

Chairman's Comments – Roy Denney

It's that time of year again - The AGM is upon us.

My predecessor told me that the only way to guarantee a good turn out is to tinker with the constitution so that is what we have done.

Formal notice of the meeting is elsewhere in this letter but I would add to it by advising that it is being held in the function room in the grounds of the Red Lion to accommodate the hoards who will be attending. If you want to come straight from work the pub does excellent good value bar meals.

You will recall that we spent some time discussing whether EMOA should continue in it's present format given the changes envisaged in the BOF structure but in the event the changes were not as dramatic as originally conceived and we decided to remain a member based organisation. We were however well advanced in drawing up a possible new constitution to offer to you before putting it on hold and several good ideas came up from various sources during that process. Many of these are equally valid under our present arrangements and we offer them to you as an update of our present constitution for adoption at the AGM. I do not feel there are any material changes and it is something of a housekeeping exercise.

You will see details overleaf and the old constitution is alongside the suggested new one to make it easier for you to

compare. The actual changes have been underlined.

Most changes are self evident in their purpose but some are to comply with new regulatory requirements.

If anyone wishes to suggest variations on any aspect being suggested for change amendments will be accepted from the floor at the AGM.

It has been pointed out that several matters within the document are more appropriate to a set of standing orders than a constitution but as we do not have any standing orders as such they are being left in. It is suggested that we might call the document our Constitution and Standing Orders in future and this will also be put to the members to decide.

We have looked at what costs we incur and taken soundings from members and most of you favour continuation largely as before. We have reviewed which activities properly fall the responsibility of the membership and which should be charged to competitors taking part in events and the Treasurer will be offering suggestions to vary the balance slightly which you will be asked to decide upon at the AGM.

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James Allen is still looking after our SI equipment whilst we are hopeful of finding a permanent replacement I would press the members who have expressed

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an interest to make up their minds as it is unfair to impose on James' goodwill.

Our Treasurer will be more directly involved in the financial side of E hire in future. We have reviewed the charging structures to simplify matters and have looked at several options but have decided to go for a per capita charge depending on the numbers at events using the equipment. This should prevent smaller events being priced out of using this technology.

We are still looking for a Development Officer who can create their own job description so why not give it a try.

Work continues behind the scenes on preparing for JK 2004 and Chris Philips, the day organiser, will be pulling things together towards the end of this year.

We are still working to attract more planners and controllers and have recently held a planners course which was fully subscribed. We are now to stage a controllers' conference when we will discuss best practice and swap ideas / concerns and will also be brought up to date on the changes in colour coded definitions which are shortly to come in. Most courses will get slightly shorter and it is hoped that black will become a more regular feature of such events. The conference is being arranged for the morning of Saturday October 26th and it is expected the formal element will last about 3 hours. It is hoped as many as possible of the region's controllers will attend.

Plans are well advanced for next year's Galoppen and a programme of night events is being arranged for those with

masochistic tendencies. This year's National Forest Trophy will be contested at the Outwoods shortly and I am sure that LEI as the host club would welcome the timely return of the trophy.

"the landowner hired a JCB for two days which he then spent with yours truly digging holes and building knolls to create spot features"

Next year's trophy competition will be held in summer at Grange Wood near Ibstock. This is a new area of nearly 400 acres with good relief and trees maturing nicely. During July, in what I think is probably a first for the sport, the landowner hired a JCB for two days which he then spent with yours truly digging holes and building knolls to create spot features. Various members of LEI joined us during the exercise pushing barrows and building cairns and log piles. A custom made orienteering area in the making which I hope will become a favourite and will eventually sustain badge events and possibly even a National with extra bits round the edges which may become available.

Finally, I must congratulate the members of the junior squad for their recent successes.

Roy Denney, Chairman

August 2002

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the The East Midlands Orienteering Association will be held at 19.30 on September 23rd 2002 at the Red Lion, Kegworth.

