

East Midlands Orienteering Association Executive Committee Meeting – 27 April 2026

Item No	Description	Action
Present: Ann-Marie Duckworth (DVO), Mike Gardner (DVO), John Hurley (DVO), Andy Nicholls (LEI), David Olivant (NOC), Hilary Palmer (NOC), Iain Phillips (LEI), Ursula Williamson (LEI) and John Woodall (NOC)		
	Meeting held via Zoom	
1.	Apologies for Absence: Trudy Crosby (LOG) – replaced by Amanda Roberts; Pauline Olivant (NOC)	
2.	Approval of Minutes of Meeting on 26th January 2026 – The minutes of the November meeting were approved unanimously by all attendees. Proposed: John Hurley; Seconded: David Olivant	
3.	Website version of minutes – It was agreed to remove names from the expenditure EMJOS costs, so report detailed the activities but not who received the money.	Mike Gardner to make amendments and inform webmaster to publish minutes. (Note: they are available at https://emoa.org.uk/wp/members/minutesexec260126.pdf)
4.	Actions Outstanding from previous minutes (not covered elsewhere) a. Item 3 – Mike Gardner had webmaster publish approved minutes for November 2025. They are now available at minutesexec251110.pdf b. Item 4 – Club Reps to ask around to see if we can find a new Vice-Chair. No names were submitted. Ann-Marie stated this now needs to be a priority as we need someone in place for next year so they could learn the ropes for the following year when her term is due to finish. It would be good to rotate to a different club if at all possible. c. Item 4 - Trudy Crosby took back need for environmental impact assessment to LOG committee. d. Item 4 - John Hurley to arrange a planners course as part of Development day in September – see Development Report. e. Item 6 – Club Reps encouraged to get clubs to share their development activities with John Hurley – no new activities identified prior to meeting. f. Item 6 - John Hurley created a summary of some of national development conference sessions for regional development day in autumn and circulated this. g. Item 10 - John Hurley had DVO Fixtures Lead chase up Ant Squire on progress on VHI 2028. (John reported that DVO have now agreed to hold the Individual Race on November 11th provisionally at Longshaw, and NOC have agreed to hold the Relay on November 12th).	Club Reps to ask around to see if we can find a new Vice-Chair.

	a. Item 15 – Trudy Crosby had all trophies returned for EMOA Champs at Longshaw. There are still a few to be distributed to recipients due to delay in prizegiving.	
5.	Financial Secretary's Report The report covers 14 Jan to 15 Apr 2026: <u>Income</u> Membership fees continued to flow in, with £211 for January to March renewals being received. Event levies were received for Matlock urban, Longshaw E.Mids Champs, Bow Woods/Lea Woods (DVO), Thieves Wood, Watchwood/Calverton (NOC), Aylestone Meadows (LEI) & Harlaxton (LOG) - £470 in total. EMJOS receipts of £229 covered contributions for Cromford (including contributions from WMJOS and YHJS) and Watchwood & Calverton. The EMJOS cake sales at Longshaw also generated £235. Finally we received £45 in bank interest. <u>Expenditure</u> Payments were made for the plaques for the forest league winners and the biscuits for the urban league winners for 2025 totalling £189. EMJOS costs paid were £158 for Cromford (including £125 for access), £48 for Watchwood & Calverton and £22 for a safeguarding course for A.Simpson. In addition, a transfer entry was recorded to allocate £800 from EMOA to EMJOS as per the budget as part of our commitment to fund EMJOS' activities. Current bank balance = £14,466.	
6.	Development <u>Development Projects</u> <u>Firm applications for EMOA funding</u> • None currently in progress. <u>Preliminary expressions of interest</u> • DVO/25/1 Club Development Officer marketing & publicity role – details still under discussion with DVO. <u>Club-funded development projects</u> • DVO/26/1 MapRuns 2026/27. DVO plan to hold 16 evening MapRun events in 2026/27 including a block of events in the Chesterfield area, with the aim of attracting new participants from running and other sporting clubs, and will be applying for a Sport England grant • DVO/26/2 Fun and memorable level D events 2026. This will be a series of 4 events in 6 weeks with prizes and other incentives in line with BO "Changing Perceptions" initiatives. • DVO 26/3 Another Navigation festival for newcomers at Hardwick on 11/7/2026 in partnership with the National Trust.	

