

The West Midlander

Winter 2016

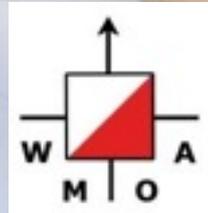


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**The Newsletter of the
West Midlands Orienteering Association**



Association Officials

Chairman	Ray Collins (WCH)
Vice-Chairman	Richard Lewis (WRE)
Secretary	Delia Kingsbury (WRE)
Treasurer	Barry McGowan (HOC)
Fixtures Secretary/Rep.	Allan Williams (WCH)
Newsletter Editor	Rod Postlethwaite (WRE)
Coaching Rep.	<Vacant>
Colour Badge Awards	Hilary Simpson (OD)
Controllers' Co-ordinator	Henry Morgan (POTOC)
Data Privacy Officer	<Vacant>
E-mail Tree Co-ordinator	<Vacant>
Junior Squad Co-ordinator	
League Results Co-ordinator	Lesley Ross (OD)
Webmaster	Andrew Johnson (HOC)

Club Representatives

British Orienteering	John Woodall
COBOC	Barry McGowan
HOC	Barry McGowan
OD	Barry Elkington
POTOC	Brenda Morgan
WCH (rotating)	Ray Collins
WRE	Graham Hardy
WYEVENT	Kyla Da Cunha
All Committee/Officials	

Website: <http://www.wmoa.org.uk>

Cover Photo: Delia Kingsbury (WRE), City Race Euro Tour Women's Super Veteran Winner

Photograph by Juan David Perez-Caballero (Spain)

Editorial

A Happy New Year to you all.

2016 began in traditional fashion with the New Year's Day Score event held by WRE at Telford Town Park on a somewhat chilly day. 128 brave souls started the year as they mean to carry on.

The British Championship Weekend at Brown Clee is getting nearer and entries are now open. The website, which contains lots of information can be found here:

<http://www.theboc.org.uk>

Definitely a date to put in your diaries.

The 2016 League got underway on 10 January at Lickey Hills courtesy of COBOC. A full programme of events has been planned with no less than five events being held in the first two months of the year. The question is, as always, can anyone challenge Droobers' supremacy? None of the other West Midlands clubs have quite the same strength in depth across all the age classes.

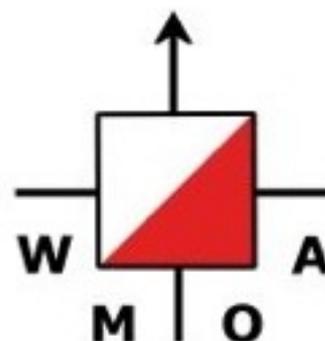
Meanwhile, in the South of the region, namely Herefordshire, a new club has emerged - WYE Ventures Orienteering Club. The club has approached orienteering from a slightly different angle under the stewardship of our former RDO Kyla Da Cunha. I hope to include an article outlining their unique approach in a future edition of the newsletter.

Happy Orienteering

Rod

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Copy date for the next issue: 1 April 2016

WMOA Chairman's Corner 1 January 2016**Ray Collins**

The new Chairman at Telford Town Park

A Happy New Year to you all. May 2016 be the year that your orienteering goals are realised and your performances steadily improve.

My New Year started in Telford Town Park on a cold but dry day. Congratulations to OD for hanging on to the Laurie Bradley Trophy

for what seems to be the 99th year in succession (*only the 6th! Ed.*) and to Wrekin for a successful event. The orienteering continued with the Chasers Club Championships on 3 January where we had driving rain, freezing winds and dark conditions - surely the weather must improve soon. Next weekend sees a POTO local event and a COBOC WMOA League event. There is quite a full fixture list for the first half of the year so please try to support as many events as possible in and out of the region. One of your New-Year resolutions should be to attend more events than you did last year.

As a region we have two major events on the horizon. First up is the British Individual Championships and Relays over the weekend of Saturday 30 April and Sunday 1 May. These are both being held on Brown Clee. Please volunteer as your help will be needed if the event is to run smoothly. If two days is not enough for you Walton Chasers have an event on Bank Holiday Monday, 2 May, to finish your long weekend.

The other event is the JK in 2018 on 31 March and 1, 2 and 3 April. This might seem a long way into the future but plans are already being laid and major officials sought. I have a meeting this week with BOF personnel and the WM co-ordinator to discuss this event. In the very near future Organisers and Planners will be required for four days of orienteering.

Have a good year's orienteering, I will hope to see you in a forest soon.

An Apology

In the last edition of the newsletter a reproduction of an old article about POTO from 'The Orienteer' was published. The copyright of all the old material from 'The Orienteer' is owned by CompassSport magazine and the following note should have appeared with the article:

Reproduced here by kind permission of CompassSport, copyright holder of The Orienteer.

Minutes of WMOA meeting on 14 December 2015, Great Barr Hotel

1. **Present:** R. Collins, K. Da Cunha, B. Elkington, G. Hardy, A. Johnson, D. Kingsbury, B. McGowan, H. Morgan, R. Postlethwaite, A. Williams, J. Woodall.
2. **Apologies:** M. Elkington, R. Lewis, B. Morgan, K. Strain.
3. **Declaration of Interest:** None.
4. **Minutes:** These were accepted as a true record.

5. Matters Arising:

Gift Aid: OD had looked into this and deemed that there would be little benefit from this scheme.

The **WMOA Officials** lists have been updated.

From the AGM, **Urban League certificates** had been produced and were being forwarded to winners. These were being issued to competitors from all regions as the rules did not state it was WMOA only.

6. Correspondence:

From Craig Anthony Head of Development at BOF: following on from the Club Conference he was asking the regions to appoint a volunteer 'Champion' to act as a mentor and support development of volunteers (see latest Focus magazine). H. Morgan asked whether any clubs had volunteers who were not orienteers as is the situation in some European clubs where there are members of sports clubs who assist with non-technical aspects of organisation - very few.

From A. Swinson and BOF re JIRCS levy payment - dealt with by B. McGowan.

From the new manager of 'Up and Running' in Birmingham - promotional email that was forwarded to clubs.

From K. Strain: clarification that her role with the Junior Squad is to support training sessions.

From R. Lewis: queries about the funding streams that WMOA had accessed to support juniors.

Update from the Orienteering Foundation - forwarded to A. Johnson and R. Postlethwaite.

7. Chairman's Report:

Clubs were encouraged to stage more events than are currently scheduled. After SinS this year there was a noticeable lack of events in WMOA and there are very few events above Level C. This trend appeared to be continuing for the first few months of 2016. It was acknowledged that there were Summer evening events and some Saturday series but Sunday events were lacking.

The following discussion suggested a reason for this was the scheduling structure which works around JK and BOC events and then the UK League. These took precedence although few people in the region went to these. Was it possible to streamline this?

Another issue this year will be staging BOC which will place a heavy demand on volunteers' time.

It was observed that perhaps the type of events that had moved to Saturdays in the past as Sundays were full could now be moved back again. Some clubs are using Saturdays to avoid clashes when fixtures in neighbouring regions are entered in to the BOF diary late. Also the low key events is compatible with lack of Controllers and less technical terrain.

HOC had recently canvassed views on what their members wanted. On the whole, colour coded events on Sundays, with some Saturday and night events.

Wrekin reported that they would like to see an expanded League with more than 12 events, and competitors needing to score in more than 5 events across the year. An individual only needed to attend 5 to get the points. By increasing the number of scoring events, this should encourage participation. Others commented that it was difficult to get people to enter five events as it was, plus all the clubs would need to be convinced to stage more events. If accepted a change of the WM League rules would need to be agreed.

8. Treasurer's Report:

Income year to date from September is £185 vs budgeted income for the year of £3000. There are few money spinners this year apart from the CSC. WMOA levies yield roughly £50/event. £1630 is predicted from levies and £1500 from BOC. The budget aims for a small surplus for the year.

