

SOUTH LONDON ORIENTEERS & WAYFARERS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Pizza Express, East Putney - Tuesday 24 November 2008 - Time 20.45-22.50

Present: Don McKerrow (Chairman), Dorte Torpe Hansen (Minutes) Peter Huzan, Teresa Turner, Charlie Turner, Andy Robinson, Nick Barrable, Richard Weston, Yehuda Alon, Ollie O'Brien, Ed Catmur, Dan Finlay Robinson, Phil Marsland, Jayne Sales, Anita Ray, James Baldwinson, Dick Clark, Chris Robinson, Richard Catmur, Ginny Catmur, Angus Lund

Apologies: Mike Murray, Tyrone Weller, Matthias Mahr, Mike Garvin

MINUTES OF MEETING AND ACTIONS ARISING

The minutes of the 2008 meeting were approved.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (Don McKerrow)

Don welcomed us to the meeting. It has been another cracking year for the club. The particular highlights were the wide variety of event we have had on: an even better City Race, increasing number of street o and park o, trail challenges etc The different types of races attract different types of people. Big thank you to all the organizers, planners and helpers. This wide range is what the club is about. We were 6th in the Compass Sport Cup final, we had a range of champions over the year. For once as a club we have managed to spend money: we have bought new SI kit. A detailed analysis of the top 100 in W21 and M21 shows that SLOW is 3rd in terms of number of people. On the positive side is also that we have grown in numbers from last year.

Don is willing to step down as chairman as he feels 5 years is a good time to get new blood, so think about that for next year.

FIXTURES REPORT (Andy Robinson)

We have had a surplus of events. As always a challenge to get volunteers, so thanks to everyone also from Andy.

Don had received a note from Matthias on the subject of volunteers suggesting that we as a club are massively overworking volunteers by putting on too many events and using too many volunteers per event. This raised a good discussion in the meeting, and there was general consensus that the Matthias raises some good points though it is the general feeling that there is no helper fatigue in the club. Helping at an event is a way to meet people from the club. While things can be kept simpler it was stated that it is generally better to have slightly too many helpers, than too few and they are rushed off their feet. It was stated that there is no such thing as too many people as some of these become tomorrow's organizers through having good helper experiences. There has been experiences of low manpower events, though this requires that helpers and also participants generally are experienced orienteers e.g. if there is no helpers at start or finish. Action points:

- was that we do need more people in the club who are familiar and comfortable with SI
- as a club we need to focus on training people for example by having a planner and an assistant planner, an organizer and assistant organizer, so people who find organizing or planning alone daunting will have a coach

It may help in general organizing if helpers are easy to identify e.g. with a t shirt or similar (see later)

As usual we are keen to fill the organiser & planner roles for the next year's events, and offers to Andy are very welcome.

(See Andy's full report for more details.)

MAPPING REPORT (Andy Robinson)

Credits given to main contributors to mapping this year: Ollie for the City map and Don for producing a vast amount of schools and parks. We have had no major mapping expenses this year.

(See the detailed report for more information.)

TREASURER'S REPORT (Don for Mike Garvin)

We started the year at £16K and ended at £10K, so the club is still in good financial shape

The club (part of) membership fees will not increase in October 2010 (for the year 2011).

See the full report for a breakdown of numbers.

We agreed to charge £1 for BOF members and £2 for non-members for street-Os and Park Os from January

MEMBERSHIP REPORT (Teresa Turner)

Numbers of members are up in almost all categories. We have the highest number of units ever! It is looking very healthy

See the report for a breakdown of numbers.

DEVELOPMENT REPORT (Chris Robinson)

We have done more work than in the previous years on the development front and we have more school maps than ever. 34 sessions have been held with scouts and guides and we have had around 100 at each festival. That is a large amount of youngsters who have been introduced to a valid experience of orienteering.

There has been a number of coaching sessions and the coaching sub-committee is meeting quarterly.

This year we received funding for 2 important projects: Love to (focussed on girls) and an After School club at Tiffin.

We have not yet found the formula to get juniors to join the club. The key seem to be in regular event in the same place at the same time. The key word being regular. Try to get the park series dates fixed earlier, so it can be publicised.

Development is also happening around 2012. 'Green routes' are being set up to encourage cycling and walking to the Olympic park. These can potentially be used for orienteering with other clubs. There will also be the opportunity to hold events after the Olympic Games with the logo 'Inspired by 2012'. This could potentially apply to the City Race

(See Chris' report for more information.)

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

No new officers elected in the meeting. SLOWprint editor, publicity officer and trail challenge coordinator are vacant.

Ollie O'Brien has taken over as webmaster during the year

The following will all continue:

Chair (Don McKerrow), Secretary (Dorte Torpe Hansen), Men's Captain (Pete Huzan), Ladies Captain (Sarah Covey-Crump), Treasurer (Mike Garvin), Fixtures (Andy Robinson), Mapping (Andy Robinson), Membership (Teresa Turner), Webmaster (Ollie O'Brien), Development (Chris Robinson), SEOA Rep (Andy Robinson), Equipment (Chris Fry), Coaching (Nicky Morris), Junior rep (Ralph Street).

CAPTAIN'S REPORT (Pete Huzan)

Pete went through the team highlights of the last year.

The large club events have been good for the club and are lots of fun and we have teams from very competitive to more social.

In this year's British champs we had 15 teams and the we were 4th in the men's premier which is one of our best results ever.

For the Compass Sport Cup final there was a good turnout for the regional round and we qualified to the final. At the final the numbers were quite low and everyone had to count, so overall a position as 6th was very good.

In the JK we had 13 teams and it was tough competition, but still some good results with 4th place in 125 and 2nd place in mixed ad-hoc.

In the Harvester we were 1st in women's handicap

Ralph has had an impressive year representing GB at the junior world champs. He is one of the best orienteers we have had since Heather Monro. He is now at university in Sheffield. In addition to his achievements in the forest he has also been assisting with school events.

(See website reports for further details.)

AOB

Dick suggested cleaning up in our collection of signs and he will get some new ones made.

Dick will also organize some bibs with 'SLOW official' to be used at events

The Christmas social will be on the 10th of December in Richmond