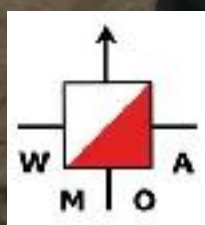


# *The West Midlander*

**Winter 2017**



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

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Secretary	Delia Kingsbury (WRE)	<a href="mailto:secretary@wmoa.org.uk">secretary@wmoa.org.uk</a>
Treasurer	Ian Gamlen (COBOC)	<a href="mailto:treasurer@wmoa.org.uk">treasurer@wmoa.org.uk</a>
Fixtures Secretary/Rep.	Allan Williams (WCH)	<a href="mailto:fixtures@wmoa.org.uk">fixtures@wmoa.org.uk</a>
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### Club Representatives

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WRE	<Vacant>	<a href="mailto:wrerep@wmoa.org.uk">wrerep@wmoa.org.uk</a>
WYEVENT	Kyla Da Cunha	<a href="mailto:wyeventuresrep@wmoa.org.uk">wyeventuresrep@wmoa.org.uk</a>
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Website: <http://www.wmoa.org.uk>

Cover Photo: Alistair Powell (Club Captain) and Felix Lunn (Best Junior) of OD with the Laurie Bradley Trophy at Bathpool Park. Photo by Karin Kirk (OD).

## Editorial

A Happy 2017 to everyone and welcome to a bumper 32 page edition. Thanks to everyone who has contributed with articles this time - please keep sending them in.

2017 got off to a somewhat damp start at Bathpool Park when POTOOC hosted the Laurie Bradley Trophy on New Year's Day. OD, once again, triumphed - who can stop them? The 2017 League has also got underway with two events at Postensplain and Brandon Woods with OD, again, storming into the lead closely followed by HOC.

The West Midlands CompassSport Cup/Trophy heat is being held by POTOOC at Park Hall on 12 March (full draw on page 26). Interestingly, WCH are competing for the first time in the Trophy.

Another exciting weekend of orienteering is in prospect in March when OD host the 'Warwickshire Orienteering Weekend'. The weekend consists of two high profile events - an Urban at Rugby on the Saturday and the Midland Championships at the perennial favourite, Bentley Wood.

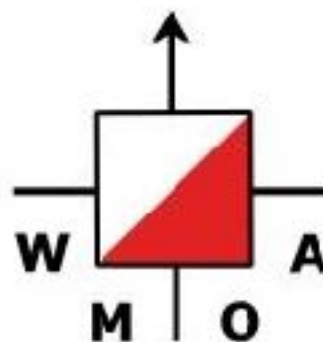
Since I took over the editorship of this newsletter it has always been produced in electronic format to reduce costs to the region. I have been asked though about the best way to print it. You can, of course, print it straight in A4 format but there is a way to print it in A5 format:

- In the Print window, from the Page Scaling drop-down box, choose Booklet Printing.
- From the Booklet Subset drop-down box, a) choose Both Sides if you have a double sided printer, or b) choose, say, Front side only, then, after returning Front sides to printer, taking care with order and direction of pages, repeat for reverse side only.

Happy Orienteering

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Rod

Copy date for the next issue: 1 May 2017

## WMOA Chairman's Waffle

Ray Collins



*Chairman Ray*

*Photo by Richard Lewis (WRE)*

Welcome to 2017 and a Happy New Year to you all. It only seems a short while ago that 2016 arrived and now it has gone. Time really does seem to pass faster as I get older. Have you made a New-Year Resolution? If you did I hope that you keep it up. One resolution we should all make is to attend more orienteering events in 2017 than we did in 2016. One reason for this resolution is that numbers at events are slowly but steadily falling so dust off your 'O' kit, find your compass and get out there and take part in the best sport ever devised.

Looking ahead I have recently entered Christine and myself for the **BIG** events of the year (BOCs - day and night, JK and Scottish

Six Day) and I got very little change out of £500! Perhaps we need to rethink closing dates for 'cheaper' entries and not make them straight after Christmas. I am now looking for an event abroad to go to as part of a holiday. The Pyrenees after the Scottish Six Days is looking favourite but if you have a suggestion let me know. Good luck to any West Midlanders who are going to the World Masters in New Zealand in April.

Congratulations to OD on winning the WMOA League in 2016 and also for retaining the Laurie Bradley Score Event Trophy at Bathpool Park, Kidsgrove.

One big change in 2017 is that all event officials must have attended an Event Safety Course. If you need to attend one but have not yet done so Walton Chasers are holding a course on Wednesday 25 January at Brocton Village Hall. I realise this will be very short notice but if you would like to come let me know ASAP so that enough materials can be prepared at the address below:

[chairman@wmoa.org.uk](mailto:chairman@wmoa.org.uk)

One event that does seem a long way off is JK 2018 but with Easter at the end of March it is only 14 months away. The plan is to have an event with little travelling, unlike the last few years, with Cannock Chase being the event centre and all events within a few miles of each other. Most of the main roles are now filled but there are still a few positions that need a leader. If you have the time or the skills to fill a role please let the Event Co-ordinator, Andy Yeates, know ASAP. Of course, the weather will be lovely and we will all be happy to be out in the spring sunshine.

Hoping to see more of you in a forest soon,

Ray Collins

## Minutes of WMOA Committee Meeting 12 December 2016 Great Barr Hotel

1. **Present:** R. Collins, K. da Cunha, R. Dredge, B. Elkington, I. Gamlen, J. Heaton, D. Jacks, A. Johnson D. Kingsbury, R. Lewis, R. Postlethwaite, M. White, A. Williams, A. Yeates.
2. **Apologies:** M. Elkington, H. Morgan, K. Strain.
3. **Acceptance of Minutes:** The minutes of the September 2016 meeting were accepted as a true record.

E. Brown had commented on the minutes from the AGM. The Chairman's Report had recognised the effort expended by Eric and Lesley Brown in organising BOC 2016. Eric wished to extend this acknowledgement to the event officials and volunteers for the whole weekend.

He also pointed out in relation to the Treasurer's Report that the budgeted contribution of £1500 from BOC 2016 had been in the WMOA Treasurer's Budget, but not in the budget for BOC 2016.

4. **Matters Arising:** None.

### 5. Correspondence:

Mike's 'e' News - forwarded to clubs and WMOA committee.

Query from Ian Gamlen about the WMOA Constitution - a copy had been provided.

From A. Callow (WRE) - some thoughts about the WMOA League - these had been circulated to WMOA Committee for clubs and individuals to consider the suggestions made.

From Lesley Ross (OD) -contrary to the information from the previous meeting she was unable to amend the software to enable the number of scoring events for the WMOA League to be changed in line with that agreed at the previous meeting.

Communication from Simon Thompson (HOC) and Ernie Williams (LEI) - confirming Simon as a Controller for one of the days at JK 2018.

Correspondence relating to BOC 2016 finances.

Communication about WMOA fixtures - minutes of meeting.

### 6. Chairman's Report:

Di Jacks was welcomed to the meeting, representing WRE as Graham Hardy has retired from orienteering and from being WRE's WMOA rep.

Thanks were extended to HOC for the recent West Midlands Championships event at Dymock Forest, especially as this had led to Ray winning his age class (!). OD were congratulated for their performance over the year that had led to them winning the West Midlands League, closely followed by WRE.

### 7. Treasurer Nomination:

Following the position of Treasurer not being filled at the AGM, Ian Gamlen (COBOC) had volunteered to take on this role. He was nominated for the position by R. Collins and seconded by B. Elkington. Those present voted in favour of co-opting Ian onto the committee.

### 8. Treasurers Report:

I. Gamlen circulated a copy of the accounts as of 16/11/16 and the current position was close to budget. Monies in relation to BOC 2016 (~£700) had been received from BOF.