The Urban event following BOC will be subject to normal levy with an estimated entry of 250. There is a need to decide how to apportion surplus income from BOC and also determine how jobs will be allocated. Previous requests in relation to this issue from E. Brown last Summer had not yielded feedback from the clubs.

For JK2018, now that the major events partnership agreement with BOF is no longer available, the event has to be funded by the region. WMOA may not have sufficient reserves for advance expenses and it may be necessary to seek support from the clubs for this. Insuring the event against cancellation should be considered.

The new Major Events format is for a 'super levy', believed to be equivalent to 3 x the standard levy. If such events are properly budgeted this will yield organising Regions a substantial profit. For the JK clubs will have the option of purchasing some of the Major Events Manager's time.

There was discussion about Junior Squad funding, given the surplus made from JIRCS. They currently have £3700 at their disposal. The excess would be used to fund taking the squad (24) to Scotland for JIRCS next year with an estimated cost £6000. Volunteers had given time/items for JIRCS 2015 knowing this would go towards subsidising attendance at JIRCS 2016.

9. Fixtures:

WCH have taken on the **2016 CSC** event and moved their event at Abrahams Valley by one week for this. POTOC have committed to CSC 2017. POTOC reported that with a new landowner for Weston Heath it was looking like permissions for the area would no longer be granted.

WM League fixtures: 12 events spread across the year have been agreed for the 2016 League including an event from COBOC. Relays and Championships are all allocated. Wrekin are organising a Sprint Championship and A. Bailey will organise a Park Championship. POTOC said they were happy for this to be linked to one of their park events.

BOC 2016: There was no update from E. Brown. Entries are open and the Tamworth event would need to be added quickly.

JK2018: WOA are happy to lend areas for this event. Some old maps had been provided and the areas have been looked at quickly and appear to be suitable. Gwynedd Council are very supportive of hosting an event with around 3000 competitors. The challenge will be in seeking

permissions as there isn't a history of organising events in the area. Finding landowners is taking time and A. Williams wished to investigate using Sally Pygott to assist with this. R. Dredge has volunteered to be the event Treasurer and there were no objections to this. Permissions are needed by Easter to give mappers 2 years to do their work. It is believed that grants to fund certain expenses e.g. mapping may be available from the tourist board.

Regional Trophies: It was reported that some of the Relay trophies were in need of repair. Wrekin to demonstrate this in relation to the ones they hold. It was agreed that the condition should be reviewed and those in disrepair should be maintained by WMOA.

If anyone was in need of trophies Neil Lawford (WCH) is a wood turner and can make trophies.

10. West Midlander:

The next edition will be issued in early January. An updated Officials list has been supplied by D. Kingsbury. R. Postlethwaite was keen to review the WMOA Handbook (last version believed to be 2009). The new version would be electronic, although contact details could not be included because of Data Privacy Issues, in which case would it be valuable? It could become a list of people holding roles within clubs and a point of contact in the clubs. Information on the website e.g. competition rules, does not need to be duplicated. R. Postlethwaite is seeking feedback about what the handbook should contain.

11. WMOA Website:

There are about 800 hits per month on the website and around 50% of the hits were new users. Peak use was on Sundays. A Twitter account had been established and there had been a 'retweet'.

The majority of the site is static and no feedback had been received about the changes made. A bigger space was needed for updates, other elements will be moved around to accommodate this.

12. Development:

A **Level C Organisers Course** (3 hours) is scheduled for 31 January at the John O'Leary Centre. This does not clash with any local events. The cost of staging the event will be about £130 although there is no cost to WMOA attendees. This may be followed with an Event Safety Course. K. da Cunha commented that she had found the Event Safety Course recently run by EMOA relevant.

R. Collins is running an **Event Safety Course** this Friday (19 December) at Brocton Village Hall. Anyone was welcome. D. Kingsbury to e-mail clubs. Anyone interested should contact R. Collins if they are to attend.

R. Postlethwaite is running the **official BOF Mapping Course** at Wrekin's request on 2 consecutive Saturdays, 13 and 20 February at Montford Bridge Outdoor Centre. This will include Part 1 surveying and Part 2 OCAD. If successful this may be repeated. R. Postlethwaite will include details in West Midlander and if there is sufficient demand he will put on another course.

Club and Association Conference Feedback:

K. da Cunha reported that the Conference had focussed on junior development which is of high importance for the BOF 10 year strategy. There had also been discussion about competition for 18-35 year olds. Explorer was generating much participation but very little translation to

mainstream orienteering. The low numbers of juniors is a major concern, so a junior committee has been formed and will meet in January.

13. Events and Competitions Committee:

It is a continuing situation where there is too much to be done and insufficient volunteers to do it. The only group that is functioning well is the Fixtures Group which has retained its regional structure. Reverting to this regional structure for other groups would be seen as a step backwards. Re the current event structure:

Level A	Owned by BOF	Elite competition
Level B	Subset of BOF events	JIRCS, etc
Level C	Regional owned	Colour Coded
Level D	Club owned	Format to suit clubs

The question is, what do most orienteers want from this structure? Discussion showed that different people were looking for different experiences in terms of types of events they wished to attend. Clubs are obliged to put on some events that most of their members have no interest in e.g. Schools events, JIRCS and Inter-Regionals. These are closed events that clog up the fixtures list and take up volunteer time for the benefit of a minority of participants.

C. James is looking at reducing bureaucracy and simplifying our sport, however when requests are invited there is little steer. Proposals are needed and this is what C. James' paper 'Events as Something Old, Something New' is hoping to stimulate.

14. Junior Squad:

Report for September to December 2015 from Mel Elkington and Kirsten Strain

The JIRCS 2015 took place in September with overall coordination by Mel Elkington. It was organised by both Walton Chasers and Octavian Droobers with the majority of helpers for both days being past and present West Midlands Junior Squad parents. Based around Stafford the event was very successful. In fact due to a lot of negotiation and research of all costings by all concerned eventually ran at a profit ... Not as much as some other regions have run at but still enough to help cover a large chunk of next year's JIRCS costs. Both clubs had previously agreed that they would cover any losses 50/50 but would donate any profits to WMJS. The food was particularly successful with 'O Nosh' receiving an impressive accolade of 'best food at JIRCS ever' by Maureen Brown of SCOTJOS who has attended 15 JIRCS.

The team of Aimee Morse, Gemma Cairns Smith, Rhiannon Cope, Heather Craig, Heather Rogers, Ellie Bales, Holly Hughes, Megan Colclough, Holly Craig, Charlotte Cairns Smith, Stephen Elkington, Harrison McCartney, Matt Hartland, Alfie Bullus, Ewan Lloyd, Alex Mitchell, Sam Leadley, Felix Lunn, Oliver Lunn, Oliver Flippance all ran well ending up 6th overall.

WMJS are already looking forward to running on areas next year near Aberdeen and will be fundraising towards the £6000 that may be required to cover this.

Kirsten Strain attended the Junior Regional Orienteering Squads' AGM on behalf of the West Midlands Junior Squad in York on the 21 November 2015. The Summer tours have now been announced and details can be found on the Junior Regional Squad website: www.jros.org.uk.

The annual trip to Hawkshead took place on the 27/28/29 November for Ellie Bales. The coaches were Iain Embrey and Kirsten Strain. This was yet again an outstanding weekend of training at TD5.

The 5 December saw the Squad train near Marquis Drive with the East Midlands squad. This first session went quite well but more parental help is also required from the WMJS parents to assist Kirsten. Many thanks to David Leadley for helping on this occasion and Walton Chasers for providing the venue and maps.