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Approval of minutes of the last AGM
- 3 Chairman's report
- 4 Secretary's report including activity statistics
- 5 Treasurer's report including membership numbers and presentation of accounts.
- 6 Approval of Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure Statement
- 7 Amendments to the Constitution
- 8 Election of principal officers
 - Chairman
 - Vice Chairman
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
- 9 Election of other officers
 - BOF Council
 - BOF Events Standards Committee
 - BOF Coaching Committee
 - Development Officer
 - Fixtures Secretary
 - Mapping Adviser
 - Webmaster
 - EMEWS Editor
- 10 Appointment of Independent Financial Examiner
- 11 Budget projections for coming year to 30.6.2003 (Treasurer)
 - Proposals for membership fees, equipment rental fees and event levies
- 12 Fixing of charges:-
 - Membership Fees
 - Event Levies
 - Electronic Equipment Rental Fees
- 13 Plans for the coming year (Chairman)
- 14 Close of formal meeting followed by open forum.

EMOA AGM Proposed Constitution Changes

Proposal 1) To be put to members at the AGM “ that we adopt the amended constitution”

The version on the right below is the suggested update following input from various members of the Executive Committee. The original is shown for comparison and changes are underlined.

THE EAST MIDLANDS ORIENTEERING ASSOCIATION	THE EAST MIDLANDS ORIENTEERING ASSOCIATION
<p>1. TITLE & OBJECTS</p> <p>The association shall be called the East Midlands Orienteering Association.</p> <p>Its objectives shall be to control the sport of orienteering, as defined by the British Orienteering Federation, within the East Midlands, and so to further the development of and participation in the sport of orienteering. Its objectives shall also include representing the interests of members and affiliated clubs and groups on representative bodies and to support their activities within the sport.</p>	<p>1. TITLE & OBJECTS</p> <p>The association shall be called the East Midlands Orienteering Association.</p> <p>Its objectives shall be to <u>co-ordinate and develop</u> the sport of orienteering, as defined by the British Orienteering Federation, within the East Midlands, and so to further the development of and participation in the sport of orienteering. Its objectives shall also include representing the interests of members and affiliated clubs and groups on representative bodies and to support their activities within the sport.</p>
<p>2. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</p> <p>The affairs of the Association shall be administered by an executive committee composed of the following voting members :</p> <p>a) the four Principal Officers : Chairperson, Vice chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer</p> <p>b) additional officers : Fixtures secretary, BOF Council representative, BOF committee representatives, Regional Newsletter Editor, Mapping Adviser, Development Officer</p> <p>c) Club representatives: Each affiliated club may nominate one representative to the committee. The club secretary shall advise the Secretary of the Association of the person nominated.</p> <p>To be eligible for election members must have expressed a willingness to serve and to have been nominated by not less than two other members</p> <p>The principal officers may not stand for election for more than three consecutive years.</p> <p>The members at a General Meeting may also elect a President who shall have no voting rights on the Executive Committee.</p> <p>No more than three Principal Officers shall be from the same club.</p> <p>No more than 50% rounded down, of the other elected members of the Executive Committee should be from the same club unless all voting members of the</p>	<p>2. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</p> <p>The affairs of the Association shall be administered by an executive committee composed of the following voting members :</p> <p>a) the four Principal Officers : Chairperson, Vice chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer</p> <p>b) additional officers : Fixtures secretary, BOF Council representative, BOF committee representatives, Regional Newsletter Editor, <u>Regional Webmaster</u>, Mapping Adviser, Development Officer</p> <p>c) Club representatives: Each affiliated club may nominate one representative to the committee. The club secretary shall advise the Secretary of the Association of the person nominated.</p> <p>To be eligible for election members must have expressed a willingness to serve and to have been nominated by not less than two other members.</p> <p>The principal officers may not stand for election for more than three consecutive years.</p> <p>The members at a General Meeting may also elect a President who shall have no voting rights on the Executive Committee.</p> <p>No more than three Principal Officers shall be from the same club.</p> <p>No more than 50% rounded down, of the other elected members of the Executive Committee should be from the same club unless all voting members of the</p>

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Committee agree at the first Committee meeting after the AGM.

The Executive Committee shall meet as necessary but at least once within any given period of three months.

All Committee members shall be advised of such meetings at least seven days in advance.

A minute book shall be kept of all meetings with the minutes circulated to all members of the Executive Committee and the minutes shall be approved at the next meeting and signed to that effect by the Chairperson or Acting Chairperson.

