

East Midlands Orienteering Association Executive Committee Meeting – 10 November 2025

Item No	Description	Action
Present: Mike Gardner (DVO), John Hurley (DVO), Andy Nicholls (LEI), Pauline Olivant (NOC), Hilary Palmer (NOC), Iain Phillips (LEI), Ursula Williamson (LEI), and John Woodall (NOC). John Hurley acted as chair in absence of Ann-Marie Duckworth.		
	Meeting held in Pace Room, Clifton	
1.	Apologies for Absence: Trudy Crosby (LOG), Ann-Marie Duckworth (DVO), and David Olivant (NOC)	
2.	Approval of Minutes of Meeting on 30th June 2025 – The minutes of the June meeting were approved unanimously by all attendees (with correction of Andy Nicholls name spelling in two places). Proposed: Ursula Williamson; Seconded: Hilary Palmer	
3.	Website version of minutes – The minutes were accepted with no further amendments for publication on line.	Mike Gardner to inform webmaster to publish minutes. Available at minutesexec250630.pdf
4.	Actions Outstanding from previous minutes (not covered elsewhere) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Item 3 – Mike Gardner had webmaster publish approved minutes for June 2025 b. Item 4 - Club Reps to ask around to see if we can find a new Vice-Chair – as approach next AGM this is getting more important (needs to be someone not from DVO as have Chair, Devt Officer and Secretary already). c. Item 4 - Iain Phillips and John Hurley review of EMOA Champs course/class combination is later in agenda. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. In summary it looks like we have the course combinations about correct for EMOA members. Iain wants to do a little more analysis and talk to a few people so the intention is to provide further feedback to the AGM. d. Item 4 - Ann-Marie Duckworth sent EMOA controllers list back to BO Database e. Item 4 – Ann-Marie Duckworth asked BOF if there was a standard wording for insurance to be used by events based on updated guidance. An update was sent to all clubs/associations on 20th October. Message below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. All clubs should use one of these statements appears on their website or event information pages. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Option 1 - Please note: Participants who are not members of British Orienteering are not covered by British Orienteering's public liability insurance. By entering this event, you acknowledge that you are taking part at your own risk. For example, if you were to accidentally injure a member of the public or damage property during the event, you would not be covered. ii. Option 2 - A quick reminder for newcomers: If you're not currently a member of British Orienteering, you won't be covered by the organisation's public liability insurance for this event. You're very welcome to take part, but please be aware that you do so at your own risk. 	Club Reps to ask around to see if we can find a new Vice-Chair.

	<p>iii. Option 3 - Important: Non-members are not insured under British Orienteering's public liability policy. By entering this event, you acknowledge that you are participating at your own risk.</p> <p>f. Item 5 – Andy Nicholls created a budget for the EMOA AGM.</p> <p>g. Item 6 - John Hurley circulated an agenda for EMOA Officials Conference</p> <p>h. Item 10 – Ursula Williamson had feedback from clubs and created the 2026 calendar of events.</p> <p>i. Item 14 – John Woodall booked PACE room for this meeting!</p> <p>j. Item 14 – Alternative venues were discussed such as Shardlow Village Hall and Loughborough if costs of using PACE Room become raised. A question was asked if having the AGM on Zoom would work in future (as Extraordinary AGM got a good attendance). Club Reps to ask clubs if think this would be appropriate going forwards.</p>	<p>Club Reps to ask clubs if think this would be appropriate to have EMOA AGM on Zoom in the future</p>
