

## **LOC Development Group ~ Meeting Notes 2018.**

### **1. Background information.**

The most recent LOC development plan was produced in 2009 when the club was applying for Club Mark. The plan did succeed in introducing actions and new activities which have benefited the club and its members. These include:

- Establishing a regular weekly training run for different fitness levels with a social aspect including the option of staying for a meal afterwards.
- Encouraging members to share transport to events.
- Producing an electronic organiser's handbook.
- Extending the number and type of competitions, for example the night and park events.

At its Annual General Meeting in October 2017 LOC members agreed that it would be useful to produce a 'future plan' or similar to ensure that the club continued to develop. The committee agreed that a sub-group (LOC Development Group) should be formed to progress this.

The purpose of the group is:

- to consider what development priorities the club should have and
- to propose a framework for the priorities which will inform an action plan.

This paper provides a summary of the discussion from the above meeting with the suggested framework and next steps for developing an action plan.

### **2. General information.**

The development plan should be a relevant document which informs agreed actions designed to achieve the club's objectives. To achieve this it should be reviewed and refreshed on an annual basis.

The Development Group met on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018 and the following paper outlines the outcome of the discussions from the meeting.

### **3. Priorities.**

The Development Plan should present a challenge but it should be realistic in what it can or should be striving to achieve. There should be recognition as to what is possible within the context of a club that is run by volunteers.

The plan should reflect the key business of the club which is to provide orienteering opportunities. It should achieve the right balance between meeting the needs of existing orienteers and attracting new people to the sport. It should capture the reasons why people participate including competitive, enjoyment and social reasons.

Using headings and themes that are already included in relevant documents produced by British Orienteering, Club Mark and the LOC Development Strategy (2009) the development group prioritised the items for development as follows with the most important being at the top. It was acknowledged that the lower ranked items were of importance but for practical reasons these were not going to be the development plan's key focus.

## Extend orienteering opportunities

Improving club identity

Increasing participation in the club

Developing the welcoming ethos of the club and extending social engagement opportunities

Introduce and support children, young people and families to orienteer

Develop the capacity and skills of volunteers

Improve the orienteering skills of members and club performance

Improve land access and protection of environment

Improve the inclusion and diversity of the club

Improve club management

By addressing these actions the overarching aim of ensuring that LOC is a successful, sustainable club (based on membership, activities and achievements) will be achieved. For example; more orienteering = better orienteers, improved club identity = more people wanting to participate, increased participation = better results for individuals and the club.

### 4. Preliminary ideas.

**Extending orienteering opportunities:** Consider events as a 'journey' or series of building blocks to improve participation and also extend the challenge and competition for experienced orienteers.

**Improving club identity:** Being proactive in publicising and informing people about orienteering and the club. Improve the club's use of social media for example in coordinating its use with our other publicity efforts and around the other objectives

**Increase participation in the club:** Understand our membership better. Consider creating links with like minded sporting clubs.

### 5. Next steps.

- i) Inform the club members about the Development Plan and progress to date.
- ii) Produce a provisional action plan reflecting the priorities contained in this paper and bring it to the committee (May 2018) for further discussion and ratification.

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