

NORTH WEST ORIENTEERING ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting

Victoria Room, Caton Institute, Caton

Saturday 26th September 2026 10.30am

0. **Present** – Those in bold were voting representatives for their respective clubs (although no decision in this AGM required such a vote)

Iain Bell (**DEE** & NW chair)
Richard Tiley (LOC & NW fixtures)
Duncan Archer (LOC & NW exec)
Jon Eaton (**WCOC** & NW exec)
George Crawford Smith (PFO & NW fixtures)
Hannah Dabinett (**PFO**)
Iain Smith-Ward (**LOC**)
David Wathey (**MDOC**)
Sue Birkinshaw (**GMOA** & MDOC)
Martyn Roome (**SROC**)
Fraser Dixon (SROC)

1. Apologies

Stella Lewsley (BL & NW secretary)
Sue Roome (SROC & NWJS)
Andy Robinson (LOC)
Paul Turner (SELOC)
Andy Ellis (PFO)

2. Minutes of the last AGM - 1st November 2025

Minutes agreed as an accurate record with no objections

3. Matters Arising not covered elsewhere

As decided at the last AGM, minutes of AGMs, exec and CDM meetings now appear on the website:

<https://www.nwoa.org.uk/meeting-minutes>

4. Reports

a. Chair – see attachments

Iain presented the Chair's report and stated that it had been a good year for NW orienteering: a successful Lakes 5 days; thriving NWJS; and healthy finances. Attracting newcomers into orienteering remains our priority.

b. Treasurer – see attachments

David asked whether NWOA has an agreed "reserve" level. Richard said there is no formally agreed reserve. For the L5D we needed about £7k before entry fees started arriving. £20k is probably a sensible minimum, but this is not a formal policy.

c. NW Junior Squad - see attachments

The difficulty finding male coaches to have at least one male/female on training weekends away was noted. Duncan said he could potentially help here (as well as being a coach).

d. Fixtures Secretary – see attachments

WCOC will likely be lead club for Northern Champs 2028 on High Dam (with Richard and/or MDOC coordinating the permissions, and controller required from out of region). **Action: Jon** to confirm with club. They may ask for some helpers outside WCOC but that is a detail.

Two corrections in the fixtures report:

- NWOA has organised the British Nights previously, e.g. 2005 MDOC Watergrove, 2017 LOC Great Tower, 2024 WCOC Hawse End.
- The reference to BL Knipe Scar event in April 2027 is for YBT heat, not CSC round (which is PFO)

It was agreed to have a webpage to show NWOA's responsibilities for future major, national and other rotating events. **Action: Duncan** – now done: <https://www.nwoa.org.uk/nwoa-major-events>.

e. **Lake District Access Officer** – see attachments

It was noted the difficulty in getting firm agreements from landowners (e.g. Bigland for L5D who levied an additional cost at the last minute, despite having a prior agreement). Hard to see what more can be done, other than getting as much written clarity upfront as possible.

5. Presentation & Approval of

a. NWOA Accounts for 2025/26

Discussion around how much NWOA contributes to NWJS, and should it contribute more given it has funds. Currently £1-2k per year (varies depending on e.g. where JIRCs are) vs. £3-4k raised in contributions and fundraising for regular activities, and £15k for summer tour. It was agreed:

- If NWJS felt its activities were constrained through lack of money, we could discuss contributing more from NWOA.
- If individuals had difficulty attending activities for personal hardship reasons, then support could be provided (as it has in the past).

Andrew Addis has not yet had a chance to audit the accounts (partly because the AGM is quite soon after year end), but it is in progress. Approval is subject to nothing major arising in the audit (else we'd need an EGM to approve updated accounts). *Post meeting note: he has since said he is happy with them.*

Approval of accounts: Proposed Duncan, seconded Martyn, no objections

b. NWOA Membership Fees & Budget for 2026/27

The following were agreed:

- Club membership fees agreed at a nominal £1 per club (no change).
- Event participation levies agreed at 10% of British Orienteering levies (no change)
- Distribute £21k of L5D surplus as:
 - £11k in equal shares to 5 clubs with areas, 5 organising clubs, and MDOC central services.
 - £10k to all clubs in proportion to membership

It was noted that Eddie Speak did a huge amount coordinating the results service, all as a voluntary and stressful contribution. Thankyou very much Eddie. It was agreed this ought to be a contracted and paid-for service in future L5Ds (as it would be at e.g. British, JK etc.).