2016 will see us training with both the East Midlands and Wales on the 9 January 2016 on Cannock Chase, followed by a training weekend in the Forest of Dean with OD in early February.

The flights to Aberdeen are now booked and the deposit paid. The final payment is due in August and names for the team and coaches will be required to be sorted put in July 2016. The squad is in the process of ordering new 'O' tops as there are very few of the old style ones left.

Support for suitable events/venues where WMJS training can be accommodated are still sought. Even CATI and park events would be suitable opportunities to get the squad together to train.

15. Parkour to Orienteering

WYE Ventures has about 50 members and expected to increase next year. Some are attending NGOC events at Yellow/Orange level. Adults are getting involved and the club is hoping to participate in next year's League. Parkour is a way of recruiting members and uses obstacle courses for physical training leading into orienteering. Their training focuses on intrinsic motivation rather than extrinsic e.g. a youngster will accompany an adult on a technical course so that they can visualise the skill set they are aiming for. (Concerns were expressed about the safety of this, but it was stressed that the youngsters are in the company of an experienced adult).

To support organising Level D orienteering the club is using 12 unemployed persons, age 18-25. It is a steep learning curve for all, but K. da Cunha was confident they could deliver. Roger Orgill of the Sports Education Council is following the progress of the group.

16. AOB:

A. Johnson: Military League Central is running. Clubs were thanked for their assistance and attendance.

H. Morgan: For the Laurie Bradley Score Event he has put together information about Laurie Bradley. A Johnson requested a copy of this for the website.

H. Morgan: There are some very late requests for Controllers. Clubs need to resolve this much earlier and involve H. Morgan as co-ordinator far sooner if they are unable to find anyone. He also stated his intention to relinquish the role of Controller co-ordinator at the next WMOA AGM.

B. Elkington: One of their club members had reported that telephone contact details for Organisers were no longer included on flyers anymore. With the internet and websites now dominating, for the minority who don't have the internet, finding information about events is difficult. Could clubs please consider adding contact details on flyers?

17. Next Meetings:

14 March, 13 June, 12 September, 10 October (AGM), 12 December.

City Race Euro Tour 2015

Delia Kingsbury (WRE)

This all started off on the way home from an event in late Spring. Steve (Nightingale) asked me if I had seen the Euro City Tour 2015 details - well, yes I had, but had dismissed it as needing too much effort to arrange. When I got home I started to check it out and the seed germinated and started to grow. This competition was using an age range W50-65, so my significant birthday this year turned into an advantage. I had to choose four of the six races from Antwerp, London, Porto, Krakow, Barcelona and Seville. I left out Porto and Barcelona.

The first stop was Antwerp in Belgium for the Antwerp Sprint Orienteering Meeting (ASOM). On the Saturday afternoon there were two Sprint events: Luchtbal North and Luchtbal South. On the way to the event centre we found ourselves surrounded by masses of youngsters going to 'Laundry Day'. We were confused as there wasn't a dirty sock in sight! We later discovered that this was a music festival.

To my delight and surprise I won the first Sprint race. The Belgium club obviously like to add a fun element or two. They adopted a 'Tour de France' style feel and winners of the age classes were given a yellow jersey to wear for the next race. They also had a 'King of the Sprints' leg - the winner of this leg was given a green jersey to wear.

So for the second Sprint I was decked out in yellow and felt as if I was a target! However, it also meant that spectators and other competitors knew who the leader was, so on reflection I thought it did add to the event. There were no hitches on the 2nd Sprint and at the end I was still in the lead with a margin of 37 seconds.

The Urban race followed the next day. I'm still a target in yellow and was conscious of the need to make sure the person who started behind me didn't catch sight of me and use me; so some hard running was required early on. I had a couple of small errors on my way round and finished second in the Urban.

When the Sprint times were added together I won the weekend event by a mere 9 seconds.

That's close, but good enough to find myself on top of the podium; I've not been on one of those before and I was impressed to receive a running jacket as a prize. Wow.

Overall this was a really enjoyable event with quite a buzz, no doubt helped by the large tombola at the end with a main prize of 1000 €. That's a fair incentive not to go home early! For anyone tempted by this type of event, there will be another 'ASOM' next Summer.

The London City Race was the following week. This year's event started in Wapping and threaded runners through to the Tower Bridge area and back. First control, sorted. Second control, disaster. It was a complex little area of walls, corners etc. I encountered people who looked confused and I allowed this to influence me. The lack of clear thinking that followed lost me a good 3 minutes, although it felt like more at the time. Knowing that I now needed to make up time, I took off at an unsustainable pace and probably paid for that towards the end of the race. Another lesser mental aberration with wall corners happened later on. To my surprise I was 7th from a field of 120 or so and I was left contemplating what could have been. When I got home Steve Nightingale's race analysis was already waiting in my Inbox and he got straight to the point.... *"Hard luck, 2 & 14 cost you dearly, you would have won without them with only the smallest of hiccups on 7 & 11. I compared the winner, Baiba, Liz (Liz Philips who ran a good race and finished 5th) & you and all 3 of you faded slightly at the end from 15 onwards against the fastest times, but I guess that's because you've all gone flat out to start off with"*. He was spot on.

One month later the Tour arrived in Krakow in Poland. I'd checked the weather forecast before leaving for Krakow - temperature around zero, so all the warm gear had been packed. I travelled via Frankfurt and

have some advice if you are ever passing through, 55 minutes transfer time is barely enough! We were bussed from the Apron to the terminal building. I knew the gate for my onward flight was A68 and we passed that very quickly and went further and further away. At this point I'm just thinking that I have to come all the way back on foot. Then there was border control and security searches and finally I had about 20 minutes left to get back to where I had just come from. So, I strapped down the rucksack and ran. Thank you Lufthansa for a bit of impromptu sprint training, but I could have done without it.

The first part of the weekend's competition was a Night Sprint staged in Nova Hutta - a housing estate built in the communist era. There were long rows of apartments about four storeys high with alleyways through at ground level. Some of the housing was built around central squares with fenced play areas and despite my description there were quite a few open spaces. There was street lighting on the main streets but most of it was quite dim. My lighting system wasn't up to the job. I made just two mistakes which was quite good given I couldn't really see what I was doing. When I got under a street light, that was better for map reading, but bear in mind they were sodium lights, so the printed colours were nowhere near what they should have been: yellow, beige, light green and white, take your pick and make the map fit!

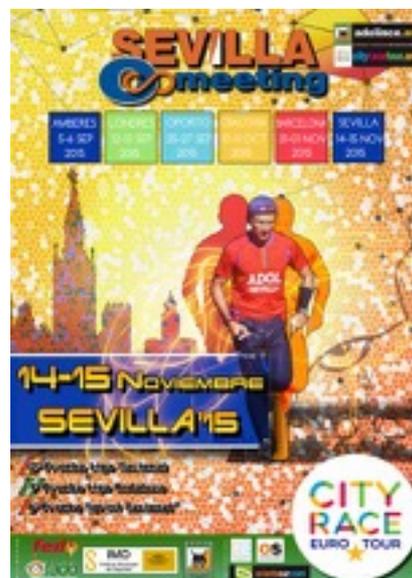
The City Race the following morning was based in the Kazimierz district of the city. With only a couple of small wobbles I was round the 3.2km course in about 26 minutes. As the last starter in the age class, when the print out said 1st out of 9 finishers I knew that I must have passed several on the way and had won the race. So I found myself on top of

the podium again! It was a 1,2,3 for GB. Our prizes were a road map of the area and model of the legendary dragon associated with Krakow's Wawel Castle.

The final leg for me was Seville in Spain. The Sevilla 'O' meeting was three events although I chose not to participate in the Middle Distance event on the Saturday morning and started with the Night Sprint in the Maria Luisa Park. Since Krakow I had invested in more lumens, so this was better. I am grateful to the planner who chose to put reflective strips on the control supports, the headlight picked these up from along way off. I finished a respectable 4th.

