

WMOA AGM Great Barr Hotel. 16th October 2017

1. Present: : R Collins (Chair), B McGowan (COBOC), B Elkington (OD), H Morgan (POTOC), B Morgan (POTOC), A Johnson (Webmaster), D Kingsbury (Secretary), A Williams (Fixtures), J Howells (WCH), M White (HOC) A White (HOC), R Postlethwaite (West Midlander), R Lewis (Vice chairman), R Vickers (HOC), A Yeates (WCH); I Gamlen (Treasurer), J Cooke (POTOC)

2. Apologies: M Elkington (WMJS), K Strain (WMJS)

3. Declarations of interest: None

4. Minutes: There was one correction. C White listed in those present should read M White. There were no other amendments. The minutes of the 2016 AGM were proposed as a true record by H Morgan, seconded by R Lewis, and accepted.

5. Matters Arising. None

6. Correspondence: None that related to AGM business

7. Chairman's report – Ray Collins

A big thank to the committee for all their hard work over the past year and into the future. OD dominated most championships and events in the region. Well done to them – again. The forthcoming JK2018 will be based around Stafford and lead by Andy Yeates, I hope all WM members will give him their full support. Entries are now open on SI and so far there are 26 entries.

WM Champions over the last year

BOC Sprints: Barry Elkington, Bob Dredge, Sheila Carey and Alison Sloman

BOC Middle: Anne Straube, Lesley Ross and Alison Sloman

BOC Long: Hilary Simpson and Alison Sloman

JK Sprint: Sheila Carey and Alison Sloman

JK Relay: Odd Ones; Mike Hampton/ Sheila Carey/ Barry Elkington Mixed 201+

Successful juniors JWOC Selection: Harrison McCartney and Nathan Lawson

Congratulations also to the Midland and WMOA Champions who are too numerous to name.

Mike Hamilton is now approaching retirement and this will be the end of an era for BOF. I wish him well and good fortune in the years to come.

Barry Elkington thanked Ray Collins for his efforts as chair of WMOA.

8. Treasurers Report – Ian Gamlen

Thank you to everyone who has supported me in my first year as West Midlands Orienteering Association Treasurer, particularly Barry McGowan, my predecessor in this role for over 10 years who enabled a smooth transition.

12 months ago there were concerns about the state of the WMOA finances. The income from the BOC held in 2016 was less than had been anticipated and there were significant concerns regarding the financial arrangements regarding the JK 2018 due to take place in West Midlands. Thankfully these now seem to have been resolved and there are now satisfactory financial arrangements in place between BOF and the JK organising committee.

In order to address the 2015-16 financial deficit it was agreed at last year's AGM (2016) that the West Midlands event levies would be increased from 1/1/2017 as follows:

Juniors - free

First-20 Senior competitors free

Next 80 Senior competitors - 50p per competitor

All additional competitors are £1 per competitor

The increased event levies and a number of successful events such as SINS 2017 and the OD WOW event have helped to improve the overall WMOA financial position, resulting in a surplus of £1,466.23 at year end (31/8/2017) for the WMOA and a surplus of £1,428.52 for the WMJS.

For further details of the income and expenditure and the financial position at year ending 31/8/2017 please see attached statement. These accounts have been audited by Brian Laycock, a former HOC Treasurer who has confirmed that they are a true and accurate record.

I have updated the WMOA bank accounts so that we now have 2 separate internet based bank accounts for the WMOA and WMJS and I have delegated responsibility for managing the West Midlands Junior Squad finances to Mel Elkington our WMJS Rep. I am grateful to Mel for agreeing to take this on. I hope that these changes will make the WMOA/WMJS finances clearer to all concerned.

Going forward, given the healthier state of the WMOA finances and the anticipated income from the JK2018 I have suggested that we maintain the WM event levies at the current level for the next financial year.

H Morgan proposed a vote of thanks to Brian Laycock for auditing the accounts.

B McGowan asked if the budget prepared by him the previous year had been retained – it was confirmed that there had been no change. It was noted that income was close to that predicted. It is hoped that there would be a surplus in the coming year if the JK is the success that is hoped for. Andy Yeates clarified that any profit share would be a percentage rather than a fixed sum basis. It was confirmed that for JK finance there is a partnership agreement in place with BOF, who are underwriting the event.

The Compass Sport Cup Final will be hosted in 2018, but the latter half of the year, so a different financial year for WMOA.

Motion1: It is proposed that WMOA event levies for the forthcoming year remain unchanged.