A quorum shall consist of not less than one third of the total strength of the Executive Committee and at least two members must be Principal Officers.

In the interests of continuity the immediate past chairperson may be invited to be an additional member of the Executive Committee (with full voting rights) for a period of one year following his or her period of office.

3. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POWERS

The Executive Committee shall be empowered to carry out the following activities:

Appoint additional officials, but if these come from outside the committee they shall not have a vote.

Constitute sub-committees as may be deemed necessary.

At the first committee meeting after the AGM elect from within its members persons to fill any of the other positions not filled at the AGM or will allocate those duties amongst themselves. If any post becomes vacant during the year they may fill it until the next AGM by a member from outside the Committee.

Purchase, hire or lease any property or equipment for the benefit of the Association or its members.

Nominate delegates to other bodies who shall exercise any voting rights on behalf of the Association

Accept or reject clubs wishing to affiliate to the Association subject to ratification at the next AGM.

4. MEMBERSHIP & VOTING

The Secretary shall maintain a register of Affiliated Clubs accepted in accordance this constitution.

Committee agree at the first Committee meeting after the AGM.

The Executive Committee shall meet as necessary but at least once within any given period of three months.

All Committee members shall be advised of such meetings at least fourteen days in advance.

A minute book shall be kept of all meetings with the minutes circulated to all members of the Executive Committee and the minutes shall be approved at the next meeting and signed to that effect by the Chairperson or Acting Chairperson.

A quorum shall consist of not less than one third of the total strength of the Executive Committee and at least two members must be Principal Officers.

Delegates, with the advantage of the points made in debate, are free to vote as they see fit. They are not mandated by their clubs but should bear in mind the expressed views of their clubs unless any material additional information is forthcoming.

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3. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POWERS

The Executive Committee shall be empowered to carry out the following activities:

Appoint additional officials, but if these come from outside the committee they shall not have a vote.

Constitute sub-committees or working groups as may be deemed necessary.

At the first committee meeting after the AGM elect from within its members persons to fill any of the other positions not filled at the AGM or will allocate those duties amongst themselves. If any post becomes vacant during the year they may fill it until the next AGM by a member from outside the Committee.

Purchase, hire, lease and/or insure any property or equipment for the benefit of the Association or its members.

Nominate delegates to other bodies who shall exercise any voting rights on behalf of the Association

Accept or reject clubs wishing to affiliate to the Association subject to ratification at the next AGM.

4. MEMBERSHIP & VOTING

The Secretary shall maintain a register of Affiliated Clubs accepted in accordance this constitution.

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Members of the Association are defined thus :

- a) Individual
 - i) A member of an affiliated club for whom the club has paid the EMOA membership fee to the Association.
 - ii) An individual who is a direct member of the Association.
- b) Family Families (parent(s) and his/her/their children under the age of 19 on 31st December in the year of membership, or partners) :
 - i) For whom an affiliated Club has paid an appropriate membership fee to the Association, or
 - ii) Who are direct members of the Association.
- c) Groups or organisations which cover a number of activities and whose members only take part in orienteering competitions on an occasional basis, (i.e. no member eligible for M20/W20 or older takes part in more than three open competitions per year), and which have paid the appropriate membership fee to the Association.
- d) Honorary Life Members Honorary Life Members as approved by the membership at the AGM. 4.3 All members of the Association present at a General Meeting have the right to vote at the meeting provided that they have been a member for at least 28 days as follows :
 - a) Each individual member shall have one vote.
 - b) Each family member over the age of 18 at the date of the meeting shall have one vote.
 - c) Each group shall have one vote.
 - d) Each Honorary Life Member shall have one vote.

No proxy votes will be allowed.

The Chairperson of any meeting shall only be allowed a casting vote.

5. FINANCE

The financial year of the Association shall run to 30th June. The accounts of the Association will be balanced at 30th June each year and submitted for approval, after independent examination, to the Annual General Meeting that follows the examination.

Members of the Association are defined thus :

- a) Individual
 - i) A member of an affiliated club for whom the club has paid the EMOA membership fee to the Association.
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No proxy votes will be allowed.

The Chairperson of any meeting shall only be allowed a casting vote.

