

WELSH ORIENTEERING ASSOCIATION

Annual Report 2019 – (Draft March 2020)

INTRODUCTION

This Report summarises the activities of the Welsh Orienteering Association during 2019. It takes the form of short reports from the officers of the Association and is presented at the Annual General Meeting for approval.

Chairman's report

When I look back at my annual report for 2019 I am most proud of all the work that I see clubs putting in to produce high quality activities and races for us all to attend. It takes a huge effort to achieve this and clubs are to be highly commended for all they continue to do.

During 2019 three National Level events were hosted by MWOC, SBOC and BAOC respectively. MWOC hosted the 2019 Welsh Orienteering Championships at Nash Woods, Presteigne and provided a quality event both in organisation and competition. I certainly came away with new appreciation of an area I thought I already knew. It would not be an early spring event in Wales without some spectacular mud in the presentation area after the race. SBOC hosted the 2019 Senior Home International and included a Welsh League race on the first day. This competition brought the best senior orienteers from England, Scotland and Ireland to Wales for two days of tough competition on the sand dunes of Gower. I have since seen many comments about the excellent organisation and competition from outside of Wales which frequently noted how much had been done with so few volunteers. BAOC hosted the 2019 Southern Night Championships at Caerwent towards the end of 2019. This area appears to have been ideal for this type of competition with as safe a boundary as possible.

Late in 2019 PARCOURS affiliated to the Welsh Orienteering Association (WOA). The club previously concentrated on developing orienteering in the South West of England and it is to be hoped that we will all obtain benefit by their affiliation especially if it results in more members joining WOA.

The Welsh Orienteering Association website states that *WOA is the governing body of the sport in Wales, and a constituent association of the British Orienteering Federation; it encourages, develops and controls the sport of orienteering throughout Wales.* Our most valuable asset is also our only reason for existing-our members. I witness on a regular basis the skills and enthusiasm of our members. It is our members along with non-member volunteers who are the real source of development of the sport in Wales by identifying and mapping new areas and putting on the activities and races that the public face of our sport. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for doing this.

Some of our members will also have something that is very valuable to WOA- a small amount of spare time. This along with some enthusiasm is all WOA needs to fill the vacant roles we have. The skills required to undertake these roles are often the skills members already have but WOA will support members whenever this is needed. Please contact me to spare WOA a small amount of your valuable time by volunteering for any of the following roles:

Secretary
Fixtures secretary
Schools liaison officer
Trophy officer

The commitments in time are small but each role is essential in ensuring Welsh orienteering continues to develop, with the ultimate goal of increasing membership numbers and the opportunities to take part in our great sport while reducing the overall volunteering load on each of us.

WOA committee are working to produce the documents required in our role as a National Governing Body. The committee is active in trying to support clubs in increasing members and to develop as they feel best. Please contact them if you have any queries, they will continue to do all they can to support clubs affiliated to WOA and their

members. Reports from other WOA committee members will follow in due course; please read them and let me know your thoughts and comments and do contact me to volunteer for the vacant committee and advisor roles.

David Pal
Wrekin Orienteers and member of Welsh Orienteering Association
chair@woa.org.uk

Treasurer's report

ACCOUNTS 2019-20
The

Membership Secretary's report

WOA MEMBERSHIP REPORT FOR 2019

STATUS REPORT - WOA MEMBERSHIP 2019	TOTAL	ERYRI	MWOC	SBOC	SPLIT	SWOC	BAOC	RAFO	EX-PAT
Number of Honorary members (incl expat)	4		1	2		0			1
Number of NEW members (new to WOA, incl expat)	70	7	11	24		23			5
Number of RENEWALS (incl expats)	240	33	39	58	6	57	2	1	44
TOTAL	314	40	51	84	6	80	2	1	50
Number (incl expat) who DID NOT RENEW 2019	82	20	8	21	0	23	1	0	9

