

NORTH WEST ORIENTEERING ASSOCIATION

Club Development Meeting

1st November 2025

Present:

Iain Bell	DEE & NW Exec	v
Jon Eaton	WCOC & NW Exec	v
Stella Lewsley	BL & NW Exec	v
Alex Finch	SROC	v
Richard Tiley	NW Exec	
Andy Robinson	BO	
Caroline Barcham	SELOC	v
David Wathey	MDOC	v
Sue Birkinshaw	GMOA	v
Iain Smith-Ward	LOC	v

1. Apologies

Received from Gavin Smith, Hannah Dabinett, Martyn Roome & Peter Brooke

2. Minutes of the last CDM on 27th May 2025 (previously circulated)

The minutes were approved, noting a spelling correction from Ben Kydd to Ben Kyd.

3. Matters Arising not covered elsewhere

None.

4. Development Grants

4.1 Grant Applications: RT reminded members of the process for applying for a grant i.e. the application form should be completed and sent to the Exec for approval.

Some clubs have given robust feedback about their projects, but it was decided that this should be an expectation of all grant recipients. Reports will be circulated to the mailing list (all club secretaries and chairpersons) and may be placed on the NWOA Website.

4.2 Club Development Updates: All members agreed that attracting new members from all age groups was a priority, with different projects aimed at different cohorts. Members shared various initiatives in their clubs including:

- DEE - tying in with MDOC hosting the British Schools Championships in autumn 2026, they are organising a programme of events for schools to introduce them to orienteering.
- SELOC - inviting running clubs to urban trails using map run; attending the Greater Manchester PE Conference to advertise the Schools Championships, and using OO maps to produce virtual 'O' courses for schools
- GMOA: to use their list of who has ordered permanent course maps as a resource

It was agreed to have an agenda item called Club Development Updates - What's New, so that members/clubs can share the success or otherwise of these and other projects in the future.

ACTION: CDM Agenda to include "Club Development Updates" to support collaboration [SL]

5. LSD

RT (Event Director) had circulated a progress report for the meeting.

5.1 Vendors: He confirmed that Podium Catering were attending, CompassPoint have not yet replied, Kong and Pete Bland were other potential attendees.

5.2 Entry System: Quotes from Sportident (c£4,500), RaceSignup (c£3,500) & Fabian4 (c£3,000) had been received, the Exec to select, bearing in mind other non-financial considerations:

- Ease of Use
- Refund Capability if major cancellation
- Start time Allocation
- Mobile Friendly
- Pre/Post Information Delivery
- Results Compatibility (RT to consult Results Team)

5.3 Festival of Orienteering: CB thought that BO had dropped the idea of a festival at the L5D, but she felt that we should still use the opportunity to promote orienteering. Day 1 (Sunday) and the rest day (Wednesday) had been put forward at a previous meeting.

ACTION: Seek confirmation that BO not involved in L5D [CB]

5.4 Permissions: IS-W made a general comment that it was getting harder to find areas and obtain permissions. Other members were finding similar problems in their areas. Obtaining permission from United Utilities seemed problematic. General feeling was that working locally was better, building up relationships with decision makers more productive.

5.5 Club Co-ordination: JE enquired about the demarcation between the responsibilities of the Event Director and the Day Organiser. RT explained that he is waiting for all the organisers to be confirmed and then he will send out the relevant information.

ACTION: Produce L5D timeline for Clubs to work to [RT]

5.6 Budget: The draft budget for the L5D will be circulated as soon. RT was broadly planning on an Entry Fee of £20 (cheapest rate) and 1,000 competitors, could realise a small profit of £4,000. Some costs were coming in significantly higher than in 2022 e.g. First Aid, Land Use.

6. Major fixtures 2026 Onwards (excluding L5D)

6.1 BSOC 2026: MDOC are hosting the British Schools at Heaton Park in Autumn 2026

6.2 YBT 2027: BL are on the rota to do the YBT in 2027

6.3 NWOA Fixtures Secretary: The meeting agreed to try to find a replacement for Jean who has been trying to relinquish the role for some time.

ACTION: Contact Mike Cope on how club fixtures secretaries can register events directly [RT]

ACTION: NWOA Fixtures Secretary Job Description to clubs seeking a volunteer [RT]

7. AOB

7.1 RT confirmed that the NWJS & NWOA websites were up and running. The L5D is being finalised.

7.2 It was agreed that the minutes from all meetings (including the Exec) should be uploaded on to the website. SL commented that we need to formalise who has access and who should be responsible for this.

7.3 The change in BO Public Liability Insurance for Non-BO Members; clubs should make sure this information is on their websites and entry details.

8. Date of Next Meeting

- 7pm Monday 23rd February 2026 (by video meeting)