• NOC/26/1 NOC will be holding an updated MapActive course comprising 3 sessions. John Hurley encouraged all clubs to share their development activities with him so could ensure all clubs could learn from each other. In terms of future requirements one area that most clubs are short on is social media skills (though LOG have a member who is helping them in that area). LOG have combined with HALO for their summer programme as there were very few attendees for LOG events on their own. The current NOC Map Active course is in progress and has around 20 signed up for it. There has been assistance from previous MapActive attendees, so the approach seems to be working and they would recommend all clubs consider this sort of approach. EMOA Development Day John has been talking to Mike Gardner about potential dates and venues for a Planners course in September. Mike Gardner will firm up the plans and provide dates. ACTION: Mike Gardner Ursula Williamson stated that Chris Phillips is looking at putting on an Organisers course around the same time period as LEI have a number of folk who may need one shortly. It was agreed that these courses could be open to all EMOA and potentially to other regions if required. Once the dates of these courses are firmed up they will be circulated to all clubs. At this stage John Hurley reported that there was not a need for other courses so we would not have a formal Development Day this autumn. BOF Development Conference John had circulated a summary report of the BOF Development Conference sessions. John recommended the second session from Kay Hawke on how to attract younger adults to attend orienteering events. Ann-Marie recommended the Safety Advisory Group session. British Orienteering Recognised Delivery Partners for orienteering in schools The recognised delivery partners are described on https://www.britishorienteering.org.uk/recognisedpartners John followed up with a discussion with Rex Bleakman (DVO) who runs orienteeringforschools, see Home Orienteering Services for Schools Rex explained that : • orienteeringforschools is another service provider based in the East Midlands and staffed by experienced orienteers.	Club Reps encouraged to get clubs to share their development activities with John Hurley Mike Gardner to finalise details for a Planners course. John Hurley to ask Rex Bleakman if he could identify
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	• this provider feels it is more cost-effective to deal directly with schools rather than become a BOF Recognised Delivery Partner. • this provider is mainly active in Derbyshire but also at a small number of schools in Leicestershire (5) and Nottinghamshire (3), and is willing to pass on information from clubs to those schools. Iain Phillips asked if Rex could let LEI know what schools he had worked with. John Hurley to ask Rex the question. ACTION: John Hurley. (Post meeting – Rex confirmed the following Leicestershire schools were set up for using Orienteering as part of their Curriculum: • All Saints C of E Primary School, Coalville • Swannington C of E Primary School • Linden Primary School, Leicester)	which schools he has worked with
7.	Coaching Hilary Palmer is still waiting to hear if any EMOA members want to take the new Orienteering Instructor Qualification for Clubs (as mentioned in last minutes).	
8.	<u>EMJOS February 2026 to April 2026</u> <u>JROS Camps</u> East Midlands has three juniors who have been nominated for JROS summer camps this year: Imogen Satherley (DVO) for the M/W14 Laganlia camp in Scotland, Eoin Simpson for Czechia M/W16 camp and Ellie Simpson for the Gothenberg M/W18. The selection criteria required championship selection race results or very good ranking position (Sweden tour). Well done and fingers crossed. <u>Training events</u> 31st of January 2026 EMJOS hosted training on Cromford Moor (DVO area) for Yorkshire and Humberside and West Midlands squads – there was about 50 juniors at two very different ability levels, so the group split into two to allow the coaches to have good focus on the individual juniors' requirements from the exercises. The training planning by Andy Simpson, was very challenging given the steep terrain and restrictions of fence crossing and bramble under growth. But with the additional coaches able to shadow and debrief after each loop, the juniors definitely had a physical workout on the steep slopes keeping their bearings when going up, along or down the contours. The cake stall at East Midlands Championships 15th February raised over £180 – a miracle considering the cold conditions on the closed road carpark! Training at Watchwood and Calverton (15th March) was made possible by doing it at the same time as the NOC event – thank you. Matt White (LEI coach) set a number of exercises to go over the fundamentals of race preparation (Start box focus, handicap start times on Light Green meant they were chasing the person in front), distance appreciation (step counting or time-passing), bearings between the gorse bushes and route planning/choice (direct or via a good attack	

	point). The four juniors did appreciate the coaching and used the compass skills when running at the JK in Scotland a few weeks later. Saturday 25th April we joined WMJS for training at Bentley Woods (bluebells in full glory). The six juniors practiced aiming off, setting bearings and holding the bearing through fairly good clear terrain. The highlight of the day was the Peg Relay – two courses (long 4.5km and short 3km) to match the variety of ability and stamina; there was a set of core controls that everyone had to visit- they had just 5 clothes pegs attached to the kite. The early runners would collect a peg but then have to run extra controls (+500m) before the next core control. If there was no peg, then the runner ran straight to the next core control – so the group came back together. <u>Future Training</u> Our next training will be sprint format at Warwick University (21st June), again exercises planned by Andy Simpson and teaming up with WMJS, who are undergoing a big shake up as their lead coach Kirsten Strain moves to Scotland. The Junior Inter Regional Championships are this year in East Anglia (near Chelmsford) 26th & 27th September. So will have to look for an area for training early September that is not too over-run by bracken and nettles. Early notice of the Orienteering Foundation November 2026 training – NGOC weekend 21st/22nd Nov to be held in the Forest of Dean; with night and regional events also planned. JROS Hawkshead M/W15 (now to be at Grange-over Sands) end of November will be where EMJOS hopes to take 5 juniors for the weekend – most having never been on a camp/tour before. Ann-Marie Duckworth EMJOS coach and coordinator	
9.	Correspondence Mike Gardner had received the following emails (only those not covered elsewhere in the minutes are shown): • 18/2 – Share your participation initiatives from British Orienteering • 20/2 – Thank You for attending Development Conference from British Orienteering • 23/3 – AGM of English Orienteering Council (Sal Chaffey has agreed to attend on behalf of EMOA) • 8/4 - AGM of English Orienteering Council	
10.	Fixtures a. EMOA League 2026 still to take place (7 events so far): 21st June – DVO – Allestree Park 27th September – DVO – Longstone Moor 1st November – LEI – QEDJW 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)	