A. Johnson asked whether there was any merit in building a contingency fund. I. Gamlen responded that spending over the last few years had been static with a £3500 turnover and that this determined the budget. For clarity he requested that the new event levy be displayed

on the WMOA website. M. White observed that in the WMOA the reserves were generally held at club level rather than regional level. Longer standing committee members recalled that several years ago the region had held reserves of the order of £7000, although this money had been dormant, hence the reserves had been reduced. Recent events perhaps indicated that the funds held needed to be somewhere between the two.

R. Dredge added that it was a useful approach to know what the money was needed for to drive a financial strategy. In those regions that held reserves the money was actively used to support mapping initiatives, development of officials and juniors, etc.

K. da Cunha observed that it would be welcome to have funds available to support development, although the region has neither a development strategy nor a development officer. Similarly, money was held in trust by the extinct WYE club for development in Herefordshire but seemingly could not be released to Wye Ventures and so support development of orienteering in Herefordshire. Wye Ventures need support to develop skills in young people to enable them to map areas and run events and voiced her frustration of the lack of recognition from BOF because of her alternative approach to development. She volunteered to give a presentation about the plans for Wye Ventures at the next meeting.

R. Postlethwaite suggested canvassing opinion on the need for a regional development day.

## **9. Fixtures:**

There had been a WMOA fixtures meeting at the beginning of November. The events for the WM League had been selected and also for the Urban League - two of which are UKOL listed. WCH have confirmed the date of the Heath Hayes Urban as 04/06/17.

The new WMOA Urban League classes are now in use, this information needs to be added to the WMOA website.

M. White added that the UK Urban League had a new age class of Hyper-Veteran and this needs to be mapped onto the local Urban League structure.

R. Collins requested clarification about expected winning times and how they were determined.

### **a) Laurie Bradley Trophy:**

The scoring system currently in place was discussed. The team captain has the onerous job of distributing runners amongst the classes. This was considered to be outdated and R. Collins reported that most clubs would do well to field 25 runners, let alone 25 who were all in the correct age class. He sought to change to a scoring system that would include the best 25 scores from each club, or all finishers if there were less than 25 competitors from a club. It was agreed to trial this proposal for the 2017 event and to review the change after the event. It was agreed that the criteria for awarding the Junior trophies would remain the same.

J. Heaton agreed to notify the Organiser of the 2017 event of these changes.

### **b) West Midlands League:**

Whilst it had been thought that the software that is used to calculate the points for the West Midlands League could be adapted to accommodate the new scoring system, agreed at the last meeting i.e.  $(n/2) + 1$  (rounded down), it transpired that this is not the case. Those present were asked to see whether any club members had the skills to review Microsoft Access database programmes - the software used for the League calculations. M. White commented that this may be an opportunity to fully review future requirements for the programme and the League.

c) **JK 2018** (A. Yeates and R. Dredge):

The main areas for the event have been finalised, including defined OOB areas on Cannock Chase following extensive discussions with the Forestry Commission. It is still planned to hold three races on Cannock Chase. The use of MOD Stafford for the Sprint is still to be finalised and there is optimism that permission will be granted.

It emerged that reserve areas for all of the competition days are also required. WRE have offered areas to cover this, although a Sprint area needs to be identified and this needs to be non-military. J. Heaton clarified that Keele University is still not an option. Possibilities are Birmingham University and A. Williams was considering areas although they were not traffic free.

There are still some gaps in identifying event officials and assistants for the main events/areas. Clubs were asked to identify the required officials as soon as possible. The assistant to these officials would need to be capable of taking on the main role if need be, but the expectation is that they wouldn't have to. Similarly officials are needed for the reserve areas and the development of the reserve events needs to be at a similar state of readiness as the nominated events so that if there are unforeseen last minute difficulties the areas can be switched. The need to prepare for the reserve events will leave the Region with a set of high quality events ready to put on and with up to date maps.

The invitation to tender for mapping the main areas has been issued and a further tender will be issued for the reserve WRE areas.

Advertising postcards for JK 2018 will be issued and distributed from JK2017 onwards.

The hope that the events would have World Ranking Event status is still being pursued and has the support of the Controllers.

Financial considerations: R. Dredge gave an update including responses to some questions that had been posed by I. Gamlen in advance of the meeting. A communication had been received from Mike Hamilton which had not been fully evaluated, given that it had been received that day, and was being considered by the JK Co-ordinator and Treasurer to evaluate which options were most favourable to WMOA. The Committee will be advised at their next meeting by which time it is anticipated that they will have met with BOF and fully discussed the options available.

The options recently received from BOF will be considered, with A. Yeates mindful of the positive support received from BOF when organising the BOC 2014 Middle Distance event.

R. Dredge re-iterated that he was still confident that WMOA could take on the event with the associated risk, now having had access to the 2016 financial position and the projected budget for JK2017. These confirmed the earlier view that costs were very consistent from year to year. The budget is set to break even at 2500 entries, with fees reflecting the mix of Junior and Senior runners, (entries for 2014 and 2015 were around 3000). The projected cashflow has been reviewed again and the only expenditure required before monies from entries start to be received will be for mapping - this is where the financial risks lie.

I. Gamlen was concerned about the fixed income (£22000) required by BOF, regardless of the size of the entry and wished to explore an option of 2.5 x standard levy per run up to a maximum of £22000. R. Dredge explained that the position of 2.5 x levy had been negotiated to this low level. Whilst the concerns raised were acknowledged, R. Dredge stated that after consideration the fixed sum was the preferred option as it was easier to model and capped the sum that would be paid to BOF. An agreement with BOF has not yet been signed for JK2018,

but no changes are anticipated relative to what has been presented. R Dredge declared that he felt any further negotiations with BOF would need to be conducted by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party as he had reached the point where he felt that further negotiation by him would lead to a conflict of interest.

I. Gamlen also queried the extent of BOF support that could be expected by the organising committee, especially given that the Major Events Manager was away on maternity leave. It was explained that, with the fixed payment to BOF, WMOA was entitled to a small amount of Major Event Manager (MEM) support. If additional support from the MEM was required, this would need to be covered by the JK 2018 budget. It is hoped that Sally Pygott will have returned from maternity leave by Easter 2017 and that she will be able to promote publicity for the event. K. da Cunha believed she could offer a volunteer to assist with marketing.

A. Williams reminded the meeting that those who travel to events abroad represent a good opportunity to distribute information and market the event more widely.

#### **10. West Midlander:**

The next edition will be produced in January - articles are always welcome.

The club reps were confirmed, the only change is that Di Jacks will represent WRE until a new rep to replace G. Hardy is found.

#### **11. Website:**

A. Johnson reported that he is starting to look at re-design and formatting. The number of Twitter followers has grown to 61. Event rule changes need to be updated to the website. A copy of WMOA Constitution will be provide for the website via R. Postlethwaite and D. Kingsbury.

#### **12. Development:**

R. Brandon had enquired to see whether a Controller's course was in the offing. If not, he was prepared to run one in March.

D. Kingsbury to respond to R. Brandon and accept his offer to put on such a course.

K. da Cunha reminded the meeting that World Orienteering Day would be held on 24 May 2017. She commended the supporting resources that have been produced and are available from the World Orienteering Day website and from the BOF website. For those who have connections with schools, they would probably appreciate help to stage activities.

R. Postlethwaite to advertise World Orienteering Day in the West Midlander.

**Event Safety Course:** The view was that there would still be more people who needed to attend this course. I. Gamlen had asked H. Morgan for a course. M. White suggested that clubs could share dates if there were spaces and they were organising a course. WCH and COBOC are taking this approach.