Moving on to the main event on the Sunday morning, I was relieved that I had been allocated a 9:20 start as it would be cool and there would be no tourists about. I knew we were going to be heading through the Santa Cruz 'touristy' area which is a maze of narrow streets that are blocked with café tables and merchandise stands - great if you have all day, a nightmare if you are in a hurry. I was pleased with my race; neither navigation nor legs let me down. I had a slight holdup though when I turned up an alley one person wide to discover I was behind a nun pulling a wheelie bin. Apart from the nun and orienteers, the streets of the Santa Cruz area were deserted - perfect. Reports from the later runners were quite different, they had had to contend with slow moving groups of tourists following umbrellas.

I was in the lead when I finished and there I stayed. I made it to the top of the podium again, this time as the age class winner for the Euro City Tour competition. This was becoming regular and I enjoyed being there - who wouldn't? It was a 1,2,3 for GB and GB dominated the placings for the Vets, Supervets and Ultravets classes. After all the excitement, I've come back to reality and am pondering what to do next.



Orienteering Foundation December 2015

Who we are?

The Orienteering Foundation is a registered charity, independent of British Orienteering. It was set up with money from a bequest from Bertie & Elsie Ward and is now raising further funds and awarding grants. The objectives are to promote the sport of orienteering through enhancement, innovation, and alleviation of hardship.

The Orienteering Foundation is built on your generosity. We welcome all donations, no matter how large or small, and there are many ways you can contribute.

Many grants have been made, for example supporting national teams at the World Schools Championships, regional squads training at home and abroad, and enhancing the Junior Home Internationals. There has been a historical focus on juniors, but we welcome grant applications for any projects that meet our objectives.

There have been some recent changes to the Orienteering Foundation and this article gives you the up to date news.

New web site:

The Orienteering Foundation has substantially revised its website:

www.orienteeringfoundation.org.uk which now includes details of how to donate, how to apply for funding, and reports from funded projects - let us know what you think.

New Orienteering Foundation Chair:

At the Trustees' meeting in September, the Trustees elected Neil Cameron as Chair for the period until early 2018.

Making grant applications:

The process for making grant applications is under review but full details of the current process and an application form can be found on the new web site. We are keen to have new applications by January 2016 so that they can be considered at the next Trustee meeting on 1 February. Deadline dates and the application form are on the website.

Donors:

Thank you to all those who continue to support us, or have recently started a regular donation.

We are of course always happy to receive donations (this can be done directly from the web site if you wish) and to discuss the work of the Foundation with potential new donors (contact the Chair or any other Trustee). Donation methods and sources include:

- Regular monthly or yearly donation
- One-off donation
- A bequest left in your will
- Proceeds from fund-raising activity
- Donation of volunteer expenses: instead of ignoring expenses, claim them and give them to charity (the Orienteering Foundation)

Orienteering Foundation and Contacts

You can contact the Orienteering Foundation by e-mailing:

chair@orienteeringfoundation.org.uk or admin@orienteeringfoundation.org.uk

The Chair can also be contacted phone on 01684 294791.

Following some recent changes and new appointments, the full list of contacts is:

- Neil Cameron: Chair & Trustee chair@orienteeringfoundation.org.uk
- Duncan Archer: Trustee
- Malcolm Duncan: Trustee
- Andrew Evans: Trustee
- Pauline Olivant: Trustee
- Viv Macdonald: Administrator admin@orienteeringfoundation.org.uk

We still have a vacancy for a new Trustee and we are particularly interested in recruiting someone from the North West or Scotland.

For further information on all of the above, and details of recent grant awards and new stories, see the recently updated website: <http://www.orienteeringfoundation.org.uk>.

Coast to Coast Ride August 2015

Paul Graetz (POTOC)

I started cycling again when my lads, Dave and Keith, got into Mountain Bike Racing and quickly followed them. A couple of years later I changed tack to Trailquesting (MBO) as this was nearer to my main sport of orienteering. 10 years ago, by now suffering from a long term nagging Achilles injury, I realised that cycling was excellent for cross training and moved over mainly to road cycling.

Visiting son Dave, a PE Teacher, in Keswick I began to notice signs regularly for the C2C route and wondered what this was, soon finding out that it was a long distance marked cycle route from Cumbria to the North Sea. More specifically it was from Whitehaven to Tynemouth (with a possible variation at each end). After 5-6 years of Summer 'Tour of Britain' Charity Sportive rides - as well as the 100 mile 'Round Lake Taupo' in New Zealand, I began to wonder about trying my hand at the C2C route, or to be more specific the C2C route in 1 day which was said to be possible by a competent and fit club cyclist!

I had worked out a provisional schedule for 2014 but ran out of time to pre-ride the

route which I felt necessary before embarking on my epic.

By August 2015 I had pre-ridden about 120 miles in small portions and driven most of the rest.

Dave, accompanied by his wife Tracey, had agreed to drive after me as back up and 're-fueller' and I 'booked' 4 days at his house which would give me a choice of three days to pick the optimum weather. The ride was to be West to East as that gives assistance of the (usually) prevailing wind.

6.55am on Tuesday 11 August found me dipping my wheel, the traditional start, into the sea at Whitehaven and off I went heading eastwards into the hills on an old railway line. Mist and slight rain looked as if it might clear shortly. Dave met me once before I arrived at his house in Keswick for a brief, liquid breakfast at 9.00am. Coming down Whinlatter Pass on a wet road had been a little worrisome but no problems thus far.

The slow and steady rise up to Penrith proved remarkably easy but just before getting there, at 50 miles in to the ride, my rear gear cable snapped! Was this to be the end? Would I have to restart the next day or call it all off? Dave, however, knew a good

bike shop, Arragon's, in Penrith and I was able to reach there on the 2 gears left to me. Having been pre-warned of my misfortune they provided superb service and I was out of the shop and on my way within 20 minutes.

From here all the way over the Pennines the route follows small country roads except for 2 miles over the Hartside Pass main road but although not looking forward to the climb once on the hill it seemed to be quite easy.

I was cycling slightly faster than my schedule but was having more stops when meeting Dave at villages every 10 miles or so, and I still had the 25 minutes to catch up.

The weather cleared and the following wind over the fells certainly helped speed things along and I even declined to stop in the village of Rookhope fearing for my legs on the final steep climb out of Stanhope. Once up to the top of Stanhope Moor it was onto the reclaimed 'Waskerley Way' railway line and downhill all the way via Consett to the Tyne.

The final 20 miles through Newcastle to Tynemouth was virtually flat but speed was reduced at times because the route shared the quayside with pedestrians and Pubs!

Nevertheless I kept the legs moving and the pedals turning and arrived at the sea at Tynemouth to dip my wheel again at 7.05pm in sunshine.

If the 20 mins in the bike shop is taken off then 137 miles combined with 11,000ft of climbing took me 11 hrs 50 mins beating my schedule of 12 hours and all at the age of 68! All that remained now was to thank Dave and Tracey for supporting, encouraging and keeping me fed and watered and look forward to my Fish and chips on our return to Keswick with the bike stowed safely in the back of the car.

If anyone would like any tips or information about the C2C then do get in touch.

Orienteering is still my main sport but I can recommend cycling as excellent for alternative exercise although I do now find that the circulation in my hands is too poor to allow me to cycle safely in the winter even wearing 2 pairs of gloves.

