



THE ORIENTEERING FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Introduction

The Trustees are pleased to present their report on the activities of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024.

The Orienteering Foundation is a registered charity, independent of British Orienteering. It was set up with residual money from a bequest from Bertie & Elsie Ward. It is now raising further funds and awarding grants. The aims are to promote the sport of orienteering in the UK through enhancement, innovation and alleviation of hardship.

Constitution

The Orienteering Foundation is a charity operating as an unincorporated association under a Declaration of Trust dated 11 November 2006. Deeds of variation dated 13 July 2016, 10 May 2017 and 12 October 2017 have made changes to the original deed, primarily to incorporate additional clauses reflected in the standard model deed for an unincorporated charity issued by the Charity Commission and to consolidate previous amendments.

The charity has registered with the Charity Commission under registration number 1118793 and is also registered with HMRC for Gift Aid donations from individuals who pay tax in the UK, allowing the charity to increase the value of relevant personal donations by around 25%.

Objectives

The objectives of the charity are to benefit the public and promote healthy recreation by:

- (i) providing facilities, access and opportunities available to the community to encourage and promote orienteering;
- (ii) providing capital and revenue support to increase and sustain participation in orienteering; and
- (i) strengthening the links between orienteering and the community and to harness the potential of orienteering as a force for good in the community and society as a whole.

Trustees

The Trustees who served at any time during the year and to the date of this report, with details of their Association for whom they were also Ambassadors, were:



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Andrew Evans (Chair) (2028) (South East)

Anne Edwards (2028) (North West)

John Mather (2028) (East Midlands)

Martin Ward (2026) (Yorkshire and Humberside)

Neil Cameron (2027) (South West)

Pauline Olivant (2026) (East Midlands)

Roger Scrutton (2027) (Scotland)

The year of termination of their current term of office is shown in brackets. Trustees are required to seek renewal of their appointment every three years, usually at the first Trustee meeting of each calendar year and all dates above refer to January of that year. The appointment of the Chair is reviewed annually in accordance with the Trust Deed.

Applications for new Trustees are invited as and when required. Appointments are made having regard to the skills on the Trust body and its future needs.

We are delighted that we have a full complement of Ambassadors, so that all the British Orienteering Associations are represented. The Ambassadors promote the Foundation and its work in their Association and provide feedback from the orienteering community to the Trustees. We do this by holding four conference calls a year, one after each Trustee Board meeting.

The Ambassadors are the Trustees plus:

Alun Jones (South Central)

Caroline MacKenzie (North East)

Ian Gamlen (West Midlands)

Lyn West (East Anglia)

Philip Jenkins (Wales)

Wilbert Hollinger (Northern Ireland)

Administrator: Viv Macdonald Finance Officer: Keith Tonkin

Website and social media: Duncan Archer

Review of the year

As well as our regular donors, we received a number of generous individual and other donations.

The Trustees also continued to develop their thinking on commissioning and promoting projects rather than just responding to grant applications.



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Grant awards of £24,404 were made in the year under our three criteria:

Enhancement

JROS – a grant to enable six coaches to attend Lagganlia

Peter Palmer Juniors relay teams - to pay for enhancements such as radio control, PA, GPS and generator

Innovation

Three new grants for **Club Development Officers** (CDOs) in Interlopers, Clydeside and Octavian Droobers as well as continuing to fund those posts in Cleveland OK, Derwent Valley O , Forth Valley O, Lakeland OC, Moravian OC and Swansea Bay OC. The grants are normally made over a two or three year period, subject to satisfactory periodic reports on the outcomes and targets being achieved. We have a repository for the information gained and this is available to other clubs so that we can spread good practice and learning.

Belvoir Country and Community Trust towards equipment for an orienteering festival and Lagan Valley OC for a project to welcome Juniors and Families to orienteering.

Hardship

One grant for an individual to attend the European Youth Orienteering Championships

Various amendments were made to the grant process, explained on the website, to improve the experience of applicants (eg appointing a Lead Trustee to liaise with the applicant and put a recommendation to the Board; appointing a lead person – Trustee or Ambassador - to do any follow up work with applicants; retaining the deadlines for applications and only considering applications outside this period if the circumstances were unforeseeable and there was a short period of time to take advantage of the funding; and where appropriate whether the application had the support of the local orienteering club).

Other activities

Coaching Day

This was again planned for the Lake District in November 2024 – 50 individuals and 75 in groups had registered for the Day. In the event, the weather was so bad that only 9 individuals and 2 groups attended. It was difficult to rearrange the day and so the next Coaching Day will be in Autumn 2025. More local coaching days, supported by the Foundation, have been offered to all Associations.



