East Midlands Orienteering Association Executive Committee Meeting – 29 June 2026

Item No	Description	Action
Present: Trudy Crosby (LOG), Ann-Marie Duckworth (DVO), Mike Gardner (DVO), John Hurley (DVO), Andy Nicholls (LEI), David Olivant (NOC), Pauline Olivant (NOC), Hilary Palmer (NOC), Iain Phillips (LEI), and John Woodall (NOC)		
	Meeting held via Zoom	
1.	**Apologies for Absence:** Ursula Williamson (LEI)	
2.	**Approval of Minutes of Meeting on 27th April 2026** – The minutes of the April meeting were approved unanimously by all attendees. Proposed: John Woodall; Seconded: John Hurley	
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. Published at minutesexec270426.pdf
4.	**Actions Outstanding from previous minutes (not covered elsewhere)** a. **Item 3 - Mike Gardner** to inform webmaster to publish minutes. They are now available at https://emoa.org.uk/wp/members/minutesexec260126.pdf. b. ***Item 4* – Club Reps** to ask around to see if we can find a new Vice-Chair. No names were forthcoming. c. ***Item 6* – Club Reps** encouraged to get clubs to share their development activities with John Hurley d. **Item 6 - Mike Gardner** to finalise details for a Planners course. e. **John Hurley** to ask Rex Bleakman if he could identify which schools he has worked with (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) f. **Item 15 – Ann-Marie** to write up the changed rules for EM Champs eligibility. Ann-Marie has updated the rules though this will be covered later in meeting.	**Club Reps** to ask around to see if we can find a new Vice-Chair. **Mike Gardner** to finalise details of Planning course
5.	**Financial Secretary's Report** This covers transactions in the time range of 16th April to 8th June 2026**.** **Income**	

	A relatively quiet period with event levies of £59 received from Castle Hill (LEI), with Uni of Nottingham urban levies still to come (NOC). Membership fees continued to trickle in - being £32 - along with another £32 contributions from parents for EMJOS training at Bentley Woods. Bank interest of £30 made up the remaining income. **Expenditure** Annual website fees were paid totalling £188. EMJOS training costs were paid relating to Cromford (£44 for parking, mileage and printing) and Bentley Woods (£12 for printing) along with £46 for a safeguarding course for Matt White (an EMJOS coach). **Full year expectations** I'm trying to tidy-up the accounts ready for the end of the year and need EOC and Pace Room charges to come through as part of this. Overall income from membership and event levies for the full year are very close to budget with EMJOS income and fundraising much higher. EMJOS costs are slightly higher than budgeted but most of the other cost categories are lower (especially no grants to clubs made and talent support much lower). **Proposal regarding cost categories to report in annual account and budgets** There are a few categories in the annual accounts template we use that are rarely used, certainly in recent years, or are overlapping. John Hurley proposed a few changes and between us we've come up with the following suggestions: The proposal is to remove the "community coaching development" and "external conferences" headings and include any such costs in either "coach development" or "volunteer development" as appropriate. In the days of zoom meetings, we rarely have a need to attend external conferences in person and our regional conferences are usually focussed on general development of our volunteers across multiple areas. In addition, if we should need them in future years (such as when we are due to host the VHIs in 2028), a new "Major Events" line in both income and expenditure could be added. This might also be used for the JK surplus we received and paid out in 2024/25. The proposed changes to the accounts were unanimously accepted by all present at the meeting.	
6.	**Development** **Development Projects** **Firm applications for EMOA funding** • None currently in progress. **Preliminary expressions of interest** • DVO/25/1 Club Development Officer marketing & publicity role – withdrawn – DVO members will cover this role.	