- £12k in pan-regional development, starting with the coaching initiative.
- Nothing explicitly in budget for club development grants, but applications would still be accepted (see further discussion in CDM).

Approval of fees & budget: Proposed Duncan, seconded Martyn, no objections

6. Election of Executive Committee

a. Chair – Duncan Archer (LOC), proposed Iain, seconded Sue

- b. **Secretary – Hannah Dabinett (PFO)**, proposed Duncan, seconded Iain
- c. **Treasurer – Richard Tiley (LOC)**, proposed Iain, seconded Hannah
- d. **NWOA Exec Members**
 - **Jon Eaton (WCOC)** – for 1 more year – proposed Duncan, seconded Iain
 - **Fraser Dixon (SROC)** – proposed Martyn, seconded Iain
 - **Iain Bell (DEE)** – co-opted to the exec to assist with transition to new chair

No objections to any of the above. Thanks were given to the outgoing chair (Iain), secretary (Stella), and exec member (Gavin, although he has struggled to attend many meetings in the last year).

7. Appointment of Auditor

Andrew Addis happy to continue for 2026/2027. Proposed Richard, seconded Duncan, no objections.

8. Any Other Business

MDOC are hosting the British Schools Champs in November – they will need helpers from outside the club. They will send an email around, but this is heads-up. DEE already looking at how they can assist.

NW Sprint Champs – has been held somewhat informally and sporadically in recent years (and DEE's event coming up on 10th Oct at Edge Hill). It was agreed this should be an NW event that rotates around the clubs (similar to e.g. YBT heat, CSC round, etc.). **Action: George** to determine a rota (to not clash with other rotating events), and **Duncan** to put on website.

NW Night League – it was noted that Chris Rostron has organised this for over 20 years now. Duncan is already talking to Chris about it and NWUL (in the context of trophies, see discussion in CDM).

Jean Payne – sadly passed away recently. A “force of nature” and her contributions to the sport, to DEE and to NWOA were noted. **Action: Iain** said he was discussing in DEE how she might be recognised.

Chair's Report

John Padget persuaded me to be DEE chair; little did I know this role also came with chairing NWOA during a Lakes 5 Day year! But hey, how hard could it be?

2026 Highlights: There were two significant highlights: a successful Lakes 5 Days with over 1,300 daily competitors; and the establishment of Pan-Regional initiatives, focusing initially on the development of coaching.

Lakes 5 Days: The preparation and running of the Lakes 5 Days has dominated North West Orienteering Association work. I would like to personally thank: Richard Tiley for successfully coordinating all the L5D activities; and to all the NW clubs and volunteers who organised and planned five great events that made up such an enjoyable festival of orienteering. Well done to you all!

Pan-NW Coaching: I acknowledge the contribution of all the volunteers on the NWOA Coaching working group, who are creating an accessible and predictable programme of NW skills coaching for newcomers and existing orienteers.

NWOA Exec: Thank you to the members of NWOA Exec for their support and patience: to Stella Lewsley (BL) and Gavin Ockenden (SROC) who are stepping down at this AGM; and to Jon Eaton (WCOC), George Crawford-Smith (PFO) and Richard Tiley (LOC) for their willingness to continue.

NWOA Chair: As outgoing Chair I would like to welcome our new Chair Duncan Archer (LOC) and wish him well. I am sure that we will all support him in his stewardship of the NWOA and in the development of the future of orienteering locally.