5. FINANCE

The financial year of the Association shall run to 30th June. The accounts of the Association will be balanced at 30th June each year and submitted, for approval, to the following Annual General Meeting after independent examination.

The Association will be funded by a combination of membership fees, equipment hire, levies and any grants available from outside sources.

A membership fee will be paid by each type of member sufficient to cover the fixed costs of servicing that member. This will be determined by the delegates at the AGM each year and may be on a flat rate, sliding scale or per capita system based on

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The funds of the Association shall be held in a bank, post office or building society account and used in accordance with the objectives of the Association.

All cheques written against the Association funds shall be signed by any of the elected officers as appointed by the Executive Committee.

Expenses may be paid to any member of the Executive Committee and representatives of the region engaged on Association business.

The Executive Committee shall ensure that an Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet is prepared each year that fairly represents the financial transactions of the Association for the year and the balances held at the Balance Sheet date and that these be seen by an Independent Financial Examiner who should express an opinion in writing as to whether they represent a true and accurate picture.

The Independent Financial Examiner shall be a person with experience in financial matters and shall not be a member of the Executive Committee of the Association. The Independent Financial Examiner shall not be involved in or associated with any significant financial transactions with the Association, and should be from a different Club to the Treasurer.

The Independent Financial Examiner shall, each year, be appointed for the current financial year at the AGM, and may have been nominated by the Executive Committee. The Independent Financial Examiner may only be removed from office by the members of the Association at a General Meeting although the

membership numbers.

All other activities undertaken by The Association will be funded from reserves, outside support or event levies.

The funds of the Association shall be held in a bank, post office or building society account and used in accordance with the objectives of the Association.

All cheques or other instructions written against the Association funds shall be signed by any officers nominated by, and in such combinations as are agreed by, the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee shall agree all payments before being made excepting only those of an ongoing nature (for example payments of subscriptions to associated bodies, room hire, equipment and other running costs) which The Executive Committee has previously agreed in principle and which may be paid by The Treasurer or other authorised officer.

Expenses may be paid to any member of the Executive Committee and representatives of the region engaged on Association business. Mileage allowance for the use of private cars shall be at the BOF recommended rate. Members of the executive committee are expected to car share whenever practical.

Equipment owned by The Association will be charged out to clubs or other organisations such that The Association generate sufficient funds to maintain the equipment in a reasonable condition and to replace the items within a reasonable time-scale.

The Executive Committee shall ensure that an Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet is prepared each year that fairly represents the financial transactions of the Association for the year and the balances held at the Balance Sheet date and that these be seen by an Independent Financial Examiner who should express an opinion in writing as to whether they represent a true and accurate picture.

The Independent Financial Examiner shall be a person with experience in financial matters and shall not be a member of the Executive Committee of the Association. The Independent Financial Examiner shall not be involved in or associated with any significant financial transactions with the Association or the Treasurer, and should be from a different Club to the Treasurer.

The Independent Financial Examiner shall, at the AGM each year, be appointed for the coming financial year, and may have been nominated by the Executive Committee. The Independent Financial Examiner may only be removed from office by the members of the Association at a General Meeting although the

