

Lakeland Orienteering Club

Minutes of meeting held on March 9th 2015

Committee attendees: Iain Smith-Ward (ISW), Selwyn Wright (SW), Rob Browne, Steve Buckley (SB), Chris Heppenstall (CH), Richard Tiley (RT), Graham Walkden, Dave Walton (DW), Jo Cleary (JC).

Other members: Margaret Buckley, Helen Livesey, Mike McIver (MM), Angela Towler, Dick Towler (DT), Paul Williams (PW).

1. **Apologies:** Derek Allison, Sue Butterfield (SB), Simon Filmore, Philip Senior.
2. **Minutes of previous (February) meeting:** agreed.
3. **Matters arising:**

Actions from October meeting

Action 71: CH to ask Carol McNeill to approach relevant landowners in the Rusland Valley to seek permissions. If sufficient progress cannot be made in this location, it was agreed to look at alternatives in the Duddon Valley, coordinated by Richard Lecky-Thompson. **Ongoing.**

Action 72: CH to commission Martin Bagness (MB) to map agreed areas, once permissions have been secured, which may now involve some negotiation by MB himself. ISW to liaise with CH and MB to explore an extension to the Great Tower mapped area if it is to be used for the British Night Champs in 2017. **Ongoing.** ISW to also contact Park Cliffe Caravan Park, adjacent to Great Tower, to secure use (for a fee) of their hard-standing for car parking for the 2017 British Night Champs. CH added that Martin Bagness has been approached by Hinning House Outdoor Education Centre for a quote to map an area in the central Duddon Valley, and wondered whether LOC would like to share the cost of this in exchange for use of the area. It was agreed that ISW would determine who owns the land Hinning House are interested in mapping, but that in principle LOC would welcome MB's proposal.

Actions from December meeting

Action 74: ISW to circulate list of venues for LOC 2015 Summer Series via the LOC googlegroup to appeal for organisers. **Ongoing.**

Actions from January meeting

Action 79: ISW to investigate possibilities for finding an LOC Publicity Officer. **Ongoing.**

Action 81: RT (as Lakeland Access Officer) to explore, via Rick Browne, the viability of using Roanhead as an alternative area for the 7th November event. **Ongoing.** DT reported that a relevant conversation had taken place with a representative from the National Trust, who has referred the matter further up the organisational chain.

Actions from February meeting

Action 82: RT and DW to approach a couple of web designers re quotes for developing a revamped LOC website. Then RB to work with RT on evolving the LOC website for the exchange of Club news and information as outlined above. **Ongoing.** RB reported (later in the meeting) that he had discussed options and ideas with MM, who works in IT. The meeting agreed that RB and MM should seek a small number of quotes and report back on options and prices to the next LOC monthly meeting. In the meantime, RB to put dates and minutes from LOC monthly meetings on the existing website.

Action 83: CH to ask MB to re-quote for around £400 of mapping work on Lingmoor for the time being. **Completed.** MB plans to map the entire area, supplying £400 worth of mapping to LOC for use for a forthcoming Galoppen, and the remainder (for an additional fee) if / when the Club decides to proceed with a Level B event.

Action 84: CH to include an instruction about unique 'cut-off leg' controls in the instructions for LOC local event course planners in future. **Ongoing.**

Action 85: RT to liaise with the National Trust re their proposed permanent orienteering course at Tarn Hows. **Ongoing.** RT reported that he has been in contact with the relevant NT contact, who is going to come back to him with some proposed control sites to comment on.

Action 86: RT to grant Rob Browne 'super user' access to the LOC website, to enable him to upload meeting dates and minutes. JC will send RB copies of previous minutes (from the last AGM) and the meeting dates for the forthcoming year. **Completed.**

4. **LOC half yearly accounts:** A copy of these, prepared by LOC Treasurer Sue Butterfield, were circulated with the meeting agenda. It was agreed that Sue, who was thanked for her efforts, should be invited to the next meeting to talk through the figures in more detail.

Action 87: ISW to invite SB to the April LOC meeting to go through the half yearly Club accounts spreadsheet.