	Club-funded development projects • 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 May and June. Now complete. • 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. **Other Development Activities** Following on from Kay Hawke's presentation at the national Development Conference, Sal Chaffey (DVO) has initiated some informal discussions about use of Facebook and Instagram with Vic Knight (NOC) and Anna Koskela-Brook (LOG). LEI were also approached but did not respond. This is primarily an exchange of ideas about good practice, but I will review with Sal to see if any ideas for regional developments are emerging. John shared an updated development plan with the committee.	**Club Reps** encouraged to get clubs to share their development activities with John Hurley
7.	**Coaching** Hilary Palmer reported no requests from clubs for additional coaching. Ann-Marie Duckworth reported that a few changes had been made to the EMJOS Safeguarding document, and she will feed this through to Hilary, Hilary stated that at BO level there are a mandated set of courses for Welfare / Safeguarding Officers to attend. However, all members should be able to report any safeguarding concerns. She expects to see more from British Orienteering on this shortly.	
8.	**EMJOS April to June 2026** **Training events** Sunday 21st June we joined the West Midlands Squad for sprint training on Warwick University campus – an area previously used for the British Sprint Championships. Andy Simpson (LEI) planned 4 short exercises exploring control flow by choosing the straight on route, changing direction and keeping the map aligned and finishing with practicing the planning the legs ahead all the way from one control to the next, avoiding the virtual barriers (pink lines) blocking certain roads/paths. The afternoon had group running to simulate trains of people navigating the same legs. The final exercise was a gaffled mass start race (slightly different first and other controls). A full day on a very hot campus, but with careful hydration and an ice cream at the end, the 7 EM juniors experienced the sprint format for the first time or polished their	

	skills before the Championships near Bristol or in Slovenia (European Youth Orienteering Championships EYOC) this weekend. **<u>Future Training</u>** Following a request from a junior I am also looking at entering a non-competitive team in the Peter Palmer Relay (Crawley) 12th & 13th September. 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. Accommodation ideas have been found near the training day that comply with the safeguarding rules. JROS Hawkshead M/W15 (now to be accommodated at Grange-over Sands) end of November (Friday evening 27th to Sunday lunchtime 29th) 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): • 1/6 – BOF Office – Mike had a phone call as 2 SYO members wanted to change to DVO and was asked if we needed them to pay additional EMOA membership fee (they had already paid for YHOA). Told them not to worry and just transfer the members as cost to make change is probably higher than money we would get. • 29/5 – Sportident – sent information on a potential issue with the Sportident USB Windows Driver due to a Windows Update. Mike recommended clubs run the latest update before the next event as otherwise the master station cannot be connected.	
10.	**Fixtures** a. EMOA League 2026 still to take place (8 events so far): 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 (2 events so far) 5th July – DVO – Swadlincote 12th July – LEI – Hinckley (jointly hosted with OD) – UKUL	

9th August – NOC – Southwell
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. **30 Jan 2027 – East Midland Night Champs** – DVO – Longshaw
   iii. **31 Jan 2027 – East Midland Champs** – NOC – Sherwood Forest
   iv. **7 Feb 2027** – **CompassSport Cup Heat** – DVO – Stanton Moor (tbc)
   v. **20 Jun 2027** – **East Midlands Sprint Champs** – DVO - Birdholme
   vi. **5 Feb 2028** – **British Night Champs** – LEI – Cademan
   vii. **6 Feb 2028** – **Midlands Champs** – LEI – Wakerley
   viii. **18 Oct 2028** – **CompassSport Cup Final** – LEI – Martinshaw extended
   ix. **11 Nov 2028 – VHI Individual** – DVO – Longshaw
   x. **12 Nov 2028 – VHI Relay** - NOC

d. Future Possible Events
   i. EMOA Champs 2028 (LOG scheduled to host)
   ii. EMOA Champs 2029 (LEI scheduled to host)
   iii. CompassSport Cup heat 2029 (LEI or LOG scheduled to host) – LEI may find difficult due to 3 major events in 2028.
   iv. JIRCS 2030
   v. EMOA Champs 2030
   vi. Midland Champs 2031 (EMOA scheduled to host)

e. Ursula will be asking for dates / venues for 2027 Regional (level C) forest and urban events towards the end of August ready for ESG meeting.

f. The next ESG meeting is in October. Ursula will need to register any proposed National (level B) events for 2028 and beyond. We may want to think of hosting an event on the Saturday before the CompassSport Cup Final (DVO reported they are thinking of hosting a Level C on that date). The event would need later than usual entry times to allow people to travel and stay overnight in the region.

g. Ursula reported that Forest England have turned down SMOC's permission to use an area for the 2027 Midland Championships. While SMOC hope to discuss further through British Orienteering there is a high likelihood that there may be no 2027 Midland Champs unless WMOA or EMOA take it on.

