

Quantico Orienteering Club, Inc.
Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
April 2, 2025

- **Call to Order**

President Don Fish called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

- **Roll Call**

President **Don Fish**

Vice President **Matt Smith**

Vice President **David & Reiko Rager**

Secretary **Beàtri Bennett**

Membership **Greg Lennon**

Mapping **Ted Good**

Immediate Past President **Jody Landers**

Vice President **Dennis Doherty**

Vice President **Michael Newman** (absent)

Treasurer **David Levine**

Volunteer/Social Outreach **Sharmagh Yepremian**

Director at Large **Aaron Linville**

Director at Large **Craig Shelden**

Others in attendance: Amy Loudon, Sidney Sachs, Francis Hogle, and Jon Torrance

- **Officers & Directors Reports**

- 1. Secretary report – Beàtri Bennett**

The meeting minutes for the 28 August 2024 Budget meeting were distributed via email and majority approved.

The meeting minutes for the 4 December 2024 meeting were distributed prior to the meeting.

Aaron Linville made a motion to approve the 4 December meeting minutes. Ted Good seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion carried.

- 2. Treasurer report – David Levine**

David Levine shared the current season's treasurer's report with expenditures and revenue reconciled through 31 March 2025.

Highlights are:

- One of the certificates of deposit (CD) matured on 17 March 2025. Although the interest rate has dropped, it's still better than a savings or checking account.
- Potential to move funds from PayPal to savings or into new CDs, depending on expenses.

- High meet fee revenue due to more events and Rogaine with increased entry fees.
- March expenses included insurance (based on 2024 start numbers) as well as the \$25 Virginia State Corporation Commission (SCC) annual filing fee.
- Events with buses are less profitable; consideration encouraged on the bus use strategy.
- Rogaine currently looks profitable but anticipated additional expenses will reduce margin.
- Port-a-johns are necessary but not a major expense driver compared to buses.
- Weather impacted attendance at some events (e.g., Hoyles Mill, Little Bennett).
- Last-minute registration decisions based on weather are impacting event revenues.
- Virginia storage unit has been pre-paid for 6 months.
- Maryland storage unit is being paid monthly due to dissatisfaction with the facility (i.e., rodent issues and increased rates), considering a new location for next season.
- The club remains in strong financial health.
- Discussion on strategic use of surplus:
 - o Explore investments in mapping.
 - o Support for expanded mapping efforts and potential mapping reimbursements.
 - o Emphasis on investing surplus into growing the sport and enhancing events, not just accumulating interest.

Jody Landers made a motion to accept the financial report. Greg Lennon seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion carried.

3. Maryland VP report – David and Reiko Rager

David and Reiko Rager provided updates on past and upcoming events. Bad weather impacted several events.

Past events

Patuxent River Park – 191 starts

Seneca Creek / Smokey Glen Farm / Mid-Atlantic Championships – 242 starts (QOC: 163, DVOA: 35)

Maryland Soccerplex – 148 starts

- Pre-Event snow nearly dampened the event, but the lot was cleared. Event was sunny and windy.
- Used shuttles to a remote start.

Rosaryville – 167 starts. Snow on the ground again!

Little Bennett – 99 starts.

- Postponed from last year. Lots of rain and mud and late day wind.
- Shuttle from remote parking at Pleasants Construction.

Kings Landing – 160 starts

- Shuttle to remote start in NRMA.
- Incident with runners crossing fence onto private property. Don Fish wrote an apology letter to the landowner. The solution for future events is to 1) move the start so that runners are not running parallel to the fence, and 2) include an alert in the course notes and re-iterate the restriction during check-in.
- Lots of JROTC cadets attended, prior to national event.

Patapsco / CCBC – 210 starts. Return of great weather!

Gambrill Rogaine – 115 starts

- 3-hr: 67 starts (95 ppl)
- 8-hr: 48 starts (72 ppl)
- Had ~17 members of the Brunswick High School adventure racing club
- Successful picnic. Filled the parking but didn't use overflow.

Additional Notes and Challenges

- *Blockhouse Point* – new venue. Parking/registration will be at Bretton Woods with shuttles to the start.
- *Swanson Road* – moved to Saturday due to park availability. A new event director will co-direct the event with Reiko Rager.
- *Chase at Patuxent River* – looking for volunteers to oversee beverages and the picnic.
- Starting to work on the schedule for next season. Ted Good reminded the group to exclude Greenbelt and University of Maryland from next season's schedule, at least until after the National Ranking Event (NRE).
- Michael Dickey wants to include a 24hr Rogaine next season. Don Fish suggested sending a survey to this year's Rogaine participants to gauge interest in a longer Rogaine. He also suggested having the event no later than 7 March.
- Jon Torrance added that the last National Rogaining Championship occurred in 2021. Assuming there is interest, the club could bid on offering such an event. Jody Landers cautioned that the map needs a major update. Don Fish recommended not pursuing this initiative for the upcoming season due to timing but suggested considering it for future seasons.
- Shuttle bus usage has increased.
- A couple of new event directors have been co-directing events this season in preparation to serve as sole event directors for next season.
- VPs to remind course setters that Keg Good is available for course review and guidance.
- DNF rate at 15% average; course setters to review course lengths and difficulty to ensure appropriate alignment with course levels (e.g., Yellow courses are not merely 'longer White' courses).

ACTION:

- David Rager will co-ordinate with Michael Dickey to gather survey questions.

