

## Chairmans Report

2021 – what an interesting year! First 3 months Lockdown. Season started in April. By nearing the end of the year, it almost felt like we were back to normal! Great!

Then Storm Arwen smacks us across the face! As the Great Greek Poet Homer would say – Doh!

Let's address the after effects of the Storm first. It is too early to say exactly how much damage there is to the areas as we aren't able to get properly into them. Crathes Estate is closed. The Office says it may well be quite a while. For example the GoApe section has been wiped out they tell me. Foggieton the roads that go through it are still shut. Looking from the Gramp Shed there is significant damage. But at the school there is none. Question is how far did the windblow get into the forest? Similar stories with other areas.

But we are flexible. We will work around these challenges. Once the trees have been removed from the path networks, we can definitely get back to it! Map updates will be required all round the areas.

Thankfully not all our areas were hit. Our DNC at Templars on the 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec is still on. Dave Kirk has also planned an orange style course in case anyone who hasn't tried night orienteering before fancies trying it. Templars is a great safe area to try out night orienteering!

Our Hogmany Handicap at Hazlehead is still on! This year it is on the 1<sup>st</sup> January rather than the 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Planner has adjusted the courses to avoid all the windblow. And if guidelines permit, we will have our usual social gathering with homemade soup after the event back at George & Lindsey's house. With the windows and doors open to allow ventilation, but with the heating and a lovely open coal fire on the go!

So while I started this chat negatively, there is definite positivity ahead!

So what happened in the orienteering season?

Once again the club hosted the most events in Scotland. Approx 30 events in 8 months! After years of decline in membership we have seen a 20% rise. Why? Obviously, people are extra motivated in getting out and about after Lockdown, but also I believe we have had the success because we have been putting on events pretty much every week. This is down to all our great volunteers always being willing to help!

No doubt while we are not as large a club as we once were, we are pulling more than our weight! Notwithstanding the 20 stone Chairman!

We have had members helping run coaching/planning online courses on behalf of the SOA. We supplied 2 Controllers, 1 planner who planned 2 days at the Six Days event. We also provided the main organiser for our day too! (Again with extra work put on them as 2 days were held on same area.) We hosted a SOL at Balmedie in conjunction with the SHI Relays.

Not an easy task particularly when the computers must be run differently for the relays! But event was a resounding success!

In November we hosted the rearranged GMC at Lochnagar. Held in very challenging conditions. What a success that was!

All of these successes is down to the incredible band of volunteers that Gramp have. So thank you all!

We have had great success competitively this year.

SMC 2020 – Bronze – Morven → Silver to Neil → Gold to Sam Griffin

SOC 2021 – Silver to Neil

SSC 2021 – Bronze to George

SOL 2021 – 5 Golds to Morven, Lesley, Dominykas, David and Gary

5 silvers to Joanna, Lachlan, Julian, Tim and Bob

2 bronzes to Kirsty and Sam Gomersall

Sam griffin anchored home the winning Scotland relay team at the JHIs

And finally, we have a British Champion. Not only that but a champion at the hardest discipline. Night orienteering. Yes David won 2 weeks ago down by Cheltenham. Hugh had a very creditable 7<sup>th</sup> place on a hotly challenged M55L course too!

Well done to them all!

So, our aim for 2022?

More of the same with the added return of specific training days led by our coaches Zoe & David. We are also planning on doing CATI to encourage people to take up orienteering. Even with the storm damage, I don't see any reason why we won't be able to go ahead with this plan!