5.	<p>Financial Secretary's Report</p> <p>Income</p> <p>Busy event-wise with event levies received for Lincoln Euro City Race (LOG), Nottingham City Race (NOC), Lutterworth (LEI), Hamilton (LEI), Chinley Churn (DVO), Newark (LOG), Retford (NOC) and Burbage (LEI) - £605 in total. Also £37 in membership fees, £66 in bank interest and EMJOS received £314 from cake sales at Chinley Churn. Unfortunately the card reader used for the cake sales stopped working meaning some of the funds weren't actually received. So many thanks to DVO for making a donation of £51 towards that lost income.</p> <p>Finally nearly £1,000 in receipts for EMJOS activities - exact make-up of them to be determined with Ann-Marie's help - but looks to be £300 for JIRCS, £630 for South Wales and £60 for local training activities.</p> <p>Expenditure</p> <p>The catering for the development conference was refunded to Trudy = £164 and talent support paid to the Simpsons for their trip to EYOC (competing for Ireland) and for Eoin for the JROS tour to Findhorn.</p> <p>Bank charges totalling £10 were paid and these have now ceased for future months.</p> <p>EMJOS costs totalled nearly a £1,000 too - being £355 for JIRCS, £600 for South Wales and £39 for other local activities.</p> <p>Current bank balance = £13,315.</p>	
6.	<p>Development</p> <p>Development Projects</p> <p>Firm applications for EMOA funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None currently in progress. <p>Preliminary expressions of interest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DVO/25/1 Club Development Officer new role – details still under discussion with DVO. <p>Club-funded development projects</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DVO/24/3 MapRuns 2024/25/26. DVO have been awarded a Sport England grant of £5,050 which will fund most of the costs of 36 MapRun events over the next two years, which are to be co-ordinated by the Club Development Officer with the aim of attracting new participants from running and other sporting clubs • DVO/24/4 MapActive courses and level D events 2024/25. DVO have been awarded a grant from the Orienteering Foundation of £3000, delivered in 2 tranches, the second conditional on demonstrating delivery of phase 1. This grant covers : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 MapActive courses • a Level D programme of 10 events, aiming to provide a stepping stone from MapRun to traditional orienteering • a Navigation festival for newcomers at Hardwick on 5/7/2025 in partnership with the National Trust, combined with a relaunch of the permanent course. • NOC/25/1 Club Coaching. Training for 20 NOC members on 18/1/2025. (Joined by 7 from DVO). • LEI no information supplied • LOG/25/1 LOG are holding an autumn MapRun series and continue to provide coaching at weekly club nights <p>Officials Conference 2025</p> <p>Date : Saturday September 20th at Rushcliffe Country Park, near Nottingham. Thanks to all those who helped with the arrangements for this Conference, including presenters Ranald Macdonald, David Olivant and Hilary palmer, and to Trudy Crosby for handling the catering arrangements.</p> <p>There were 17 other delegates (DVO 6, LEI 5, LOG 1, NOC 5).</p> <p>Ann-Marie has written a short report on the Conference which can be found at https://derwentvalleyorienteers.org.uk/2025/10/01/emoa-officials-development-conference-2025/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rules Quiz – It was agreed that John Hurley would arrange for the answers to Ranald's rules quiz be posted on the EMOA website. • Environmental Impact Assessment Form – John had taken a form created by BOF and had feedback from Dave Cooke, which has been incorporated. It was agreed by the EMOA Committee meeting that the form could be used as a regional store of knowledge on environmental impacts at events. It is not mandatory, but clubs are encouraged to complete the form and share with John Hurley. There were some discussions on combining it with the risk assessment form, but this was felt to not be necessary (and really covering two different topics). As part of the discussion it was identified that NOC and LEI have one person responsible for access to areas, while DVO has a number of different people. • There were a number of suggestions for Development raised by Matt White at conference, but the conference did not have time to discuss them. The EMOA Committee had a short discussion on each: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Some form of regional junior league as there is no pathway from schools championships to regular orienteering – the EMOA committee would like to support the idea, but whenever this has been trialled we have found that schools are not willing to travel far, so getting them to travel across the region would probably not work. Clubs felt that due to resource limitations they would prefer to attract schools to existing events and activities rather than stage new events. 