**Club and Association Conference Feedback:** A. Williams reported that some ideas for increasing participation were generated around club nights. Some clubs had succeeded by basing themselves in leisure centres. There had also been discussions around costs of orienteering and his own view was that some people didn't appreciate how cheap orienteering was relative to some sports - if we charged a little more could we offer more?

**13. Events and Competitions Committee:** no update.

**14. West Midlands Junior Squad:** September 2016 - December 2016.

Kirsten Strain & Iain Embrey attended the Junior Regional Orienteering Squads' AGM on behalf of the West Midlands Junior Squad in Hathersage on the 19 November 2016. The



Summer tours have now been announced and details can be found on the Junior Regional Squad website: [www.jros.org.uk](http://www.jros.org.uk).

The annual trip to Hawkshead took place on 2/3/4 December for Ellie Bales, Alex Mitchell, Ollie Flippance, Felix Lunn and Ollie Lunn. 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.

It has been suggested that WMJS opens its own bank account. Mel is quite happy to action this but may require a constitution change. Both Kimberley Lunn & Kerrie Flippance have agreed to be additional signatories on a Lloyds Bank account.

I. Gamlen explained the proposal to separate WMOA and WMJS bank accounts as this would provide clarity and transparency.

### 15. Club Round up:

**COBOC:** I. Gamlen reported that he had enjoyed assisting at the British School Championships and congratulated M. Elkington on a superb event. COBOC had recently attracted a couple of new members.

**POTOC:** will host the CompassSport Cup/Trophy round in 2017 and, hence, were unable to contribute an event to the WM League, although they may manage an Urban event. J. Heaton sought feedback about Xplorer - his experience was that clubs were not informed about such events going on around them. Others commented that Xplorer activity updates can be found on the BOF website and that it was something that clubs could tap into.

**WYE VENTURES:** their focus is on developing a strong Junior programme and they are looking forward to fun training in 2017.

**HOC:** SinS year which is taking resources and they are trying to increase attendance at events in general.

**OD:** using ideas from Xplorer by rewarding youngsters for finding milestone numbers of controls with a stamp/sticker incentive system. Juniors are also encouraged to join Kenilworth Running Club as a training night. They are now better runners and winning cross-country races too! The Kenilworth School U14 Boys have qualified for the World Schools Orienteering Championships in Sicily.

**WRE:** Club Championships were to be held the following week, a Night event is planned for 21 January and a League event in February, with work on SinS and JK ongoing.

**WCH:** have an event on Badgerslade soon.

### 16.AOB:

R. Dredge had been asked to be the BOF link with WMOA. He reported that 'O-safe' had recently been revised and there are some mandatory elements. This will be issued shortly and he implored all clubs to implement 'O-safe'. It will need to be incorporated into constitutions and it protects coaches and adults as well as youngsters.

R. Postlethwaite decided not to run non-competitively at BOC 2016, having produced the map, and, instead, walked around the area with a video camera and has produced a video of the event on DVD.

The contribution of the outgoing Treasurer, Barry McGowan, was recognised and a card of thanks was sent to him.

### 17.Next Meetings:

Dates for 2017 were set as 13 March, 12 June, 11 Sept, 16 Oct (AGM) and 11 Dec.

## WMOA AGM Great Barr Hotel. 10 October 2016

1. **Present:** R. Collins (Chair), D. Kingsbury (Secretary), B. McGowan (Treasurer), A. Johnson (Webmaster), A. Williams (Fixtures); A. Bailey (HOC), R. Brandon (OD), T. Craig (WCH), K. da Cunha (WyeVentures) B. Elkington (OD), J. Howells (WCH), H. Morgan (POTOC), A. White (HOC), M. White (HOC).
2. **Apologies:** M. Elkington (WMJS), R. Lewis (Vice chairman), R Postlethwaite (West Midlander), K. Strain (WMJS); M. Garside (WCH), G. Hardy (WRE), 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 29 October.
  - b) As of 1 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 Trophy, 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 McCartney 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 Ross for doing

the sums and scoring the League and Andy for reinvigorating the website, for their hard work this past year.

#### 8. **Treasurer's 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 £1000 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 £100000, with a worst case scenario of a £30000 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 £10000 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 1 January 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 calculations were a '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.**

The Junior Inter-Regionals took place in the West Midlands. The parents of the Squad supplied a lot of the help on the day with WCH and OD supplying officials and planners.

Both Iain Embrey and Kirsten attended the Junior Regional Orienteering Squads' AGM on behalf of the West Midlands Junior Squad at 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 level. 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 both 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
Chairman	Ray Collins	R. Brandon	B. Elkington
Vice Chairman	Richard Lewis	A. Johnson	D. Kingsbury
Secretary	Delia Kingsbury	A. Williams	A. Johnson
Treasurer			
Newsletter 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 16s 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. They are thus kept on artificially short courses relative to their capability. It

was explained that if the region wished to have a youth class for M/W18 & 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 which will remain the same and thus be 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/W12 which is usually a Yellow standard; the other for the Ultra Veterans who want a short technical course.

Whilst there were only a few M/W18 & 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/W18 & 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 Urban League for addition to the WMOA website.

### 13. Any Other Business:

R. Collins sought a volunteer to take over as Controllers Co-ordinator as Henry 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 using 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 non-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 6 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.

Shhhhhh!

## TOP SECRET ORIENTEERING

You may not be aware that the BOF website does not hold details of every orienteering event occurring across the country. This is because a number of events occur each week organised by several military leagues which usually take place each Wednesday around the middle of the day and to which civilian orienteers are normally invited.

In the Midlands, the Military League Central (MLC) organises events around the East and West Midlands but the league area actually spans from West Wales to East Anglia. There are also military leagues in the North, South and Scotland.

Because there are only a few military training areas in the central Midlands areas, the league has approached local clubs to support and/or facilitate military orienteering events in the region in the past year.

Since September 2015, with the support of local civilian clubs, orienteers, both military and civilian have competed as follows:

Watermead	LEI	Hartlebury	HOC	Kingsbury	OD
Leek		Hardwick Hall	DVO	Bramcote	OD
RAF Cranwell	LOG	Swynnerton		Clent	HOC
Burbage	LEI				

This was a significant increase of previous years' events and was not possible without clubs' support, who kindly allowed the military to run on their mapped areas or delivered complete events.



The manner in which events were delivered differed, ranging from some clubs offering up maps to plan and organise including liaison with landowners down to clubs delivering an event completely over which the necessary military permissions wrapper was placed.

This has meant that clubs have supported events in a manner with which they have been most comfortable, with participation increasing for military personnel and some clubs even seeing event attendances higher than weekend level D events.

Looking forward to the 2016/17 season, the events calendar is growing with events scheduled or pencilled in for Newark, Wyre Forest, Peak District, Tern Hill, Haywood Warren, Whitfield Valley and Hednesford.

Military orienteering events must follow the rules and regulations of the Army Orienteering Association which are hosted on the website of the British Army Orienteering Club (BAOC) and all event details are published on their website at [www.baoc.info](http://www.baoc.info). Any special requirements for civilians attending events, such as pre-notification and/or ID will normally be included in the event flyer and organiser contact details are included if you have any questions. Military leagues are separate to BAOAC.

Details of military orienteering courses held in Longmoor, the home of Army Orienteering are also published and available on the website:

Because orienteering is classed as military training rather than sport, in order for the military to orienteer on civilian areas, permission must be formally requested at least six weeks before an event to Train On Public Land (TOPL) and landowner, Commanding Officer and Brigade level approval is necessary before any event can take place

As military events are not BOF registered, entry fees cover civilian insurance, with military participants covered under MOD insurance. Similarly, where civilians orienteer on military land, a levy must also be paid to the land owner (DIO) and up to a six month lead time may be required for booking. Planning is essential early on to ensure the correct permissions are in place to allow us all to run. Entry fees are often much lower than civilian events.