	b. EMOA Urban League 2026 still to take place (1 event so far) 7th June – NOC – University of Nottingham - UKUL 5th July – DVO – Swadlincote 12th July – LEI – Hinckley (jointly hosted with OD) – UKUL 9th August – NOC – Southwell (confirmed as Southwell after meeting) 16th August – LEI – Wellingborough 23rd August – LOG – Lincoln – UKUL 11th October – LOG – Sleaford Scoring will be the best 4 events of the 8 to count. c. Future Major Events in EMOA - i. 10 Oct 2026 – British Schools Score Champs – DVO – Shipley Park ii. 7 Feb 2027 – CompassSport Cup Heat – DVO – Stanton Moor (tbc) iii. 5 Feb 2028 – British Night Champs – LEI – Irchester / Cademan / Wakerley iv. 6 Feb 2028 – Midlands Champs – LEI – Cademan / Wakerley v. 18 Oct 2028 – CompassSport Cup Final – LEI – Martinshaw extended vi. 11 Nov 2028 – VHI Individual – DVO – Longshaw vii. 12 Nov 2028 – VHI Relay - NOC d. Future Possible Events i. EMOA Champs 2027 (NOC scheduled to host) ii. EMOA Champs 2028 (LOG scheduled to host) iii. EMOA Champs 2029 (LEI scheduled to host) iv. CompassSport Cup heat 2029 (LEI or LOG scheduled to host) – LEI may find difficult due to 3 major events in 2028. v. JIRCS 2030 vi. EMOA Champs 2030 vii. Midland Champs 2031 (EMOA scheduled to host) e. In 2027 the NOC Christmas event would take place on 19th December as normal. However, SYO have added an event that day. The clubs confirmed that most members would still attend the NOC Christmas event, so it was felt appropriate to keep to the original date. f. It was noted in fixtures that the Peter Palmer Junior Team Relay is down to be run by SYO on Walesby in September 2027. g. There was some discussion as to whether the EM Championships could take place on a level C event. It was confirmed this could be the case, but if this happened then the event could not be part of EM League as folk may need to run a different course to their normal league course, so it could not count in EM League.	
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11.	Reports Sal Chaffey attended on behalf of EMOA and made the following notes: • Check that Clubs staging Home International events understand their responsibilities (there are people in EOC (Barry Elkington, Harriet Lawson) who can assist • As Tim Tett is standing down as selector, encourage potential candidates for Senior Selector vacancy to discuss it with Richard Robinson or Martin Ward. Ann-Marie stated that Ant Squire may be the Junior Selector • Contributions from competitors may need to be increased to cover costs. • It is believed the Association levy will also need to be raised from £1 to £1.10 to cover increased costs.	
13.	Sharing Best Practice 1) John Hurley made a statement that at the DVO Longshaw EM Champs, the event suffered a fatality (which is the first at a DVO event in 55 years of putting events on). The club has been performing a lessons learned session and determined: a. As far as can tell there was no fault in the organisation of the event b. The competitor who died was a M65 with no club who had a heart condition and unfortunately had an incident in the forest c. The club is putting together guidelines on providing early and comprehensive information about the nature of our events, allowing people to make an informed decision on taking part. 2) Iain Phillips reported that LEI had an email from Ernie Williams about safety of older competitors. They were looking a providing further guidance (e.g. carry a phone, leave medical information at download, etc.).	
14.	EMEWS: The closing date for next EMEWS is 1 st May. He hopes to have EMEWS 301 out by May 10th.	
15.	Any Other Business: 1) Ann-Marie raised a proposal to change the eligibility for the East Midland Champs. In outline the proposal was to allow members of closed clubs (educational establishments such as the universities) within the East Midlands to count in the results for the EM Championships (Note: members of other closed clubs like RAFO, BAOC assign themselves to a regions, so they are not covered by this proposal). After some discussion the proposal was agreed on a vote of 7:1. Ann-Marie will write up the change to the rules. 2) Amanda Roberts stated that a number of LOG members were very unhappy that the results of the East Midlands Champs at Longshaw were allowed to stand as they had their runs disrupted, or couldn't visit some controls. This was noted, but the controller had felt the course results should stand (although final decision is that of the organiser). No formal complaint or protest had been made following the publication of the results.	Ann-Marie to write up the changed rules for EM Champs eligibility.
16.	Dates and venues for future meetings: The next meeting will be the June meeting on 29 th June. It will be held on Zoom. Iain Phillips believes the details we used this time should be usable for that meeting as well.	

Meeting closed at 9:18pm