



Forth Valley Orienteers

Orienteering at the Heart of Scotland

Annual General Meeting

Saturday, 20th January, 2024

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Approval of Minutes of the 2023 AGM
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UtYs7dk8u9yCMZyerZiVsoBiykNxTAjl/view>
3. President's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Motion to align membership and event fees with BOF/SOA (attached)
6. Election of Committee
 - President
 - Vice President
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - 3 General Members
7. Confirmation of Non-committee post holders
8. Presentation of the Jim Heardman trophy
9. Any Other Business

Motion for AGM

Motion for FVO AGM

20th January 2024

SUMMARY: CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP FEES AND EVENT CHARGES

British Orienteering have introduced a number of changes to its membership structure and event levies with effect from 1st January 2024. Scottish Orienteering have followed suit with equivalent changes. At the AGM the committee asks the Forth Valley Orienteers membership to consider introducing a Young Adult category of membership, providing a reduction in membership fee for those joining part way through the year, and changes to local event fees to reflect the adult levy changes.

GOALS

1. Make it more attractive to remain a member of FVO when you reach 21.
2. Encourage new members to join, especially during summer / early autumn.
3. Ensure that British Orienteering members are not subsidising Scottish Orienteering only members' event levies.

BACKGROUND

Membership of an orienteering club in the UK normally involves joining British Orienteering (BOF), and the "regional" association (e.g. Scottish Orienteering (SOA)) at the same time as joining the club, and so membership costs are made up of the FVO, the SOA, and BOF fees. Within Scotland a special arrangement exists where members who will only be competing within Scotland (and not at any British level events like the Compass Sport Cup final, British Championships - even if hosted in Scotland) can just join the club and SOA. Event officials and certain club officers must be British Orienteering members. FVO has had a "family" category of membership for some time but SOA and BOF have not, so the savings for being a family were actually relatively small.

British orienteering identified that its demographics were aging and changes may be required to attract and retain people to ensure a renewed supply of volunteers who deliver the sport on the ground through clubs. After consultation with clubs, the British Orienteering membership voted

to introduce a new “young adult” membership category for 21-25 year olds, a family membership category, and discounted fees for those who join part way through the year. They also introduced changes to the levy charged to clubs for events held under their governance and insurance arrangements. Scottish Orienteering voted to replicate the new membership categories and part year arrangements.

The **cost of joining FVO in 2023** was:

	Junior (M/W20-)	Senior (M/W21+)	Family*
FVO fee	£ 5	£ 10	£ 25
SOA fee	£ 2	£ 12	£ 28 [†]
Scottish only members	£ 7	£ 22	£ 53[†]
BOF fee	£ 5	£ 15	£ 40 [†]
British members	£ 12	£ 37	£ 93[†]

*Family membership = a maximum of 2 senior members plus unlimited junior members who all normally reside at the same address.

[†]Where family membership is not offered the cost has been computed using 2 adults + 2 children for illustrative purposes.

Second claim members or social members pay the same fee, but do not need to join/re-join British/Scottish Orienteering. Student Members of Stirling University Orienteering Club are provided 2nd claim membership of FVO free of charge.

Following the British and Scottish Orienteering changes, the **costs of joining in 2024** are now:

	Junior (M/W20-)	Yng Adult (21-25)	Senior (M/W25+)	Family*
FVO fee	£ 5	£ 10		£ 25
SOA fee	£ 2	£ 2	£ 12	£ 26
Scottish only members	£ 7	£ 12	£ 22	£ 51
BOF fee	£ 5	£ 10	£ 15	£ 35
British members	£ 12	£ 22	£ 37	£ 86

Discounts will apply to **new** members joining BOF or SOA after May, and further discounts after Sept.

FVO membership is amongst the most expensive clubs in the country, this is in part due to the Scottish Orienteering fees which are higher than most English regional associations (who don't have staff etc). Despite this FVO membership figures continue to rise, reflecting the effort not just of the club development officers but of all the membership to have a strong and vibrant club. We organise more events than any other club in Scotland and typically attract more participants than nearby clubs with substantially lower fees.

British Orienteering charge a fee (Levy) per participant at events, to cover the costs of running the sport including insurance cover which all landowners expect, and the event organisers need. The insurers charge an additional premium for participants who are not British Orienteering members. The British Orienteering membership voted to increase the Levy on senior non-members to cover this cost and encourage membership. For the first time this will mean the club pays a different levy for British Orienteering Members and those who are Scottish Orienteering only members. The additional cost is £1 per adult non-BOF member at each event.