4. Virginia VP report – Matt Smith and Dennis Doherty

Dennis Doherty provided updates on past and upcoming events as well as permitting. Virginia events averaged 186 starts and 244 participants. Despite some surpluses and losses, events are well attended and the club remains in good shape.

Addition Notes and Challenges

Dennis Doherty created a chart depicting the 'DNF rate per course'. The statistics will be shared with the course setters for analysis and to aid with future course setting.

5. Membership, Website, Registration, & Communication – Greg Lennon

Membership is stable.

Registration – Potential security issues with registration system were identified and have been addressed. A question was raised by a QOC member: 'How old must my child be to participate in an orienteering event.' The consensus is to encourage a policy that children 6 years and older should register but it's at the parent's discretion. Will not put on website but add to Event Director's handbook.

Website & Groups.io E-Forum – Photos on website have been checked for potential copyright issues. Website rebuild will occur over the summer. Groups.io forum now has 650+ subscribers.

Merchandise – QOC Jerseys were delivered to buyers.

ACTION:

- Don Fish will ask Tom Nolan to strengthen the QOC liability waiver to protect against unregistered children.
- Add a note to the Event Director's handbook that children 6 and older need to be registered. Beàtri Bennett will co-ordinate with Sharmagh Yepremian and Greg Lennon to update the handbook.

6. Publicity – Sharmagh Yepremian

Post event meet-ups/Mappy Hour – will continue to be held for the rest of this season's events, except for the Chase.

Volunteering Outreach Program – 'Thank you' Happy Hour for volunteers will most likely be the weekend after the Chase (June 7 or 8). Location TBD.

Lexie Brown is working on the volunteer 'thank you' t-shirt design.

The volunteer booth will be set up at the Lake Needwood event.

Social Media

Facebook – 2.5K followers (organic growth).

Instagram: 1.6K (almost 1.7K) followers (organic growth).

7. Mapping – Ted Good

- Conducted Mapping class; 37 people signed up for the zoom sessions and the Field session had 14 people. A good majority of participants are interested in mapping. Another Field session is scheduled for 19 April 2025 and 8 people are expected. Next step is to provide new mappers with basic mapping projects.
- Renewed the two OCAD floating licenses for 3 years.

Mapping updates –

Ted Good:

- Bacon Ridge NRE map completed and will be reviewed closer to the 2026 NRE.
- University of Maryland map for NRE.
- Converted Swanson Road map to latest symbol set.
- Sligo Creek North map (the part just south of Wheaton Regional Park) will be used for Summer Series and potential expansion of the Wheaton map.
- LiDAR completed for Northwest Branch but still need field checking. This map also abuts the Wheaton map on the northeast.
- Some updates on Patapsco State Park for the event recently held there.
- Field checked another area south of Oakridge (near the road) on the Prince William Forest map.

Tom Strat:

- Update the George Mason map.

Nadim Ahmed:

- Blockhouse map was totally redone for upcoming event.

Sam Listwak:

- Little Bennett map updated.
- Started with updates on the Seneca Creek map.

Justin Brown:

- Still working on a new map (Algonkian) for future Summer Series events. The park is across the Potomac River from Blockhouse.

Michael Dickey

- Changes to the Gambrills State Park map for the recent Rogaine.

Dave Linthicum:

- Updated Bowie map for NRE.

2026 NRE

- Completed and vetted the Bacon Ridge map and courses.
- Bowie courses are being vetted.

- **Other Business**

- 1. OUSA Recharter – Don Fish**

In filling out the required recharter form, Don Fish discovered that QOC's starts increased by 24%. Consequently, we owed OUSA approximately \$11,000.

- 2. 2026 US Nationals Update – Craig Shelden/Ted Good/Don Fish**

The sanctioning request has been submitted to OUSA. Concerns were raised regarding the Nationals being held on the East Coast for three consecutive years and the early timing of the event. However, the early schedule is necessary due to two of the three events taking place on a college campus and need to occur during Spring Break. Course vetting for Bacon Ridge has been completed. Don Fish requested that the week before and after the National are kept free due to workload related to Nationals.

- 3. Shuttle Bus Policy**

A recommendation was made to reduce the use of shuttle buses next season by removing Kings Landing and Hoyles Mill from the event schedule, thereby eliminating the need for transportation at these events.

- 4. Report on Visit to Isaak Walton League – Don Fish/Greg Lennon**

Don Fish, Greg Lennon and Sam Listwak toured the ~600-acre facility in the Poolesville area with the help of Craig Shelden's strong base map. The terrain features typical Maryland characteristics – partly very green and partly open woods and fields. QOC is open to mapping the area if bi-annual access can be secured for multiple years. While many logistical details, including parking, are still under discussion, the venue appears promising. It offers good infrastructure, including a large indoor space with electricity. One concern is the relatively small size of the area, though it could support courses up to Red.

- 5. Trail-O opportunity with Russ Myer and Daniel Heimgartner – Don Fish**

Russ Myer and Dan Heimgartner have offered to set up and host a Trail-O course for QOC. The Board agreed that while Trail-O should not become a regular offering, it is valuable to provide it as an alternative orienteering format. Jody Landers recommended involving Sid Sachs and Keg Good in future discussions, given their involvement with the Northern Virginia Senior Olympics.

ACTION:

- Don Fish will contact Russ Myer for details on Trail-O scoring, after which a suitable venue will be selected to pilot a Trail-O event next season.

- **Adjourn**

Ted Good made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Craig Shelden seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9.45 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 9 July 2025 @ 7 pm via Zoom.

Minutes submitted: Beàtri Bennett