor	Mike Gardner (DVO)
Webmaster	John Cooke (DVO)
National Forest	Roy Denney (LEI)

The last two need to be confirmed with the named people but hopefully they will continue in their roles.

8. Appointment of Independent Financial Examiner:

Roger Edwards agreed to continue as Independent Financial Examiner for the next year.

9. Approval of Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Statement:

The proposed Budget for the year 2020/21 is set out below for the A.G.M.

Despite the significant impact which COVID has had on Orienteering across the EMOA region the 2019/20 accounts show an increase in reserves. EMOA and EMJOS both remain in a good financial position. I believe the Budget below reflects a sensible balance, enabling EMOA to continue to support development of EMJOS along with providing financial support to East Midlands' orienteers in the areas of coaching, development, and continuation of the regional leagues.

The outlook for the year ahead continues to remain uncertain. BOF has indicated to members that there will be no extension to the 2020 Membership term, nor any reduction or waiving of those fees for 2021.

It would not be unreasonable to forecast a reduction in orienteering events across the EMOA region and / or limitations, on the grounds of safety, on the number of participants for said events.

These factors, combined with the limited number of traditional organised events over the last six months will likely lead to a reduction in memberships.

Membership fees make up a significant percentage of the EMOA funding in any given year; I do not propose making any changes to the existing membership fees. Therefore the fees are proposed to remain as follows:

- Senior membership fee £3;
- Junior membership fee £1;
- Associate membership fee is £10; and
- Club membership fee is £15.

Event levy income, from category C and above events, is likely to be less predictable in the year ahead. I propose event levies also remain unchanged for the 2020/21 financial year. 50p per adult and 10p per junior with the first £25 continuing to be retained by the organising club.

Advertising income previously earned from Ultrasport is no longer forecast due to the company having ceased trading during the 2019/20 financial year.

The EMOA contribution to junior squad spending shall be restricted to a maximum loss of £(1000), any extra spending to come from their deposit account and/or specific fundraising.

Support for volunteer development, external conferences, coach development and orienteer talent is forecast in line with previous year's Budgets.

The proposed EMOA Budget for 2020/21 is a loss of £(1,830)

East Midlands Orienteering Association FY 2020/21 Budget v0.2

<u>INCOME</u>	2019/20 Budget	2019/20 Actual	2020/21 Budget v0.2	Var
Membership	1,500.00	1,386.00	1,200.00	(186.00)
Event Levies	1,600.00	1,450.40	700.00	(750.40)
Interest	5.00	5.91	0.00	(5.91)
Sponsorship and other income	200.00	100.00	0.00	(100.00)
EMJOS Income	1,000.00	1,292.70	1,000.00	(292.70)
EMJOS Clothing Sales	60.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
EMJOS Fund Raising	150.00	628.50	75.00	(553.50)
INCOME	4,515.00	4,863.51	2,975.00	(1,888.51)
 <u>EXPENDITURE</u>				
Regional Development Plan				
Junior squad – expenses	2,150.00	1,468.10	1,000.00	468.10
Trophies & certificates	200.00	187.36	200.00	(12.64)
Volunteer development	600.00	0.00	600.00	(600.00)
Community Coaching dev.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
External Conferences	100.00	0.00	100.00	(100.00)
Support for senior/talent orienteers	1,000.00	700.00	1,000.00	(300.00)
Coach development	300.00	0.00	300.00	(300.00)
EMJOS	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	(1,000.00)
Sub total	4,350.00	2,355.46	4,200.00	(1,844.54)
 Running costs				
Mapping				
Phone, post and web license	25.00	22.18	25.00	(2.82)
Hire of meeting room	125.00	80.00	180.00	(100.00)
English Orienteering Council	400.00	387.00	400.00	(13.00)
Sub total	550.00	489.18	605.00	(115.82)
EXPENDITURE	4,900.00	2,844.64	4,805.00	(1,960.36)
 Surplus / Loss	 (385.00)	 2,018.87	 (1,830.00)	 (3,848.87)

Balance Sheet 30 June 20xx

	2019/20	2020/21	Var
Current	9,335.11	7,407.93	(1,927.18)
Bond	0.00	0.00	0.00
Junior squad deposit	3,808.72	3,883.72	75.00
	<u>13,143.83</u>	<u>11,291.65</u>	<u>(1,852.18)</u>
Website Costs	(22.18)	0.00	22.18
DVO map contribution	600.00	600.00	0.00
	<u>13,721.65</u>	<u>11,891.65</u>	<u>(1,830.00)</u>
<u>Represented by</u>			
Accumulated fund	11,702.78	13,721.65	2,018.87
add surplus / (loss)	<u>2,018.87</u>	<u>(1,830.00)</u>	<u>(3,848.87)</u>
Carry forward	<u>13,721.65</u>	<u>11,891.65</u>	<u>(1,830.00)</u>

Note clothing stock tops

Negligable

Negligable

The draft budget was circulated in advance, but obviously there is some uncertainty on key income streams.

Amanda and Paul attended the EOC AGM. The charge in the accounts for the levy for EOC is dependent on whether the Home International takes place in the Autumn. It is unlikely these fees will be paid.

The EMJOS expenses have gone down simply because the main expense is normally minibus hire and with COVID this will probably not be used much this year.

Amanda stated that the projected income and expenditure is a best guess, but the committee will keep an eye on thins throughout the year as events develop.

The intention is to continue to support talent and it was nice to be able to provide support to Rachel and Ben attending the European Junior Orienteering Championships, though it looks like the event will now not take place

The proposed fees and income and expenditure were proposed to be accepted by the meeting

Proposed: John Hurley (DVO)

Seconded: Ernie Williams (LEI)

This was agreed by the meeting.

10. Plans for Coming Year:

Chris Phillips as new chair took over for this part of the meeting.

Chris started by thanking Amanda for her three years as chair. She was very nervous at the start but has led us well over the last 3 years.

Some clubs are now starting to host events, almost a little like pre-March. However, we need to recognise that a significant number of members are not yet willing to participate. However, orienteers are good at adapting to change and the sport has done well adapting to meet COVID requirements. Whether the sport progresses to normality will depend on COVID and what happens in the near future. Permission from landowners will be key, and some may refuse permission for their own reasons.

Within the region we have plan for a number of level C events which may take place if there is no further crackdown. Our program is based around the 2 leagues and the EMOA Champs. All events are submitted to Ursula as Fixtures Secretary. Hopefully we will get back to competitive orienteering soon. The East

Midlands Champs are planned for the end of November and permissions have been given by the landowners, so it is hoped this will go ahead.

The official's conference planned for this year has been postponed to next year.

Maprun has come in and enables people to get out and do a type of orienteering. I even know of at least one person who has gone out and bought a new phone just so they can orienteer.

I want to thank Ann-Marie and Ant for all their work with the Junior Squad. They are even beginning to host training for squad members again. Club coaches are also getting inventive about how to deliver training. It will be a challenging year going forward but we will rise to that challenge.

Chris Phillips

11. Any Other Business:

- It was agreed that Paul Young would respond to the BO with completion of the Annual Association Return.
- Hilary Palmer wanted to let people know that she is starting to think about coaching webinars instead of having a coaching conference. If people have any ideas for videos could they let Hilary know as soon as possible.
- Ranald Macdonald had updated the article he had written in EMEWS on event rules for CompassSport. They have asked him to produce a series on this sort of topic, so if anyone has any ideas for such articles can they let Ranald know.

12. Close of formal meeting:

The meeting was formally closed at 20:35.