Most league events provide Brown, Blue, Light Green and Long Orange courses, where the area allows, and can often be combined into Corps Championships, e.g. for the Royal Artillery or Royal Logistics Corps. All runners' and teams' scores are collated (including civilians) and prizes are often awarded at the end of the season for individuals and units. Major military championships often piggy back into major civilian events, for example, the Midlands Championships earlier this year, and in November the Quantock Weekend of Orienteering.



The level of military orienteering is the same as in civilian clubs, ranging from very skilled to those just starting. Just because soldiers are fit does not necessarily mean that they can navigate efficiently across technical terrain - some mature civilians derive much pleasure in arriving at control sites before the young runner who overtook them 15 minutes before!



Many local orienteers attend military events and it is hoped that many more might consider participating in the future. Whilst this might appeal to those who may have free time in the middle of the week, events often take place during school holidays which might offer some an additional 'O'-fix.

Andy Johnson

Secretary - Military League Central

Vice Chair - Harlequins OC

### Laurie Bradley Trophy 2017 - Bathpool Park (POTOC)



*Ready for the start*

**Team Scores:**

OD	6020
HOC	2760
WRE	2660
WCH	2570
POTOC	2290
COBOC	330

**Leading Scorers:**

Martin Pigott	M40	POTOC	280
Alistair Powell	M35	OD	340
Kirsten Strain	W21	OD	330
Andy Emmerson	M60	OD	330
Lawrie Jones	M60	WRE	330

**Lead Scoring Junior Male:**

Felix Lunn	M16	OD	310
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**Lead Scoring Junior Female:**

Holly Hughes	W18	WCH	220
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## JK 2018 - The Financial Position

If you have read the Treasurer's report from the recent WMOA AGM minutes you may have come to the view that it was being reckless in agreeing to organise the 2018 JK. The minutes state that:

*(The Treasurer) expressed his reservations about JK2018 which, by his evaluation, could cost in the order of £100000, with a worst case scenario of a £30000 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 £10000 loan although he would not be keen to take this on.*

As the Treasurer and Co-ordinator of JK 2018 - acting on behalf of and with the endorsement of the wider WMOA Committee - we would like to make clear our understanding of the real risks and rewards from staging the event.

We have been working on the initial details for a number of months and have taken a full briefing paper to the June meeting of the WMOA, at which our outline financial projections and models were agreed and approved. In order to get to that initial position we have looked at and had full access to the budgets, income, expenditure and cash flows for the previous 3 JKs. These show the event to have made a decent overall surplus in every year - as have all recent major events save the North East BOC of 2014 which was budgeted to break even and, in fact, made a small surplus.

We have looked at trends in entries and the associated entry fee structures and we have looked at the line item of expenditure. These show a remarkable year on year similarity for the arena and mapping/promotion type costs. The major differences are in the costs of land access. Given our chosen competition areas and the long standing relationships with the various land owners and working knowledge of their fees we have modified the previous budgets to allow for our best estimate of these costs.

Based upon our knowledge of the number and level of entry fees, and the phasing of entries - most enter at the first fee date these days - we have modelled the potential level and phasing of entry fees to cover our expected costs. These give us an entry fee that is not out of line with recent JK fees.

If we make the reasonable assumption that WMOA will attract a similar number of entries and other than land access, incur a similar set of other costs to previous JKs then we believe that the financial risks are small and manageable. There are of course risks of unexpected events that can lead to cancellation. The cash flow knowledge from previous events tells us that the vast majority of costs, mapping apart, fall in the period around and immediately after the event. If the event is cancelled then many of these costs will not be incurred.

In the worst case, in terms of financial risk, the early entry fee income will be received well in advance of any outflow of cash and before any cancellation. All competitors are aware of and agree to the standard position that organisers have the right to retain any fees to cover costs and only refund any remaining balance. Obviously we would never want to be in that position but if it really came to it we would have to use this option to mitigate any risk to the WMOA. Maps will have been drawn and courses planned that can be reused should this need arise, few other significant costs will have been incurred.

Turning to the points on the BOF position - I declare my interest as current BOF Treasurer (but this will not be the case in 2018 as my term as a Board member will have ended).

We would have certainly preferred the previous BOF major events partnership agreement and risk share arrangement. This worked extremely well and productively in terms of financial risk and professional support for the British Middle Championships of 2014. However it is simply not an option that BOF can now offer for a variety of practical and formal reasons. The risks and of course any rewards have to lie with the organising Association.

We have negotiated an interest free loan of up to £10,000 from BOF. We plan to and indeed will have to take this loan to cover our early cash outlays. This is necessary because of the very weak position of the finances of the WMOA which, unlike the majority of other Associations, had not built a sufficient bank balance to fund a venture such as the JK. This loan will be repaid after the event. Any surplus from the event - and we make no apology for budgeting for one - will be shared between all WMOA clubs and the WMOA.

It has also been established that, provided WMOA Committee Members and the Event Group Members act reasonably then no personal liability will fall on them in the event of loss or other risk issues. These are covered by BOF insurance.

All of these points were detailed in a briefing note presented to the full WMOA Committee in June and explained in various email correspondence with some committee members. Nothing of any significance has changed since then except that many WMOA members have come forward or been persuaded to take on roles to organise and support the 2018 JK to make it a major event to be proud of - both in and out of the competition areas. We hope that we have been able to give you confidence that this is not a reckless or overtly risky venture and that we can call on your full support to make it the showcase event that the JK deserves to be.

Bob Dredge (JK Treasurer)

Andy Yeates (JK Co-ordinator)

### **Controller's Course**

As ever, there is a need to grow some more Controllers. In particular to control the level C events in the region. Most of these events go towards the WMOA League. To this end I am proposing to put on a Level C Controller's Course later in the Spring. If you are interested in attending the course, please email me at: [bob.brandon42@gmail.com](mailto:bob.brandon42@gmail.com)

### **Coaching UKCC Level 1 Course**

It is organised for 22/23/24 February 2017 at the Frank Chapman Centre, Park End, Bewdley, Worcestershire DY12 2TY and is £250 per person. For further details see:

<https://www.britishorienteering.org.uk/index.php?pg=trainingcourses&details=234&back=%2Findex.php%3Fpg%3Dtrainingcourses%23234>

Accommodation is also available at £12 per person per night:

(contact: Debbie Heritage: [Debbie\\_Heritage@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:Debbie_Heritage@sandwell.gov.uk)).

## Brighton City Race 2016

Allan Williams (WCH)

It seemed like the perfect plan. Whilst my son was away on a Sports Leadership Course the rest of the family could travel to Corby so my daughter could compete in a two - day swimming meet. I could watch the Saturday morning races and then head of to Corby station and whiz up and down to Brighton by train and take part in the City Race. I'd be back at the Premier Inn by midnight and we could all return to Corby for Day 2 of the swimming. So, I booked the necessary hotel and trains and then was rather perturbed when, later that day, my daughter sent me a text; "Don't book hotel". It turned out that her club, City of Derby, couldn't be accommodated at the meeting and had decided to enter races at Matlock instead!

So, on the penultimate Saturday before Christmas, two cars departed from Tamworth, me alone with satnav set for Kettering and mum and daughter bound for Matlock. I had a smooth journey - the new free flowing junction from M6 to A14 at Catthorpe is a big improvement. As I drove into Kettering there were illuminated signs advertising free parking in all council car parks which was good news as I'd expected to pay £8 to park by the station. I found a space near the centre and had time for a bit of shopping, where I found a good market stall selling old vinyl and picked up a couple at good prices.

