

A message from the incoming MDOC Chair

David Wathey

Following the MDOC AGM held on the 17th October, I am very pleased to take on the role of Club Chair and play a part in helping to take this club forward.

I was introduced to orienteering 10 years ago and have been a member of MDOC ever since. During this time I have tried most forms of orienteering and have had the pleasure of discovering beautiful places and meeting great people through the sport.



The past few years, with the effects of the Covid pandemic and increases in the cost of living have been challenging for many of us on an individual level and it has also been an extremely difficult time for all sports clubs. While MDOC remains in a strong financial position it is clear that we face some big challenges over the coming years, particularly in relation to **recruiting and retaining club members** and **broadening the pool of helpers**, that are essential for the continued delivery of excellent and enjoyable MDOC events.

Two important motions were passed at the AGM to start addressing these issues.

- **Reducing MDOC annual membership fees** for senior adult members to **£20** from £25 and for young adults (21-25) to **£10** from £25 [inc. BOF membership fee of £15 and £10 respectively]
- **Applying a £1 discount for MDOC members** at all MDOC Local (level D) events.

These progressive measures reduce the financial burden of membership and provide a tangible benefit to members, but more can be done.

In this spirit, we will be proactively marketing the MDOC Saturday event at Bramhall Park on Saturday 11th November as a “Mini O Fest” come and try it event, tapping into the body of newcomers we have seen across all our events in the last year as well as reaching out to wider range of groups, schools and clubs. Our aim is to create a welcoming and enjoyable day for all. Some great posters have been developed to help promote the event so please help spread the word and see if we can get a bumper turn out and help people discover this brilliant sport.

Looking further ahead the Club will be holding its annual charity event at Lyme park on the 6th January and we will be hosting our major event of the year, a weekend of events in Manchester, over the May bank holiday weekend, so make a note for your 2024 diaries.

Personally, in my other capacity as Club Coach, I want to get a programme of coaching activity in place for 2024 and am keen to reinstate the club Social, putting the dark days of lockdown behind us. If you are interested in these or other initiatives to help build our club, please feel free to contact me at chair@mdoc.org.uk

I hope to see you at an event in the near future, and for those that don't know me please feel free to come say hello.

Best Regards, David Wathey (MDOC Chair) - email: chair@mdoc.org.uk