

Minutes of WMOA Committee Meeting 8th June 2026 at 7-30 pm

via Zoom

Present: Richard Lewis, Ian Gamlen, Carol Dredge, John Leeson, Martin Piggott, Tom Lewis, James Thomas, Adam Bushnell, Rod Postlethwaite, Barry Elkington, Karen Thompson,

1. Apologies: Marian White, Mel Elkington

2. Declaration of Interest: None

3. Acceptance of Previous Minutes: Minutes of 9th March 2026 accepted

4. Matters Arising: None

5. Correspondence: a) Notice of EOC AGM from BOF. RL attended meeting on April 20th. Minutes of meeting on EOC Webpage.

b) Hosting of WMOA website. Richard Rogers to manage system.

c) Andy Yeates – requesting embargoed areas for British 2028. CD replied not yet finalised.

6. Chairman's Report –RL

Welcome and firstly thank you all for attending this evening. We have a very full agenda and I may remove some items to be discussed at a later date before the next meeting.

On a sad note I have to report the passing of one of Wrekin's founder members, Dave Gittus MBE, a very influential member to Orienteering. Dave competed at the highest levels in foot and Trail O and was rewarded for his mapping skills with the MBE. Dave was always willing to give advice and help whenever possible. I remember in my early planning days I asked him to check my courses. Not only did he arm chair check, he accompanied me around and pointed out something I never forgot which was that on TD3 and above always try and give 3 alternative routes to the next control.

Dave's funeral is at Telford Crematorium on 24th June at 1-30pm.

On a positive note I would like to pass on the Chair's and WMOA's thanks to Ian and Alistair, and the teams from HOC and OD along with others, for organising both the British Middles and Midlands Champs. Well done.

Whilst on thanks I would like to again thank Mike Farrington for his many years of service to WMOA with the administration and caretaking of the WMOA web/IT system. Mike has been hiding in the shadows but always available when called upon. Thanks Mike.

I'm also pleased to report that Richard Rogers WRE is going to take over this role following Mike's retirement. Welcome back Richard.

Finally can all clubs, reminded by club reps, be aware that we have the WMOA AGM coming up on October 12th, when primarily we will need a new chairman.

RL welcomed Karen Thompson to the committee as WMJS representative.

7. a) Treasurer's Report –IG

WMOA account is in a healthy position. IG pointed out that this year we are anticipating a deficit as budgeting didn't allow for booking of accommodation for JIRC'S at Beaudesert in 2027. £1,000 also needs to be paid over to WMJS as annual grant.

WMJS- a detailed income and expenditure spreadsheet was circulated, thanks to Dave Aldridge HOC. It was suggested that this was shown twice yearly. Also suggested that individual events WMJS involved in could be shown separately – particularly JHI and JIRC's.

WMOA account- £10,125 WMJS account - £3,649. £1,000 to be donated to WMJS from WMOA account.

b) Projects for spending WMOA funds

Club reps to email chair, secretary and treasurer with ideas prior to the next meeting.

8. a) Fixtures

Prior to the Fixtures Report RL explained that Andy Yeates had contacted WMOA on 3rd June about potential hosting of JK in 2028 on Cannock Chase. This is subject to areas being found and permissions being granted and WMOA agreement to take on the event. BOC 2028, currently scheduled for WMOA, would be held in another region.

After discussion of potential areas/ problems it was agreed that club reps would discuss with clubs and report back to RL and CD by Friday 12th June whether their club would support hosting JK 2028 in West Midlands.

Fixtures Report – June 2026

West Midlands League

So, the WML events have now made way, focus will now shift onto the WMUL. The WML events will be picked up again in October. Several of the rounds for 2027 have now been put into place with the 1st half of 2027 looking balanced.

2026

5	05/10/2026	Sun	WRE	Wrockwardine Wood
6	08/11/2026	Sun	OD	Pooley Country Park
7	29/11/2026	Sun	HOC	Clent Hills
8	13/12/2026	Sun	WCH	Hednesford Camp

2027

1	24/01/2027	Sun	WCH	TBC
2	21/02/2027	Sun	OD	Sutton Park
3	07/03/2027	Sun	HOC	TBC

4 or 5	TBC	TBC	WRE	TBC (YBT Round)
4 or 5	11/04/2027	Sun	OD	Bentley Woods
6	16/05/2027	Sun	POTOC	Morridge
TBC	05/12/2027	Sun	OD	Brandon Woods

West Midlands Urban League

No changes since the last report but the WMUL calendar will be starting shortly in Worcester which is supporting the NGOC event in Gloucester on the Sunday. We will be starting to put together the 2027 calendar over the next few months.