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ More training opportunities for children not yet capable of taking part in EMJOS – there are some events being put on by people like Rex Bleakman and Jim Jenkinson, but they have found trying to centralise them is difficult as teachers don't want to travel and parents need to be part of orienteering community themselves to keep them involved. EMJOS has tried to bring down the age of joining the squad. ○ Universities – The problem is we have tried to support orienteers at the local universities but it needs someone who is a regular orienteer at the university to get support from the university. Club reps were asked to encourage liaison with their local universities and report any issues back to EMOA. <p>John Hurley asked what sort of Development activity would clubs want next year? Did we need another Officials Training Day?</p> <p>Pauline reported that NOC had found the e-learning organisers and planning courses to be quite effective.</p> <p>Hilary also stated that if folk wanted a "How to Start Coaching" course (this is normally 2 half days or evenings), then she was willing to provide this.</p> <p>Club Reps were asked to consult clubs and see if there is a need for more officials courses next year.</p> <p>The alternative might be a Planners / Controllers get together to discuss common problems (e.g. planning Very Short Green). Would that be more appropriate?</p>	<p>Club reps were asked to encourage liaison with their local universities and report any issues back to EMOA</p> <p>Club Reps were asked to consult clubs and see if there is a need for more officials courses next year.</p>
7.	<p>Coaching</p> <p>No updates, other than "Introduction to coaching" courses mentioned above.</p>	
8.	<p>EMJOS June to November 2025</p> <p>JROS Camps We only had Eoin go on the Findhorn (M/W15) tour in the summer. But we have 2 athletes going to Hawkshead weekend at the end of November (Eoin and Isabele with Andy as coach).</p> <p>Training events Burbage Common 19th October We joined the West Midlands squad who had arranged with LEI to use the area at the same time as the regional colour coded event – the coaches felt the session being mixed with the event worked well. Only 3 from EMJOS (Ben Jessica and Cara) joined so a range of ability to practise using the compass to make more precise bearings.</p> <p>Orienteering Foundation training day 8th of November South Wales Swansea Bay Orienteering Club organised for controls to be scattered across Merthyr Mawr, so there was a session in the north for the morning and then a move to the southern area and a fresh clutch of controls on the sunny, dry, intricate sand dunes and scrub terrain. The day finished with a sand dune race up the Big Dipper – open to everyone. A great way to bring the individual adults on the training day too and the 5 different junior squads, all together.</p>	

<p>Ann-Marie led the sessions catering for the TD3 to TD5 athletes from both EMJOS and West Midlands squads. The theme for the day was to plan for attack points and beacons on the route. With the more experienced using simplification ideas to allow for faster running.</p> <p>We shared accommodation in a Boys and Girls Club Wales activity centre near Bridgend - this worked well sharing cooking and evening entertainment and games, and also giving lifts to the night event. All of the EMJOS athletes went to the night event at Briton Ferry (very steep forest, near Swansea). For some juniors this was their first event in the dark so the 1 hour score format having 9 controls at yellow standard for the novices, was very welcomed. The athletes were paired up to run in the dark or in pairs on relocation exercises in the sand dunes</p> <p>The Sunday event was back on Kenfig Burrows, previously used for JIRCS 2023 – had more sand dunes and some very good race results. Sand dunes are no longer a mystery to this group of juniors.