

# NORTH WEST ORIENTEERING ASSOCIATION

## Annual General Meeting

Held Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2025 at the Victoria Institute, Brookfield Road, Caton, Lancaster, LA2 9QT.

## Attendees

(v) denotes voting for their club.

|                  |           |                  |
|------------------|-----------|------------------|
| Stella Lewsley   | BL        | v (and NW Chair) |
| Iain Bell        | DEE       | v                |
| Andy Robinson    | LOC       | (& BOF Liaison)  |
| Iain Smith Ward  | LOC       | v                |
| Richard Tiley    | LOC       | (and NW Exec)    |
| David Wathey     | MDOC      | v                |
| Caroline Barcham | SELOC     | v                |
| Alex Finch       | SROC      | v                |
| Jon Eaton        | WCOC      | v (and NW Exec)  |
| Sue Birkinshaw   | MDOC/GMOA | v (GMOA only)    |

Clubs not represented at the AGM: PFO, IoM, Warrior.

## 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from: Hannah Dabinett (PFO), Gavin Ockenden (SROC), Martyn Roome (SROC), Peter Brooke (SELOC), Paul Turner (SELOC, new Chair).

Video facilities were provided and a Zoom meeting established, but no one joined the meeting remotely.

## 2. Minutes of 2024 AGM (previously circulated)

A correction to the minutes was notified to the meeting. Under section 3.1, it was noted that the SROC laptop was a Dell Latitude, not a tough ipad as minuted.

The minutes were otherwise proposed, seconded and approved.

### 2.1 Matters arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere.

There were none.

## 3. Reports (previously circulated)

### 3.1 Chair's Report (Stella Lewsley)

- Stella reported that it had been a challenging year for her personally, having only stepped into the role once the decision to rotate the position of Chair around the clubs in the NWOA had been agreed, as the member of the NWOA exec for BL, the first club in the alphabet.
- The NWOA had a bumper year in 2025, organising a number of successful National events, specifically the British Championships, Northern Championships, Senior Home Internationals and Junior Inter-Regional Championships. The last two of these were run

in parallel on the same areas and weekend, an outstanding feat! A big thanks to LOC for providing areas, and to Richard Tiley in particular, who was heavily involved in most of these events.

- NWOA has appointed 7 new Grade C controllers, plus elevated one existing controller to Level B.
- 2026 will be another big year for the NWOA, as the Association will be organising the L5D. A lot of work went in to drafting the Job Description/ Specification for, and advertising the position of, the Event Organiser for the L5D 2026. After consideration, Richard Tiley has been appointed to this position.

### 3.2 NWJS Report (Sue Roome):

- Successfully organised JIRCS. NWJS achieved 4<sup>th</sup> place.
- Call for more M/W 12 juniors to be proposed for NWJS.

### 3.3 Coaching (Lynne Thomas): No report received

### 3.4 LDAO Report (Richard Tiley): No comments

### 3.5 Association Fixtures (Jean Payne):

Due to health issues, Jean was unable to provide a report for the AGM.

It was noted that Jean is looking to stand down from this position, something that had been minuted in the 2024 NWOA AGM minutes. It was also noted that, in Jean's absence, any issues or requests for events to be elevated from Level D (Local) to Level C (Regional) would need to be fed up to Mike Cope (Chair of BOF Event Scheduling Group), although this is not a sustainable position. NWOA needs to appoint a new Association Fixtures Secretary.

Action: Richard Tiley to draft a specification for the position of Association Fixtures Secretary, that can be circulated to each Club within the NWOA.

Action: Richard Tiley to liaise with Mike Cope to determine the pathway by which NWOA Club Fixtures Secretaries will be able to register events at Level C (Regional) and above until a new Association Fixtures Secretary is appointed.

## 4. NWOA Accounts for 2024/2025

The audited 2024/25 accounts were proposed, seconded, and approved by the AGM.

## 5. NWOA Membership Fees & Budget for 2025/26

5.1 Richard Tiley proposed that the £1 club subscription, agreed at the 2024 NWOA AGM, should continue for another year. This was duly seconded by David Wathey (MDOC) and agreed by the AGM.

5.2 The 2025/26 budget was proposed, seconded, and approved by the AGM.

## 6. Election of Executive committee

6.1 Iain Bell (DEE) agreed to take over as NWOA Exec Chair, DEE being the second club in the rotation.

- 6.2 Jon Eaton (WCOC), Richard Tiley (LOC) and Stella Lewsley (BL, secretary) all agreed to continue in the absence of any other nominations. Gavin Ockenden (SROC, not present) had expressed his desire to stand down, but agreed to continue if no other nominations were forthcoming. There were no further nominations. All four were proposed, seconded, and appointed for 2025/26.

## 7. Appointment of Auditor

Andy Addis is happy to continue in this role, and has been appointed.

## 8. AOB

- 8.1 Sue Birkinshaw proposed that thanks be given to Stella Lewsley, who took on the role of NWOA Executive Chair with no prior notice. This was duly given.
- 8.2 It was agreed that all meeting minutes (AGM/CDM/EXEC) are to be put on the NWOA website as well as circulated to the Clubs.

## 9. Date of Next Meeting

To be decided at the May 2026 CDM meeting.