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<p>Executive Committee shall be able to fill any vacancy that arises during the course of the year.</p>	<p>Executive Committee shall be able to fill any vacancy that arises during the course of the year.</p> <p><u>The Treasurer shall be responsible for retaining the accounting records for six years to meet statutory requirements and those of outside funding sources.</u></p>
<p>6. GENERAL MEETINGS</p> <p>The Association shall hold an AGM within 120 days of the end of the financial year.</p> <p>The Secretary shall call an Extraordinary General Meeting upon receipt of a written application from 10% of the voting membership of the Association, or if requested to do so by the Executive Committee. The Secretary must call the meeting within 14 days of receipt of the application or request, with the meeting then to be held between 14 and 28 days later. When convening the meeting the Secretary must advise the membership of the number of voting members of the Association at that time.</p> <p>Notice of the AGM or an E.G.M. must reach voting members 14 days before the meeting. Included with the notice should be an agenda and any proposed amendments to the constitution. In the case of an AGM, all proposed amendments must be received before August 31st, and notice may only be given after September 1st. A quorum at a General Meeting shall be 15 voting members.</p> <p>At the AGM the Chairperson's report shall give an account of the Association since the AGM was last held and the accounts shall be voted upon by the members present.</p> <p>Members of the Executive Committee shall be elected at the AGM.</p> <p>The retiring Treasurer shall produce, as guidance to the members of the Association at the AGM, a projected budget covering the likely income and expenditure for the following year and proposed levels for event levy for that year.</p> <p>The levy will be voted upon by the members present who may offer amendments to the suggested figures.</p>	<p>6. GENERAL MEETINGS</p> <p>The Association shall hold an AGM within 120 days of the end of the financial year.</p> <p>The Secretary shall call an Extraordinary General Meeting upon receipt of a written application from 10% of the voting membership of the Association, or if requested to do so by the Executive Committee. The Secretary must call the meeting within 14 days of receipt of the application or request, with the meeting then to be held between 14 and 28 days later. When convening the meeting the Secretary must advise the membership of the number of voting members of the Association at that time.</p> <p>Notice of the AGM or an E.G.M. must reach voting members 14 days before the meeting. Included with the notice should be an agenda and any proposed amendments to the constitution. In the case of an AGM, all proposed amendments must be received before <u>August 15th, and notice may only be given after that date.</u> A quorum at a General Meeting shall be 15 voting members.</p> <p>At the AGM the Chairperson's report shall give an account of the Association since the AGM was last held and the accounts shall be voted upon by the members present.</p> <p>Members of the Executive Committee shall be elected at the AGM.</p> <p><u>At the AGM, the retiring Treasurer shall produce, as guidance to the members of the Association, a projected budget covering the likely income and expenditure for the following year and any proposals for changes in the levels of subscription, event levies, equipment hire-out fees and any other funding arrangements.</u></p> <p><u>All these funding arrangements will then be voted upon by the members present who may offer amendments to the suggested figures.</u></p>
	<p><u>7. ACCESS TO EMOA</u></p> <p><u>The Association will maintain a web-site to enable members to follow the activities of The Association. It will include the current constitution and development plan. Members may also request copies of these documents from the Association Secretary.</u></p> <p><u>Provisional copies of the minutes of executive committee meetings will be posted on the web updated</u></p>

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	<p><u>if necessary once they have been ratified at a subsequent meeting. Minutes of the AGM will be displayed shortly after the meeting but these would again be provisional pending ratification at the subsequent AGM. Minutes may be requested by members of the Association.</u></p> <p><u>In the unusual event that an item of a highly confidential, personal or commercial nature is to be discussed, the Executive Committee may vote to omit that element of any agenda or minutes from the version publicly available on the web.</u></p> <p><u>Members of constituent clubs may attend any meetings of The Association as observers, or to question the officers or committee, but in the interests of efficiency the Chairperson of the meeting shall have the power to limit time allotted for such questions. Minutes of meetings should always confirm the date of the next scheduled meeting to ensure members are aware of when meetings will be held.</u></p> <p><u>Any request for documents must be accompanied by a prepaid self addressed envelope.</u></p>
<p>7. MATTERS NOT COVERED BY THE CONSTITUTION</p> <p>It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to decide upon matters not covered by the constitution.</p>	<p>8. MATTERS NOT COVERED BY THE CONSTITUTION</p> <p>It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to decide upon matters not covered by the constitution.</p>
<p>8. DISSOLUTION</p> <p>In the event of the dissolution of the Association, an Extraordinary General Meeting shall be convened to decide the disposal of the assets. The assets may only be disposed of to a non profit-making organisation whose objects are similar to those in paragraph 1 of this constitution.</p>	<p>9. DISSOLUTION</p> <p><u>In the event of the possible dissolution of the Association, an Extraordinary General Meeting shall be convened to agree this course of action, or otherwise, and to decide the disposal of the assets. In the event that possible dissolution is an agenda item a quorum for that item shall be one delegate from every surviving club. The assets may only be disposed of to a non profit-making organisation whose objects are similar to those in paragraph 1 of this constitution on the proviso that such assets be used within the East Midlands.</u></p>

Proposal 2) That in future our Constitution be re- titled “Constitution and Standing Orders”.