</p> <p>Using the minibus transport worked well and gave the opportunity for the juniors to get to know each other. Pairing up juniors with WMJS juniors worked to forge new friends from other clubs who will be a friendly face at future events and training</p> <p><u>Future Training</u></p> <p>There is a possibility for shared training on the 13th of December to join WMJS when they do their Christmas session at Hartshill Hayes.</p> <p>Then on the 31st of January 2026 EMJOS are hosting training on Crich Chase (DVO) for Yorkshire and Humberside and West Midlands squads - so there will be 60 juniors going mad on the slopes of the Derwent valley.</p> <p><u>Other things to note:</u></p> <p>Safeguarding in our sport has been refreshed with the appointment of Jeanette Downing as lead safeguarding officer at the BOF office. The review of safeguarding in our sport does mean a careful review of the level of training for the coaches and helping parents associated with EMJOS.</p> <p>Some of the longer standing coaches will have to take the live 3 hour course, while the most recently accredited coaches (within the last three years) will need to take a one hour refresher e-learning course after 3 years coaching. Parents who help will be expected to do the one hour e-learning course.</p> <p>The EMJOS page on EMOA website has been refreshed to include a contact e-mail for the squad safeguarding officer (Anne Kayley-Burgess) and a link to the BOF full page for reporting a concern.</p> <p>In conclusion, the squad is growing in numbers again which was noted at the weekend by other regions seeing our happy and enthusiastic athletes. More juniors brings advantages by creating and maintaining a youthful atmosphere and helping to create those long term friendships.</p> <p>Ann-Marie Duckworth EMJOS coach and coordinator</p>	
<p>9. Correspondence</p> <p>Mike Gardner had received the following emails (only those not covered elsewhere in the minutes are shown):</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter Brooke – 17th Oct – Details of major event webinar • Ann-Marie Duckworth – 16th Oct – Karen Bedwell volunteered to assist as EMOA Welfare Officer. Thanks to Karen for volunteering for this role. One thing noted was that the BOF Safeguarding training was good and related to orienteering, Sport England safeguarding training covered a lot of things not appropriate for orienteering. • ESK Gear – 8th Sept – Advertising orienteering kit. 	
10.	<p>Fixtures</p> <p>a. EMOA League 2025 – events still to take place: 9 events so far 23rd November – DVO – Cromford Moor 30th November – LEI – Beacon Hill 21st December – NOC – Strawberry Hill 28th December – LEI – Martinshaw 13 scoring events with best 7 to count. It is hoped to arrange the prizegiving at Cademan Woods on 25th January 2026.</p> <p>b. EMOA Urban League 2025 – the league is now complete and winners are: Mens Junior – Michael May (LOG) Womens Junior – Imogen Satherley (DVO) Mens Open – Nerijus Rozkovas (DVO) Womens Open – Andrea Page (LOG) Mens Veteran – Andy Nicholls (LEI) Womens Veteran – Tanya Taylor (LOG) Mens Senior Veteran – Matt White (LEI) Womens Senior Veteran – Helen Parkinson (NOC) Mens Ultra Veteran – Paul Morris (NOC) Womens Ultra Veteran – Val Johnson (DVO) Mens Hyper Veteran – Doug Dickinson (DVO) Womens Hyper Veteran – Hilary Palmer (NOC) It is hoped to perform the prizegiving at the DVO Matlock Urban on 1st January 2026.</p> <p>c. EMOA League 2026 18th January – NOC – Thieves Wood 25th January – LEI – Cademan 8th February – LOG – Harlaxton Manor 8th March – LEI – Aylestone Meadows 15th March – NOC – Watchwood & Calverton 22nd March – DVO – Bow Woods & Lea Woods 26th April – LEI – Castle Hill (It was agreed this would be the nominated YBT round in EMOA) 21st June – DVO – Allestree Park</p>	<p>John Hurley to confirm with organizer of Matlock event that prizegiving can take place there (ideally before event starts)</p>