The first train was on time and busy but I found a seat easily and an hour later I was at St Pancras. My booking suggested that I transfer via tube to Victoria but I'd worked out I could catch a Thameslink train from below the mainline tracks that would get me there around the same time. It was a tight transfer but I made it. No problem finding a seat and I settled down. To get me into

the Brighton mood I listened to the Who's 'Quadrophenia' on my iPod.

Less than 3 hours after leaving Kettering I emerged from Brighton station and headed for the Event Centre at a school five minutes walk down the hill.

With two hours to go before the start time there were only a few people in the hall so I dropped my bag in a corner and headed out again to make use of my free time before the race. A few weeks after planning this trip I remembered that a new attraction had opened in Brighton. The i360 is a tall observation tower operated by British Airways. A quick 'Google' search told me that it had overcome initial operating problems (it broke down a couple of times back in September) and that I could book a 'flight' on-line and squeeze it in before my run.

The i360 is a slender tower 162 metres high, up which a spaceship like gondola ascends. From the ground in the dark it was difficult to gauge how tall it was but once on board I was soon rising above the large buildings on the seafront. The view was nice with the lights of the esplanade spread out on either side and the city stretching out beyond. My only grumble was that the lights inside reflected back from the curved glass making photography rather difficult. I'd like to go up again in daylight when I'm sure the views would be spectacular. Both the ride up and down had been smooth and I was soon back on the ground and heading back to the event.

By now the small primary school hall was rammed with orienteers but I found a space to change in the corner. I collected my Si-Air dibber which were available to try at this event for free. Earlier in the day I had been sent more courses for the JK 2017 Sprint so I took the opportunity to walk to the start with the Planner and discuss a few important points. One reason I'd come to this event was to try the Si-Air cards, as they will be used at the JK.



*i360*

© Allan Williams 2016



Start line photo © Robert Lines (SO) 2016

The start was a bit tricky to find as it was located down a steep ramp that dives under the plaza at the front of the station. We hung around below the station waiting for the rest of the runners to assemble: this race has a mass start at 6.30. I was struck by how tall the station building is with the platform level several stories above the road where we were congregating. I'd learn during the race that Brighton is hillier than I expected.

We'd been informed in advance that the run out after the mass start would be tricky because after about 150m we would have to negotiate a section of footpath that had been displaced onto the road to permit building work. Even before we reached this there was a faller, OD's Mike Hampton, who took a tumble but got back to his feet to continue. Unfortunately, he didn't turn this into a heroic Mo Farah recovery as he missed a control out later in the race. The first 4 controls were tricky as they were on a plateau back up at the level of the station where a new hotel has been built on the site of an old railway works. These legs required careful navigating and

avoiding the throng of runners. Things settled down a little with a long(ish) leg that led us towards Preston Park where most courses had about 10 controls as part of a butterfly loop. The navigation was relatively easy, the hard part was making sure you took the loops in the right order and didn't miss any controls out. Things settled down with the next few legs that took my course back towards the sea. The first had 25m of climb plus a few steps to get over the branch line that runs to Eastbourne. This section wasn't too technical but you certainly needed to be able to count as one leg required passing 6 streets or alleys before turning into the correct one towards the control. A trap had been set on the leg in the gardens around the Royal Pavilion, a tempting route beside the building would catch the careless with a dead end. I spotted this but I think I wasted too much time making sure I was right and then took the slightly longer of the two viable routes.



Map © Southdowns Orienteers 2016

The final 5 controls were a manic sprint around Brighton's Lanes, full of shops, pubs and Christmas drinkers. I hit every control accurately and missed all the pre Christmas



*Birdcage © Allan Williams 2016*

revellers with equal skill. The finish was just around the corner from the event centre and when I downloaded I was in 11<sup>th</sup> place but it became obvious that some earlier finishers had hung around at the finish before downloading so my final position was 14<sup>th</sup>. The event had attracted over 150 runners although Mike and I were the only West Midlanders.

I found the Si-Air cards easy to use and got used to running towards the controls with an outstretched arm and looking out for my light to flash. At busy controls I also confirmed that I had registered by moving my hand close to my ear to check my card was beeping.

I really enjoyed this brief visit to Brighton, it was a good race and the city has great terrain for this type of event. My journey back went smoothly although two stations were cut from the train to London's schedule due to a 'planning error'. I had a bit of time to kill at St Pancras and found this swing within an illuminated birdcage to play on. The train back to Kettering was busy with lively shoppers and Derby County fans but spot on time.

## World Orienteering Day

The IOF's goals regarding the organisation of this annual event are as follows:

Increasing the visibility and accessibility of orienteering to young people, increasing the number of participants both in the schools' activities, as well as in the clubs' activities in all countries of National Federations, helping teachers to implement orienteering in a fun and educational way and to get more new countries to take part in orienteering.

**Visionary Course of Action:** Each club of all national Orienteering Federations gets in touch with at least one school. As teachers might need help to implement orienteering so the lessons are a fun and exciting experience, the IOF is working on providing teaching materials in different languages. The Regional Development and Youth Commission of the IOF coordinates and links interested orienteering people from its National Federations together in a school orienteering network in order to exchange materials and experiences. After the event, the students get to keep their maps to take home and show to their friends and family.

**WOD 2017:** The next World Orienteering Day will take place on 24 May 2017.

**WOD 2016:** On Wednesday 11 May 2016, the first World Orienteering Day was a huge success, with more than 250,000 participants all over the world taking part in an orienteering event. Schools, clubs and enthusiasts all over the world made a fantastic contribution and we managed to beat the world record.

<http://worldorienteeringday.com>



## Euro City Race Tour 2016

**Delia Kingsbury (WRE)**

This year circumstances steered me to the Euro City Race Tour again. It had been an exciting competition in 2015 (helped by winning the series). With a change of job in May that came with a request for no leave be taken for 6 months (seemed harsh), Neil and I weren't going to be heading off for a decent break so, thoughts turned to weekends away, perhaps with a spot of orienteering thrown in for good measure - the foundations were laid. Last year, I had no yardstick to estimate how I might do, but this year I wanted to repeat the success of 2015 - the competition was on!

So, where to go? The events were to be held in Antwerp, Malaga, London, Porto, Florence, Barcelona and Lille. Having been to Antwerp last year and work commitments negating trips to Porto and Barcelona that resolved where I would be competing. I also decided that I would do the full set of races for each of the meetings rather than maximising sightseeing time.

First stop Malaga in early September. A quick check of the weather forecast before we went showed that we should expect temperatures of 35°C. That made me a little concerned about how I would fare as I'm not used to such heat. The Malaga meeting comprised 3 races, a traditional Middle Distance race in the forest (Ayo Toquero) on Saturday morning, a Sprint on Saturday evening in the harbour area and the Urban on Sunday morning. For the Middle Distance it was 25°C when the first starts went off at 9am and the temperature climbed. My course was 2km - that didn't sound like much. However I managed to mess up twice and it took a shocking 35 minutes to complete - ouch! Shall we move swiftly on rather than dwell on my shortcomings...? The post-race refreshments were fabulous, chilled lemon flavoured shandy, melon and water - as much as we wanted. This was all very welcome.



