

East Midlands Orienteering Association Executive Committee Meeting – 28 April 2025

Item No	Description	Action
Present: Trudy Crosby (LOG), Ann-Marie Duckworth (DVO), Mike Gardner (DVO), John Hurley (DVO), Andy Nicholls (LEI), David Olivant (NOC), Pauline Olivant (NOC), Hilary Palmer (NOC), Ursula Williamson (LEI), and John Woodall (NOC)		
	Meeting held via Zoom.	
1.	Apologies for Absence: Iain Phillips (LEI)	
2.	Approval of Minutes of Meeting on 27th January 2025 – The minutes of the January meeting were approved unanimously by all attendees. Proposed: Ursula Williamson; Seconded: Trudy Crosby	
3.	Website version of minutes – One minor amendment on payment to a competitor to be removed. Then agreed the minutes could be published.	Mike Gardner to inform webmaster to publish minutes.
4.	Actions Outstanding from previous minutes (not covered elsewhere) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Item 3 – Mike Gardner to inform webmaster – done and uploaded to site - http://www.emoa.org.uk/members/minutesexec241104.pdf b) Item 4 – Club Reps had identified no volunteers at this stage (left on agenda). c) Item 4 - Trudy Crosby chased up Craig Lucas on what is required for LOG website update but no details. Suggested we remove from agenda and development plan for now. Can be brought up again if needed. d) Item 4 - Club Reps had not identified any additional development information to John Hurley. Just keep as part of Development Plan not separate item. e) Item 4 - Iain Phillips and John Hurley had created a questionnaire for members on EMOA Champs course / class combinations. It was distributed and so far 60 replies. NOC are putting out a newsletter next week highlighting this so will keep open for a few more weeks. Iain and John to bring back findings to June meeting. f) Item 4 - Ann-Marie Duckworth had replies from most clubs on EMOA controllers to ensure show up correctly on BO Database. One problem identified by NOC was that some controllers don't want currently to officiate at events but want to keep their status for future (i.e. supporting sick relatives). It was agreed the full list needs to be retained by BOF, but list needs amendment to ensure those who cannot support events currently are omitted. Ann-Marie to send list to BO for update of their list and ensure we maintain list to be distributed for event officials. g) Item 4 - Mike Gardner had proposed a couple of alternative changes to the wording to the Standing Orders which covered the IFE being from a different club. The alternative of 'preferably' was agreed by the meeting. Mike to update the constitution and ensure that this is part of EMOA AGM Agenda (as required by constitution). h) Item 5 – Andy Nicholls transferred the JK monies to club treasurers. i) Item 6 – John Woodall arranged for invoice for hire of PACE room to be sent and has now been paid by Andy j) Item 7 – Club Reps had provided John Hurley with some topics for Officials conference (see later in minutes) 	<p>Club Reps to ask around to see if we can find a new Vice-Chair.</p> <p>Iain Phillips and John Hurley to bring back findings from questionnaire for members on EMOA Champs course / class combinations to June meeting</p> <p>Ann-Marie Duckworth to send EMOA controllers list back to BO Database)but also ensure we have list for distribution for current events).</p> <p>Mike Gardner to update the Standing Orders with agreed</p>

	<p>k) Item 7 - John Hurley has booked Rushcliffe (with help of Hilary Palmer) for Officials Conference in autumn.</p> <p>l) Item 10 – Mike Gardner included article in last EMEWS about MTBO world champs in Scotland in 2026.</p> <p>m) Item 10 - Mike Gardner let Jane Dring-Morris know there are no planned First Aid courses in first part of 2025.</p> <p>n) Item 11 – Pauline Olivant confirmed by email that 9 Feb 2026 was not required to ask NOC now required for 2026 Robin Hood Trophy and date could be released.</p> <p>o) Item 15 – Trudy Crosby successfully got list of EMOA trophy holders and they were redistributed at 2025 event.</p> <p>p) Item 15 – Ursula Williamson / Iain Phillips arranged for the LEI Zoom to be available to support the meeting.</p>	<p>wording and ensure on next EMOA AGM agenda.</p>
5.	<p>Financial Secretary's Report</p> <p>A summary of the transactions in the last period (12th January to 23rd April) are set out below.</p> <p>Income</p> <p>A busy few months with levy receipts from events at Walesby Forest, Derby City Urban, Boothorpe, Lincoln South Common, Martinshaw Woods, CSC Clumber Park, Silverhill totalling £525 plus membership renewals for 2025 bringing in £1,214 (plus £12 from late 2024 memberships).</p> <p>Lots of EMJOS activity with training at Sherwood & Stanton Moor sessions, contributions received from EMJOS participants totalling £58 plus contributions from WMJS and YHOA (for Stanton) totalling £243. In addition, cake sales at Martinshaw generated £250</p> <p>Expenditure</p> <p>With the JK profits allocation being concluded, the full £7,120 was finally paid out to EMOA clubs (£600 to NOC, £520 to LOG, £3,000 to DVO and £3,000 to LEI). Payments were made for maps for Outwoods, Sherwood and Stanton Moor for £63, plus £250 for access to Stanton Moor itself. Mileage payments were made to Andy Simpson for £102 for Hawkshead training. Trophies and engraving for the East Mids Champs totalled £187. The Pace Room costs for the AGM and November meeting of £70 were paid too. Finally, £110 was paid in advance for the September 2025 development conference venue hire (Rushcliffe).