BOF Junior Inter- Regional Championships 2002

The EM Junior team achieved a marvellous 4th place out of the 10 regional teams which competed in the Lake District on 29 / 30 June. Strength in depth and a really good team spirit gave us this result, one place better than in 2000 (no event in 2001 because of FMD).

In the individual race on the first day there were top 10 places for Alison O'Neil W18 (1), Sarah O'Neil W16 (4) and John Rocke M14 (8) and our other counters (2 per age class) packed in well to give us 4th place in the girls competition and 5th in the boys.

The second day was the relay competition; always fast and furious, with gaffling for the first lap 16s and third lap 18s but identical courses for the second lap 14s. We have a history of good relay results and this year was no exception and we were confident that we could pip our nearest rivals, WM, for the overall 4th place. There was great team spirit (on a grey, drizzly, cold day) with everyone cheering each other in and, in some cases, offering advice on the location of the last control with many shouts of 'behind you' etc! The team did not let us down and we didn't suffer from mispunching errors. Special mention should be made of our girls 1st team who came 3rd (valuable points equivalent to all 3 of them getting 3rd place on the individual day) and also to our new team members, who were not phased by the experience.

For the squad coaches this weekend was the culmination of the year's hard work by the juniors and we thank them for being such a great squad to take away. The results made up for the agonies of sleeping with 200+ others on a sports hall floor and being woken by someone's mobile phone at a ridiculous hour of the night (not one of ours I hasten to add – EM phones, watches etc. are far better trained!).

Hilary Palmer

EMOA CONTROLLERS AND CLUB CONFERENCE

Due to the imminent implementation of the new 2003 Edition of the BOF Rules, Appendices and Guidelines, a Conference for EMOA Grade 1, 2 and 3 Controllers and East Midlands Club Officers/Officials is to be held on:

SATURDAY 26TH OCTOBER 2002

from 10.30 am to 3.30 pm

at

The Forest Rock Public House

Leicester Road

Whitwick

Grid Reference: Sheet 129 / SK 453 151

(Please note - it has been arranged that the venue will be closed to the general public throughout the day of the Conference and that, except at lunchtime when the Main Bar will be open for liquid refreshment other than tea and coffee, the Conference will use the large Lounge Bar overlooking the car park)

There is ample car parking and the venue is easily reached from M1 Junctions 22, 23 and 24, A42/A511 junction at Ashby-de-la-Zouch and other A and B roads in North-West Leicestershire.

Tea and Coffee will be available on arrival and a Buffet is to be provided at lunchtime.

If you are able to attend and in order to cater for all tastes (e.g. Tea / Real Filter Coffee or Decaffeinated Coffee / Vegetarian etc) please send the following details - Name, Club, BOF Number, whether Graded Controller or Club Officer / Official - to:

ORGANISER: ERNIE WILLIAMS

(EMOA Representative on BOF Event Standards Committee)

EMAIL: ernie.williams@btinternet.com

TELEPHONE: leave a message on Answerphone - 01530 832829 (not before 8.00 am or after 8.00 pm please)

POST: Ernie Williams

'Shoulthwaite'

40 Castle Rock Drive

Coalville

Leicestershire

LE67 4SE

Editorial

Well, while there have been only a few events over the Summer months, it looks like a few of you took the opportunity to write a few letters to the editor. Now that's what I like. There are some interesting points made and I invite the rest of you to feed back any of your views to me.

One thing we didn't get was much feedback on the proposal for an EMOA logo. In fact I had just one entry from Jennifer Beverley. Jennifer will be sent a small prize as promised. Attached below are some of her suggestions:

If anyone has any further suggestions, please send them to me and I'll take them to the next EMOA committee meeting in early October.

Mike Gardner

Letters To The Editor

As mentioned in my editorial I've had a bumper mailbag, but please keep your views coming in.

Andy Jackson's Thank You

I would like to thank everyone (somewhat belatedly I admit) for their kind thoughts and offers of help that we received last after Karen died last November. It has been due to this help that I have been able to keep running and orienteering as much as I have done. One of the major things that has kept me going over the past few months has been the ability to go out for a run/ orienteer and just to concentrate on doing my thing

for a while. When drawing up my list of jobs for Friday (it is my Nicola and Matthew free day) it is usually a run that is priority number one.

