

OBC AGM2024

November 17, 2024

MINUTES

Meeting format: *Zoom* by open invitation

Attendees: Kevin Matrosovs (KM); Bryan Chubb (BC); Hilary Anderson (HA); Sandra Campbell (SC); Brian Ellis (BE); Karen Martino (KaM); Linda Hildebrandt (LH); JP Buyschaert (JP); Don Haliburton (DH – delayed arrival); Jeff Teutsch (JT – visitor)

The OBC AGM2024 was opened with a **Call to Order** (KM) at 7:07pm, PST

KM gave an oral acknowledgement of the importance for orienteering of our ability to live, work and play on unceded and ancestral Indigenous land.

Approval of the agenda: the published meeting agenda was reviewed and approved (**Motion** to accept the Agenda: Moved – KaM; seconded – LH; motion was unanimously approved.

Motion: Acceptance of the Minutes from the previous AGM (2023): Moved - KM; Seconded – BE. Unanimous approval.

President's Report (KM): Kevin discussed the purpose and activities of the Orienteering BC (OBC) organization. He highlighted that OBC serves as an interface between *Orienteering Canada* and BC O clubs, represents the sport to the BC government and receives annual provincial funding through *viaSport*. He also mentioned some of the organization's recent initiatives, such as the BC Orienteering Championships 2024, a new provincial junior development program, an OBC Outreach Team, and support for development of new O maps.

Kevin emphasized OBC's need for strategic planning, board continuity, and sustainability, including the importance of OBC maintaining a minimum of 1,000 members in order to continue to receive provincial funding. There is an on-going need for more volunteer Directors on the Board, and for a pattern of rotation of board members to help distribute institutional knowledge and manage the associated time commitment.

Brian raised a question about who OBC normally deals with at *viaSport*; Kevin responded that this varies, depending on the topic being discussed.

Financial Statements: The previously circulated statements for the 2023 financial year were reviewed by DH. The organization's primary source of income (\$28,277 in 2023) is from *viaSport*. The major OBC expenses include annual fees paid to *Orienteering Canada* (\$11,000 in 2023).

OBC has a significant excess of revenues over expenses, resulting in an equity position of \$133,000 in 2023. Kevin added that OBC received special one-time funding from *viaSport* in 2021 and 2024, which contributed to the current cash position.

Motion to accept the financial statements, as presented: Moved - BE; Seconded – JP. Motion carried.

OBC Membership Fee

OBC collects an annual \$2/member membership fee from each club, a number that is reviewed each year. In light of the organization's strong financial position, it was discussed whether this charge could perhaps be reduced or eliminated. KM noted that the province is always looking for evidence that PSOs have sources of funding beyond the provincial contribution, but it is possible that the OBC membership fee could be re-evaluated in the future.

Motion: KM moved to keep the OBC Membership fee at \$2/person for the coming year. Motion seconded: HA. Motion carried.

Junior Development Project Expansion Plans

Kevin discussed the Junior Development Project, which aims to increase membership in OBC over time. Project initiation by BE and Jeff Teutsch had a delayed launch in 2024 due to Jeff's pre-existing time commitments. However, they plan to continue and expand the project in the coming year, focusing on supporting clubs in their local junior development projects. Brian emphasized the importance of a sustained effort to develop a junior program, as it takes time for the next generation of orienteers to grow and become skilled.

Outreach Team Formation and Expansion

The creation of the OBC Outreach Team in 2024 was discussed. The team is designed to assist various public groups and communities with organizing and delivering orienteering activities, when requested. O clubs often lack the volunteer resources to respond to such requests. The Outreach Team members are compensated for their time and expenses, and they must undergo criminal record and vulnerable sector checks. Brian added that the Outreach Team should be kept in mind by club executives when they receive requests for assistance that their club cannot handle. Brian expressed his hope to recruit additional team members across the province to better meet the needs of distant communities.

Kevin raised a question about possibly providing free club memberships to First Nations members, similar to cross-country ski clubs; what would be the potential implications for orienteering in BC? Brian responded that the issue of liability insurance coverage for groups that are not formal club members has been complicated, and requires further attention.

Kevin encouraged everyone to read the 2023 club reports (linked on the AGM web page on the *Orienteering BC* website).

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Board Elections and Officer Changes

Kevin thanked retiring Board members and emphasized the need for Board rotation to ensure a sustainable Board.

Kevin announced his intention to step down as OBC President, citing the need to focus his energy on leading the Sage club, which is struggling. He expressed his willingness to serve as Vice President for OBC. Brian mentioned that he had personally reached out to several potential Directors but none were ready to be President.

Kevin was nominated by BE (seconded by KM) to be Vice President. Motion approved unanimously.

BE also nominated Susan Chartrand as the new Treasurer, and this was seconded by KM. This nomination was also approved by the meeting.

No Secretary was nominated, leaving that position vacant for now. Seven individuals were nominated (KM) (seconded by JB) as Members-at-large on the Board for 2025: Bryan Chubb, Timothy Edmunds, Brian Ellis, Caoimhe Murray, Karen Martino, Victoria Cote, and Linda Hildebrandt. All these nominations were **approved** by the members present.

Kevin emphasized again the need for a President and a Secretary for the board, and also raised the possibility of rotating these positions over a couple of years. It is particularly important to fill these positions because OBC financial dealings require two signatories. For business continuity, it would be desirable to have a third signatory. Brian raised concerns about the bureaucratic work involved in rotating such responsible positions too frequently. Kevin agreed, suggesting a President and Treasurer serve as primary signatories, with the Vice President serving as a third (backup) signer.

Motion to adjourn the meeting (BE); seconder (LH). The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:12pm PST.

Draft – November 23, 2024