Proposed by I Gamlen. Seconded by R Collins. Carried.

9. Fixtures – Allan Williams

The last 12 months have seen another full programme of events in the West Midlands. All the clubs have continued to provide events for the leagues and championships. Our Urban league is now firmly established and providing challenges in some areas new to orienteering. OD put on a very successful weekend of events in Warwickshire and Spring time in Shropshire attracted runners from across the country to HOC's and Wrekin's events. This shows that it is worthwhile putting on big events to attract people from outside the region. It can also help their success if they are added early to the national fixtures list and included in the UK league. Next year's JK is looking on track and should give us 4 days of challenging competition.

Due to personal circumstances I have taken a break from the role and I appreciate the help given by the committee and fixtures secretaries to support the meetings this Autumn. I hope to resume the role in the new year.

Ray Collins thanked A Williams for his work over the last year.

JK Update – Andy Yeates

There are regular meetings with Dan Riley representing BOF. The organising team are currently working on the detail getting everything in place. On the Saturday, WMJS will be organising an evening event and meal - the profits of this will pass to WMJS.

The web site is up and running with 26 entries to date. An advert has been placed for the December edition of Compass Sport. Merchandising is being developed and Andy presented a first draft design for a top.

In response to questions it was confirmed that the reserve sprint area was Birmingham university. It was confirmed that permissions were in place for this venue and other areas. The first closing date for the lowest prices is 17/12/17. It was noted that SI entries are being used and that perhaps they could be used to advertise the event directly to orienteers who have an account with SI entries.

SINS 2019 update – Marion White

The Sunday event will also incorporate The Midland Championship and this will be held on Brown Clee. The Monday event will be middle distance on the Wrekin and the Saturday event is not yet decided.

10. West Midlands Junior Squad - June 2017 to September 2017 - written report from Mel Elkington & Kirsten Strain

Saturday 3rd September 2016 saw the WMJS training on Hartshill Country Park with the East Midlands and South Central Juniors. Many thanks to all involved in land access/permissions, planning the coaching, etc.

On the weekend of the 26th /27th September the Junior Inter Regional Championships took place in Aberdeen. The team flew up on the Saturday and back on the Sunday. Coaches were booked by the organiser for transporting the teams for the weekend.

The final team was as follows:

M18	(Brown)	Harrison McCartney
M16	(Blue)	Alfie Bullus, Sam Leadley, Ewan Lloyd, Alex Mitchell
M14	(Light Green)	Felix Lunn, Oliver Lunn, Oliver Flippance, Alfie Spencer
W18	(Blue)	Heather Rogers, Heather Craig, Holly Hughes
W16	(Green)	Ellie Bales, Megan Colclough
W14	(Light Green)	Holly Craig, Pippa Smart, Holly Stodgell.

Accompanying them were Kirsten Strain, Tracy Craig and Gareth Lloyd.

We were delighted by the result as the team was 4th.

In October, Felix Lunn (OD) and Ellie Bales (POTOC) made their orienteering debut for England at the Junior Home Internationals. Harrison McCartney was also selected.

Kirsten Strain & Iain Embrey attended the Junior Regional Orienteering Squads AGM on behalf of the West Midlands Junior Squad in Hathersage on the 19th November.

The annual trip to Hawkshead took place on the 2nd /3rd /4th December 2017 for Ellie Bales, Alex Mitchell, Ollie Flippance Felix Lunn and Ollie Lunn. The M14 boys all had championship standard and as there were spaces were able to go. The coaches were Iain Embrey, Kirsten Strain, Mel Elkington, with extra help from Julie Emmerson & Peter Bray. This was yet again an outstanding weekend of training at TD5.

In January 12th of the squad trained on Birchen Edge, near Baslow). Coaching led by Kirsten and the EMOA & YHOA squads joined us. She was helped by parents and ex squad member Nathan Lawson.

The 18th February saw a return to Hartshill Hayes and six members of the squad trained with the East Mids Juniors. Kirsten was again assisted by parents. On the same weekend SHUOC held a training sprint weekend for over 16 year olds which Ellie Bales attended and had great fun as well as improving her sprint tactics.

On the 11th March 11 members of the squad went to Burton Dassett to practice reading the contours there.

The next session was held April 1st on the Lickey Hills. Ten members took part helped out by parents.

This year's Summer selections were:

GBR selections Will Gardner, Nathan Lawson, Harrison McCartney

Junior Regional Orienteering Squad Tours:-

Stockholm – Ellie Bales

Deeside – Felix Lunn, Oliver Lunn

Congratulations to them all.