A video of Paul's exploits can be viewed here:

<http://fromrecoverytobeyond.blogspot.co.uk/>

West Midlands Relays

Further to the article in issue 2015_3, Paul Graetz (POTOC) informed me that he had a copy of a West Midlands Relay competition map that he had made of Rock Coppice that pre-dated the published list of venues. Further research in back copies of the 'West Midlander' revealed that the competition appears to have started in 1979 (if anyone knows any different please let me know). My research is limited to the data available in club and regional newsletters which, at best, can be a little 'patchy' depending on the thoroughness of the editor at the time. Thanks also to Peter Jones (WRE) who sent me a scan of the map of the first event which was held at Penkridge Bank on Cannock Chase.

Venues

1979	Penkridge Bank	WCH	1981	Rock Coppice	HOC
1980	Longdon Wood	HOC	1982	Park Hall	POTOC

WMOA AGM Great Barr Hotel. 12th October 2015

1. **Present:** R. Brandon (Chairman), R. Collins (Vice Chairman), D. Kingsbury (Secretary), B. McGowan (Treasurer), A Johnson (Webmaster), R Postlethwaite (West Midlander), A. Bailey (HOC), B. Elkington (OD), B. Morgan (POTOC), H. Morgan (POTOC), R. Lewis (WRE), T. Lewis (WRE), R. Vickers (HOC), J. Woodall (BOF).
2. **Apologies:** E. Brown (HOC), M. Elkington (OD), A. Williams (Fixtures).
3. **Declarations of Interest:** None.
4. **Minutes:** The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.
5. **Matters Arising:** None.
6. **Correspondence:**

A. Williams had circulated information to club fixtures reps, from Mike Cope, in advance of the National Scheduling meeting on 17 October.

7. **Chairman's Report:**

There has been yet another 12 months of good orienteering in the West Midlands. The League continues to provide a focus, ensuring that thought is given to the Level C events that are put on and going some way to ensuring a level of participation across the region. The club Fixtures Secretaries work very hard to provide an even spread across the region and, where possible, through the year. This is all coordinated by Allan Williams who, at the same time, is also looking out to avoid clashes in our neighbouring regions.

Since the last AGM, we have had two West Midland Championships: in November 2014, put on by Walton Chasers and, more recently, POTOC incorporated the 2015 Championships into their 40th birthday celebrations. Thanks to both Clubs for these events.

Other birthdays were celebrated during the year: Wrekin marked their 40th birthday at their league event on The Wrekin; Octavian Droobers celebrated 50 years with events at Shuckborough in June and a 50 control event later in October on the Warwick University campus.

Harlequins staged the annual Laurie Bradley New Year's Day event at Sandwell Valley which proved a good area for the Score event. There followed, a gathering at Sandwell Farm in the form of an interesting tribute to the life of the late John Bennison. A sample of memorabilia from John's active life was on display, having been put together by Carole Sparke and Ruth Lockley.

The annual Relay Championships held by Wrekin at Nesscliffe Camp were not so well attended this year. Wrekin also recently staged their annual Long 'O' on the Long Mynd, now called the John Bennison Long 'O'.

We have now completed the second year of the new regional Urban League.

The Association recently hosted the Junior Inter-Regional Championships in Staffordshire. Thanks to all who helped put on that weekend.

In about 6 months time the region is holding the British Long and Relay weekend, with each event being staged at Brown Clee Hill. The weekend is being master minded by Eric Brown who told me at Easter that he had now had the Organisers, Planners and Controllers talking to each other - he was happy to leave it to them. I know that there is much more that Eric is getting on with. I had a squint at the draft Relay courses yesterday, so can confirm to Eric that things are indeed well on their way.

Allan Williams had been talking for some time that our turn to put on the 4 day JK Easter weekend was coming up. The year became set as 2018 - but who and where? I was pleasantly surprised when Andy Yeates offered to be the first who - to coordinate the weekend. The where is to be North Wales. Yes, WMOA are invading Wales! It seems that the small Welsh Clubs are only too willing to allow us use of their areas. Andy has a good idea of the venue he wishes to use and possible areas. Assisted by Allan Williams investigation is under way.

Clubs are the soul of the WMOA. During the year Kyla da Cunha from the WYEVENT club, in Herefordshire, has been coming along to the Committee meetings. We have learned of their innovative approach of introducing orienteering to children. Speaking to Kyla recently, they now have older juniors ready to take on more advanced orienteering skills. The Club is looking to the WMOA membership to provide some mentoring for them.

Development: in the Spring OD put on an Event Safety course and Henry Morgan has put on an Organiser's course. Henry has also been point of contact should an event struggle to find a Controller.

Throughout the year, Rod Postlethwaite has been busy on mapping projects, which include the re-mapping of Brown Clee Hill. Meanwhile Rod has kept us informed producing a regular newsletter. A new edition is imminent.

The Junior Squad has been very active this year. There have been a number of juniors who have been selected for tours and national teams (including Poland). We have applications for support and are pleased to encourage these young orienteers. There is a report from Mel Elkington regarding the juniors, later on tonight's agenda.

We welcome Andy Johnson as our new Webmaster. This is a role that has been sadly lacking. Now, in time, improvement can be made to the region's website.

We have held the usual 4 committee meetings at regular intervals through the year. Delia Kingsbury organises these meetings so well, with agenda and thorough minute-taking. Likewise Barry McGowan continues with the good work keeping our account in order.

Behind the scenes Hilary Simpson continues issue the Colour Coded Badge awards, whilst her daughter, Lesley, keeps the League up to date.

Finally, it was pleasing to see 8 from the region at last Saturday's British Orienteering meeting - about 20% of the turnout. The theme, being 'The Future of Orienteering'. The WMOA Committee will no doubt discuss this at a future committee meeting.

8. Treasurers Report

Levies from events had been in line with budgeted expectations and it had been a good year for SinS levy. Donations had been received from POTO and WCH with respect to the 2014 British Sprint and Middle Distance Championships. There were no costs relating to the production of the 'West Midlander' as it is now distributed electronically. A grant of £1000 per annum is given to the Junior Squad to support their training and development; further donations have been made to juniors selected to represent England. The other largest costs incurred relate to running the committee and the contribution to the English Orienteering Council. Overall there had been a surplus of £197 for the year relative to a loss of over £1000 the previous year.

The big event for 2016 is the British Championships. One third of any surplus will go to the region, with about £1500 being retained by WMOA and remaining surplus being divided between the clubs. (This is not an event to which normal levy is applied).

There are no other major events in the region next year and income from standard levies is anticipated to be about £1500. All other costs and expenses are predicted to remain the same and the budgeted position is to break even.

9. **West Midlands Junior Squad Report** - Mel Elkington.

The Junior Inter Regionals in the NWOA took place on the weekend of 27/28 September. The team comprised Aimee Morse, Gemma Cairns Smith, Rhiannon Cope, Heather Craig, Ellie Bales, Stephen Elkington, Nathan Lawson, Harrison McCartney, Will Heaton, Alfie Bullus and Ewan Lloyd. They were very impressive in both their behaviour and the way they tackled some very challenging courses. The courses are at the top end of the range of difficulty for the colour.

Both Iain Embrey and Mel attended the Junior Regional Orienteering Squads AGM on behalf of the West Midlands Junior Squad in Hathersage on the 8 November 2014.

The annual trip to Hawkshead took place on the 28/29/30 November for Matt Hartland, Gemma Cairns Smith, Heather Rogers, Heather Craig, Holly Hughes and Ellie Bales. The coaches were Iain Embrey, Mel Elkington, Matt Elkington and Nathan Lawson. This was yet again an outstanding weekend of training at TD5. Those that attended benefitted hugely.... They trained on Bishops Wood and Holme Fell on the Saturday followed by Dale Park on the Sunday.

The squad currently has three members that are part of the GB Talent Squad - Julie Emmerson, Harrison McCartney and Nathan Lawson.

