



Sarum Orienteering Club

www.sarumo.org.uk

**Chair:**

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Secretary:

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Honorary Treasurer:

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AGM held on Monday 5th October 2026 at 7.00pm at The Woodfalls Inn, Woodfalls.

Minutes

1. **Attendees:** Ian Peirce, Freda Peirce, Jeff Butt, Paul Lane, Martin Thirkell, Janet Thirkell, Ian Tait, Alan Yeadon, Liz Yeadon, Charlotte Thornton, Ricky Thornton, Joan Hambleton, Jerry Newcombe, Jo Halsey, Andrew Graham, Marc Balston, Lizzie Balston, Isla Ablitt, Neal Jacobs, Kerry Corkery, James Corkery, Christian Corkery,
2. **Apologies:** Astri Ablitt, Neil Underwood, Mike James, Sarah Robertson & family
3. **Register of Interests:** Nil
4. **The Previous AGM held on Monday 20th October 2025.**
 - a. Approval of Minutes, taken as read.
5. **Reports**
 - a. Chairman's Report – Ian gave his report, making an effort to specifically mention members who have contributed to the success of the club over the last year. Notably - Kerry Corkery for taking on the Club Captain role and ensuring Sarum representation at not just the Compass Sport events, but also at the Yvette Baker and Peter Palmer junior competitions; Liz Yeadon for her tireless work on fixtures and organising events; and Marc Balston for his work on mapping. Ian also thanked Joan Hambleton for her work maintaining the club's Gallopen series results and Astri Ablitt for taking on the role of kit officer.

Ian paid a tribute to the two club members we have sadly lost over the past year, Jo Belza and Bohdan Rainczuk. Both are sorely missed.

After a quick review of the main Sarum events over the past year Ian thanked Kerry Corkery and Des Dickinson for organising an excellent club championship at Larkhill in July. He also congratulated our new club champions (senior: Ed Halsey and Jilly Tovey, supervet: Ian Peirce and Charlotte Thornton and junior: Christian Corkery and Elara Jacobs).

Ian looked forward to the upcoming Compass Sport Final at Pippingford Park and encouraged a strong Sarum turnout.

Finally, Ian encouraged everyone to bring a friend along to give orienteering a go.
 - b. Treasurer's Report – Accounts for 2025-26.

Jeff gave his report, noting that the club returned a small surplus in the past year despite holding just five events during the year. Profits were less than in the previous year, but that was due to the club holding two major events that year.

Profits from the events held during the past year enabled us to invest in new equipment (digital start clock) and software (3-year OCAD licence).

With reserves a little over £10,000 Jeff reiterated that we had capacity to invest if suitable investments/initiatives were proposed. He suggested our target for reserves should probably be around £6,000. Marc did mention that we would likely have to spend some money on upgrading our event laptops before too long, but this would only require a relatively small amount of the surplus reserves.

c. [Membership Report](#)

Marc gave his report, noting that we had welcomed several new members to the club over the past year, and were very happy to welcome back some previous members. Retention rate of members remains at a healthy 90% and Marc thanked members for their ongoing commitment to the club and to the sport.

Looking forward, Marc hoped to engage the club's membership more actively and foster more bilateral communication. He highlighted the recent launch of a WhatsApp Community and encouraged everyone to join and participate so that it can become a more active channel for communicating with (and between) club members. Concerns were raised by some members that if they were not on WhatsApp they would miss important club news and announcements. Marc assured them that WhatsApp would not replace the website and email and that these would remain important broadcast communication channels for the club, particularly for important announcement. They might however miss out on some discussions among members if they are not on WhatsApp and so encouraged everyone to consider joining.

d. [Fixtures Report](#)

Liz provided her report, giving an overview of the events we have hosted this past year and our plans for the coming year. Liz again emphasized the difficulties with securing permissions and with rising land use fees. She also reported that these same issues have sadly led SWOA to pull out of organising the JK in 2027, although it is pencilled in to return to the region in 2032 (if solutions for suitable venues can be found).

Regarding parking at events, Ian Tait highlighted the experience at the recent Wessex event at Affpuddle where they had arranged three minibuses to shuttle competitors between the parking and the start/finish. He noted that it worked very efficiently and would be something worth considering for some of our events where parking is a particular issue.

e. [Club Captain's Report](#)

Kerry reported a positive year for the club, with members representing the club at major national championships and team competitions, with a particularly encouraging set of performances from our juniors. Kerry thanked everyone who ran, volunteered, organised teams, provided transport and supported clubmates.

Reviewing events of the past year, Kerry noted the club's strong performance at both the Compass Sport Heats and the Yvette Baker Trophy Heats (making the finals for both) and reported that several Sarum members competed in relay teams at the British Sprint Championships and the Peter Palmer Relays (albeit not in official Sarum teams).

With the JK next year relatively close to Salisbury it provides an excellent opportunity for more club members to get a taste of a major event.

f. [Kit Officers Report](#)

Although Astri could not attend the meeting she kindly provided a report which Marc summarised. Astri noted that while we have a stock of 14 o-tops they are all in low-demand sizes. We also have 8 padded jackets in more conventional sizes. While it has been a little difficult to gather enough interest to meet the minimum order size, Astri has recently placed an order for new tops and expects these to arrive late Oct/early Nov.

Astri also noted that she had received suggestions about the club holding second hand stock. She suggested that this could be considered if such items are in very good condition, but was wary of the club accumulating even more items which are unlikely to be wanted.

6. Resolutions

- a. No resolutions were tabled at the meeting

7. Election of Committee 2023-2024.

a. Election of Officers.

- i. Chair – Ian Peirce
- ii. Vice Chair – Mark White
- iii. Treasurer – Jeff Butt
- iv. Secretary – Marc Balston
- v. Fixtures Secretary – Liz Yeadon

b. Election of Committee Members

- i. Paul Lane
- ii. Kerry Corkery

With no new nominations nor resignations the committee was elected as one: *Proposed by Ian Tait, seconded by Andrew Graham, approved unanimously*

Ian noted that he had now served for 6 years as chair (the normal term is three years) and he really should step down at the end of the next year. It was agreed that the committee would make it a priority to identify potential successors in good time.

8. Membership Fees

- a. Confirmation of Fees for 2026-27 (no change from 2025-26) - *Proposed by Jeff Butt, seconded by Mark White, approved unanimously*
- i. Adults - (>26 on 31/12/25) = **£6**
 - ii. Young Adults - (21-25 on 31/12/25) = **Not offered, same as adults.**
 - iii. Juniors - (<20 on 31/12/25) = **£0**
 - iv. iv. Family - (2 adults & 1 junior in same household) = **Not offered, same as cost of 2 adults.**
 - v. Second Members = **£6**

9. Any Other Business.

- a. A brief discussion was held regarding how members felt about the decision to hold the AGM and Club Dinner on the same evening. The general feeling was that it was a good idea. It was certainly the largest turnout we have had for the AGM in recent years.
- b. Liz Yeadon mentioned that we were hoping to hold a Planner's course for members before the end of the year and canvassed interest from those at the meeting. Several members said they would be interested and Marc proposed putting a message on WhatsApp and organising a poll to try to find a mutually convenient date.

10. With no further business, the meeting closed at 8:00pm and was followed by the club's annual dinner.