I have enjoyed learning a lot about how our sport is run and have been inspired by the volunteers that give up their time. I would encourage everyone to get involved and to take their next step up their ladder of orienteering interest, be it organising, planning, controlling or coaching. Your sport needs you and it's fun to get involved!

Iain Bell
September 2026

North West Junior Squad Report to NWOA AGM

The North West Junior Squad consists of 36 juniors. Each North West club is represented by at least one junior. We will have 6 juniors leaving us at the end of the year as they move to the M/W 20s class. We invited 8 new junior orienteers to attend our 'try out day' in May and 7 of these have shown interest in joining the squad.

We have just returned from our bi-annual trip to Norway where 20 junior orienteers and 5 adult coaches spent 10 days training and completing near to the Swedish border. This year we invited 4 junior orienteers and their coach from the NE squad to join our group. This worked well, as their squad is not large enough to organise their own tour. We were busy during the Lakes 5 days in the summer selling O tops, sun hats and baking and selling cakes in order to help finance this tour.

We had juniors selected for all the summer tours.

We have held training days throughout the year every month except July and August. We are unable to hold training weekends as we don't have enough male coaches to stay overnight because of Safeguarding we need both male and female coaches in attendance.

We start with revising the basic skills in September so the new intake of juniors in May/June get brought up to speed. We also hold a fitness day in September/October so everyone has a benchmark for fitness for the year. We move around the region for our training days so we give the juniors the experience of different types of terrain.

We hold a Xmas Bash weekend every year where we do stay overnight and have a turkey dinner served by the local parents which is followed by a prizegiving and games, which is organised by the 2nd year 18s who will leave the squad at the end of the year. They also plan our training on the Sunday.

The squad is preparing for the annual Junior Inter Regional Champs which this year is being hosted by EAOA. We are taking a team of 19 juniors to run in the individual races at Writtle Forest and the relays at Hatfield Forest.

We would like to thank the NWOA for their financial contribution in running the squad, which gives the North West Junior orienteers a fantastic opportunity to make friends from other North West clubs and to enjoy the sport.

Sue Roome

Report from NWOA Events Scheduling

G Crawford-Smith



- About one year ago I was appointed to represent NWOA interests at ESG meetings, as follows:
 - Raising events to Regional level, provided there are no conflicts with other NW or nearby clubs.
 - Representing NWOA at ESG (Event Scheduling Group) meetings (2 per annum)
 - at which the National and Major events programme is planned in detail up to 5 years in advance.
 - major events are rotated around the regions e.g. JK, S6D and L5D.
 - it is my job to find NWOA clubs that will host these events
- I took over these responsibilities from Jean Payne, to whom we must give thanks for her hard work.
- Current NWOA events that have been fixed:
 - 15/11/2026 British Schools OC MDOC Heaton Park
 - CompassSport Cup NW Heat – provisionally BL Knipe Scar in April 2027.
- Current Major and National events under consideration for NWOA:
 - 13th May 2028. British Middle Distance OC (major) LOC at Haverthwaite (TBC))
 - 14th May 2028. Northern Champs (National) hosted by NW clubs at High Dam (TBC)
MDOC area, but with other NW clubs providing one of the event functions e.g. parking, or Start ...
Planner may be from MDOC. Should the Controller be from NWOA or from another Region?
- Major and National events for 2029. NWOA is not listed, but there are gaps, so we might get asked!
- Major and National events for 2030. NWOA is slated for the Northern Champs – but not yet set in stone.
- I have been asked by ESG why there has never been a Brit Night Champs in the NW, could it be associated with our very successful NWNL events?
In my view it would be impossible to hold both at one event because of the course mix. (NWNL = Colours OGB & BNC = Age classes)
However this does not prevent NWOA hosting Brit Nights on another occasion.
Any offers for a February date from 2029 or later years. Location would probably be in the south of our region for competitor travel reasons.
- Other dates provisionally pencilled in for NWOA:
JK 2033 April.
- Most of the Junior events from 2028 and beyond have no region associated yet.
- Would a NW club be willing to host the Harvester relays at the end of June from 2028 onwards?
Event with adjacent parking and camping area needed.