Harrison McCartney was been selected for EYOC, a pre-JWOC training session in Switzerland and although selected to attend a JROS Summer tour did not attend. Julie Emmerson and Matt Elkington were both been selected for JWOC and gained valuable experience of competing in Norway. Julie was selected and ran at a World Cup race in July. Nathan Lawson was been selected for the GB Talent Squad training week.

Further down the squad no one was selected for Lagganlia or Deeside this year as there were no athletes with any Championship Standards. Matt Hartland did accompany the World Schools England Team - his team were up against some very tough Swedish and French opposition and they did well considering.

Next year Kirsten Strain will take on some of the coaching. If each club will run a training day for the squad this would greatly enhance the squad's training experience.

The squad needs someone to take on the Junior Squad fundraising as JIRCS is in Aberdeen next year and will need approximately £6000 to fund going to the competition. Also, another volunteer to take charge of the Junior squad kit, store it and then ensure every member has an 'O' top.

B. Elkington confirmed that the maximum JIRCS team size would be 24.

10. **Other Reports:** None.

11. Election of Officers:

Position	Nomination	Proposed	Seconded
Chairman	Ray Collins	R. Brandon	B. Morgan
Vice Chairman	Richard Lewis	B. Morgan	H. Morgan
Secretary	Delia Kingsbury	B. Morgan	R. Collins
Treasurer	Barry McGowan	H. Morgan	B. Morgan
Newsletter Editor	Rod Postlethwaite	T. Lewis	R. Collins
Fixtures	Allan Williams	R. Collins	B. Morgan

The above were duly elected 'en bloc'.

12. Discussion Point put forward by D. Kingsbury:

Does WMOA need a more effective way of sharing experiences (successful and not so successful) relating to club development? This was prompted by recent discussions and correspondence from which it is apparent that the issues that hinder club development are not necessarily the same. The purpose of this discussion was to see whether the clubs felt that it would be worthwhile trying to collaborate more, for mutual support. The discussion is summarised below:

The clubs have Clubmark status and so should have a nominated person responsible for Development and have a Development Plan. It was recognised that the issues that came out of the discussion (salient points below) accentuate the gap we have in the absence of a Coaching/ Development Co-ordinator and the lack of a Development Plan at Regional level. WMOA would be pleased to hear from anybody who would be interested in supporting development and coaching at a regional level.

BOF no longer lead the drive for coaching, although they do request that coaches maintain their coaching and development logs.

The success and decline of strong school orienteering clubs was recognised to be linked with teachers who had a keen interest in the sport and organised transport to events. These groups declined in the absence of a leader within the school staff. Parents are less inclined to support their children continuing in the sport when they have to give time and provide transport. Ideally clubs would step in in such situations but it requires a long term volunteer and it is difficult for clubs to find such a person. Experience in some areas has shown that academies are unwilling to provide financial support for a volunteer to assist the school, even for expenses. It is not known whether there are alternative sources of funding could be applied for to support such projects. Orienteering is more difficult as an after school club as there is the need to get the children out to different areas in order to develop their skills. University clubs are also short-lived (apart from Edinburgh and Sheffield) and are dependent upon a student with a strong orienteering background to drive the clubs.

It was reported that orienteering can quite legitimately be promoted as educational in a number of areas when applying for funding e.g. geography and physical activity; however the translation rate from school events to main stream orienteering is practically zero.

OD reported that they have a better response to coaching sessions when participants are asked to pay, relative to when the sessions were free. They even have to turn people away. Perhaps we should perhaps be less focussed about making events as cheap as possible?

Are clubs maximising the use of social media? This seems to be the way to reach youngsters, but it is perhaps difficult for clubs to use these media effectively. It needs some youngsters to contribute here as they know what format is likely to appeal.

Is our product good enough? This was recently discussed at the Club Association Conference. Newcomers turn up, have a run, and then what? LEI are known to always have post-event entertainment/socials.

Possible opportunities for supporting WYE Ventures were put forward. K. da Cunha was not present but it is known that she is seeking support to progress development of the youngsters in the club. Suggestions were:

- a) Combine an activity with a scheduled West Midlands training event - for example WCH have beginners training every other Saturday, leading up to Christmas, on Cannock Chase.
- b) If the youngsters were able to travel then joining up with WMJS training sessions (not necessarily for the same activity) would introduce them to others of similar age and enable them to share experiences and show the route to progression to the WMJS.
- c) Recommended to keep an eye on the fixtures list for local events and contact the organisers to see if coaching support might be available.

Looking at the wider regional issues it was queried whether a closed forum accessible from the WMOA website would be of use? A forum has to be used to be beneficial, so feedback is needed from clubs to indicate whether or not they think they might use such a forum to share experiences and ideas, or to try to marry up needs and availability of coaches, for example, if a Development Plan is being produced. It would also be useful if clubs reviewed their projects with recommendations of how they might have approached projects differently with the benefit of hindsight.

Summary:

There was an overall steer for a greater exchange of information through WMOA meetings in the club round-up section that had been introduced to the agenda this year, to help spread examples of good practice.

The website should be promoted as a place where clubs can record good practice and share their reasons why some things may have been less successful.

The WMOA committee can follow this up and try to identify priorities for the region and then try to find a source of funding/manpower for these requirements.

13. Any Other Business:

A. Bailey observed that, in relation to the West Midlands Urban League, there had been no Prize-Giving following the final event which seemed to be an anti-climax. Whilst hardened orienteers may be accepting of this, those newer to the sport might find it disappointing. The Prize Giving/ Certificate Awarding needed to be clearer at the outset of competitions and Leagues. There should also be clear publication of Championship and League winners.

B. McGowan reported that there had been a presentation after the Redditch Urban event. R. Postlethwaite reminded us that certificates had been specifically designed for the Urban League.

It was agreed that it would be worthwhile WMOA reviewing prize-giving strategies. This will be carried forward for review at the next WMOA meeting. Any feedback via club reps and individuals would be welcome.

14. Next WMOA Meeting: 14 December 2015.

Laurie Bradley Trophy 2016



The Start

The New Year started in traditional fashion with the Laurie Bradley Trophy event held by WRE at Telford Town Park. OD won the trophy for the sixth year in succession but were pushed hard by WRE on their home territory. The Town Park was a fitting venue as it was the site of the first TSB Trophy event way back in 1984.

Team Scores:

OD	4640
WRE	4470
WCH	4150
HOC	3110
POTOC	890
COBOC	220

Leading Scorers:

Adrian Pickles	M55	WRE	280
Simon Webb	M40	WCH	240
Lawrie Jones	M40	WRE	240

Lead Scoring Junior Male:

Felix Lunn	M16	OD	230
Oliver Lunn	M18	OD	230

Lead Scoring Junior Female:

Jessica Parker	W16	WRE	160
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A New Year's Day Tradition

Throughout the years of orienteering in the West Midlands there has been a tradition of holding a Score Event over the Christmas period.

From 1972-81 the event was put on single-handed by the Bradley family (WCH) on Cannock Chase on Boxing Day. After a gap in 1982, OD held the event at Kenilworth in 1983. Later in 1983 WRE were given some sponsorship money by the Trustee Savings Bank and decided to purchase a trophy which would, henceforth be known as the TSB Trophy. At the same time the club were preparing the first orienteering map of Telford Town Park, an area of old industrial sites which had recently been landscaped by the Development Corporation. It was decided that this would make an ideal venue for the New Year's Day Score Event and that the WMOA clubs could compete for the TSB Trophy.

After the passing of Laurie Bradley, it was decided that his contributions to the region should be marked with a permanent trophy. As he had been so involved with the Score Event it seemed the obvious choice to award the Laurie Bradley Trophy to the winning team on New Year's Day.

