

NORTH WEST ORIENTEERING ASSOCIATION

Minutes

Club Delegate Meeting

7pm Monday 23rd February 2026

(by video link)

Present:

Stella Lewsley	BL	v (and Secretary)
Iain Bell	DEE	v (Chair
Andy Robinson	LOC	(& BOF Liaison)
Hannah Dabinett	PFO	v
William Higgins	IOM	v
Paul Turner	SELOC	v
Iain Smith Ward	LOC	v
Richard Tiley	LOC	(and NW Exec)
David Wathey	MDOC	v
George Crawford-Smith		
Martyn Roome	SROC	v
Jon Eaton	WCOC	v (and NW Exec)
Sue Birkinshaw	MDOC/GMOA	v (GMOA only)

1. Apologies

These were received from Gavin Smith & Sue Roome

2. Minutes (previously circulated)

The minutes from the CDM on the 1st November 2025 were approved.

3. Matters Arising not covered elsewhere

There were none.

4. L5D (progress report by RT previously circulated)

4.1 RT reported that permission for the BL Day 1 at Aughertree had unexpectedly been refused by the Commoners. Urgent action now needed for BL to find a replacement area. RT would follow up at the British.

4.2 RT has been reviewing the access roads to each day and inspecting the parking. The narrow lanes with stone walls will prove challenging.

4.3 SL requested that the event should go on the World of O website.

4.4 IB thanked Richard and the Clubs for all their work and reminded the clubs to work through Richard if they need help, and that the Exec was also there to help if needed.

ACTION: RT to put L5D on World of O

5. Fixtures

IB thanked George for taking on the role of NW Fixtures Secretary

5.1 GCS commented that the role was bigger than he had envisaged

5.2 He had been in contact with all the clubs outlining how the system worked, and the BO website is up to date regarding Local and Regional NW fixtures

5.3 He will be attending the National Fixtures Scheduling Group in March, where there are likely to be changes to the rota for these big events in 27,28,&29.

5.4 Only National Events for NWOA in 2026 are the L5D and British Schools (MDOC).

5.5 HB noted that on the NW website SROC are down to do the YB Heat, not PFO

ACTION: IB & RT to update the NW website re the YB Heats.

6. Finances & Grants Update

Note that detailed papers pertaining to the items below had been previously circulated.

6.1 WCOC grant for a second year for a Club Development Officer has been approved by the Exec subject to OF matched funding which has since been awarded.

6.2 The payment towards new computers etc for Deeside has now been paid

6.3 IB added that the website development was in abeyance at the moment pending finding a suitable provider

6.4 In summary, there is approximately £9,000 remaining for discretionary grants for the next six months, plus various ring fenced amounts remaining to some clubs.

6.5 Carol McNeil had asked the Exec if they would fund a coaching day for LOC although without any costings. The Exec felt that club coaching could easily be self-financing but acknowledged that there may be other ways to increase coaching in the region.

6.6 Sue Roome would be grateful to any coaches who could help at the NWJS weekends which are held every month.

7. Club Development and Beyond

Updates - What's New - space to share ideas/successes/failures

7.1 David Wathey gave a brief summary of MDOC's marketing project. This has resulted in a larger social media presence which has attracted new families. At the

same time organisations have been contacting MDOC recently, some of which are corporate. David will produce a more detailed report to send out to other clubs.

7.2 Hannah Dabinett (PFO) outlined their success at creating a pathway for runners by transitioning from Street O > urban events > night events, targeting fell runners and trail runners.

7.3 DEE were similarly creating a pathway towards the British Schools for local schoolchildren

Pan NW development ideas & the use of NWOA Surplus Funds post existing agreement ending in August 2026

7.5 IB suggested that there may be better ways to use the surplus funds, particularly focusing on how to improve orienteering across the region. Clubs can be disadvantaged if no-one is prepared or has the skills to submit a bid, and/or cannot recruit someone suitable to undertake the work.

7.6 Club Development Officers - the OF is much better placed to evaluate these bids, and if they are successful, the clubs should fund the remainder themselves.

7.7 As mentioned in 6.5 above, many small projects could be self funded.

7.8 IB proposed that from August, grants should be for NW projects, the new criteria to be worked up by the Exec and approved by the CDM.

7.9 This was broadly supported by the meeting, although several commented that the principle was good but the practice was more challenging.

7.10 It was decided that the following would be discussed at the next CDM

- Marketing
- Pathways
- Regional Coaching support
- Regional Mapping Support

8. AOB

8.1 William Higgins (IOM) gave a brief insight into orienteering on the IOM. There are 15 mapped areas, and most schools have permanent orienteering courses.

8.2 The general feeling was that it would be good to have a weekend of orienteering on the IOM; the NWOA and its clubs would be very keen to help in any way.

8.3 William would be most welcome to join the NW Exec, although it was understood that he is a one man band over there!

8.4 IB asked the Clubs to let their members know that there was a vacancy on the Exec. Any enquiries to Iain.

9. Date & Time of next meeting

Monday 18th May 2026 at 7pm Online

NOTE: THE LINK WILL BE ON THE AGENDA!!