

## **South London Orienteers and Wayfarers 2022 AGM Minutes**

**29<sup>th</sup> November 19:30 – held at Pizza Express, Putney and on Zoom**

**Present in person** – Sarah Brown, Paul Street, Steve Clelland, Chris Glew, Duncan Grassie, Vinh Hoang, Joanna Cole, Alan Leakey, Diane Leakey, Don McKerrow, Gail Parker, Gordon Parker, Oli O'Brien, Fiona Tam, Charlie Turner, Mike Murray.

**On Zoom** – Dave Uglow, Peter Huzan, Eloise Lardet.

**Apologies** – Stephen Hargrave, Carys Morgan, Judith Clarkson, Richard Kirk, Heather Walton, Steve Allen, Barbara Griessner.

### **Opening**

Approval of the 2021 AGM minutes was proposed by Gordon and seconded by Don. No objections were raised.

### **Chair's Report (Alan Leakey)**

Firstly, I must apologise to those from England and Wales for the fact that this meeting clashes with tonight's football match football. And then give a thank you to Chris Glew for organising the meeting and arranging the venue.

I haven't got a lot to say this evening that won't be covered elsewhere, but I do want to thank all of the members of the club that planned, organised, coordinated or volunteered for SLOW events, or controlled for other clubs throughout the past year. In particular, Sarah Brown for stepping in at the last minute to organise at our Esher Commons event, Charlie Turner for his prodigious efforts with Leith Hill Place, and Gordon Parker for wrestling with the issues of the club's insurance policy and tax status on top of the role of Equipment Officer.

But that does bring me to my key point. I am stepping down after 5 years in the Chair and no one within the club has come forward to take on that role. And we are often desperately short of volunteers at events. At our Esher Commons event only just over 50% of SLOW members that attended volunteered to help. SLOW continues to be dependent on a core of retirees who inevitably grow older, which is a situation that obviously cannot continue indefinitely. It is a situation that we need to improve - don't expect this meeting to solve the issue, but it has to be the focus in the coming year.

### **Treasurer's Report (Fiona Tam)**

The headline from Fiona was that this year we made a healthy profit mainly due to the races we put on. We had very low mapping costs and more entries than expected at the big races this year. Both the London City race and OK Nuts made a profit. The VHI combined with the JHI broke even and currently the Esher Common race has made a good profit although there may

be some more expenses to be claimed. There were many late entries for that race contributing to the profits. Also this year we have made a saving on maps which have been created by volunteers rather than professionally. It was suggested that we should spend some money to support juniors and also to use professional first aid services for all our Level C events and higher.

### **Membership Report (Gail Parker)**

Gail reported 188 members total, including 23 new (mainly from Tuesday nights), and quite a few members based in Europe. For some reason we are losing female members. We are still not up to pre-covid membership levels. It seems that we don't have all members' email addresses, or some are not valid, so that they are not on our mailing list and also members have to opt in to the mailing list, and therefore do not necessarily see requests for volunteers. Don suggested sending a Christmas card to members asking them to sign up to the mailing list and this could also include a request for volunteers. Paul proposed a round of applause for Gail.

There was a general discussion about how we might get more volunteer help at events.

### **Development Report (Sarah Brown)**

Sarah reported that she has stepped down from English team management.

### **Equipment Report (Gordon Parker)**

Gordon reported moderate expenditure this year. We have a new "Air Tent" tent, a number of SI stations had replacement batteries, new first aid kit and marker flags for the Box Hill Fell Race, however he has just secured another 50 SI stations at a very reduced price from a company that has ceased using SI equipment. This means we will be able to have separate urban and forest sets and they can also be rented out to help recover some of the cost. Paul proposed a round of applause for Gordon.

### **Fixtures Report (Steve Clelland)**

Steve reported that during the year we have successfully completed a full programme of Tuesday evening and weekend events. We continue to be seen as a club that puts on high quality events and as a result attract good numbers. The main events were, OK Nuts at Leith Hill Place (a new area thanks to Charlie), GLOSS, City of London, Esher Common (new map thanks to Alan) and SE Nights at Wimbledon Common (thanks to Don). Regarding the City of London, numbers were down on the previous event in 2019 probably due to a lack of foreign competitors. There were 5 races in the night series, numbers were down for the last 2 events. Currently we are not allowed access to Richmond Park at night. There were 9 park events, 6 hosted by SLOW (thanks to Don and Vinh) and 8 Street series events, 6 hosted by SLOW. Also the Box Hill fell race was very popular and sold out within the first hour.

Steve mentioned the difficulty with scheduling large events as they need to go in the calendar 2 years in advance. Gordon noted the desirability of signing up principal officials for bigger events nine months in advance. But we have done well hosting events compared to other SEOA clubs. He is open to any suggestions and thanked Charlie for his help.