Financial impact

Motion 1 - is expected to have no impact on club income. We should highlight that the membership fees have not increased for a number of years whilst the cost of living has clearly increased.

Motion 2 - will affect about 10 members a year, and result in a reduction in membership income of £50 per annum. It is not possible to predict how much this will stop those members from leaving the club and orienteering in general, or how many 21-25 year olds might join who would have otherwise participated as non-members.

Motion 3 - it is difficult to estimate how many new members this reduction in cost will incentivise to join, and what proportion of those will renew in subsequent years. There is a perception that if we don't get people to join by the summer the cost for the last part of the year is disproportionately high (in a period where you need to be more committed to participate anyway) and so any loss of income from those who would have joined anyway at full price is offset by those who join at the discounted rate and hopefully stay for subsequent years.

Motion 4 - if this motion was not granted then every senior SOA only member running at local events (whether from FVO or a neighbouring club) would incur us an additional £1 levy. Analysis of those figures is quite challenging as we have not historically tracked this data but we estimate that could be around £300-600 per year. Further the levy would also erode the higher surplus we charge to non-members and if we did not also increase this fee we would probably lose a similar amount. It is possible we will lose some participants due to the higher costs, but it is also possible £7 v £5 will encourage some people to join up.

PROPOSALS

Motion 1

The FVO annual membership fees should remain unchanged for the year 2025 (and 2024) other than as described in Motions 2 and 3 if approved.

Motion 2

Forth Valley Orienteers should introduce a young adult membership category, for those who would be 21-25 yrs old during the membership year. Young adult members would be Senior members of the club and have all the same rights as other Senior members, but would pay a reduced membership fee of £5. This would apply for memberships from **1st January 2025**.

Motion 3

Forth Valley Orienteers should introduce a reduced fee for NEW members who join part-way through the membership year. The cut off dates for the reductions should fall in line with those used by British and Scottish Orienteering. This would apply for NEW memberships after **1st May 2024**. The discounts should be:

NEW member join date	Junior (M/W20-)			Young Adult (M/W 21-25)			Senior (M/W25+)			Family		
	Jan -Apr	May -Aug	Sep -Dec	Jan -Apr	May -Aug	Sep -Dec	Jan -Apr	May -Aug	Sep -Dec	Jan -Apr	May -Aug	Sep -Dec
FVO fee	£ 5	£ 3	£ 2	£ 10	£ 7	£ 5	£ 10	£ 7	£ 5	£ 25	£ 17	£ 12
SOA fee	£ 2			£2			£ 12	£ 8	£ 4	£ 26	£ 20 [†]	£ 12 [†]
Scottish only members	£ 7	£ 5	£ 4	£ 12	£ 9	£ 7	£ 22	£ 15	£ 9	£ 51	£ 37	£ 24
BOF fee	£ 5	£ 3.35	£ 1.65	£ 10	£6.67	£ 3.33	£ 15	£ 10	£ 5	£ 35	£ 23.33	£ 11.67
British members	£ 12	£ 8.35	£ 5.65	£ 22	£ 15.67	£ 10.33	£ 37	£ 25	£ 14	£ 86	£ 60.33	£ 35.67

[†] SOA are not offering a proportionate discount on family membership, these values are for 2 adults, 2 children which will be cheaper individually (and should be automatically determined by the system).

If Motion 2 has been agreed, then from 2025 onwards the discounted young adult fees for new members after May 2025 and September 2025 would be £3 and £2 respectively.

Motion 4

With effect from **18-Feb-2024** the entry fees for local events should be changed to reflect the different Levies for British Orienteering members and those who are Scottish Orienteering only members. They will become:

	British Orienteering Member	Scottish Orienteering Only member	Non-member
Junior (M/W20-)	£ 3	£ 4	£ 5
Senior (M/W21+)	£ 5	£ 6	£ 7
Students	£ 3	£ 4	£ 5

Those charges apply to pre-entries at level D local events only, and the committee or organiser will be able to set late entry or entry on the day premiums.

The committee will be able to set alternative charging structures for Activities or Events specifically designed to attract newcomers.