Rd.	Date	Day	Hosting Club	Location
1	13/06/2026	Sat	HOC	Worcester
2	12/07/2026	Sun	OD (LEI)	Hinckley
3	18/07/2026	Sat	WRE	Randlay & Malinslee
4	19/07/2026	Sun	WRE	Woodside
5	13/09/2026	Sun	WCH	Lichfield

Other West Midlands Commitments

Since my last update we've had the successful YBT round at Whitfield Valley.

I have however had commitments slip regarding the WM Schools and WM Relays which alternative clubs/dates/venues will be required. The future of the WM Relays needs to be discussed at the next meeting.

For 2027, commitments have been distributed to the relevant clubs and dates/venues with the WM Relays yet to be determined.

2026

Date	Event	Hosting Club	Venue
29/03/2026	YBT R1	POTOC	Whitfield Valley
16/05/2026	WM Schools	OD	Coombe Abbey
07/06/2026	WM Relays	WRE	Telford Town Park
13/12/2026	WM Champs	WCH	Hednesford Camp

2027

Date	Event	Hosting Club	Venue
01/01/2027	Laurie Bradley	POTOC	TBC
07/02/2027	CSC Rd. 1	HOC	Croft Castle
11/04/2027	WM Champs	OD	Bentley Woods
TBC	WM Relays	TBC	TBC
TBC	YBT Rd. 1	WRE	TBC
TBC	WM Schools	WCH	TBC

National commitments

JIRC's in 2027, Beaudesert will be the venue for accommodation.

For the JIRC's it has been agreed in principle that WCH will host the individual (venue TBC) and that OD will be running the relays in Sutton Park, but this needs finalising.

The situation for the British Champs and British Relay Champs in 2028 has not changed and I need clubs to provide suggestions on the matter urgently. It needs to be discussed in detail at the next Committee meeting.

b) Future of WMOA Relays

Bruce Bryant OD had suggested simpler format. These ideas to be discussed in clubs and feedback for next meeting from club reps.

c) JIRC's 2027

Accommodation booked at Beaudesert. Ian G- coordinator for the weekend. Organisers and Planners needed for both days.

Suggested Sutton Park for Individual- if so OD will provide both planner and organiser. OD have an event planned for February 2027 in Sutton Park but could use a different part of the area. Embargoes needed for JIRC's areas.

KT- suggested that an open event could be held in the morning prior to the individual event.

Relays- Gentleshaw Common? May need resurveying and mapping- at whose expense? JIRC's?

AB to report back to RL and CD after Chasers meeting early next week. Feasibility of using Gentleshaw or suggest other Chasers areas that could be used for relays.

9. WMOA website update.

Richard Rogers working with Mike F. to migrate the WMOA site using the same hosting arrangement as Wrekin site.

b) WMOA newsletter and publicity

Possible volunteer for this role from WCH. AB to follow up on this.

10. Development

Henry Morgan is running an Organisers Course at Sutton Park on Saturday 3rd October. Details on WMOA website. RL to send flyer to club reps to send out to club members.

Mapping Course- John Leeson has found someone willing to run a three day mapping course for WMOA members. Prior to this participants would need to have completed 30 hours guided work on their own. This course would be for individuals wishing to draw new maps, not just updating old ones. Ideally they would have an area lined up to map afterwards. HOC have a number of

people interested in this. Club reps to take this back to clubs. Names of members interested in joining this to RL and CD by the end of June.

If not enough interest from WMOA could potentially be opened to EMOA.

JL left the meeting due to another commitment..

11. Coaching Coordinator

It was agreed to carry this over to the next meeting due to pressure of time.

12. West Midlands Junior Squad –KT

First of all, we would like to share our thanks and appreciation to Kirsten for leading and developing the squad over a number of years. We had a lovely sunny last training day in May on Burton Dassett where we said our goodbyes and thank yous. It'll be a hard act to follow but we have had several parents coming forward to offer help in several roles which we are very grateful for.

Isla Foffa is also leaving us at the end of June, as they are moving to Sweden, but thankfully managed to complete the Coaching Qualification in time, using the Burton Dassett day as the Practical examined part of the course.

