

NORTH WEST ORIENTEERING ASSOCIATION

Minutes

Club Delegate Meeting

7pm Monday 18th May 2026

(by video link)

Present:

Iain Bell	DEE	v	(and Chair)
Andy Robinson	LOC		(and BOF Liaison)
Hannah Dabinett	PFO	v	
Paul Turner	SELOC	v	
Duncan Archer	LOC	v	
Richard Tiley	LOC		(and NW Exec)
David Wathey	MDOC	v	
George Crawford-Smith	PFO		(Fixtures Rep)
Martyn Roome	SROC	v	
Jon Eaton	WCOC	v	(and NW Exec)
Sue Birkinshaw	MDOC/GMOA	v	(GMOA only)

1. Apologies

These were received from Stella Lewsley

2. Minutes (previously circulated)

Paul Turner asked to be added to attendees at previous meeting.

The minutes from the CDM on the 23rd February 2026 were approved.

3. Matters Arising not covered elsewhere

There were none from the February CDM.

IB related that he had attended the AGM of English Orienteering Council.

4. L5D (progress report by RT previously circulated)

4.1 RT reported that BL Day 1 now at Askham Fell.

4.2 RT noted entries now sit between 840 & 870 per day. Level of entries means the event is probably around break-even for costs.

4.3 Iain Bell recently appointed Organiser for DEE Day 4 Bigland. All Days now have a full set of officials in place.

5. Fixtures

5.1 MR commented that at recent North West YBT Junior heat, hosted by PFO, MDOC were only club able to send a full team. SROC unable due to time of year of qualifier clashing with GCSE/A Level revision, and other sports.

Discussion around whether event could be held earlier in year – late February or March depending on NWOA Fixtures.

Per NWOA rota – BL to host in 2027.

5.2 SB suggested that perhaps YBT heat participation could be combined with a North West Junior competition. Award a trophy to winners?

ACTION: Exec to discuss at their next meeting in June.

5.3 GCS commented that interest in YBT also depended on location of final. This year being hosted in South Wales, in 2027 in EAOA.

6. Finances & Grants Update

6.1 RT reported that there was still about £14.5K to be awarded in Grants before August 31st.

6.2 The available Grant total still includes ring-fenced amounts to BL, DEE, IOM, PFO, SROC & WAROC. IB made the point that these amounts would be lost if no project submission prior to 31/08/2026.

6.3 JE asked if WCOC could apply for a third year for their CDO project out of current Grant pot. IB confirmed they could apply before 31/08/2026.

6.4 IB commented that from 01/09/2026 the intention was to look at pan-NWOA projects. A possible NWOA Junior Cup competition was one example.

7. Club Development and Beyond

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

7.1 MR related that SROC had tried to help reform Lancaster University Club. A taster session was held last November on campus when 12 people participated. Planned follow-up activities in Lancaster Parks but little/no take up.

DW advised that BO had held a similar activity on Nottingham Uni organised by BO Uni Access Officer Gracie Grant. Had similar small numbers attend.

7.2 DW gave a brief summary of MDOC's collaboration with SELOC. Project to put on a series of Map Run events capable of being put on by one or two people.

DW also related being approached by Decathlon Stockport to put on a 45/60min Score activity for their 300+ running group. Planned for evening in June.

7.3 IB related three DEE initiatives.

Working with two local Primary schools towards the British Schools event in Heaton Park, Manchester. Working with local Scouts for a Cheshire Jamboree and working with Warrington Schools.

8. Forestry England

Report of meeting circulated in papers.

Discussion around Grizedale being subject to a blanket ban between beginning of March & end of June, due to combination of ecology concerns around, pine marten introduction, bird nesting & deer calving.

Pine Marten release project to end in October 2026.

DW commented that the idea of blanket bans is becoming more prevalent with large public landowners. Constant need to push-back.

9. Pan NW development ideas

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

9.1 IB noted that Exec had suggested a range of possible areas for projects.

- Marketing, Regional Coaching support and Regional Mapping support

Initial thought was to investigate Regional Coaching support. To involve the Lead Coach from each club.

Comment that Juniors are well provided through clubs and NWJS. Perhaps focus on Adult coaching.

DA made the point that coaching complete beginner Adults was very different to coaching experienced Adult members.

9.2 David Wathey, Duncan Archer & Martin Roome all volunteered to be on new Working Group. Group to review current activities & propose a way forward.

ACTION: IB to convene Coaching Working Group.

10. AOB and Date & Time of next meeting

10.1 IB noted he was in Australia most of October & November. Next date for combined AGM/CDM to be Saturday December 5th at Caton Hall.

ACTION: Secretary SL to book Caton Hall.

10.2 IB noted that Duncan Archer was next Chair Designate, LOC being next club in annual rota.

Saturday 5th December 2026 at 10am at Caton Hall