

## **2024 South London Orienteers' AGM**

### **Chair's Report by Abi Weeds-Mahr**

Hello and welcome to everyone including those listening on Zoom.

It has been overall a successful year for the Club, but I'll leave the next reporters to tell you more about that in a few minutes.

I'd like to highlight the record 400+ participants in the summer Park Series organised by Sarah, the ongoing great participation at Vinh, Dave and Steve's street, MTBO and night series, as well as another spectacular London City Race and OK Nuts.

This year though has been marked by a couple of very sad events. In addition to the passing of one of the founding members of SLOW, Chris Morris, in early January, we received the tragic news of Ed Catmur's death. We commemorated both these amazing people with trophies at the OK Nuts and London City Race respectively, and I would also like to now have a minute's silence to remember them.

Thank you.

Now I'd like to look to the future.

When I took over as Chair, I had a chat with each of the Committee members about the Club's challenges and goals. We also ran a members survey this summer asking everyone how they wanted the club to move forward. - Thank you to the 52 people who responded. - The good news is we're on the right track - as a Club, we organise great events and we will continue to do so. We are putting measures in place to make volunteering more attractive and there are some initial signs that this is working. You would like more training events like the one we ran in February, and good news - these are forthcoming in 2025. You would also like an annual social event and more of social scene at races - and for that we could really do with a social secretary - please come forward someone! Just under a third would like SLOWPrint to reignite - again we need someone to step forward.

Finally, I do want to thank everyone who has planned, organised, coordinated, or volunteered for SLOW events, have mapped or given of their time in any other way over the past year. And thank you to Chris Glew for organising this meeting and arranging the venue.

There are some special mentions, I'd like to make:

Firstly, to Pete, who is stepping down after over 25 years as Club Captain. We have been very lucky to have Pete coordinating and encouraging members to take part in team events. His energy and enthusiasm of team runners have been tremendous, and his understanding of what members might enjoy doing, and how to make best use of the intricate scoring/handicapping systems has been very helpful! Please pass on the manual!

Next is a new list of special mentions for those who have gone above and beyond for the Club this year. They will receive a SLOW special mention mug!

Charlie Turner - for his prodigious efforts with the new Pastures Wood map. He has spent hundreds of hours not only mapping, during which he and his ipad fell waist-deep in a bog, but also tracking down ridiculously hard to find landowners.

Paul Street - who as well as keeping the website updated, manages to keep us all entertained week in week out with fresh, witty and interesting content for the club newsletter.

Gordon Parker - for his extraordinary efforts as Equipment Officer. Anyone who has ever planned or organised will know the lengths Gordon goes to, to make events run smoothly. But there are unsung jobs he does like organising our equipment insurance policy, as well as things far beyond the job description such as fund-raising by lending our kit to other clubs, and probably much more besides.

And finally, to Fiona, for not only being a highly efficient treasurer, but also going well outside her job description and designing and etching many many many commemorative trophies and glasses.

Thank you all.