# **Loch Eck Orienteers Annual General Meeting, 17th February 2019**

**Chairman/Secretary’s Report**

This year has been another successful year for EckO. The Committee met regularly and put on two well attended series of events – last year’s Spring series and this winter’s Autumn/Winter series – as well as training events for both adults and juniors. Scottish Orienteering’s Hilary Quick travelled down to EckO land in April to present a day’s coaching for adult members with help from Ross Lilley. Our thanks to all those involved in planning and organising these events.

The Autumn/Winter events, held usually on Sundays, have been well attended, the Spring events less so, probably since they were held on weekday evenings. We intend to revert to weekends for this year’s Spring events.

EckO membership is down a little, but still healthy. We currently have 49 members: 32 full British Orienteering members and 17 members through the recently introduced Scottish Orienteering scheme. The latter scheme allows us to recruit club members at a cost of only £8 for adults and at no cost for juniors. The corresponding figures for last year were 68, 42, and 26.

As already indicated we are planning to run another Spring series using local areas. As a Committee we are concerned that we rely on a small number of members to plan and organise our events. We are anxious to recruit more members to volunteer for these roles. Experienced members are available to mentor you through the process of planning or organising. Lending a hand at registration, helping erect the club tent, collecting control kites are also tasks which can ease the burden on the organiser. Please speak to one of the Committee if you feel you can contribute.

In recognition of EckO’s good practice, high standards of governance, and encouragement of participation in orienteering, we have been awarded Bronze accreditation by Scottish Orienteering.

With the help of Scottish Orienteering’s Sarah Dunn, the club is taking steps towards the possible appointment of a part time development officer.

Thanks to a generous grant from Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease (ABCD) the club has been able purchase ten new SI units (the existing ones are well over ten years old) and a set of thirty lightweight fibre stakes. The latter greatly eases the physical act of putting out controls for an event. We are actively pursuing grants to enable us to produce new or updated maps.

The EckO website has recently been upgraded by Paul Frost and is now much more user friendly for those adding content. The Member and Newsletter mailing lists have been transferred to an organisation called Mailchimp; this helps us abide by GDPR regulation and has greatly reduced spam.

In January thirteen of us repeated last year’s deflab at Tyndrum. After an hour’s walk/run in glorious surroundings, we retired to Jim and Diane Mailer’s café where Donna fed us soup, tea and cake.

Finally Jan and I would like to thank our fellow Committee members for their efforts this year.