*First place on the podium in Malaga*

Neil and I explored the Malaga Citadel in the afternoon but by mid afternoon we were flagging and we retired to the hotel room. A snooze and fluid re-fill were needed to bring us back to life. I got ready for the evening race but was certainly not feeling as if I was ready for a Sprint. Thankfully, by the time I reached the start line my mind had got itself into the right place - fired up and ready to go. The race was based across a peninsula that formed one side of the harbour. There were single storey shops on one side of the peninsula at harbour level, with a promenade and road at the roof level. This proved to be suitably challenging as it created two levels, so choosing underpasses and stairs carefully to get the best route was

critical. On the other side of the peninsula was the beach. I had a good race with just one glitch whilst I worked out how I had come to be where I was. The finish was down the beach and I quickly realised it was wise to avoid the soft sand as much as possible as it really sapped any remaining energy out of tired legs. Oddly, I remember feeling quite cool whilst running, but when I'd finished the full impact of the 35°C heat was felt. One chap said he'd been for a dip in the sea to cool off - I think he had had the right idea. My flat out racing had brought me home in first place - job done. The main event on Sunday was also blessed with high temperatures. The start was a 15 minute walk from the assembly square and included 80m climb, halfway up the 150m hill upon which the castle and citadel were built. It's the first time I've seen water offered at the start of a race and we were all grateful for it. The course took us up to the top of the hill and then

all the way back down again. That afternoon Neil and I went back to visit the citadel at the top and we couldn't believe I (and others) had run down - it was steep and the paving slabs had a slick surface. It looked like it needed more respect than I had given it) By the time I reached the flat section of the course I tried to increase the pace but found energy was in short supply - that was unexpected. I was sure I would be losing places rapidly as I just couldn't keep going. I needn't have worried as I did win the race. Once I saw the splits it was clear that everyone else had struggled too and I hadn't been going backwards as I had thought. I found myself on top of the podium so this was a good start to the series.

Next stop London two weeks later. This year's race was based in Rotherhithe. I had an early start and managed to avoid the rain that would have affected the later starters. The terrain used modern housing estates and the Super Veteran Ladies didn't reach the open dock areas as I had thought we might. A 90° error leaving my 3rd control left me very confused whilst I tried to relate what I was seeing to the map and it just wasn't stacking up - I'm in the wrong place of course! This lost me 3 minutes that just couldn't be made up. Still, finishing 9th was respectable but disappointing nonetheless. I think I am jinxed for the London races - there is always something that goes wrong.

A month later we headed for Florence for Sprint/Urban combination on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning. The Saturday morning's sightseeing was dismal as it was raining hard. Thunderstorms were forecast for the afternoon and this was really not getting me in the right frame of mind for the Sprint race. Some of you will know that I would not choose to run when I have to start in the rain. Unrelated to orienteering I kept passing a high security event, with security and security guards on the pavement all in smart black suits for something called 'Inferno'. There was clearly something significant happening. Yes I had been kept in the dark. Once back home I heard on the news that it was the film premiere for the latest Dan Brown book 'Inferno'. It all made sense when I learned that some of it had been filmed in Florence.



*Finishing in the Florence Urban race*

Mid-afternoon I made my way to Cascine Park for the Sprint, the assembly used facilities at the adjacent racecourse. I just had time to collect my bib and get to the start for the allotted time. The area was open woodland which was very runnable, some open grassland and a river bank with a road running alongside it. This turned out to be quite a straightforward race, so head down and run.

Once onto the path paralleling the river bank I could see several ladies strung out ahead of me and set my sights on catching each of them to help focus on the long runs between controls. This was another win and my reward was a mini-rucksack and two bottles of red wine. Now we had a dilemma: Neil and I had hand luggage only so how would we get the wine home? My plan was to drink it but Neil pointed out that I stood a fair chance of winning the Urban race the next day and if wine was given as prizes there may be more bottles to get home. We didn't drink it.

Next day was bright and sunny - perfect, but the tourists were out in force. We gathered in Santa Maria Square and could see multiple tour groups congregating and leaving, following bright coloured umbrellas into the narrow streets to create random mobile roadblocks. Runners were discussing tactics about how to deal with them should we encounter them - elbows out and show no mercy seemed to be the favoured approach. I started my race as I meant to go on - i.e. at a good pace. I soon came across the swarms of tourists. I was able to tuck in behind a car making its way up a street - that was great as the car was going at my speed and doing the job of making a way through far more effectively than I could have done. Then I turned into a large open Square and was dismayed to see that it was heaving with people just standing around. Slow progress was made as they struggled to comprehend that just a few of us were in quite a hurry. This was another winning run. My prize was another mini rucksack, a T-shirt and baseball cap - no red wine this time!

The final race was in Lille at the end of November. Such a contrast to the heat of Malaga as the weather was cold - nearly freezing. The Saturday race was a Middle Distance in Fleur Chateau - the university area to the east of Lille. This was a mass start event which was a new experience. It was a little chaotic at the start as runners thought they knew where they were going and then came to an abrupt halt as they quickly re-evaluated. After a few collisions everyone sorted themselves out and folk were on their way. The format was a long run to the first control to string us out - it worked. This was followed by 2 butterfly loops and then a further 2 butterfly loops - giving four course variations to ensure that following was minimised. One poor exit from the second set of butterflies left me 29 seconds down from the leader, but second nonetheless.

The Urban event followed next day. I had been looking forward to the course including a visit to the ramparts of the citadel (as indicated in the pre-event bumf), however, our course was shorter and hence did not include this part of the map. This was another good run, with just a couple of short losses for a dead end and a wobbly short leg with uncertainty at both ends. I downloaded and was in the lead - but what of the lady who had beaten me the day before? She had yet to finish. As I was changing I saw her come in to download and so sent Neil to check out her time. He came back looking serious - was it too serious? Yes - as I was in the lead by 31 seconds at that point. Quick maths and I had the weekend by 2 seconds overall. That is really very close - one more check of a map, one more gasp. There were no other faster finishers and this is how the result remained. Mission Accomplished. I won a hamper and beer for the Lille weekend - luckily we were on Eurostar with no restriction on liquids this time.

Back to the Euro City Race Tour - three wins and a respectable result from London had given me sufficient points for a comfortable win. Will I, can I make it happen again next year? We'll have to wait and see, but if I do I shall remember that every second counts!



*Overall Veteran Ladies Champion*



## West Midlands Championships 2016

The West Midland Championships were held by HOC at Dymock in Herefordshire on 4 December in conjunction with the final West Midlands League event. The area, mapped by Brian and Kay Hughes, was similar in character to the Wyre Forest but, unfortunately, suffered from an excess of bramble growth so the straight line option was rarely the best option.

The attendance was a little down on previous years which was probably due to the area being right on the South Western fringe of the region. It was also a little disappointing to see very few competitors in the M/W 16-21 age groups.

Thanks to HOC for hosting the event and congratulations to all the winners.

### Winners

<b>M10</b>	Arthur Mitchell	HOC	<b>W10</b>	Tilly Flippance	OD
<b>M12</b>	Peter Markham	OD	<b>W12</b>	Florence Lunn	OD
<b>M14</b>	Cameron Williams-Stein	OD	<b>W14</b>	Pippa Smart	OD
<b>M16</b>	Not Awarded		<b>W16</b>	Jessica Parker	WRE
<b>M18</b>	Not Awarded		<b>W18</b>	Not Awarded	
<b>M20</b>	Not Awarded		<b>W20</b>	Not Awarded	
<b>M21</b>	Robert Holdway	POTOC	<b>W21</b>	Not Awarded	
<b>M35</b>	Ben Flippance	OD	<b>W35</b>	Not Awarded	
<b>M40</b>	Andrew Rowe	POTOC	<b>W40</b>	Kerrie Flippance	OD
<b>M45</b>	Chris McCartney	OD	<b>W45</b>	Not Awarded	
<b>M50</b>	David Leadley	OD	<b>W50</b>	Liz Phillips	OD
<b>M55</b>	John Leeson	HOC	<b>W55</b>	Marian White	HOC
<b>M60</b>	Ray Collins	WCH	<b>W60</b>	Elizabeth Urquhart	OD
<b>M65</b>	Geoff Trewin	HOC	<b>W65</b>	Hazel Waters	WCH
<b>M70</b>	Peter Carey	OD	<b>W70</b>	Sheila Carey	OD
<b>M75</b>	Brian Morris	WRE	<b>W75</b>	Hilary Simpson	OD
<b>M80</b>	Not Awarded		<b>W80</b>	Alison Sloman	HOC