I would also like to thank everyone who contributed to the collection that I made in memory of Karen. This eventually reached just over £2000. Most of this has been donated to the Woodland Trust in Scotland where there is a project to regenerate the ancient woodlands at Glen Finglas in the Trossachs. Those who have orienteered there will know just how beautiful it is. Matthew, Nicola and I visited the area where they will plant just after Easter and it was as beautiful and peaceful as I remembered from when Karen and I ran there many years ago.

Thank you,

Andy Jackson

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Marking Maps in Advance

Hi Mike,

I agree that orienteering shouldn't be about marking up the map. (EMEWS 188 Editorial). Conversely, orienteering should be about time in the forest which includes making decisions on route choice.

If marking up the map is not in competition time, then I, for one, will spend time studying the course and I will make my route choices out of competition time. This might appear to be fair as everyone has the same opportunity to study their course. However, it eliminates one of the orienteering skills from the competition: that of making route choices. Is that fair?

I ideally we should all be given pre-marked maps. The next best option is to mark up one's map in competition time. Yes, some people are faster than others: but it is a skill that can be improved by training and practice. And, master maps are normally only used for level 4 or 5 events.

Before rushing to change let us have a measure of the time it takes people to mark up their map and see by how much the results would change if this time was taken off their total time. I suspect it would make little difference to course leaders.

Michael Napier

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Apathy or What?

The attendance at 2 recent east midlands events really upset me, in fact it angered me and I'm still stewing over it. Firstly there was the inter-club relays at Bulwell Hall Park that attracted only 7 teams. The event had been well trailed, discussed 'til the cows came home and went out again at committee, and yet two of the region's major clubs never even got one team there. I know the event was on a Saturday and orienteers

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traditionally hate competing on Saturdays. I know LEI had an event on the next day, but surely at least one person/family from the club could spare both days? What is it about orienteers and any type of event other than straight forward cross country orienteering? Put on a relay and everyone disappears muttering "oh I don't like them". Put on a score event and everyone runs away muttering "oh I never do very well at those". Even at a bog standard colour coded event if the longer courses have a "Norwegian" element, yes you've guessed it... muttering starts!

Ray Barnes put a huge amount of effort into the relays and on the day it was a fantastic event. The fact that LOG won it was the icing on the cake, but let's be honest about it, if a reasonable amount of teams had turned up we wouldn't have stood a chance. I was still angry about the attendance when I went to Bagworth Woods the following morning (you see it is possible to go to two events in a weekend!). It didn't help when I saw the huge attendance there, the lack of toilets, the dodgy master maps, and ran on an area that won't be ready for another 5 years. Apologies to anyone in earshot of my language at the finish, but I'm an easy going guy normally and I was p***** off!

The second event I was talking about wasn't Bagworth though, it was LOG's own summer relays. On another glorious summer SUNDAY(!), with fees of £1 each for crying out loud, we got 6 teams! It was the first day of the Lakes 5-days, but I know you weren't all there. It wasn't a Saturday, but oh yes it was a relay and I nearly forgot people hate relays. It was a fast open hillside with some technicality in places, courses laid out so spectators could have a laugh, I mean watch proceedings etc. We even had a trophy for the winning team.

Now orienteering isn't a matter of life or death (cue Bill Shankly), but this is a worrying trend. We talk about declining numbers, we talk about no juniors coming through, and yet we are the most apathetic bunch at times. Orienteering can be a very solitary sport; travel alone, compete alone, drive home alone. Relays are the perfect antidote to all that, which was the idea of the inter-club relays, to get EMOA members together for light hearted competition. And of course kids love relays, adults may hate them but kids love 'em! The LOG relays were never designed to attract huge numbers, they were a bit of fun on the morning of our club barbecue and trophy presentation, but I put a lot of effort into ensuring that everything was right just like a bigger event. £1 fees do not mean the event is done on the cheap, it means that we weren't profiteering!

So I hope you enjoyed the muddy assembly fields and car park queues in the Lakes, and that you soon pay the loan off that you needed for the entry fees etc. If you think I'm being a bit tetchy you may just be right. I can hear a lot of fiddles playing and the smell of burning is getting closer. Don't let orienteering die as a fun sport just for people over 45 like me!

John Bennett

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Highest point in Notts

Interesting County Info in EMEWS - well done.

