

WMOA AGM Great Barr Hotel. 10th October 2016

1. Present: : R Collins (Chair), B McGowan (Treasurer), B Elkington (OD), H Morgan (POTOC), A Johnson (Webmaster), D Kingsbury (Secretary), A Bailey (HOC), A Williams (Fixtures); R Brandon (OD), J Howells (WCH), T Craig (WCH), C White (HOC) A White (HOC), K da Cunha (WyeVentures).

2. Apologies: M Elkington (WMJS), R Lewis (Vice chairman), R Postlethwaite (West Midlander); M Garside (WCH), G Hardy (WRE), K Strain (WMJS); D Jacks (WRE) and B Morgan (POTOC).

3. Declarations of interest: None

4. Minutes: The minutes of the 2015 AGM were proposed as a true record by A Johnson seconded by H Morgan, and accepted.

5. Matters Arising. None

6. Correspondence.

D Kingsbury had two communications from BOF which had been circulated to clubs, but those present were reminded of:

a) The forthcoming Club and Association conference and BOF EGM being held in Birmingham on 29th October.

b) As of 1st January 2017, all event officials must have attended an event safety and welfare workshop. In addition risk assessments must be prominently displayed along with First Aid information and the location of the nearest A&E/ walk-in facility, in case of injury.

7. Chairman's report – Ray Collins

This, fortunately, has been a very quiet year as your Chairman. No scandal, no controversy and events that were due to take place usually occurred on time. The committee have been united and meetings have run smoothly and efficiently.

Thanks to HOC and OD, superbly led by Eric and Lesley Brown, the region held a very successful British Championship weekend in early May. A week or two before the event I looked across from Cannock Chase and all I could see was white as it was covered in snow: luckily on the weekend we had good weather and all went well.

As usual OD has dominated in the region winning the Laurie Bradley, the 2015 League and several relays at last weeks' event. The rest of us need to unite in one large club to try to beat them. Two juniors, both OD, ran at JWOC in the summer and did themselves and the region proud. Congratulations to Julie and Harrison. One junior, Nathan Lawson represented GB at JEC. Four juniors made it onto BOF summer tours and three others (Ellie Bales, Harrison and Felix Lunn) ran for England in the Junior Home Internationals, yesterday. Well done all of you. Can you spot the only non OD in my list?

The BOF EGM is taking place soon. Alas, I cannot attend but I hope that the region has a good turn- out of members putting forward their position. One item that needs addressing is how we as clubs, as an association and as a governing body can increase our membership. Several clubs in the region are now very "top heavy" with older members and I fear for the future of orienteering unless there is a huge turnaround and younger people are recruited into the sport we all love. If you have the magic answer please share it with us.

Finally, I would like to thank the officers of the region: Richard, Barry M, Allan and Delia: Rod for the West Midlander, Henry for his work as the Controllers controller, Lesley for do the sums scoring the league and Andy for reinvigorating the web site, for their hard work this past year.

8. Treasurers Report – Barry McGowan

B McGowan presented the Income and Expenditure Account. The closing balance for the year was £1262. There had been a loss of £726 over the year, relative to the budgeted break-even position. The main reason was that income from BOC 2016 had been less than budgeted and the income from levy was slightly lower than had been predicted.

Expenditure on the juniors had been as planned with the £1k standard allowance and a further £550 in donations to individuals to support their selections and training camps.

Income for 2016/2017 is predicted to be higher as it is a SINS year. In addition there is a proposal to increase the WMOA event levy to generate more income starting from January 2017. Expenditure was predicted to remain the same. Overall B McGowan anticipated a surplus of £700.

He expressed his reservations about JK2018 which, by his evaluation, could cost in the order of £100k, with a worst case scenario of a £30k loss for a late event cancellation. He would like to have seen a partnership agreement with BOF and was dissatisfied with the requirement for the BOF super levy to be paid regardless of whether the event made a profit or loss. He cited the risk to senior event officials and WMOA as the reasons for his stepping down from the role of treasurer.

A Johnson queried whether or not WMOA and event officials might be personally liable in a worst case scenario. B McGowan stated that BOF were offering a £10k loan although he would not be keen to take this on.

B McGowan explained that the motion for debate in relation to the proposed levy increase differed from the motion that had been circulated. This was because he had carried out further analysis and was seeking to keep levies on small events to a minimum.

Proposal:

As of January 1st 2017 the WMOA levies for all events would be as follows:

Juniors free

First 20 seniors are free

Next 80 people are 50p per head

All additional competitors are £1 per head

M White asked what impact the motion would have on income. B McGowan explained that this would yield £2200 as per the budget; the calculation were 'general rule of thumb'.

The Proposal circulated with the agenda prior to the meeting was defeated.

The new motion, as above, was formally put to the meeting and accepted by a majority, with zero against.

9. Fixtures – Allan Williams

A Williams reported that a wet early part of the year had caused disruption to events including the relays hosted by WCH. A good set of league events had been put on by the clubs, with more to come. There had also been a full set of urban events, with one event from each club.