### 2017 CompassSport Cup/ Trophy Draw

Organising Club & Region	Area	Cup	Trophy
BKO (SCOA)	Cold Ash	BKO, SN, TVOC	BADO, GO, NWO, SARUM
Cup & Trophy: The winning teams qualify for the Final.			
CLOK (NEOA)	Cringle	AIRE, CLOK, EBOR	CLARO, EPOC, NATO, NN
Cup: The winning team qualifies for the Final. Trophy: The winning team qualifies for the Final. If EPOC win, then the 2nd placed team also qualifies for the Final.			
HH (SEOA)	Ashridge	HH, SO, SLOW, WAOC	CHIG, DFOK, HAVOC, LOK, MV, SAX, SOS, SMOC, SUFFOC
Cup: The winning team qualifies for the Final. Trophy: The teams placed first and second qualify for the Final (eight or more clubs rule).			
LOG (EMOA)	Burwell	DVO, LEI, NOC, NOR, SYO	HALO, LOG
Cup: The winning team qualifies for the Final. If SYO win then the second placed team qualifies for the Final. Trophy: The winning team qualifies for the Final.			
KFO (SOA)	Tentsmuir	FVO, INVOC, MOR	BASOC, CLYDE, ECKO, ELO, GRAMP, INT, MAROC, STAG, 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 (SOA, two Trophy teams qualify, eight or more clubs rule). If INT and CLYDE finish 1st, 2nd or 3rd then the 4th and 5th placed teams will also qualify for the Final.			
POTOC (WMOA)	Park Hall	DEE, HOC, OD	COBOC, ERYRI, POTOC, SELOC, WCH, WRE
Cup & Trophy: The winning teams qualify for the Final.			
SROC (NWOA)	Simpson Ground	LOC, MDOC, WCOG	BL, PFO, SOLWAY, SROC
Cup & Trophy: The winning teams qualify for the Final.			
SWOC (WOA)	Cwm Lickey	BOK, NGOC	SBOC, SWOC
Cup: The winning team qualifies for the Final. If BOK win, then the 2nd placed team qualifies for the Final. Trophy: The winning team qualifies for the Final.			
WIM (SWOA)	Moors Valley	DEVON, SOC	KERNO, QO, WIM, WSX
Cup & Trophy: The winning teams qualify for the Final.			

## West Midlands Urban League 2017



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

<http://urbanleague.nopesport.com/scoring/>

Date	Event Venue	Club
25 March	Rugby	OD
2 April	Shrewsbury	WRE
4 June	Heath Hayes	WCH
10 December	Castle Vale	HOC

## The Classes for 2017 are:

**Young Juniors** (M/W12 and under)

**Junior** (M/W 14, M/W 16)

**Youth** (M/W 18, M/W 20)

**Senior** (M/W 21, M/W 35)

**Veteran** (M/W 40, M/W 45, M/W 50)

**Super Veteran** (M/W 55, M/W 60)

**Ultra Veteran** (M/W 65+)

## Suggested Course Combinations:

Course	W Class	M Class	Note
1		21, 35	
2	21, 35	18, 20, 40, 45, 50	
3	18, 20, 40, 45, 50	55,60	
4	55,60	65+	
5	14, 16, 65+	14, 16	Must meet Safety Guidelines for Under 16s
6	12	12	

## 2017 West Midlands League Events

Jan 15	Postensplain	HOC	Sep 24	Oldacre	WCH
Jan 22	Brandon Wood	OD	Oct 8	Sutton Park (TBC)	OD
Feb 5	Badgerslade	WCH	Nov 12	Titterstone Clee	HOC
Feb 19	TBC	WRE	Nov 19	Telford	WRE
Mar 5	Chillington Hall	WCH	Nov 26	Rawnsley Hills	WCH
Jun 18	Arrow Valley	HOC	Dec 3	Hay Wood	OD

## The West Midlands League 2016 Final Positions

1. OD 7162				2. WRE 6904				3. WCH 6684			
A	Finlay Flippance	M12	500	A	Jessica Parker	W16	461	A	Holly Hughes	W18	491
A	Nathan Chapple	M14	500	A	Molly Parker	W14	333	A	Henry Webb	M14	426
B	Liam Chapple	M45	416	B	Adrian Griffiths	M45	476	B	Matthew Mardling	M45	486
B	David Dunn	M35	404	B	Steve Parker	M45	456	B	Allan Williams	M45	467
C	David Leadley	M50	500	C	Clive Richardson	M50	489	C	Mark Garside	M55	417
C	Richard Steel	M50	372	C	Richard Pay	M50	471	C	Neil Adams	M55	364
D	Liz Phillips	W50	500	D	Diane Jacks	W45	500	D	Mary Adams	W55	463
D	Lesley Ross	W50	475	D	Delia Kingsbury	W50	462	D	Christine Collins	W55	438
E	Barry Elkington	M60	500	E	Brian Morris	M75	500	E	Ray Collins	M60	500
E	Peter Carey	M70	500	E	John Riley	M80	500	E	Hazel Waters	W65	500
F	Florence Lunn	W12	500	F	Roy Lindsell	M70	478	F	Jonathan Howell	M60	464
F	Sheila Carey	W70	500	F	Katie Lewis	W21	460	F	John Robinson	M65	464
F	Sue Hallett	W70	500	F	Sharron Richardson	W40	441	F	Simon Webb	M40	426
F	Hilary Simpson	W75	500	F	Rod Postlethwaite	M60	439	F	Sally Hughes	W45	400
F	Oliver Lunn	M14	495	F	John Broadhead	M60	438	F	Bob Dredge	M65	378
4. HOC 6302				5. PTOC 4058				6. COBOC 1994			
A	Arthur Mitchell	M10	485	A	Ellie Bales	W16	300	B	Emils Vainovskis	M20	470
A	Alexander Mitchell	M14	474	A	Enys Lloyd	M10	100	B	Benjamin Rauffet	M21	444
B	Robert Rose	M35	316	B	Robert Holdway	M21	477	C	Ian Gamlen	M50	416
B	David Aldridge	M35	178	B	Graham Pigott	M35	280	D	Yvonne Feasey	W50	80
C	Alex Morgan	M50	500	C	Gerry Riley	M55	367	E	Mick Sadler	M65	305
C	Adrian Bailey	M50	377	C	Jim Cooke	M50	127	E	Richard Burnett	M60	200
D	Marian White	W55	451	D	Elizabeth Bales	W50	170	F	Ruth Lockley	W60	79
D	Kerstin Mitchell	W50	326	D	Claire Alcock	W35	153				
E	Alison Sloman	W80	500	E	Marian Denham	W70	430				
E	Geoff Trewin	M65	488	E	Jean Rostron	W70	333				
F	Andrew White	M60	452	F	Paul Graetz	M65	300				
F	Sebastian Mitchell	M12	447	F	Andrew Rowe	M40	269				
F	John Pearson	M65	446	F	Judy Douglas	W70	265				
F	Mike Baggott	M65	432	F	Henry Morgan	M60	251				
F	Barry Houghton	M65	430	F	Peter Yoxall	M70	236				
								7. WYEVENT 280			
								A	Adrian Karney	M10	99
								A	Aidan Collinson	M12	49
								D	Michaela Da Cunha	W50	132