Venues & Organising Club

TSB Trophy			Laurie Bradley Trophy		
1984	Telford Town Park	WRE	2001	Telford Town Park	WRE
1985	Telford Town Park	WRE	2002	Swynnerton Old Park	POTOC
1986	Sturt	HOC	2003	Brindley Heath	WCH
1987	Brindley Heath	WCH	2004	Sutton Park	OD
1988	Hawkbatch	HOC	2005	Kinver Edge	HOC
1989 *	Sandwell Valley	HOC	2006	Telford Town Park	WRE
1990	Haughmond Hill	WRE	2007	Tittensor Chase	POTOC
1991	Not Held		2008	Cannock Chase	WCH
1992	Swynnerton Old Park	POTOC	2009	Sutton Park	OD
1993	Sutton Park	OD	2010	Rough Wood	HOC
1994	Highgate Common	HOC	2011	Twemlows Big Wood	WRE
1995	Rawnsley Hills	WCH	2012	Bathpool Park	POTOC
1996	Lickey Hills	HOC	2013	Beacon Barracks	WCH
1997	Bringewood	WYE	2014	Kingsbury Water Park	OD
1998	Sutton Park	OD	2015	Sandwell Valley	HOC
1999	Sutton Park	COBOC	2016	Telford Town Park	WRE
2000	The Million	HOC			

* This event was held on 27 December 1988 as WCH were holding a special event on 1 Jan 1989.



CompassSport Cup/ Trophy Draw

Organising Club & Region	Area	Cup	Trophy
BOK (SWOA)	Cannop Ponds	BOK, DEVON, NGOC	QO, SBOC, SWOC
Cup & Trophy: The winning teams qualify for the Final.			
CLARO (YHOA)	Trimble Ings	AIRE, CLOK, EBOR, SYO, WCOC	CLARO, EPOC, HALO, NATO, NN, SROC
Cup: The winning team qualifies for the Final. If SYO win, then the 2nd placed team qualifies for the Final. Trophy: The winning team qualifies for the Final. If SROC or EPOC win, then the 2nd placed team qualifies for the Final.			
DEE (NWOA)	Bickerton Hill	DEE, LOC, MDOC	PFO, SELOC, WRE
Cup: The winning team qualifies for the Final. If LOC win, then the 2nd placed team qualifies for the Final. Trophy: The winning team qualifies for the Final.			
(EAOA)	Venue tbc.	HH, NOR, SAX, WAOC	CHIG, DFOK, HAVOC, LOG, LOK, SOS, SUFFOC
Cup & Trophy: The winning teams qualify for the Final.			
FVO (SOA)	Dumyat	ESOC, FVO, GRAMP, INVOC, MAROC	BASOC, BL, CLYDE, ECKO, ELO, INT, KFO, RR, SOLWAY, TAY
Cup: The winning team qualifies for the Final. If FVO win, then the 2nd placed team qualifies for the Final. Trophy: The 1st, 2nd & 3rd teams qualify for the Final. If INT finish 1st, 2nd or 3rd then the 4th placed team will also qualify for the Final.			
SOC (SCOA)	Hollands Wood	BKO, SLOW, SN, SO, SOC, TVOC, WIM	BADO, GO, KERNO, MV, NWO, SARUM, WSX
Cup & Trophy: The winning teams qualify for the Final.			
WCH (WMOA)	Abraham's Valley	DVO, HOC, LEI, NOC, OD, WCH	COBOC, POTOC, SMOC
Cup & Trophy: The winning teams qualify for the Final.			

Fund Raising for the West Midlands Junior Orienteering Squad

Visit: www.easyfundraising.org.uk

If you make any purchases online please consider using easyfundraising.org.uk. Every time you make a purchase from a registered retailer, they will make a donation to the Junior Squad at no extra cost to yourself.

Search for **West Midlands Junior Orienteering Squad** from the Support a Good Cause menu and register for an account.

Then each time you shop online, first go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk From here you visit the retailer's website and shop as normal.

There are nearly 3,000 retailers taking part, including:

Apple	Booking.com	British Airways	Debenhams
Ebay	John Lewis	M&S	Next
Tesco Direct	Trainline	Travelodge	Waterstones

Next year the JIRCS are being held in Aberdeen - we'd love to go but it is a long way and will need extra funds. Please use www.easyfundraising.org.uk - it doesn't cost you a penny.

Thank you,

Tracy Craig (WMJS Fundraiser)

Organiser Level C and Welfare and Safety Course

Date:	Sunday 31 January 2016.
Organiser Level C Course:	09.00 - 12.00
Welfare and Safety Course:	13.15 - 16.15
Venue:	John O'Leary Centre, Marquis Drive, Cannock Chase.
Contact:	Henry Morgan (POTOC)

No charge for WMOA members.

Vacancy for Controller's Co-Ordinator

Henry Morgan (POTOC) is the current holder of the position and has been for a number of years. Henry wishes to stand down from the position at the next AGM or before if a replacement is found. If you would like to apply for the position please contact either Henry, Ray Collins (Chairman) or Delia Kingsbury (Secretary) for further details.

West Midlands Urban League



2016 Events

Date	Event Venue	Club
2 May	Tamworth	WCH
15 May	Whitchurch	WRE
3 July	Leek	POTOC
9 October	Tbc	OD
22 October	Great Malvern	HOC

Erratum:

There was a late change in the results of the 2015 League, after the publication of the last issue of this newsletter, resulting in the fact that the Ultra Veteran Men's winner was Steve Nightingale (HOC) and not Martin Gibbons (WRE).

The third year of the West Midlands Urban League begins at Tamworth on the Monday of the British Long and Relay Championship Weekend. Chasers are hoping that the event will encourage participants at the championships to stay on for the Bank Holiday Monday and take part.

WRE are staging the next event on a brand new map of Whitchurch in North Shropshire followed by the first POTOC Urban event. Later in the year HOC are returning to Great Malvern which is also part of the UK Urban League. It promises to be quite an exciting competition.

Full results and tables can be found on the Urban Leagues website at:

<http://www.oxfordfusion.com/ukul/index.cfm?&Org=8>



UK Orienteering League 2015

Congratulations to Alison Sloman (HOC) who was the joint overall winner of the 2015 UK Orienteering League with 500 points. Congratulations also to Anne Straube (OD) who was close behind in 4th place with 498 points. Both Alison and Anne were winners in their age groups (W75 and W40 respectively).

In the team competition OD finished a creditable fourth with 5681 points behind clear winners BOK on 6386 points. With so much strength in depth OD had a 'B' team which finished 26th overall with 3285 points. Other WMOA placings were: 30. HOC (2746); 32. WCH (2712); 39. WRE (2454); 53. POTOC (1988) and 97. COBOC (305).