Since March's meeting, we have had three training days: Eymore Wood (HOC) in March, Bentley Woods (OD) in April and Burton Dassett Hills (OD) in May. We also put on a cake sale at the POTOC YBT heat (Whitfield Valley) and the British Middle Champs

Our next & last training before the summer break is Sunday 21st June at Warwick Uni – with EMJOS. We have also continued with monthly Zoom trainings – our last one will be Monday 22nd June focussed on preparation for the British Sprints.

Going forwards into the Autumn, we are planning to organise what we can support with the volunteers available. Iain Stamp (WCH) and Alex Hudson (HOC) have offered to be joint coaches (with some training needs pending) and we will organise training around their availability.

Our plan is to support JIRCS (September) and JROS Lakes/Hawkshead (November) and then run a WM training in October, December. We are also looking at participating in the O Foundation day in the Forest of Dean late November with the plan to make it a squad weekend.

For Zoom sessions, for the moment we will focus on the major events with pre-race geeking sessions with a view to get the MW18s involved in preparation/delivery of these sessions

We want to thank WM clubs for their support with the in-person trainings, especially sharing their map files and arranging permissions for us. Going forwards into 2027, in the Spring, we would like to explore the possibility to combine with one/more WM Clubs for a combined adult & junior training day. This would be mutually beneficial from a permissions/organisation point of view, and we can also share courses & map printing costs.

Recruitment, we are pausing recruitment until we can make sure we can run a viable programme. However if clubs have juniors 12yrs or older or running a good Orange that they wish to nominate please let the squad know.

Other Junior news

Interland (March 2026) Sam Hudson (HOC), Olivia Stamp (WCH) and Eden Piggott (POTOC)

British Middle Champs: 1st W12 Georgina Hudson (HOC), 2nd W16 Eden Piggott (POTOC), Joint 1st M16 Seb Blackmore (HOC), (4th Fraser Stamp (WCH), 3rd fastest time),

Midlands Champs: W12 1st Georgina Hudson (HOC), 3rd Annie Lewis (WRE), W14 3rd Pippa Blackmore (HOC), W18 2nd Olivia Stamp (WCH), M14 1st Sam Hudson (HOC), 2nd Andrew Tang (OD), M16 3rd Fraser Stamp (WCH), M18 1st Craig Thompson (HOC), 2nd Jonah Hearn (WCH), 3rd Adam Landells (OD)

JROS Summer Camps: Lagganlia -Sam Hudson (HOC), Deeside-Seb Blackmore (HOC), Czechia-Fraser Stamp (WCH), Eden Piggott (POTOC), Stockholm - Adam Landells (OD), Craig Thompson (HOC), Jonah Hearn (WCH)

IOF Young leaders academy: Olivia Stamp (WCH) – Northern Italy (5 days Italy)

EYOC (Slovenia) – Adam Landells (NZ)

13. AGM

WMOA AGM will be held on Monday 12th October at 7-30pm by Zoom. All roles will be up for election and a new chair is needed. CD to send formal notice out to club reps- please ensure these are circulated to all club members.

13. Club Round-Up

OD- BE

Saturday morning events continuing – mixture of MapRuns and SI events. Some medals won at JK by OD members.

POTOC- MP

Yvette Baker round held at Whitfield Valley- HOC qualified for the final.

Next events- June 20th- Florence Park. July 2nd – Biddulph Grange.

Eden Pigott and Rob Holdway both represented England at Interland. Eden selected for JHI's in Scotland in October.

WCH – AB

2 x 2 relays at Shooting Butts was a good evening with entries from other clubs.

Summer series for members finishes next week.

Strong Junior performances at JK, Fraser Stamp 2nd in M16, and British Middles. Fraser Stamp and Jonah Hearn selected for JROS tours and Olivia Stamp for Young Leaders Academy in Italy.

HOC- IG

Summer series open events continue on a Thursday – mixture of MapRun and SI events.

Worcester urban this Saturday.

WRE- RP

Founder member Dave Gittus is a great loss to the club and region.

Andrew Weaver organising Summer series of MapRun events.

Sprint event held at Shrewsbury Sports Village.

Twin Urban events 18th /19th July –Telford- complex estates – need controllers for these. Wrockwardine Wood needs controller.

14. Any Other Business

IG- WMOA rep on Orienteering Foundation – 2 coaching days- Lakes and Forest of Dean

Open to bids for funding – eg Club Development Officers. Guidance on volunteers – recruit and retain.

Foundation needs a new Chair.

15. Date of Next Meeting- Monday 14th September by ZOOM.

Meeting finished at 9-30pm.

Thanks to Barry Elkington for coordinating Zoom Meeting.