## 2016 Events

Jan 10	Lickey Hills	COBOC	Jun 19	Sandwell Valley	HOC
Jan 24	Hartshill Hayes	OD	<del>Oct 2</del>	<del>Shoal Hill</del>	<del>WCH</del>
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	Bury Ditches	WRE
May 8	Mansty Woods	WCH	Dec 4	Dymock	HOC

## Individual Class Winners

M10	Arthur Mitchell	HOC	485	W10	Tilly Flippance	OD	420
M12	Finley Flippance	OD	500	W12	Florence Lunn	OD	500
M14	Nathan Chapple	OD	500	W14	Pippa Smart	WCH	357
M16	Sam Leadley	OD	431	W16	Jessica Parker	WRE	461
M18	Harrison McCartney	OD	100	W18	Holly Hughes	WCH	491
M20	Emils Vainovskis	COBOC	470	W20			
M21	Robert Holdway	POTOC	477	W21	Katie Lewis	WRE	460
M35	David Dunn	OD	404	W35	Helen Corrin	WRE	339
M40	Simon Webb	WCH	426	W40	Sharron Richardson	WRE	441
M45	Matthew Mardling	WCH	486	W45	Diane Jacks	WRE	500
M50	David Leadley	OD	500	W50	Liz Phillips	OD	500
	Alex Morgan	HOC	500				
M55	Andrew Clough	WRE	434	W55	Mary Adams	WCH	463
M60	Ray Collins	WCH	500	W60	Margaret Willdig	OD	491
	Barry Elkington	OD	500				
M65	Geoff Trewin	HOC	488	W65	Hazel Waters	WCH	500
M70	Peter Carey	OD	500	W70	Sheila Carey	OD	500
					Sue Hallett	OD	500
M75	Brian Morris	WRE	500	W75	Hilary Simpson	OD	500
M80	John Riley	WRE	500	W80	Alison Sloman	HOC	500



Event Information V  
1.1 as of 14/1/17  
(flyers are often  
revised)

## Harlequins Orienteering Club

Invite you to a Level C event  
and Yvette Baker Trophy Round

At

# Baggeridge

Near Wombourne

On

19 March 2017



Orienteering in  
Worcester, Hereford,  
South Shropshire,  
Black Country and  
Birmingham.

- Venue & Travel** Baggeridge is a Country Park Grid ref. S0897931  
Entrance off the A463 between Sedgley and Wombourne at Gospel End village DY3 4HB
- Parking:** Pay and Display large public car park £2.80 for the day
- Terrain:** Varied woodland well contoured in parts with many paths
- Map:** A4 1:7500 5m contours by Alison Sloman
- Courses:** White, Yellow, Orange, Light Green, Green and Blue
- Entries:** Pre-entry via Fabian 4 will be available in due course. On the day entries also.
- Registration:** 1000 - 1200hrs **Starts:** 1030 - 1230 hrs
- Punching:** Electronic Punching using SI. Please bring your SI-Card to registration. SI-Cards may be hired for £1.00
- Fees:** Juniors £3 Seniors £8 (non BOF + £2)
- Dogs:** Well behaved dogs welcome
- Facilities:** Café, playground and toilets
- Officials:** Organiser Geoff Trewin [geoff.trewin@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:geoff.trewin@hotmail.co.uk) 0121 426 4415  
Planner Peter Langmaid  
Controller TBC
- Safety:** Competitors take part at their own risk. Whistles must be carried. In case of bad weather competitors may be required to wear(carry) water- and wind-proof tops (aka cagoules)
- Website & Cancellation:** For the latest information check: <http://www.harlequins.org.uk>

## WMOA Fixtures

### February to May 2017

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

#### 2017

##### February

2	HOC Level D	<b>HOC WEE (Winter Evening Event) Dudmaston</b>	Bridgnorth	<a href="#">SO745885</a>
4	OD Level D	<b>OD Local Event Daventry Country Park</b>	Daventry	<a href="#">SP575629</a>
4	POTOC Level D	<b>POTOC Leisure and Training Event Apedale Country Park</b>	Newcastle-under-Lyme	<a href="#">SJ822483</a>
5	WCH Level C	<b>WCH - WMOA League 3 Badgerslade</b>	Cannock	<a href="#">SJ976171</a>
9	HOC Level D	<b>HOC NSL (Night Street League) Bewdley</b>	Bewdley	<a href="#">SO785753</a>
16	HOC Level D	<b>HOC WEE (Winter Evening Event) Old Hills</b>	Great Malvern	<a href="#">SO829487</a>
18	OD Level D	<b>OD Night Event Hartshill Country Park</b>	Nuneaton	<a href="#">SP469735</a>
19	WRE Level C	<b>WRE Event - WMOA League 4 (TBC)</b>	Shrewsbury	
22	COBOC Level D	<b>COBOC Night Sevens Clifton Road Youth Centre</b>	Sutton Coldfield	
23	HOC Level D	<b>HOC NSL (Night Street League) Birmingham City Centre</b>	Birmingham	

##### March

2	HOC Level D	<b>HOC WEE (Winter Evening Event) Burlish Top &amp; Rifle Range</b>	Kidderminster	<a href="#">SO808738</a>
5	WCH Level C	<b>WCH - WMOA League 5 Chillington Hall</b>	Codsall	
9	HOC Level D	<b>HOC NSL (Night Street League) Brierley Hill</b>	Stourbridge	
11	OD Level D	<b>OD Local Event Memorial Park (TBC)</b>	Coventry	<a href="#">SP322722</a>
12	POTOC Level B	<b>CompassSport Cup/ Trophy Heat Park Hall Country Park</b>	Stoke-on-Trent	
16	HOC Level D	<b>HOC WEE (Winter Evening Event) Coombeswood</b>	Halesowen	<a href="#">SO975855</a>

19	HOC Level C	<b>WM Yvette Baker Trophy Heat Baggeridge Country Park</b>	Wombourne	<a href="#">SO898931</a>
25	OD Level B	<b>Warwickshire Orienteering Weekend (UKOL, UKUL, UK Elite League, WMUL) Rugby</b>	Rugby	
26	OD Level B	<b>Warwickshire Orienteering Weekend Midlands Championships (UKOL) Bentley Wood</b>	Atherstone	
29	COBOC Level D	<b>COBOC Night Sevens Clifton Road Youth Centre</b>	Sutton Coldfield	

**April**

2	WRE Level C	<b>WM Urban League Shrewsbury</b>	Shrewsbury	<a href="#">SJ487124</a>
8	OD Level D	<b>OD Local Event Kingsbury Water Park</b>	Tamworth	<a href="#">SP205958</a>
22	POTOC Level D	<b>POTOC Leisure and Training Event Ladderedge Country Park</b>	Leek	
26	COBOC Level D	<b>COBOC Sevens Clifton Road Youth Centre</b>	Sutton Coldfield	
29	HOC Level D	<b>HOC Summer Series Himley Hall</b>	Dudley	<a href="#">SO889915</a>

**May**

13	WRE Level D	<b>WM Schools Championships Severn Valley Country Park</b>	Alveley	<a href="#">SO753839</a>
13	HOC Level D	<b>HOC Summer Series The Old Hills</b>	Great Malvern	<a href="#">SO828484</a>
20	POTOC Level D	<b>POTOC Leisure and Training Event Tunstall and Burslem Parks</b>	Tunstall	
20	HOC Level D	<b>HOC Summer Series Baggeridge Country Park</b>	Wombourne	<a href="#">SO898931</a>
27	HOC Level B	<b>Springtime in Shropshire Day 1 Long Mynd</b>	Church Stretton	
28	WRE Level B	<b>Springtime in Shropshire Day 2 Caer Caradoc and Hope Bowdler</b>	Church Stretton	
29	HOC Level B	<b>Springtime in Shropshire Day 3 Brampton Bryan</b>	Knighton	