

Minutes of the 41st Annual General Meeting

Date: Saturday, 11th June 2022 @ 17:00

Venue: Leeds Beckett University, Carnegie School of Sports, Headingley Campus, Churchwood Avenue, LS6 3FH

Attendees:

Duncan Birtwistle (OD), Peter Brooke (Staff & SELOC), Peter Hart (BOF & CEO), Trevor Hoey (FVO), Adrian Pickles (WRE), Andy Robinson (Treasurer & LOC), Christine Robinson (LOC), David Rosen (LOK & SROC), Miriam Rosen (SROC), Roger Scrutton (ESOC), Pauline Tryner (SYO), Pete Tryner (SYO), Drew Vanbeck (Chair & SMOC).
(13 members)

Virtual Attendees:

Clive Allen (SN), Ruth Beale (SN), Hazel Bickle (WAOC), Brian Bullen (FVO), Scott Collier (KERN), Judy Craddock (QO), Carol Iddles (BOK), Richard Lewis (WRE), Dawn Lock (SROC), Henry Marston (SYO), Carol McNeill (LOC), Christine Roberts (EBOR), John Rye (RNOC), Terry Smith (SOC), Stuart Swalwell (DVO), Chris Virgo (DEVON), Keith Willdig (OD).
(17 members)

Minute Taker: Peter Hart

Apologies:

Darren Bernstein (Independent Director), Lauren Pagé (Independent Director), Laura Kay Tomlinson (Independent Director), Simon Greenwood (SAX),

1. Welcome and thanks

The Chair, Drew Vanbeck, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

He informed the members that the Board were running a hybrid meeting with 13 members present and 17 joining us virtually.

The Chair introduced the members of the Board who were attending:

Ruth Beale, Peter Hart (Chief Executive), Andy Robinson (Treasurer), David Rosen and Pauline Tryner.

The AGM, Annual Report and Accounts focussed on activities in 2021.

The Chair confirmed that there was a quorum. Under Article 43.6, "fifty Voting Members present in person or by a proxy shall be a quorum". This threshold had been exceeded as 425 Proxy Votes had been submitted via Mi-Voice and with those present it represented 6% of the membership.

The Chair thanked all the members for engaging in the process.

The Chair informed the meeting that all proposals will go to the ballot.

2. Request for AOB Items

The Chair asked the meeting to register if there were any items of any other business.

No other business was raised

3. Minutes of the 40th Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday, 21st April 2021

No matters or comments were arising from the minutes of the above meeting.

The adoption of the minutes was proposed by Pauline Tryner (SYO) and seconded by David Rosen (LOK & SROC).

The minutes of the 40th Annual General Meeting were approved.

4. Chair's Report

Drew Vanbeck, the Chair, referred to the Annual Report.

He highlighted the huge impact that COVID had on the sport but congratulated the clubs and volunteers on their return to the sport and for following the guidance and the return to near 2019 levels.

He thanked the staff and Board for the tricky balance of implementing government guidance, thinking about our sport and what we need to do to be safe and to the clubs and volunteers who had to implement this.

He highlighted the success of the senior athletes at the recent World Cup and wished them every success at the forthcoming World Championships.

Adrian Pickles asked if British Orienteering were operating in the same way as they were pre COVID. The Chair informed the meeting that there were two different aspects to consider.

1. In respect of orienteering competitions, this was up to the clubs to decide. During the period where there were restrictions, we were required as part of our responsibilities to decide and publish clear guidance to members.
2. In respect of our operations, we have changed and are using some of the lessons learnt from the pandemic specifically around the hosting of meetings and the use of remote working.

No further questions were raised, and the report was accepted.

5. Treasurers Report

Andy Robinson, Treasurer referred to the annual accounts, which had been available on the British Orienteering website.

He informed the meeting, that Coronavirus had impacted the planning of the 2021 budget and expenditure. He thanked the Clubs for the way they returned to the sport which resulted in a planned £100K deficit to return a £14k surplus. He went on to explain that there were some adjustments during the audit regarding the management of some funds carried forward which pushed the surplus to £72K.

British Orienteering's reserves at the end of 2021 were £626K. These are substantially in excess of the level required by our Reserves Policy as the sum required for this is £265K. The purpose of having a policy of a reserve minimum is to cover our activities and any subsequent redundancy payments for a period of six months.

The Treasurer highlighted that a forward plan had been presented to the Board regarding activating the Strategic Plan which would result in a deficit in 2022 and 2023. However, at this stage, the Board have not recommended any changes to the membership fees or levies although the intent is to increase these in 2023.