However, I fear that your description of Strawberry Bank as Notts' high-point is out-of-date.

The latest pit-reclamation scheme in Notts has included a bid for highest-point-in-the-county status, and as far as I know, succeeded.

The new star is the summit of the re-landscaped Silverhill pit-tip, part of what will be the Silverhill Country Park, at Teversal, a few miles north of Strawberry Bank. Moreover, where Strawberry Bank boasted an unrivalled view of the M1, and the commercial and industrial parks around Junction 28, the new highest point can claim an excellent view of Hardwick Hall, an altogether superior aspect, even if it is in Derbyshire !! (Only Joking !!)

Cheers,

Alan Beardsley

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Sports Personality of the Month

As chairman of LOG I thought I'd get this one in before half of NOC suggest it! At the inter-club relays at Bulwell Hall Park, Stephen Bones and I had just turned over our maps for the first leg. This was basically 15 controls, which we had to collect ASAP between us. Quick as a flash Stephen said "I'll get 1-7, you get 9-15". Luckily about 10 people all shouted "what about number 8?" before we had a chance to set off. Amazingly this gaff didn't put us off and we ended up winning!

John Bennett

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WELL, WHAT IN YOUR OPINION WAS THE BEST COLOUR CODED COURSE YOU HAVE RUN ON IN THE EAST MIDLANDS IN THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS?

Yes, you did read the headline correctly!

In order to discover what was the best colour coded course run during the last twelve months (July 2001 to July 2002) I would like EMOA orienteers to nominate the best short course (White to Orange) and best medium to long course (Light Green to Brown) that they have competed on in the East Midlands.

Why, you may well ask?

With the EMOA Controllers Conference being held on 26th October 2002 (see article elsewhere in this edition of EMEWS), I would like to receive nominations - preferably

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photocopies/ colour scans/ jpg image files etc. - of the specific course with details such as the name and club of the Nominator, the name and club of the Planner, control description sheet etc. and will ask the Controllers / Club Officials who attend the Conference to independently vote for, in their opinion, at some time during the day, the best of the best and, hopefully, EMOA will be able to offer a small but not too insignificant a prize to the Planners who are voted as being 'The Best of the Best'!

Try to ignore the quality of the area and consider the merits of the course itself i.e. does it make the best use of the terrain available, does it keep to the BOF Principles of Course Planning Guideline, was it well designed and interesting/ challenging to compete on?

So don't delay, nominate today!!

In addition all attendees at the Conference are invited to send along a course they have planned if they so wish.

The Controllers will, of course, offer constructive advice in the interests of uniformity amongst officials and these courses will also be considered for the award of 'The Best of the Best'.

Please send your nominations by Friday 18th October to:

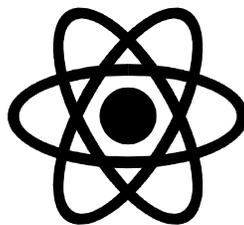
Ernie Williams, 'Shoulthwaite', 40 Castle Rock Drive, Coalville, Leicestershire, LE67 4SE

or

ernie.williams@btinternet.com

"Administrium"

A major research institution recently announced the discovery of the heaviest element yet known to science. This new element has been tentatively named "Administrium."



Administrium has one neutron, 12 assistant neutrons, 75 deputy neutrons and 111 assistant deputy neutrons, giving it an atomic mass of 312. These 312 particles are held together by a force called morons, which are surrounded by vast quantities of lepton-like particles called peons. Since Administrium has no electrons, it is inert. However, it can be detected as it impedes every reaction with which it comes into contact.

A minute amount of Administrium causes one reaction to take over four days to complete when it would normally take less than a second.

Administratium has a normal half-life of three years; it does not decay but instead undergoes a reorganisation, in which a portion of the assistant neutrons and deputy neutrons and assistant deputy neutrons exchange places. In fact, Administratium's mass actually increases over time, since each reorganisation causes some morons to become neutrons, forming isodopes.

This moron-promoting characteristic has led some scientists to speculate that Administratium is formed whenever morons reach a certain quantity in concentration. This hypothetical quantity is referred to as "Critical Morass." You'll know it when you see it...

Roy Denney (Original author unknown)