</p> <p>Other matters</p> <p>Overall membership fees income is just below budgeted levels for the full year with later joiners/renewals likely to make up the difference. Event levies are low and with only Irchester, Carsington and Wirksworth still to come before the end of June, the £500 shortfall to budget so far is unlikely to be caught up. Interest income is higher than budgeted for the full year already (partly due to about £50 generated by the JK profits being held onto temporarily). EMJOS overall has spent (net of income received) £350 more than budgeted but generated £456 extra cake sales and other income to more than offset this. No grants paid to clubs this year or coach development costs incurred and senior talent support only paid to one person so far. A current bank balance (total of both accounts) of £13K.</p> <p>Discussion of EMJOS Account</p> <p>Andy wanted to understand why there were two EMOA accounts, with one holding the EMJOS monies. We often moved large sums between the accounts. How should we really be operating?</p>	

	<p>Hilary Palmer provided some old history from her time as coach / manager (1992 to 2007). At that time the Junior Squad had its own building society account and book! Later it was suggested that the squad manager would be better 'protected' if the account was closed and it all went through the EMOA account. There were then others like Richard Robinson, Robert Parkinson and Dai Bedwell.</p> <p>Ann-Marie took over as EMJOS leader in 2017. The deposit account was built up so it could cover exceptional expenses (e.g. tours abroad, travel to higher cost regions of UK). It has also been used to house money raised by EM Juniors (e.g. cake stalls, events like the one at Strawberry Hill). The EMJOS squad lead knew how much money was available for the squad and could pull in money as needed to fund the higher cost travel.</p> <p>More recently, with interest rates becoming low it was pointed out that the majority of EMOA money was not gaining any interest, so it was agreed that a large proportion would be moved to the deposit account (which was the EMJOS account) so that interest could be earned on the money.</p> <p>It is important that the EMJOS money is ring-fenced for the squad, but the idea was that this should be managed by the financial secretary in association with the EMJOS lead.</p> <p>Going forward it was agreed that it would be better if we also have a budget for the following year's EMJOS activity before the annual accounts are completed (ideally any future spend as well so know which years are likely to involve more expenditure). Ann-Marie agreed to create a draft budget for the EMJOS 2025/6 before the June meeting and the accounts are closed.</p> <p>It was pointed out that athlete assistance is not covered by the Junior Squad funds.</p> <p>Andy will continue to ensure that though we have two accounts, we ensure that the money for EMJOS is ring-fenced in those accounts.</p>	<p>Ann-Marie Duckworth agreed to create a draft budget for the EMJOS 2025/6 before the June meeting and the accounts are closed.</p>
7.	<p>Development</p> <p><u>Development Projects</u></p> <p><u>Firm applications for EMOA funding</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None currently in progress. <p><u>Preliminary expressions of interest</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LOG/24/1 Club website update – awaiting further information from LOG. Agreed to close this action for now earlier in the meeting. <p><u>Club-funded development projects</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DVO/24/3 MapRuns 2024/25/26. DVO have been awarded a Sport England grant of £5,050 which will fund most of the costs of 36 MapRun events over the next two years, which are to be co-ordinated by the Club Development Officer with the aim of attracting new participants from running and other sporting clubs 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DVO/24/4 MapActive courses and level D events 2024/25. DVO have been awarded a grant from the Orienteering Foundation of £3000, delivered in 2 tranches, the second conditional on demonstrating delivery of phase 1. This grant covers : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 MapActive courses • a Level D programme of 10 events, aiming to provide a stepping stone from MapRun to traditional orienteering • a Navigation festival for newcomers at Hardwick on 5/7/2025 in partnership with the National Trust, combined with a relaunch of the permanent course. • NOC/24/1 MapActive. NOC's 5th MapActive course for newcomers finished at the Walesby event. 