Fundraising has been organised by Tracy Craig. Thank you to all who supplied cakes, helped with the stall and those who bought them. Other fundraising has gone well with £81.91 from Easyfundraising.

Please support the squad by using Easyfundraising if you can.

We have also opened our own Bank Account which has made life for us far easier.

Thank you to everyone who supports the squad in all sorts of ways.

Mel, Kirsten and all those who help to run the WMJS were thanked for their hard work.

ACTION

[R Postlethwaite to include details about Easyfundraising in the West Midlander](#)

11. Election of Officers

Position	Nomination	Proposed	Seconded
Chair	Ray Collins	B Elkington	R Vickers
Vice Chair	Richard Lewis	A Johnson	A Williams
Secretary	Delia Kingsbury	B Morgan	I Gamlen
Treasurer	Ian Gamlen	H Morgan	R Postlethwaite
Magazine Editor	Rod Postlethwaite	R Collins	M White
Fixtures	Allan Williams	D Kingsbury	A White

The above were duly elected 'en bloc' .

12. Updates to constitution

Motion 2: WMOA committee recommends that the following clauses are adopted into its constitution

- The West Midlands Orienteering Association agrees to adopt the up to date British Orienteering Policies, Procedures, Rules and Regulations as published on the British Orienteering website.
- All individuals involved in orienteering through The West Midlands Orienteering Association, in any capacity, are deemed to have assented to and abide by and adhere to the British Orienteering Policies, Procedures, Rules and Regulations as published on the British Orienteering website.
- Both the West Midlands Orienteering Association and its members agree to abide by the final outcome of any disciplinary and appeal proceedings.

Proposed by R Collins. Seconded by A White. Carried.

Motion 3: WMOA committee recommends that further amendments to update the constitution are accepted. These include:

- Amending references from BOF to British Orienteering
- Clarifying senior and junior ages
- Updating reference to payments to allow for internet banking
- Updating the reference to WMOA levy (final paragraph)

There was also significant discussion about how to define a member of WMOA in the absence of a membership fee and how to address this in the constitution. A form of wording was agreed (see revised constitution). The requirement to state the membership fee (or absences of a fee) at each AGM to have traceability is included in the constitution. Similarly there is a requirement for each AGM to record any decisions to leave event levy the same, or to reflect any agreed changes.

Proposed by D Kingsbury. Seconded by R Collins. Carried.

13. Any other Business

H Morgan expressed his concern about planners and organisers not having been on courses and questioned the purpose of running courses if those who hadn't been on one were then allowed to be officials at WMOA league events. He also noted instances of league events where the controller was not external to the organising club.

An explanation was given by representatives from a recent event where officials had not been on courses.

The issue of late request to find controllers was also raised again and clubs were asked to ensure they approach controllers in good time. The lack of controllers coming through was also commented upon again – a reflection of the demographics of the sport.

It was commented that the requirement for an external controller is not included in the WMOA Rules on the website, despite this having been raised a number of times through the WMOA committee meetings over the last few years.

ACTIONS

WMOA event rules to be updated to include the requirements that controllers for league events shall be external to the organising club. D Kingsbury

The controllers list is to be updated. D Kingsbury

Clubs to be reminded of the need to get controllers in place early on in the event planning and organisation – they can be from a neighbouring region. Clubs.

B McGowan proposed a realignment of courses and age classes for WMOA events. He had carried out an analysis of Age classes and BOF courses aligned with those ages vs those used by WMOA for league and championship events. There were several differences noted where the colour of the course to be run was one lower than the BOF colour class. Barry proposed that WMOA aligned their classes and course colours with BOF's.

B Elkington, who had drawn up both the National and WMOA matrices explained that the difference was due to National events being for top orienteers and WMOA events for average orienteers who did not want to do the longer courses. It was accepted that a small minority of runners do want the longer courses and do 'run up', but for the majority the lesser distances were more to their abilities and enjoyment.

In discussion there was no appetite for change. However, it was accepted that those present could not represent the views of others and wider consideration of the proposal is needed.

ACTION: Clubs to consider Barry McGowan's proposal more widely amongst members to inform a discussion at the next ordinary meeting.

A Johnson thanked all the clubs for their support for the military league during the past year.

A. Williams. In response to a query about Wye Ventures and areas they used confirmed that Wye Ventures had not taken over the WYE maps. They were all believed to be pre OCAD and there had been no change in ownership.

14. Next WMOA meeting 11/12/17