	<p>27th September – DVO – Longstone Moor 1st November – LEI – QEDJW TBC 15th November – NOC – Clumber Park North TBC 22nd November – DVO – Linacre 6th December – LEI – Outwoods 20th December – NOC – Walesby With 14 planned events, 8 will count (half the events, plus one)</p> <p>d. EMOA Urban League 2026</p> <p>1st January – DVO – Matlock 7th June – NOC – University of Nottingham - UKUL 5th July – DVO – Swadlincote 12th July – LEI – Hinckley (jointly hosted with OD) – UKUL 9th August – NOC – Bilborough 16th August – LEI – Wellingborough 23rd August – LOG – Lincoln – UKUL 11th October – LOG – Sleaford Scoring will be the best 4 events.</p> <p>e. Future Major Events in EMOA -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. 15 Feb 2026 – East Midland Champs – DVO - Longshaw ii. 10 Oct 2026 – British Schools Score Champs – DVO – Shipley Park iii. 7 Feb 2027 – CompassSport Cup Heat – DVO – Stanton Moor (tbc) iv. 5 Feb 2028 – British Night Champs – LEI – Irchester / Cademan v. 6 Feb 2028 – Midlands Champs – LEI – Cademan / Belvoir <p>f. Future Possible Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. EMOA Champs 2027 (NOC scheduled to host) ii. EMOA Champs 2028 (LOG scheduled to host) iii. VHI 2028 - Ant Squire is looking at how this can be achieved. DVO may be able to support. iv. EMOA Champs 2029 (LEI scheduled to host) v. CompassSport Cup heat 2029 (LEI or LOG scheduled to host) vi. JIRCS 2030 vii. EMOA Champs 2030 viii. Midland Champs 2031 (EMOA scheduled to host) <p>g. SMOC have now agreed to host 2027 Midland Champs on behalf of EAOA</p> <p>h. If the EMOA Champs and Midland Champs take place on same event, then the Midland Champs class / course combinations will take precedence.</p>	
11.	EMOA Champs Competition Rules	

	<p>Iain Phillips presented the proposed rules for the EMOA Champs going forward in terms of course / class combinations. In effect the proposed table shows we would run shorter courses than BOF level events. There is also the introduction of the Novice class. The Novice class is aimed at "new" orienteers to allow them to take part without pressure of a full championship course. No trophies would be awarded for novice classes, but prizes could be awarded. The exact rules for eligibility for a novice course prize may need to be refined. All members affiliated to EMOA would be eligible.</p> <p>It was agreed that, if appropriate, middle distance races could be used for EMOA Champs (not just long). If the area does not support a Black course, then M21 would compete on Brown.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="276 436 1720 1060"> <thead> <tr> <th>Colour</th><th>Trophy Class</th><th>Novice Classes</th><th>BO (where different)</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Black (1.0)</td><td>M21</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Brown (0.85)</td><td>M20, M35, M40</td><td></td><td>W21</td></tr> <tr> <td>Short Brown (0.69)</td><td>M18, M45, M50, W21</td><td></td><td>W20, W35</td></tr> <tr> <td>Blue (0.56)</td><td>M16, M55, M60, W20, W35, W40</td><td></td><td>W18, W45</td></tr> <tr> <td>Short Blue (0.45)</td><td>M65, W18, W45, W50</td><td></td><td>M70, W16, W55</td></tr> <tr> <td>Green (0.39)</td><td>M70, W16, W55, W60</td><td></td><td>M75</td></tr> <tr> <td>Short Green (0.33)</td><td>M75, M80, W65, W70</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Very Short Green (0.28)</td><td>M85+ W75+</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Light Green (0.3)</td><td>M14, W14</td><td>M16N, M18N, W16N, W18N</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Orange (0.25)</td><td>M12, W12</td><td>M14N, W14N</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Yellow (0.22)</td><td>M10, W10</td><td>M12N, W12N</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>White (0.14)</td><td></td><td>M10N, W10N</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Colour	Trophy Class	Novice Classes	BO (where different)	Black (1.0)	M21			Brown (0.85)	M20, M35, M40		W21	Short Brown (0.69)	M18, M45, M50, W21		W20, W35	Blue (0.56)	M16, M55, M60, W20, W35, W40		W18, W45	Short Blue (0.45)	M65, W18, W45, W50		M70, W16, W55	Green (0.39)	M70, W16, W55, W60		M75	Short Green (0.33)	M75, M80, W65, W70			Very Short Green (0.28)	M85+ W75+			Light Green (0.3)	M14, W14	M16N, M18N, W16N, W18N		Orange (0.25)	M12, W12	M14N, W14N		Yellow (0.22)	M10, W10	M12N, W12N		White (0.14)		M10N, W10N		<p>Iain Phillips to work with Ann-Marie Duckworth on exactly who will be eligible for 2026 EMOA Novice course prizes.</p>