5 people (2 adults and 3 juniors) did Stages 1 and 2, and 4 adults joined them for Stage 2. All but two of the group of nine are now NOC members and 2 of the juniors went to the EMJOS Training in January. • NOC/24/2 Club Coaching. Training for 20 NOC members on 18th January. (Joined by 7 from DVO). • NOC are running a new MapActive course (self-funded) • LEI no information supplied • LOG no information supplied <p>Officials Conference 2025 Date : Saturday September 20th. Venue : Rushcliffe Country Park, near Nottingham. <u>Draft Agenda</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Rules <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 Rules Update 2024 and 2025 (Rules Group member to be confirmed) 1.2 Rules Exercise (Ranald Macdonald) 2 Mapping <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1 ISOM, ISSprOM and IOF Control Descriptions 2024 updates (David Olivant) 2.2 Sources of data for mapping and controlling. 3 Environmental Risk Assessment (Emma Monkman) 4 EMOA Event Review (John Hurley) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4.1 Feedback on very short green courses. 4.2 Other best practice for events. 5 Regional Development (John Hurley) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5.1 Ideas for developments related to participation, use of areas, environmental. 5.2 Co-ordination and financing of developments. <p>John would like to involve 2 other people in the conference organisation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT Manager (Club Reps asked to identify anyone who can assist John in determining the following) • determine IT facilities at Rushcliffe. • advise what equipment we need to provide for presentations 	<p>Club Reps asked to identify anyone who can assist John in role of IT Manager for</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> determine if internet access is available. determine if we can support remote attendees via Zoom or Teams. Catering Manager procure and bring along coffee/tea and sandwich lunch (Trudy Crosby agreed to assist with the catering for the day) <p>It was agreed that John Hurley would circulate the proposed agenda to clubs so they can inform their members and encourage them to attend the Conference</p> <p>On the new proposed website for EMOA (see below) the Development Plan is 20 years out of date and an updated one needs to be included instead.</p>	<p>Officials Conference</p> <p>John Hurley to circulate the proposed agenda to clubs so they can inform their members and encourage them to attend the Conference</p>
8.	<p>Coaching</p> <p>New Coaches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Andy Simpson (LEI & EMJOS) has completed his coaching qualification at Beacon Hill on 1st February. Matt White (LEI) hopes to finish his qualification by end of July. 	
9.	<p><u>EMJOS Jan to April 2025</u></p> <p><u>Training, events and JROS Camps</u></p> <p><u>Beacon Hill 1st Feb 2025</u></p> <p>Andy Simpson had a successful evening coaching session on Beacon Hill, with a small group from the region. He now has his Level 2 coaching qualification. Well done Andy!</p> <p><u>Stanton Moor 8th March 2025</u></p> <p>A combined squads training session (EMJOS, WMJS and YHJS) made the very best use of this quality area on a beautiful sunny day. The high numbers of juniors (EMJOS 8, WMJS 17 and YHJS 41) made the relatively high access cost (£250) more acceptable per athlete. Ann-Marie planned the day and most of the exercises knowing where the historical artifacts are to be avoided. In addition, Pauline Tryner used these control sites and some more in the bramble patch to the north, to plan longer, harder loops to prepare the M/W 17+ for the senior races (JK and BOC).</p> <p>The focus of the exercises was the interpretation of map contours and the complex ground heights in the quarry area; in contrast there were loops that used the softer moorland contour detail on long legs (bearings and aiming off to intercept ditches). The Harris Relay accommodated well the very diverse range of abilities, to finish off the day before squad photos.</p> <p>A learning point for Ann-Marie was to ascertain from the other coaches if the ice-breaker to meet the juniors in other squads, was too boisterous and uncomfortable for the more introverted or younger members [calling out pairs of things, to find your other half].</p> <p><u>JROS Tent at JK2025 Day 3</u></p> <p>EMJOS would like to thank all the East Midlands members who brought raffle tickets, and had a look at the displays and videos showing off the juniors in action at the many home and international training camps. £650 was raised – thanks.</p>	

	<p><u>Future training and events</u></p> <p>The region has nominated three LEI athletes to go to JROS camps this summer: Cara Tolley for Laganlia (Scotland), Eoin Simpson Deeside (at Findholm, Scotland) and Ellie Simpson for Stockholm. These tours are in the best technical terrain, giving them the opportunities to experience excellent coaching from current GB members and top coaches. Also, the opportunity to make friends from around the country and strengthen their love of the sport.</p> <p>The next training session (including relay practice) is being planned to be at the end of the summer (date to be confirmed), in preparation for the Junior Inter Regional Champs (JIRCS and Senior Home Internationals using same area of the Lakes).</p> <p>The autumn will then be focused on Junior Inter Regional Championships in the Lake District (27 & 28th September), and planning the training sessions (day or weekend) going into 2026.</p> <p>On the 16th Feb EMJOS juniors held a Cake Stall at East Midland Championships (LEI Martinshaw and Ratby Woods). They had a lovely indoor position which helped them raise £249. A big thank you to all those who bought cake and drinks. Keep sign posting the squad for good junior club navigators!</p> <p>Ann-Marie Duckworth EMJOS coach and coordinator</p>	
