

Chairman's Report for CLOK AGM 2015

It has been another busy year with much to report. The club has again organised more than twenty events, providing a wide variety of orienteering opportunities across the area for the membership. It is a while since we had a new area suitable for a level C event, and South Gare proved a great addition to our stock.

More than 50 people from the club ventured north during the Summer to participate and/or spectate at the World Championships and Scottish 6 Days events near Inverness. As a club we helped by providing more than 30 people for the arena manpower on one day, and I was proud of the professional way we contributed to making the event a success.

There have been many successes to applaud through the year on both the national and international stage and at junior, senior and veteran level. Well done to all of you, and to everybody who supports you. It is always good to read in Focus, CompssSport etc. about CLOK members achieving success. The outstanding results though, were by Cat Taylor getting on the podium at both the Middle and Long Distance Races at the World Championships.

During the year we changed our approach to training. The coaches were becoming "burnt out" with providing weekly sessions, and so these were replaced by four Saturday events during the Winter in quality terrain. They were well attended, and hopefully this can be repeated this year.

I am going to repeat what I wrote last year about the two big challenges we face. They have both been with us for a while, and talking to other clubs are experienced throughout the sport:

- We struggle to get enough people to volunteer to plan and organise events. This makes the job of the officials find more difficult and busy people end up doing even more. A good step towards doing a major job is to volunteer to help at events. Please try to do it before the organiser has to ring up.
- Although membership is strong at the junior age group, and also at the mature end of the club, we do not have many members between 20 and 45. Unless we can find ways of attracting this age group into the sport, there is a danger that membership levels will fall and there will be an even greater strain on those that are left. If just one member in ten can introduce somebody new to the sport that would stabilise our numbers.

There are lots of people working very hard to keep the club running smoothly; organising, planning, controlling, mapping, updating the web site, development in schools, coaching, overseeing equipment etc. Thanks to all of you (you know who you are), without whom the club would founder. A special thanks to Joan Selby for her tireless work as club secretary over many years, and the multitude of other jobs she has done. I am sure she will be almost as busy in the coming year!

Thanks to everybody for submitting articles and photos for Tchimes and the local press. It is good to keep members that cannot get to all events in touch with what the club is doing.

I hope you all enjoy the coming year's orienteering and are planning which events to attend, especially with the JK in Yorkshire and Humberside areas. It just remains to get fit enough to do them all!

Peter Archer
October 2015