He thanked Jannette Blunden for her work in preparing the accounts from the basic book-keeping entries right through to auditing.

David Rosen requested clarification regarding the difference between the income and expenditure tables in the annual report and the one explaining discretionary expenditure.

The Treasurer explained that a significant amount of our income is from the Sports Councils where the expenditure is governed by the contract with the Sports Councils whereas the discretionary expenditure figures are the areas where the Board have the flexibility to use discretionary income on behalf of the Federation. The Treasurer agreed to give a clearer explanation in the Annual Report next year.

No further questions were raised, and the report was accepted.

The Chair thanked the Treasurer for the work that he does on behalf of the sport.

5.1 Resolution 1: To ADOPT the statement of accounts.

The Chair asked the meeting to adopt the statement of accounts for the year ending 31 December 2021 which was proposed by Roger Scrutton and seconded by Duncan Birtwistle.

The accounts were **approved**.

For the motion – 3408, Against – 2, Abstain – 25

6. Chief Executive's Report

The Chief Executive referred to the Annual Report

He thanked all the clubs and volunteers involved in running and making the sport happen throughout the UK and for returning to the sport so quickly and in a safe way.

He went on to inform the meeting that over the last 20 months that it had been challenging due to uncertainties around the income, the lack of funding agreements and an understanding of the focus of funding from the Sports Councils. He went on to inform the meeting that towards the later stages of last year he was pleased to announce that there were now funding agreements from the Sports Councils which gave the Board a degree of confidence in terms of financial planning going forward. He informed the meeting that he was in the process of aligning the staff to the Strategic Plan and the requirements of the contract with the Sports Councils.

He highlighted the impact that COVID has had on the international programme and specifically the junior athletes who had been selected for a number of international events who were then unable to attend due to concerns about the management of COVID restrictions and safeguarding.

Finally, he thanked the Board, staff and members who had supported him during the last 12 months following his health issues.

John Rye asked if the funding from Sport England was for English Talent Athletes. The CEO informed the meeting that the current funding does not cover the performance programme, however, the Board had agreed to an increase of support for the Great Britain Performance Pathway Programme.

David Rosen asked if the membership were fully aware of the funding that we were receiving from the Sports Councils. The CEO informed the meeting that he would inform the membership via a Newsletter to clubs and also include the outcomes of the AGM.

No further questions were raised, and the report was accepted.

7. Resolutions:

The Chair introduced the resolutions for the meeting.

- 7.1 Resolution 2: To APPOINT the auditors, Haysmacintyre LLP as the auditors** for the 2022 accounts, to be presented at the 2023 AGM which was proposed by the Board of Directors

The Resolution was **approved**

For the motion – 412, Against – 4, Abstain – 19

- 7.2 Resolution 3: To approve the membership period for new members for 2022 & 2023.**

Proposed by the Board of Directors

David Rosen asked what fees the individuals would pay towards club fees. The CEO informed the meeting that the fees due would be the ones in place at the time of joining.

The Resolution was **approved**.

For the motion – 432, Against – 1, Abstain – 2

- 7.3 Resolution 4. Appointment of President**

The Appointment of Steve Cram CBE to be President, was proposed by the Board of Directors.

The **Appointment** of Steve Cram CBE as President was **approved**

For the motion – 422, Against – 4, Abstain – 9

- 7.4 Resolution 5. To Elect Directors**

The Chair informed the meeting of the makeup of the Board of Directors, and that two current members of the Board had reached the end of their first full term. Only two nominations had been received. Therefore, both nominees; Pauline Tryner (SYO) and David Rosen (LOK & SROC) would be appointed unopposed.

The Chair congratulated and thanked both Pauline and David for their input over the last few years and looked forward to working with them during their next term.

- 7.5 Resolution 6. To elect Honorary Members to British Orienteering**

The Chair informed the meeting that the position of Honorary Members had not been reviewed for a number of years. The proposal in some respect was to recognise all the orienteering disciplines and those that had made a significant contribution to the sport.

The resolution was **approved** by the meeting.

For the motion – 395, Against – 9, Abstain – 20

8. Any other Business

John Rye thanked the Board, CEO and Staff for their support of the sport.

Richard Lewis thanked the Chair for making the meeting more accessible by holding it as a hybrid meeting.

There was no further business raised.

9. Closing of Meeting

No other business was raised by the meeting, so the Chair thanked everyone for attending the AGM and closed the meeting at 17:40.