10.	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>Mike Gardner had received the following emails (only those not covered elsewhere in the minutes are shown):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11/2 – Liz Large (Norfolk Orienteers) – Looking for controllers for their events (Mike circulated to controllers). • 13/2 & 28/2 – Peter Brooke – Letter on BOF Insurance for None-BOF members – main point - After careful consideration, the Board is recommending that the level of insurance cover for clubs and members is maintained with the exception that public liability insurance for non-members at competitions be withdrawn from 1st January 2026. This will be voted on at AGM. It should be noted this is a public liability insurance for the event, not personal insurance for people taking part in events. • 7/3 – Peter Brooke – AGM Announcement - Saturday 17th May 2025 at Bampton Memorial Hall, Croft End, Bampton, Penrith, CA10 2RS. 	<p>EMOA to review the decision on BOF Insurance after the AGM.</p>
11.	<p>Fixtures</p> <p>a. EMOA League 2025 – events still to take place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 events so far 18th May – NOC – Bramcote Hills and The Hemlockstone 1st June – DVO – Carsington Pastures 8th June – LEI – Irchester 19th October – LEI – Burbage Common 9th November – NOC – Wellow 23rd November – DVO – Cromford Moor 30th November – LEI – Beacon Hill 21st December – NOC – Strawberry Hill 28th December – LEI – Martinshaw 	

	<p>12 scoring events with best 7 to count</p> <p>b. EMOA Urban League 2025 – events still to take place</p> <p>1 event so far</p> <p>29th June – DVO – Wirksworth (this will have evening start times)</p> <p>12th July – NOC – The Meadows (EuroCity weekend)</p> <p>13th July – LOG – Lincoln (Eurocity race)</p> <p>10th August – LEI – Lutterworth</p> <p>6th September – LEI – Hamilton</p> <p>28th September – NOC – Retford</p> <p>12th October – LOG – Newark</p> <p>8 scoring events with best 4 to count</p> <p>c. Future Major Events in EMOA -</p> <p>i. 12 Jul 2025 – EuroCity Day 1 – NOC - Meadows Area</p> <p>ii. 13 Jul 2025 – EuroCity Day 2 – LOG</p> <p>iii. 7 Sep 2025 – Midland Champs – DVO - Chinley Churn</p> <p>iv. 15 Feb 2026 – East Midland Champs – DVO - Longshaw (being offered as UKOL event)</p> <p>v. 5 Feb 2028 – British Night Champs – LEI – Grace Dieu?</p> <p>d. Future Possible Events</p> <p>i. CompassSport Cup Heat – 2027 – DVO volunteered.</p> <p>ii. EMOA Champs 2027 (NOC scheduled to host)</p> <p>iii. EMOA Champs 2028 (LOG scheduled to host)</p> <p>iv. Midland Champs 2028 (LEI – Belvoir?) – possibly alongside British Night Champs</p> <p>v. VHI 2028 - Ant Squire is looking at how this can be achieved. DVO may be able to support.</p> <p>vi. EMOA Champs 2029 (DVO scheduled to host)</p> <p>vii. CompassSport Cup heat 2029 (LEI or LOG scheduled to host)</p> <p>viii. JIRCS 2030</p> <p>ix. EMOA Champs 2030 (LEI scheduled to host)</p> <p>x. Midland Champs 2031 (EMOA scheduled to host)</p> <p>e. Notes from ESG 11th March 2025</p> <p>i. Looking like EAOA will not be able to host 2027 Midland Championships.</p> <p>ii. Check the BO Planner. – will need a supporting event on the day before.</p> <p>iii. BNC 2028 and Midland Championships 2028 LEI both days, I have put forward the weekend of 5/6th February.</p> <p>iv. CSC Final – there are no offers to host beyond 2026. Needs to be able to accept 500+ entries. (There are 24 Trophy clubs through to the Final this year.)</p> <p>v. British Sprints and British Sprint Relays 2029. Can EMOA do it? I said I would ask. I refused the standard Long distance events as per usual, we haven't got anywhere suitable.</p>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> vi. I have asked, so I assume I am ok, that we have all our National (Level B) events registered for 2026. If not, let me know asap – we have till the end of the month. Do we wish to offer the EM Champs as a UKOL event? It is the only National we have in 2026. (It might not get chosen as it is the week after another event.) vii. I will need to have registered any National events for the first half of 2027 by next October. We need to plan for the EM Champs 2027 if in the first half of the year, though it could stand as an extended Regional event. viii. There are big gaps in the Schools events, Harvester, PPJTR, BUCs. Any offers to host will be snapped up. It was suggested that the schools events could be run in the morning with a standard event in the afternoon... ix. EMOA are on the rota for VHIs 2028, JIRCs 2030 and CSC Heats 2027 (DVO) and 2029 (LEI) (and 31, 33, 35 etc) x. JKs 2032 and 2034 have no hosts... xi. Post meeting information... British Middles 2027 host is now required. The two Regions that were hoping to find areas have now dropped out. xii. British School Score 2026 – DVO will be offered at next ESG meeting as host. xiii. Any offers for 2029 British Sprints / Sprint Relay weekend. xiv. This year's Peter Palmer relay may not happen as there are many events in September for juniors already. 	