### **Mapping Report (Don McKerrow)**

Don reported that Charlie produced the Leith Hill Place map for April's event, and Alan the Esher Commons map. Don mapped Burgess Park and updated several other maps. He said we should expect to spend more on mapping rather than relying on volunteers. Alan said that Winterfold will need a new map and also we will need an extension for London City Race to be at Rotherhithe, so we could pay for these.

### **Captain's Report (Pete Huzan)**

Pete reported that team events were more or less back to normal this year. There were 4 events, first was the Compass Sport Cup where we came 2<sup>nd</sup> to Southdowns in the regional round, Southdowns are hosting the regional event next year with the final to be held in the Forest of Dean. At the British Championships bronze medals were won by the W40 (Boryana, Steph, Vesela), W50 (Lulu, Dorte, Lyudmila) and W60 (Sarah, Karen, Diane) teams. Michael C was in all our premier teams this season and also competed in some World Cup races. In the JK, W120 (Carys, Clare, Sarah-Jane) and MW210 (Don, Sarah, AJ) got bronze medals, and we got a 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the mixed ad-hoc (Mikolay, Kieran Mc, Alan). We fielded 3 teams for the British Sprint champs in Leeds where Don, Sarah and Paul S got a silver medal in the Ultra Vets. This year the Harvester was cancelled but it is in Catterick (North Yorkshire) next year so it would be good to keep up our record of attending every year. Next year 3 big events are taking place in March/April, Compass Sport Cup, British Champs in South Central and the JK Easter competition in the Lake District, then the Harvester is in June. The British Sprint Relays are in Uxbridge the day after our London City Race in September.

### **MTBO (Dave Uglow)**

There were 4 events this year including an event in Brighton. The Aldbury Sports club was a particularly suitable venue, most people enter the 3 hour race. MTBO has also suffered from late entries this year. We will be hosting the BMBO national championship event for 2 days in July at Holmbury St Mary next year. All events this year have used Maprun and will carry on using it. Finances are quite healthy, a small profit was made.

### **Election of Officers**

Constitutional Officers:

Chair – vacant, Alan Leakey is stepping down

Fiona Tam - Treasurer (re-elected) – Don proposing, Duncan seconding

Steve Clelland - Fixtures (re-elected) – Gail proposing, Charlie seconding

Pete Huzan - Captain (re-elected) – Vinh proposing, Fiona seconding

Gordon Parker - Equipment (re-elected) – Sarah proposing, Don seconding

Chris Glew – Secretary(re-elected) – Diane proposing, Gordon seconding

General committee members (read out role and incumbent) – Diane proposed, Duncan seconded:

Gail Parker - Membership (re-elected)

Don McKerrow - Mapping (re-elected)  
Paul Street - Web (re-elected)  
Sarah Brown - Development (re-elected)

Current vacancies:

Social Secretary - vacant  
Coaching – vacant  
Publicity - vacant  
Vice-chair – vacant

Co-opted members:

Barbara Griessner - Park Series Coordinator  
Vinh Hoang - Street Series Coordinator  
Steve Clelland - Night Series Coordinator  
Sarah-Jane Barrable - SLOW Print Editor  
Alan Leahey - Safeguarding Officer  
Alan Leahey - SEOA Rep  
Sarah Brown – Volunteer Coordinator  
Dave Uglow – MTBO Coordinator

## **2022 AGM MOTION**

Proposal: That all helpers at a SLOW event who wish to compete at that event receive a totally free entry rather than a discounted one.

Rationale. We struggle to get helpers for events so those that do volunteer should be rewarded as much as possible. It is recognised that this act is unlikely in itself to result in an increase in the number of volunteers but we should reward those we do get.

The motion was passed unanimously. Planners, organisers and helpers that are not able to run should get a free entry to another event or if they are not able to take this up then SLOW should pay for their entry into another major event. Also, all helpers should get food vouchers.

Alan asked for suggestions of rewards for volunteers to be discussed at the next committee meeting.

It was agreed that the club would pay for BML to print and post a Christmas/New Year card to all members publicising the link to the groups.io, benefits of being a helper, (free run, food if available and fun), and of getting the weekly newsletter.

## **AOB**

There is an issue that we do not have a Chairperson going forward. Alan has approached 4 people but at the moment no one has volunteered so Alan agreed he will continue to do the

legal necessities. He asked all present to approach club members to ask if they could consider taking on the role.

Gordon thanked Charlie for the work he has done on mapping and organising Leith Hill Place. He thanked Alan for the work he did on mapping and planning Esher Common, and for his contribution as Chairman. Charlie and Alan were each presented with a hamper on behalf of the club.