h. DVO proposed hosting a Night Event at Longshaw on 30 Jan 2027 and calling it the East Midland Night Champs. They asked if any club objected to this. There were no objections. It is not intended to present

	prizes but there may be certificates. (There is also the scheduled East Midland Champs at Sherwood the following day so may encourage more to attend for a weekend orienteering). i. DVO proposed that their event at Birdholme on 20 June 2027 be nominated as the East Midlands Sprint Champs. It is intended to be a two part sprint event with the two events added together to calculate the overall winner. The event is also part of EMOA urban league. The meeting agreed that DVO could call the event the East Midland Sprint Champs. j. If any club has a problem with these last 2 items please get back to DVO as soon as possible. k. Hilary Palmer raised a question about older competitors at urban events. It seems that the addition of an extra course to accommodate HyperVet Women (75+) at urban events may be causing a problem. In the BO Ranking Scheme it states in rule 5.1.4 "If a course… has fewer than 8 counting runners remaining, it is deemed to be statistically unreliable and is not ranked.". So now, many of the HyperVet Women can't get BOF ranking points as the numbers on their course are too few (e.g. at Swadlincote there are just 7 entries on course 6). Many older women would prefer to run a "valid" class. Did anyone look at including over 80s men on the same course? Or think of the impact on BOF ranking scheme?	**Club Reps** to look at views of members (especially on hypervet women) on the new course 6 at urban events.
11.	**Reports** **Orienteering Foundation Report June 2025** Coaching days 2026 • Sat 21st Nov Forest of Dean More details here • Sat 28th Nov Simpson Ground, Lake district More details here New Chair and Administrator. • The Foundation is looking for a new chair and administrator, see links for more details. Junior Regional Squads Summer camp appeal. • Join the appeal to support the juniors this summer, more details here Latest news. • Grants were recently made to support juniors attending the European Championships in the Autumn and to help with costs of young coaches at Lagganlia summer camp. • The Foundation are looking to develop a strap line to help with promotion. Any ideas to your local ambassador or trustee. If you would like to read more about this news or would like to find out more about the work of the Foundation please see our web site, www.orienteeringfoundation.org.uk, Why not sign up for the Orienteering Foundation newsletter, Facebook, Instagram or Twitter accounts. Pauline Olivant - Trustee Orienteering Foundation - 01623 792336 -p.olivant@btinternet.com	

13.	**Sharing Best Practice** 1) John Hurley reported that the guideline document that DVO were producing following the fatality at the Longshaw event is being amalgamated with a document being produced by the national Safety Advisory Group. 2) Iain Phillips stated that the reported that LEI had on safety of older competitors is also being merged into BO information.	
14.	**EMEWS:** The closing date for next EMEWS is 1st July. Mike hopes to have EMEWS 302 by mid-July.	
15.	**Any Other Business:** 1) Ann-Marie had written up the proposed changes agreed at the last EMOA committee meeting for eligibility of members of closed clubs to win the EMOA Champs. However, since the meeting she had received a letter from the LEI committee stating that they believed the decision was unconstitutional as it was not referred back to members who would be affected, it was against the spirit of the constitution as it took away the rights of EMOA members and that voting at EMOA Committee was not in line with the constitution. Ann-Marie had responded to the LEI committee stating that all members at the EMOA meeting had agreed the proposal and whether it had formally been voted by just the 3 standing officers and 4 club reps (or the whole committee) the decision would have been the same. The intention was not to take away EMOA member rights, just to encourage university students to participate and be involved in orienteering in the region. Club Reps were asked to get clubs to confirm they all agreed with the decision. It was agreed that if a club did want to disagree then they should formally reject the proposal in writing and propose an alternative approach. This could then be discussed at a future committee meeting or taken to the AGM. 2) Trudy Crosby still had a couple of trophies from the EMOA Champs to be distributed. There was also one or two trophies which could not get to the winner as had moved abroad and it was agreed EMOA would fund the engraving of those trophies (normally the winner pays for the engraving). 3) Andy Nicholls requested any expenses be sent to him as soon as possible so he can close the end of year accounts. Also, if folk had any proposals for next year that they be submitted to him for inclusion in the budget to be presented to the AGM.	**Club Reps** were asked to get clubs to confirm they all agreed with the decision.
16.	**Dates and venues for future meetings:** The next meeting will be the AGM. It had been agreed that this would be a Zoom meeting to ensure we get quorate attendees. The date of 14th September was agreed. Iain Phillips believes the details we used this time should be usable for that meeting as well.	

	The next committee meeting could be a face-to-face session but at this stage we don't expect any major change in personnel, so for now it was agreed that the next committee meeting would be on November 2nd via Zoom. If there is a major change at the EMOA AGM it could always be changed to be a face-to-face meeting.	

Meeting closed at 9:32pm