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Newcomer Retention

Following this first “Think Tank” project, we continued with the development of a template for a poster to be available at events to help newcomers and hope this will be available in 2025.

Volunteering

We commenced a second “Think Tank” project during the year focusing on volunteering within the sport with the aim of providing a report which it is hoped will provide useful information to clubs including the sharing of best practices. Volunteering was identified by our Ambassadors, based on feedback to them from clubs and club contacts, as another significant issue affecting the continuation and development of the sport.

Publicity and social media

During the year we have again seen a steady increase in those who view our website and follow us on Facebook, Instagram and X and subscribe to our newsletter. We are also discussing with a volunteer the possibility of further assistance to help us use social media more effectively.

We had four articles published in CompassSport on the projects we have supported at Lakeland OC, Lagan Valley OC; Junior Regional Orienteering Squads (JROS) and Peter Palmer relays; a section on the Coaching Day and our logo displayed in the World Orienteering Championships (WOC) souvenir edition.

We updated the postcard which we have at major events when we display one of our sail banners.

We gave a grant to WOC to cover the printing of the Tour Information sheet, with our logo on it, to increase the profile of the Foundation to a wider audience.

Donations

MDOC – donated £560 during the year which, when added to £300 last year, makes a total of £860 from their allocation of the surplus from the Lakes 5 Days held in 2022.

Saxons held an event early in 2024: the landowner requested a payment to a charity of the club’s choice – they donated £405 to the Foundation and have made further donations.

Participant donations from JK2024 of £548 and British Orienteering Championship of £357 helped boost income.



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Racesignup – 1p per entry has contributed a total of £482 this year together with some smaller sums from 4 orienteering clubs who have generously agreed to match Racesignup's donation.

Our donations policy was revised, so that our aim is to allocate funds at least equal to net income from the previous year, with net income adjusted to spread the benefit of larger donations into future periods.

Governance of the Foundation

During the year, the Trustees took a number of actions to continue to improve the governance of the Foundation:

- (i) A review of the effectiveness of the Board was carried out and, as part of the Board's training, a paper on the risks facing charities and mitigating actions which could be taken, was considered. The Risk Register is reviewed annually.
- (ii) The Trustees reviewed and updated the Foundation's strategic and operational plan; it now covers the period 2025 – 2027. It takes account of the strategic priorities of British Orienteering.
- (iii) The Trustees reviewed and updated their Policies and Procedures document, including their contingency arrangements in the event of key absences, to make sure they were all fit for purpose.

Diversity statement

The Board of the Orienteering Foundation recognises the value of diversity in all its forms in helping us to run the Charity, benefiting from a variety of different perspectives, experiences and skills in its Trustees.

At this stage in our Charity's development, we believe that significant knowledge of orienteering is an essential requirement in Trustees, potentially limiting the pool of candidates.

However, within the constraints of available candidates to become Trustees and having regard to the protected characteristics of the Equality Act 2010, we seek ways of broadening the diversity of the Board, and especially as regards geography, age, gender and ethnicity.

In assessing grant applications, we will ensure that there are no explicit or implicit limitations as to the diversity of beneficiaries of the project being supported except as regards age or gender where that is a key element of the project (e.g. under-18s, or to increase the participation rate of an under-represented group such as women or disabled people).

Financial review

Total income was £24,135.



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Grants totalling £20,353 were paid during the year, compared to £23,038 in the previous year. Other expenditure was £1,647. The surplus of income over expenditure for the year was £2,135 which has been added to reserves.

There is one Restricted Fund, which is a fund set aside for Scottish orienteering at the request of the donor. One small grant to Glasgow University Orienteering Club was made from this fund during the year.

Reserves

Our total reserves increased in the year from £106,990 to £109,125. We aim to be making grants or commissioning projects for the foreseeable future at least equal to the amount of donations received, less expenses incurred, in the preceding year. In determining this minimum amount available, we make an adjustment to spread the benefit of large donations so that they lead to a meaningful and sustainable contribution over a number of years.

In October the Trustees carried out a review of overall reserve levels we believe appropriate at our current stage of development to sustain our charitable objectives going forward. We agreed to aim to keep our level of reserves between £40,000 and £80,000. To achieve reserves within that range, as well as continuing to encourage more good grant applications, we have started to explore if there are other ways in which we can make a meaningful contribution to orienteering, if necessary using some of our funds. We will continue to review our reserves policy regularly.