The West Midlands League 2015 Final Positions

1. OD 7435			2. WRE 6948			3. HOC 6660		
A	Peter Markham	M12 500	A	Jamie Grimsdale	M18 448	A	Alexander Mitchell	M14 494
A	Felix Lunn	M14 500	A	Molly Parker	W14 276	A	Arthur Mitchell	M10 491
B	Alistair Powell	M35 498	B	Clive Richardson	M45 496	B	Ian Hopkins	M45 461
B	Chris McCartney	M45 483	B	Tony Callow	M45 475	B	Robert Rose	M35 397
C	David Leadley	M50 500	C	Adrian Pickles	M55 500	C	John Leeson	M55 464
C	Barry Elkington	M55 482	C	Richard Pay	M50 491	C	Andrew White	M55 402
D	Lesley Ross	W45 500	D	Sharron Richardson	W40 500	D	Marian White	W55 449
D	Liz Phillips	W50 500	D	Diane Jacks	W45 500	D	Susan Howarth	W55 334
E	Peter Carey	M70 500	E	Roy Lindsell	M70 499	E	Alison Sloman	W75 500
E	Roger Hailey	M75 500	E	Derek Turner	M75 490	E	Geoff Trewin	M60 487
F	Sam Leadley	M16 500	F	Lawrence Jones	M60 484	F	John Pearson	M65 465
F	Florence Lunn	W12 500	F	Brian Morris	M70 456	F	Barry Houghton	M65 457
F	Sheila Carey	W65 500	F	Delia Kingsbury	W50 449	F	Sebastian Mitchell	M12 427
F	Hilary Simpson	W75 487	F	Andrew Clough	M55 445	F	Paul Basher	M60 418
F	Oliver Flippance	M14 485	F	Helen Corrin	W35 439	F	Catherine Bailey	W12 414
4. WCH 6640			5. PTOC 5212			6. COBOC 2008		
A	Holly Hughes	W16 494	A	Ellie Bales	W16 299	B	Ian Gamlen	M45 455
A	Holly Stodgell	W12 465	A	Alexander Evans	M12 258	B	Emils Vainovskis	M20 175
B	Simon Webb	M40 444	B	Martin Pigott	M40 478	C	Dave Ellis	M55 63
B	Mark Stodgell	M40 340	B	Graham Pigott	M21 457	D	Yvonne Feasey	W50 238
C	Andrew Yeates	M55 425	C	Gerry Riley	M55 339	E	David Arnot	M65 367
C	Mike Musters	M50 404	C	Peter Munn	M55 148	E	Ruth Lockley	W60 363
D	Claire Bushnell	W50 459	D	Ianka Petrova-Evans	W45 290	F	Richard Burnett	M60 209
D	Mary Adams	W55 443	D	Elizabeth Bales	W50 263	F	Mick Sadler	M65 138
E	Ray Collins	M60 500	E	Paul Graetz	M65 500			
E	Hazel Waters	W60 500	E	Marian Denham	W65 489			
F	Jonathan Howell	M60 453	F	Henry Morgan	M60 423			
F	Holly Craig	W14 450	F	Robert Holdway	M21 383			
F	Carol Dredge	W55 442	F	Rob Moody	M21 343			
F	Christine Collins	W55 417	F	Barbara Farr	W70 300			
F	Henry Webb	M14 404	F	Dave Bales	M60 242			

2015 Events

Jan 11	Hartshill Hayes	OD	Jun 21	Brockhampton	HOC
Feb 7	Longdon Wood	HOC	Oct 4	Whitfield Valley	POTOC
Feb 8	The Wrekin	WRE	Oct 25	Oldacre Valley	WCH
Mar 8	Highgate Common	HOC	Nov 1	High Vinnals	WRE
Mar 29	Shugborough	WCH	Dec 6	Brandon Woods	OD
Jun 7	Shuckburgh Hall	OD	Dec 13	Badgerslade	WCH

Individual Class Winners

M10	Arthur Mitchell	HOC	491	W10	Tilly Flippance	OD	201
M12	Peter Markham	OD	500	W12	Florence Lunn	OD	496
M14	Felix Lunn	OD	500	W14	Holly Craig	WCH	450
M16	Sam Leadley	OD	500	W16	Holly Hughes	WCH	260
M18	Stephen Elkington	OD	459	W18	Heather Rogers Gemma Cairns-Smith	OD WCH	80
M20	Kin Kwan Kok	OD	356	W20	Harriet Lawson	OD	100
M21	Graham Pigott	POTOC	422	W21	Kirsten Strain	OD	241
M35	Alistair Powell	OD	498	W35	Helen Corrin	WRE	401
M40	Simon Webb	WCH	437	W40	Sharron Richardson	WRE	500
M45	Clive Richardson	WRE	487	W45	Diane Jacks Lesley Ross	WRE OD	500
M50	David Leadley	OD	489	W50	Liz Phillips	OD	500
M55	Adrian Pickles	WRE	500	W55	Carol Dredge	WCH	442
M60	Ray Collins	WCH	500	W60	Hazel Waters	WCH	500
M65	Robert Brandon	OD	479	W65	Sheila Carey	OD	500
M70	Peter Carey	OD	500	W70	Sue Bicknell	OD	340
M75	Roger Hailey	OD	500	W75	Alison Sloman	HOC	500
M80	Norman Hall	WCH	200	W80			

2016 Events

Jan 10	Lickey Hills	COBOC	Apr 17	Mansty Woods	WCH
Jan 24	Hartshill Hayes	OD	Oct 2	Shoal Hill	WCH
Feb 7	Chasewater	WCH	Oct 23	Castlemorton Common	HOC
Feb 14	Longdon	HOC	Oct 30	Gentleshaw Common	WCH
Feb 21	Lizard Hill	WRE	Nov 6	The Ercall	WRE
Apr 10	Shuckburgh Hall	OD	Dec 4	Dymmok Woods	HOC

WMOA Fixtures

January to May 2016

Please note all Fixtures are correct at the time of publishing. Please check club websites for further details.

2016

January

24	OD Level C	OD Event & WMOA League 2 Hartshill Hayes	Nuneaton	SP469735
27	COBOC Level D	COBOC Night Street Event Sutton Coldfield	Sutton Coldfield	
28	HOC Level D	HOC Winter Evening Event (WEE) Worcester Woods	Worcester	SO878542

February

4	HOC Level D	HOC Night Street League Redditch	Redditch	
6	OD Level D	OD Local Event Daventry Country Park	Daventry	SP575641
6	HOC Level D	HOC Western Night League (WNL) Frith Wood	Ledbury	SO715395
7	WCH Level C	WCH Event & WMOA League 3 Chasewater	Brownhills	SK037087
11	HOC Level D	HOC Winter Evening Event (WEE) Haberley Valley	Kidderminster	SO802774
13	POTOC Level D	POTOC Leisure and Training Event Apedale Country Park	Newcastle Under Lyme	
14	HOC Level C	HOC Event & WMOA League 4 Longdon	Bewdley	SO755781
20	OD Level C	OD Local Night Event Rough Close	Coventry	SP264780
21	WRE Level C	WRE Event & WMOA League 5 Lizard Hill	Shifnal	SJ779094
24	COBOC Level D	COBOC Night Sevens Sutton Coldfield	Sutton Coldfield	
25	HOC Level D	HOC Night Street League Stourbridge	Stourbridge	SO905829

March

3	HOC Level D	HOC Winter Evening Event (WEE) Kinver Edge	Kinver	SO836826
5	POTOC Level D	POTOC Leisure and Training Event Consall Scout Camp	Leek	SJ979473
10	HOC Level D	HOC Night Street League Birmingham City & Aston University	Birmingham	
12	OD Level D	OD Local Event Memorial Park	Coventry	SP322772
12	WRE Level D	WRE Local Event Shawbury Heath	Shrewsbury	SJ544197
13	WCH Level B	CompassSport Cup Heat Abraham's Valley	Rugeley	SJ993210
17	HOC Level D	HOC Night Street League Worcester Central	Worcester	
17	POTOC Level D	Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent School Championships Central Forest Park	Stoke-on-Trent	
19	HOC Level D	HOC Western Night League (WNL) Eastnor Park	Ledbury	SO730360
30	COBOC Level D	COBOC Twilight Sevens Sutton Coldfield	Sutton Coldfield	

April

10	OD Level C	OD Event & WMOA League 6 Shuckburgh Park	Daventry	SP497618
17	WCH Level C	WCH Event & WMOA League 7 Mansty Woods	Cannock	SJ946114
23	POTOC Level D	POTOC Summer Park League 1 Central Forest Park	Stoke-on-Trent	
24	WRE Level C	WMOA Sprint Championships Madeley Court	Telford	SJ696048
30	WMOA Level A	British Long Distance Championships Brown Clee	Bridgnorth	

May

1	WMOA Level A	British Relay Championships Brown Clee	Bridgnorth	
2	WCH Level C	WCH Event & WMOA Urban League 1 Tamworth	Tamworth	SK208033