A National Scheduling event was planned for the forthcoming weekend. A Williams encouraged WMOA clubs to put on events that would be suitable for the UK orienteering league. This usually required twinned events on the Saturday and Sunday. OD had a

weekend of events included in this league for 2017. Clubs will need to plan some way in advance for this.

10. West Midlands Junior Squad – Mel Elkington & Kirsten Strain; presented by T Craig.

AGM REPORT September 2015-August 2016

Junior Inter-Regionals took place in the West Midlands . The parents of the squad supplied a lot of the help on the day with Walton Chasers and Droobers supplied officials and planners. Both Iain Embrey and Kirsten attended the Junior Regional Orienteering Squads AGM on behalf of the West Midlands Junior Squad in York in November 2015.

The annual trip to Hawkshead took place with only Ellie Bales, Iain Embrey and Kirsten attending. This was yet again an outstanding weekend of training at TD5. Ellie benefited hugely from the personal training.

The squad currently has three members that are part of the GB Talent Squad – Julie Emmerson, Harrison McCartney and Nathan Lawson. All three have been selected for various GB & England teams over the year.

Further down the squad four were selected for Lagganlia – Oliver Flippance, Felix Lunn, Oliver Lunn, Alex Mitchell. During the year Oliver Lunn and Alex Mitchell made their debut running for England at Interland.

The squad has trained on several occasions with other squads which has worked well during the year and enabled them to train on different types of terrain.

Tracy Craig has kindly taken on the fundraising and Kimberley Lunn the squad kit.

11. Election of Officers

Position	Nomination	Proposed	Seconded
Chair	Ray Collins	R Brandon	B Elkington
Vice Chair	Richard Lewis	A Johnson	D Kingsbury
Secretary	Delia Kingsbury	A Williams	A Johnson
Treasurer			
Magazine Editor	Rod Postlethwaite	B Elkington	A Johnson
Fixtures	Allan Williams	H Morgan	A Bailey

The above were duly elected 'en bloc' .

The position of treasurer remains vacant – a volunteer is to be sought through the West Midlander.

B McGowan volunteered to maintain the books for a couple of months.

12. Discussion point : Age Classes for WMOA urban league. A Williams.

A document was circulated illustrating the large increase in distance that under and over 16's encounter on urban courses. This would go from an under 16 having courses typically around 2-3 km, increasing to 7-8km for the men on the open course. This is really an issue of insurance rules not allowing youngsters to compete on roads and therefore confining them to short park courses, thus they are kept on artificially short courses relative to their capability. It was explained that if the region wished to have a youth class for M/W 18 & 20 this could be assigned to a shorter course e.g. M/W 40, which is one step from the open course.

There was no intention to change the age class boundaries, these will remain the same and thus compatible with other UK urban leagues.

This would still enable an urban event to be run with 5 or 6 courses on offer. Two short courses are needed, one for the M/W 12 which is usually a yellow standard; the other for the ultravets who want a short technical course.

Whilst there were only a few M/W 18 & 20 competitors, it was noted that some were finishing in the top ten of the open courses. It was acknowledged that some competitors of this age would not be physically capable of finishing the open course – and that might be particularly applicable to newcomers, who would also want to be competitive. This proposed change would support their needs too.

Thus the proposal was to align the M/W 18 & 20 with a course length one below the open for the West Midlands urban league. Those who were physically able would have the option of running up a class.

The meeting was in agreement with this and this should be adopted for the 2017 urban league.

A Johnson requested A Williams to supply the information and rules for the WMOA league for addition to the WMOA website.

13. Any other Business

R Collins sought a volunteer to take over as controller co-ordinator as he Morgan was stepping down from this role. H Morgan explained that generally clubs are finding their own controllers but he steps in to assist in finding one if there are difficulties.

There was a discussion about the WMOA relays. The mass start format was favoured, giving a competition feel to the event. The need for gaffling was queried given the low numbers of teams entering, but generally it was felt that it should be kept. B Elkington recommended Condes software for aligning planning, course gaffling and printing – it does all the work and makes it easy to ensure each runner gets the right map.

As secretary of Military League Central A Johnson thanked the clubs and runners for supporting this league and also expressed his thanks to the clubs for their future offers of support. Forthcoming events would be advertised on the BAOC website.

K da Cunha gave an update explaining that Wye Ventures were a club of none orienteers developing their knowledge and skills and anticipate that it will take three years to build the club. They are receiving lots of local enquiries. They are looking for areas to use and map, with the initial aim of developing runners to orange and light green standard.

Kyla reported that they have a good relationship with the owners of Queenswood and are starting to think that a bigger event there might be possible. The main objections have come from wardens and bird watchers.

All were reminded of the Bury Ditches event on 6th November.

R Collins wished the clubs competing at the Compass Sport Cup and Trophy final a good competition.

14. Next WMOA meeting 12/12/16