EXPATS (included in above figures)

no R - who have renewed in 2019	44
no N - who are new in 2019	5
no of H - Hon	1
no who have not renewed who were members last year	9
TOTAL	50

	2018		
	TOTAL	M	F
HONORARY MEMBERS <i>(included in club totals below)</i>	4	3	1

	2019		
	TOTAL	M	F
	4	3	1

<i>ERYRI SENIORS</i>	28	15	13
<i>ERYRI JUNIORS</i>	26	13	13
ERYRI - TOTAL	54	28	26
<i>MWOC SENIORS</i>	29	17	12
<i>MWOC JUNIORS</i>	12	10	2
MWOC - TOTAL	41	27	14
<i>SBOC SENIORS</i>	57	34	23
<i>SBOC JUNIORS</i>	22	13	9
SBOC - TOTAL	79	47	32
<i>SWOC SENIORS</i>	65	40	25
<i>SWOC JUNIORS</i>	15	10	5
SWOC - TOTAL	80	50	30
<i>SPLOT SENIORS</i>	5	2	3
<i>SPLOT JUNIORS</i>	0	0	0
SPLOT - TOTAL	5	2	3
<i>RAFO SENIORS</i>	1	1	0
<i>RAFO JUNIORS</i>	0	0	0
RAFO - TOTAL	1	1	0
<i>BAOC SENIORS</i>	3	1	2
<i>BAOC JUNIORS</i>	0	0	0
BAOC - TOTAL	3	1	2
<i>EXPAT SENIORS</i>	41	26	15
<i>EXPAT JUNIORS</i>	13	5	8
EXPAT - TOTAL	54	31	23

	20	13	7
	20	9	11
	40	22	18
	30	19	11
	21	13	8
	51	32	19
	61	36	25
	23	17	6
	84	53	31
	65	41	24
	15	7	8
	80	48	32
	6	3	3
	0		
	6	3	3
	1	1	
	0		
	1	1	0
	2	1	1
	0		
	2	1	1
	37	25	12
	13	5	8
	50	30	20

TOTAL SENIORS	229	136	93
TOTAL JUNIORS	88	51	37
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	317	187	130

	222	139	83
	92	51	41
	314	190	124

Overall membership has not significantly changed since 2018. SBOC and SWOC have maintained their membership with new membership replacing those who did not renew. ERYRI showed a significant number of non-renewals, but

these were mainly Juniors who had joined and had not continued their membership. MWOC increased their membership by 10, (20% approx.).

All clubs make great efforts to attract participants in our sport, and seem to get good interest for such events as the urban and park races. However, translating that interest into membership seems to be very hard. Countrywide schools orienteering, which chiefly depends on keen teachers prepared to take groups to weekend events, does not translate into club membership. Efforts are being made by various clubs to resolve this dilemma, and it will be very interesting to see how well SBOC will succeed with their project of attracting school children and also parents to the sport.

Anne May
WOA Membership Secretary

Fixtures Secretary's report

My written report covers the period January to December 2019. This will be my last report as I indicated at the WOA AGM in June 2018 that I am standing down at the latest by the end of May 2020.

In 2019 the following were staged in Wales:

Welsh Classic Championships held at Nash Woods, Presteigne staged by MWOC.

The Cwpan Y Ddraig and Yvette Baker trophy qualifying round for Wales was held at Cwm Lickey hosted by SWOC.

The Senior Home International Individual and Relay races were hosted by SBOC on the Gower at Broughton Burrows for the individual race and Whiteford Burrows for the relay race.

The Southern Night Championships were hosted by BAOC at Caerwent Training Camp which provided a weekend of orienteering alongside events held in the Forest of Dean hosted by South West England clubs.

Activities staged in Wales included Welsh Junior Squad training, ERYRI club nights and SBOC once again held their annual introduction to orienteering events. SWOC staged a series of evening races throughout the year. MWOC held a coaching series in the first half of the year.