Based on the 2024 accounts we have funds available to make grant payments of at least £24,000 during 2025. We continually welcome high-quality applications for funding.

How our activities deliver Public Benefit

All of our charitable activities focus on the provision of grant funding for the advancement of orienteering for the public benefit. The Trustees confirm that in exercising their powers and duties they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission.

Future developments

We reviewed our Strategic Plan in October 2024 and updated our aims. In accordance with these, the Trustees intend to concentrate on the following:



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- **Understand the orienteering community, and its current and future needs.** We have now received the report from a student at Edinburgh University on the impact the Foundation has had and we will be considering this in detail at our May 2025 meeting. We have started to explore whether we can initiate a project which aims to attract a large number of people into orienteering – possibly targeting families and young children. Attracting and retaining newcomers was seen as a big issue by the Ambassadors.
- **Be highly visible and a people-friendly service to the orienteering community, with a focus on meeting our objectives of alleviating hardship, enhancement and innovation.** We are looking in-depth at volunteering, as it is a major resource for the sport and the top big issue reported by the Ambassadors. We have four members for a working group which has begun work mainly researching information about volunteering and drawing up a survey to go out to clubs in early 2025 to give a baseline on volunteering effort and attitudes. We are also looking at how we can increase the number of university students attending events and the possible development of a supporters group.
- **To deliver a legally compliant, financially solvent charity trusted as an honest broker by the orienteering community.**
- **Grow and diversify our funding sources to ensure funding is available to meet our objectives.**

Contact us

The Trustees can be contacted through the Administrator:

Viv Macdonald
The Orienteering Foundation c/o British Orienteering
Scholes Mill , Old Coach Road, Tansley, Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 5FY

or via admin@orienteeringfoundation.org.uk.

We acknowledge with thanks the assistance of British Orienteering to allow us to use their office address for convenience and to make it independent of who the current Administrator may be.

Approved by the Trustees on 4 February 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Andrew Evans

Chair of the Trustees

Financial Statements

Year to 31 December 2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Total Funds		Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	
	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income						
Donations – Direct	14,031	4,470	14,031	4,470		
Donations – CAF Donate	5,836	10,014	5,836	10,014		
Donations – Appeals & Other	0	2,853		2,853		
Interest income	4,268	2,119	4,268	2,119		
Give While You Shop	0	29		29		
Total	24,135	19,485	24,135	19,485	0	0
Expenditure						
Awarded Grants Paid	20,353	23,038	20,103	22,638	250	400
Administration & Other	1,647	1,386	1,647	1,386		
Publicity	0			0		
Total	22,000	24,424	21,750	24,024	250	400
Net Income / (Expense)	2,135	(4,939)	2,385	(4,539)	(250)	(400)
Funds brought forward at 1 January 2024						
Unrestricted Funds	105,690	110,229	105,690	110,229		
Restricted Funds	1,300	1,700			1,300	1,700
Funds at 31 December 2024	109,125	106,990	108,075	105,690	1,050	1,300
BALANCE SHEET	2024	2023				
	£	£				
Tangible Asset						
Investment Accounts	97,909	95,085				
Current Asset						
Bank Current Account	11,216	11,905				
Total Assets	109,125	106,990				
Represented by						
Unrestricted Funds	108,075	105,690				
Restricted Funds	1,050	1,300				
Total Funds	109,125	106,990				

The Financial Statements were approved by the Trustees on 4th February 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



Andrew Evans
Chair of Trustees



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Notes to the accounts

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and applicable accounting standards. A receipts and payments basis has been adopted, as permitted by legislation for a charity of this size.

Legacies and Donations

Income from legacies and donations is accounted for when received.

Gift Aid

Income from Gift Aid is accounted for when received.

Investment income

Income from investments is accounted for when received.

Expenses

Expenses are accounted for as money is expended.

Grants awarded

Payments against grants awarded are accounted for as expenditure.

Investments

Investments and bank deposit accounts, are stated at market value and are FSCS protected.

Unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds are funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in the furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for any other purpose.

Restricted Funds

Restricted funds are funds held on specific trusts under charity law which have been declared by the donor when making the gift. The specific trusts establish the purpose for which the charity can lawfully use the restricted funds.

There is one restricted fund which has been set up to be used only for Scottish orienteers and Scottish orienteering.

Independent Financial Examiners Report on the Accounts

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Orienteering Foundation for the year ended 31 December 2024.

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect;

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act, or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Helen Rennie".

Helen Rennie FCA

4 February 2025