

Lincoln Orienteering Group - Annual General Meeting
Thursday 19th October 2023 - held at The Sports Centre,
University of Lincoln at 7.30pm

Present: John Mather, Craig Lucas, Sean Harrington, Paul Murgatroyd, Liam Harrington, Annie Gibbs, Geoff Gibbs, Ally Wright, Amanda Roberts, Nick Lyons, Anna Koskela-Brook, Amanda Mylett, David Mylett, Ben Cluderay, Hannah Mather

1. Apologies: Andy Lucas, Steve Bones, Joy Pollock, Trudy Crosby, Clare Hanna.

2. Minutes of 2022 AGM: The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Proposed by: Nick Lyons Seconded by: Anne Gibbs

3. Chairman's Report:

I found myself writing my first annual report as chair, after yet another successful LOG event. At Grantham, we had a strong contingent of volunteers, without whom, our events just wouldn't happen. I'd like to take the opportunity to thank all those who have given up their time to make sure that our events run smoothly from start to finish. I'd like to especially thank the outgoing committee, who have put in a significant amount of hard work and effort to keep up our calendar of events.

There are a number of challenges facing the sport at the moment. The number of members nationally is reducing, which is apparent in the number of previously large clubs now competing as small clubs in competitions like the CST. And whilst the number of members is decreasing the average age is increasing, and it's becoming more important than ever to attempt to bring in more juniors and young families. We're also facing more challenges around access, especially in our terrain areas. We're currently looking at our third and potentially even fourth areas for the East Midlands Championships we're hosting in February. Again, this is not just a local challenge, with access being one of the biggest areas of concern at a national level.

I don't want to stand here and just be negative though, as there have been a lot of positives to take away. Through the past 12 months, we've put on 21 events. For a club of our size, we are able to put on not just a large amount, but also a varied calendar of events. Across the 4 different series we run, we manage to offer a mixture of terrain and urban, line and score and physical and virtual events. On top of that we produced 4 high quality regional events, starting off with Chambers Woods EML in spring, the Wolds MMM and Lincoln City Races in the summer and finally, the previously touched upon Grantham EMUL event just last weekend. As we look forward, I think keeping this balance of events should be the goal to offer a wide variety of high-quality events.

Although we're all members of a club, we still compete as individuals. It's worth noting some of the achievements of certain individuals over the last 12 months. In the East Midlands Urban League, we had a strong showing with 4 champions, Hannah Mather, Mike Chapman, Andrea Page and Tanya Taylor in their respective age classes. Tanya also won the Blue Female class in the EMOA League. At the East Midlands Championships, Hannah Mather and Craig Lucas won the W18 and M21 classes respectively. Moving further afield, Hannah Mather was 1 of 8 girls selected to go on the JROS training camp in Stockholm in late summer, giving her the opportunity to train in tricky terrain alongside some of the country's top juniors. Finally, just last month, Phillip Johnston-Davis was once again able to represent Ireland at the Veteran Home Internationals.

We don't have to look very far into the future to our next events. Our autumn MapRun series kicks off on Saturday at Branston. We hope to provide our traditional calendar of events throughout next year, with some key dates being hosting the East Midlands Championships in February next year and the city race being a part of the Euro City Race tour in 2025. I hope to see everyone supporting them as well as they can.

Craig Lucas

4. Fixture Secretary's Report:

East Mid Champs: Having no success with Bourne or Grimsthorpe we are now looking at Chambers for this event. I have been assured there are no forestry works scheduled in Chambers for Feb 24 and as explained above, permission is looking more promising.

Risk Assessments: I have been tasked with this job for the last eleven years, doing much research and, I believe, improving our RAs. However it seems not everyone thinks the same. So I would now like to relinquish this task and would appreciate someone else taking it on. We had 17 events and 6 activities last year - all with risk assessments. Amanda Roberts offered to take on this job.

Events: Having good relations with head rangers and open-area officials means obtaining permissions are now being approved quicker. Our next events are the MapRuns then Fight the Night. Our EMOA events for 2024 are 25th Feb Mid Champs - 18th Aug Lincoln - 20th Oct Bourne.

Remember "Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass; it's about learning to dance in the rain."

Annie Gibbs

5. Treasurer's Report: Please see the report attached. The Treasurer thanked Andy Lucas for auditing the accounts.

The Treasurer pointed out to the meeting that there was a visible trend of event profit declining and overheads increasing and whilst there were sufficient club funds to finance this at the moment this could be a problem in years to come. A sub committee of Craig Lucas, Paul Murgatroyd and Nick Lyons would look at future finances.

Nick Lyons

6. Election of Officers:

Post	Proposed	Proposer	Secunder	Elected
Chair	Craig Lucas	Elected in Oct 22 for three years and happy to continue		
Secretary/Membership	Amanda Roberts	John Mather	Ally Wright	Elected
Treasurer	Nick Lyons	Elected in Oct 22 for two years and happy to continue		
Vice Chair	John Mather	Nick Lyons	Paul Murgatroyd	Elected
Junior's Rep	Hannah Mather	Craig Lucas	Annie Gibbs	Elected

Fixtures Secretary	Annie Gibbs	Ally Wright	Anna Koskela-Brook	Elected
Publicity Officer	Ally Wright	Amanda Roberts	Sean Harrington	Elected
Welfare Officer	Anna Koskela-Brook	Annie Gibbs	Craig Lucas	Elected
Unposted	Trudy Crosby	Amanda Roberts	Nick Lyons	Elected
Unposted	Paul Murgatroyd	Craig Lucas	Nick Lyons	Elected
Unposted	Sean Harrington	Annie Gibbs	Paul Murgatroyd	Elected
Unposted	Ben Cluderay	Sean Harrington	Amanda Roberts	Elected

7. Membership Fees: The current year's membership fee is held at zero.

Proposal: To keep LOG membership fees at zero for 2024.

Proposed by: Nick Lyons Seconded by: John Mather Vote: Unanimous

8. President's Award: On behalf of Ian Durrant, Craig Lucas announced the winner of the Award.

Award Winner 2023: Hannah Mather

For those that don't know, the president's shield is an award presented on behalf of our club president Ian Durrant, by the committee, to the person deemed to deserve a special recognition. This might be being heavily involved in planning, organising or hard work with something else behind the scenes. I believe this year is the first year we've awarded it based on someone's performances.

Hannah Mather's achievements were mentioned in my earlier speech. It's also worth noting that whilst doing this, she's been forced to battle a medical condition which hindered her training but has battled through it. She's won multiple East Midlands prizes over the last 12 months, competed at various athletics meets and also ran the 2-day Saunders Mountain Marathon event. The standout performance being her inclusion in the JROS camp in Stockholm. Congratulations Hannah Mather.

9. Any Other Business:

Membership Numbers: Membership numbers had slightly decreased in 2023.

Total: 67 Members (58 Seniors, 9 Juniors)

Meeting Closed 8.17pm.