WOA and Welsh clubs are reminded that an orienteering race/event or activity is only covered by British Orienteering (BOF) insurance if it is registered with British Orienteering. If an event or activity is being run by a BO affiliated orienteering club but is not registered with BO then the club and the members taking part should ensure they are aware of the insurance arrangements for that event in case the liability arrangements are different. Urban events have further rules to follow to be covered by BO insurance including where competitors under 16 years of age can run. **At the earliest opportunity when registering a race or activity the relevant officials should be added to the BOF database to ensure that the named individuals receive the appropriate protection from British Orienteering's insurance.**

The BOF database shows that 66 (76 in 2018) events took place in Wales in 2019. This is made up of 0 Major events (1 in 2018), 4 National events (4 in 2018), 8 Regional events (6 in 2018) and 54 Local events (65 in 2018). This does not include events held by clubs outside of Wales but run in Wales such as DEE events and NGOC events which are registered with the North West Orienteering Association and South West Orienteering Association respectively.

The BOF database shows 32 activities took place in Wales in 2019 (26 in 2016, 33 in 2017, 19 in 2018).

The figures vary each year depending on the commitments of each club. The change in number of activities staged might be for several reasons. Firstly clubs change may change their priorities from year to year, secondly reclassifying activities as Local races which slightly alter the number, to better reflect the status of the race/activity and thirdly a failure to register an activity due to the low level of involvement perceived. Welsh Junior Squad training may be registered as an activity to whichever club the lead coach belongs to as long as the coach is a member of a club that is affiliated to the Welsh Orienteering Association.

Breakdown of race categories per club

	Major	National	Regional	Local	Activities
MWOC	0	1	2	6	11
ERYRI	0	0	2	1	5
SWOC	0	0	2	23	9
SBOC	0	2	2	24	6
BAOC	0	1	0	0	0
PARCOURS	0	0	0	0	1
TOTALS	0	4	8	54	32

Participation figures for 2019 & previous years.

Category	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Senior	2303	8609	2910	2877	3008
Junior	1190	3091	1558	1271	1187
Total	3493	11700	4468	4148	4195

(2015 figures do not include participation figures for eight club activities)

(2016 figures do not include participation figures for two club activities)

(2017 figures do not include participation figures for one club activity)

(2019 figures do not include participation figures for two club activities)

2016 included Croeso 2016 held over five days in South Wales

Breakdown of participation figures from British Orienteering database

	Members	Non-Members	Non-Paying
Senior	2407	591	10
Junior	560	618	9
Total	2967	1209	19

Members are those who are members of British Orienteering, non-members are usually participants new to the sport mainly participating in introductory activities while non-paying mainly refers to runs by members who have volunteered to help at a race and may have received up to a 100% payment discount for their run in acknowledgement of their efforts.

British Orienteering's Event Scheduling Group held meetings in March 2019 and October 2019 both of which I attended.

David Pal, WRE

Mapping Officer's report

2019 Mapping

The following mapping reports have been received :

	NEW	UPDATED (includes ISOM2017 & Geo-referencing)	EXTENSION	URBAN STREET MAP
ERYRI ORIENTEERS				Bangor Bethesda Conwy Colwyn bay Llanfairfecan Llandudno Junction Llandudno, Penrhyn Bay Rhos-on-Sea.
MID WALES O. C.	Elan Vallley	Hafod Parc Natur Penglais Allt y Crib Ynys Las Coed Mawr Coed Allt Goch		
SWANSEA BAY O.C.		Nicholaston Burrows Broughton Burrows Whiteford Burrows Pembrey Country Park Clyne Valley Country Park		
SOUTH WALES O. C.	Wenallt (complete re-survey)	Kingswood Gwaelod Y Garth Castell Coch/Fforest Fawr Ty'n y Coed Caerphilly		PARK SERIES Porthkerry (re-survey) Llanishen (new)
Total	2	16		11

Robert Griffiths, WOA Mapping Officer, 2nd April 2020