Table below shows NWOA allocation for our CSC & YBT Heats

Year	CSC Club	CSC Venue	YBT Club	YBT Venue
2025	SELOC	Cowbridge	WCOC	
2026	BL	Penrith Beacon	PFO	Brun Valley
2027	PFO	Peel Park 7/2/27	BL	Knipe Scar (prov.). Ap/27
2028	LOC		MDOC	
2029	MDOC		SROC	
2030	WCOC		SELOC	
2031	DEE		LOC	

George Crawford-Smith

September 2026

NWOA 2025/2026 Lake District Access Officer

This has been a very quiet year with only the JROS annual November weekend in 2025.

There is an amount of £276 in the accounts which reflects a change in approach in respect of the Farmers Fund. This has been gradually built up over time to pay for presents to local farmers as a thank you for allowing free access onto land.

This no longer happens so the balance on the fund has been absorbed into reserves.

Richard Tiley September 2026

NWOA 2025/2026 Year End Account Notes

This year sees the end of the 3 year mandate from the 2023 AGM to distribute funds to clubs in Development Grants.

There was a deadline of bid submission of 31st Aug 2026 which brought a flurry of late bids. The early September NWOA Exec approved further bids in 2026/27 to MDOC, WCOC, DEE, PFO & BL.

NWOA Levies & Admin costs roughly in line with budget.

NWJS is showing income due to hosting JIRCs combined with SHIs in November 2025. The combined event generated a surplus despite being advised that the SHI entry fees were too low.

After hosting the Lakes 5 Days in 2026, the event made a surplus. We decided to make some donations to KMRT, PMRT & NWAA after help on Day 2 and to a local farmer after parking problems on Day 3.

NWJS went on their bi-annual Norway tour in summer 2026. The NWJS Fund raising account is showing a healthy balance but there are still expenses to be paid. They will have a reserve to start the next 2 year fund-raising cycle.

Cash reserve is slightly higher than we were at Y/E 2023.

The Development Grants distribution during the 3 years being roughly matched by surpluses from BOC25, JIRCs/SHIs25 & L5D26.

NWOA 2026/2027 Budget Notes

In theory this should be a quieter year after hosting the British Champs in 2025 and the Lakes 5 Days in 2026.

The next major event is LOC bidding to host the British Middle Distance Champs in 2028.

The JK is next due to be hosted by NWOA in 2033.

Subscriptions again set at £1 per club plus GMOA.

NWJS have set a balanced budget for their normal activities.

Small operating loss of around £3K per normal after EOC Subscription & Senior Grants.

Distribution of final grants from 2023/2026 Club Development cycle.

The Lakes 5 Days 2026 made a surplus. Historically there has been a 1/3 Clubs, 2/3 NWOA split with the surplus from this event, but given the level of NWOA reserves it was felt we should reverse this to distribute the greater proportion back to clubs.

One way this has been done in the past was to allocate an amount for each club providing an area, together with each club providing manpower for an area, plus an amount for central services, giving 11 shares in total.

In addition the Exec are recommending a further amount be distributed in proportion to membership numbers, so that every NWOA club benefits from Lakes 5 Days 2026.

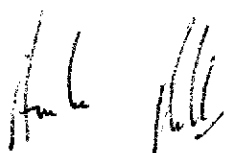
Start of pan-regional Coaching Projects gives a further Budget item for the first year.

Subtract the “normal operational loss & tour grants” to give the final Y/E balance.

Report of the Accountant to the members of the North West Orienteering Association

I have reviewed the accounts for the year ended 31st August 2026 together with the books and records of the association and obtained all the information and explanations that I consider necessary in order to form an opinion.

In my opinion the accounts give a true and fair view of the affairs of the Association as of 31st August 2026, and its income and expenditure for the year than ended.



Andrew Addis

Accountant

Newcastle under Lyme

Staffordshire

29th September 2026