5. **Fixtures:** CH reported that there had been four night events and a Galoppen organised by LOC since the last monthly meeting, all had been well received and pretty well attended. ISW conveyed the Club's thanks to all those involved in planning, organising and helping at these events, particularly Paul Williams and Simon Filmore regarding the sizeable Claife Heights Galoppen last weekend. PW reported that there had been some confusion surrounding retrieval by Ambleside Mountain Rescue Team of a casualty with a badly broken ankle at the Claife Heights event. In brief, the MRT seemed to have some difficulty finding the casualty using an orienteering map, but also seemed reluctant to ask for assistance from experienced orienteers in this operation. After some discussion it was decided that the following recommendations would be useful to cover future similar situations. Event organisers to have an OS map of the event area to hand, to help direct emergency services if necessary. LOC members to speak to Mountain Rescue Teams who will be covering the JK, to determine what information they need to quickly identify the location of casualties. Include ensuing advice on these issues in revamped guides for event organisers (major, regional and local), to be available on the LOC website.

There are four Tech races planned in April, at Great Tower, Sales Bank, Bleathwaite and Eggerslack. ISW volunteered to organise the first at Great Tower, and Alan Heppenstall the last at Eggerslack. CH will appeal to the wider Club membership, via the LOC Googlegroup, to find cover for the remaining two.

JK organisation and planning is all going as well as can be expected. While there is a very large elite entry, overall competitor numbers are slightly lower (around 3,000) than anticipated (3,500).

DW asked if all planned LOC events could be listed on the Club website, even if they need to be accompanied by a caveat along the lines of 'pending permissions'.

Action 88: DW and CH to work together to ensure all LOC planned events are listed on the Club website soon.

6. **Rounding up helpers for LOC events:** There appears to have been a slight breakdown in the system of allocating one of three helper teams to LOC events in recent months. This is partly

attributable to the fact that the helper teams listed on the website are somewhat out of date, as some members still listed have left, while recent recruits are not listed at all.

Action 89: RT to update helper teams, possibly into two rather than three teams, once his JK responsibilities are out of the way.

7. **2015 Cumbria Schools' Champs and School Park Series:** SW reported that it is LOC's turn to host the Cumbria Schools' Orienteering Championships this year. This will take place towards the end of June among Haverigg sand dunes, with both a planner and organiser already secured. The event is also being moved from a weekend to a school day, to help ensure a good level of participation among schools. SW has a few offers of help to run the School Park series, which is being consolidated into four events rather than the seven held in previous years, but would welcome some more. Proposed dates and locations for the latter are: Ulverston Leisure Centre 30th April, Cartmel Racecourse 7th May, Fellfoot 14th May and a final at Brockhole on 21st May.
8. **Compass Sport Cup:** SB reported that he has some 43 LOC members (plus a number, TBC, from UVHS) signed up to represent the Club at this event, hosted by WCOC on 15th March. He is a little disappointed that there isn't a larger LOC contingent, particularly as both the heat and final are both in Cumbria. It was agreed, however, that the Club would subsidise the entry fee of our members by 50%. Outstanding fees to Steve Buckley, please, now £5 per adult, £2 per junior.
9. **Disposal of LDNPA land holdings, implications for access:** The Lake District National Park Authority is selling off a number of parcels of land in an attempt to raise capital / reduce maintenance costs. The first eight lots currently being disposed of include Summerhouse Knott (see, for example, <http://search.carterjonas.co.uk/properties-for-sale/ulverston/cumbria/KEN150024/54142>), used recently for the Club Champs and a Northern Night League event. There is concern that the new owners may restrict public access to established rights of way, or charge excessive fees for other recreational uses, e.g. occasional orienteering events. The meeting generally agreed that this move is unlikely to bode well for orienteering and the following actions were agreed.

Action 90: ISW to canvas the LOC membership, via the Googlegroup, to determine whether anyone would oppose the Club expressing a formal objection to the LDNPA land sale. If not, ISW to write to Tim Farron MP to lodge LOC opposition to this situation, and encourage individuals to sign the on-line petition organized by 38 Degrees (<https://secure.38degrees.org.uk/page/s/save-our-national-parks#petition>).
10. **NWOA update:** RT and DT reported that the Lakes 5 Days has been confirmed for 2018 and relevant clubs are currently being asked to suggest preferred locations for events. Also, in the light of changes at a national (BOF) level, the NWOA is likely to become more active in running courses for planners, organisers and controllers in future, which is deemed to be a positive move.
11. **AOB:** There has been some confusion over use of LOC Googlegroups to communicate with LOC members en masse, it not working well with some ISP / email services combinations. The test is that, if you send a message via the Googlegroup, you should receive a copy of it. If you don't, please contact DW direct (dave.walton1@btinternet.com).

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 14th April.

Matters arising

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