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12.	<p>Reports</p> <p>John Hurley provided feedback on the Major Events Conference in October</p> <p><u>2026 Rule Changes</u></p> <p>1 There will be changes to the class/course tables for JK, British Long and Area Championships.</p> <p>2 There will be changes to relay class start times, and the Ad Hoc relay will run medium/short/long for all teams.</p> <p>3 There is a change in principle over relay alliances between neighbouring clubs for JK and British relays. For Men Open and Women Open there is an objective to attract more elite teams. In these classes alliance teams will be permitted even if the clubs concerned could field club-only teams. In Junior classes alliance teams will be permitted only where this allows for participation by juniors in clubs which could not field a club-</p>																																																					

	<p>only team : “all-star” alliance teams will not otherwise be permitted. It is not clear how these principles will be enforced. Ursula expressed concern about the proposed alliance teams in the open classes. John Hurley replied that it was unlikely that we could influence the Rules for 2026, but we should monitor how this works in practice at the 2026 JK and British relays and then provide feedback to Rules Group, if appropriate.</p> <p>4 Shadowing of juniors on championship courses at level A events will not be allowed.</p> <p>5 Assistance dogs are permitted by default if pre-notified to the Organiser and the landowner does not object.</p> <p>6 Significant changes to Selection and Seeding procedures (Appendix A) and Safety (Appendix E).</p> <p>7 In general, it is claimed that the 2026 Rules remove ambiguity and duplication, and recognise that electronic punching is now standard for level C and above. We shall see !</p> <p><u>2027 Rule Changes</u></p> <p>1 It is intended that the issues of map scales and physical difficulty for older age groups will be reviewed.</p> <p>2 The duties and role of the Controller will be reviewed (this was alluded to by Ranald at the EMOA Conference).</p> <p><u>Other Business</u></p> <p>1 Dan Parker is the new Chair of Map Advisory Group.</p> <p>2 Josh Wright is the new British Orienteering Events Development Officer.</p> <p>3 The Event Officials Group needs a new Chair and other new members.</p> <p>4 Alan Rosen is “Controller of Controllers”.</p> <p>5 Rules Group are considering cutting down the Rules document by splitting off some of the information sections into a separate Best Practice document. They would welcome comments on the value of this.</p> <p>6 Rules Group will consider requests for waivers. Should EMOA try again with a waiver to Rule 7.15 to allow shadowing of juniors on white and yellow courses prior to a competitive run ? At this stage we will not try for a waiver.</p>	
13.	<p>Sharing Best Practice</p> <p>1) LEI are hosting one of their Urban League events with OD (Hinckley). Hopefully will get competitors from both regions competing.</p> <p>2) NOC are running a new MapActive course. It is just 3 sessions and folk can choose to attend just one session.</p> <p>3) In preparing for the LEI Club Champs, they did use a drone to assist with producing the updated map. It proved effective.</p>	
14.	<p>EMEWS:</p> <p>The closing date for next EMEWS is 1st December. As Mike is having a major operation he may need to slightly delay publication.</p>	
15.	<p>Any Other Business:</p> <p>1) Pauline stated that David Olivant is willing to continue to fulfil role of Mapping Advisor until a new rep is found, so will add David back into communications.</p>	

16.	Dates and venues for future meetings: The next meeting will be the January meeting and 26 th January was agreed as the date. It will be held on Zoom and Iain Phillips will look to get LEI Zoom set up for this. The following meeting will be 27 th April and again will be held on Zoom.	
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Meeting closed at 9:17pm