12.	<p>Reports</p> <p>John Cooke (EMOA webmaster) had sent out an email.</p> <p>The EMOA website was moved by our web hosting service to a different and more expensive plan. One advantage of this is that we have more web space at our disposal. To take advantage of this John thought it might be a good idea to revamp our existing website. To this end he has produced an idea for a new look website which can be viewed at http://emoa.org.uk/wp/. This new look has the following advantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is written in WordPress, which is mainly an advantage for maintaining the site but also should make it easier to transfer to someone else to maintain when that becomes necessary. • It gives a fresher, more modern look. • It displays better when viewed on a smartphone or tablet • It incorporates, at Ursula's suggestion, the EMOA Urban League pages. <p>The content itself may need revising as some is a little out of date e.g. the 'About Orienteering' page refers to 'bring a red pen to mark your map'. I think that whole page could do with a rewrite.</p>	<p>Ann-Marie Duckworth will look at creating something to cover EMJOS for new website. Ursula Williamson will look at fixtures / leagues. Mike Gardner agreed to review the site and identify content that needed to be updated. Aim will be to have content ready to go live after June meeting. Others can identify changes they want to propose.</p> <p>Mike Gardner to contact John and let him know this was</p>

	<p>The committee may want to look at the site by going to http://emoa.org.uk/wp/ and see what you think. Please feel free to make any suggestions about new content or changes to the current content – for example there is no mention of the Junior Squad anywhere on the site!</p> <p>The new site is pretty much ready to go and if people are happy with it, I can replace the existing site very quickly.</p> <p>It was agreed that all can take a look at the site and suggest improvements. Ann-Marie will look at creating something to cover EMJOS. Ursula will look at fixtures / leagues. Mike Gardner agreed to review the site and identify content that needed to be updated. Aim will be to have content ready to go live after June meeting.</p> <p>SSL</p> <p>On a related subject John suggested that we consider purchasing an SSL certificate to improve the security of the website. The cost of this would be £5 per month plus VAT. This basically allows more security and ability to interact with mobile devices more effectively. It was agreed by the meeting that this was appropriate. Mike Gardner to contact John and let him know this was acceptable, so that John could arrange for SSL certificate to be purchased.</p>	acceptable, so that John could arrange for SSL certificate to be purchased.
13.	<p>Sharing Best Practice</p> <p>1) DVO are moving to use Start Kite for event entries in line with other clubs in the region.</p>	
14.	<p>EMEWS:</p> <p>Mike hopes to get the next edition out in early May (copy date 30th April).</p>	
15.	<p>Any Other Business:</p> <p>1) Pauline Olivant asked date of Officials Conference – Saturday September 20th 2025.</p> <p>2) Trudy Crosby stated LOG had been approached to provide information on their Spring Series to BOF for the newsletter.</p>	
16.	<p>Dates and venues for future meetings:</p> <p>The next meeting will be via zoom and it was agreed it would be on 30th June 2025. Ursula to look at getting the LEI Zoom available to support the meeting.</p> <p>In addition we need to book the PACE Room for the EMOA AGM. It was proposed we have the AGM on Monday 22nd September at the PACE Room. John Woodall to book that date for the meeting.</p>	<p>Ursula Williamson / Iain Phillips to look at getting the LEI Zoom available to support the meeting.</p> <p>John Woodall to book PACE Room on 22nd Sept for the EMOA AGM</p>

Meeting closed at 8:56pm