

Present: Bob Brandon, Ray Collins, Jonathon Howell, Richard Lewis, Peter Langmaid, Brenda Morgan, Henry Morgan, Steve Parker, Rod Postlethwaite, Marian White, Alan Williams.

1. Apologies: Barry Elkington, Mel Elkington, Ian Gamlin, Carol Dredge, Richard Rogers.

2. Declaration of Interest: None.

3. Acceptance of Previous Minutes: These were agreed as a true record of the meeting.

4. Matters Arising: RL reported job roles list to be continued - work in progress. JH gave out certificates for WMOA champs. to the club reps.

5. Correspondence: None.

6. Chairman`s Report: RL,

The year started well with HOC organised New Year day score, an event which my own club WRE did exceptionally well at, loosening ODs grip on the Trophy for this year. I expect Barry E is starting to get worried OD having won the trophy for 9 consecutive years and 14 out of the last 20 years.

The WML is already 3 events in and we have had 3 different leading clubs with as I write WCH leading the way.

Regarding WML, Rod P has been researching how other regions run their league and I would like your clubs thoughts, do we need to modify? Do other clubs have benefits we could use and we will add benefits. We have discussed before awarding non running officials average points for events they have been involved in, i.e. a controller being awarded 80points for controlling the event - All food for thought and I will add this to our June meeting agenda.

World Orienteering day (week) is 13-19 May 2020. I would be interested to hear what each club is doing.

We have some Major events coming up nationally (hopefully) when I wish all WMOA clubs success, and congratulations to all our members who achieved Podium finishes at the recent British Night champs with special congratulations to Alison Slowman 1st W80 HOC and Kristof Nowicki 1st M35 WRE, and British Champ course 2.

Recently we have been seeing a lot of events cancelled due to various weather conditions, always so disappointing for the Organisers, planners and Controllers when they have given so much time and effort to get an event on, then to have to cancel at the last moment due to conditions outside our control.

Let`s hope we don`t start to see events cancelled due to the Coronavirus, but it`s something as a sport we have to consider, and as BOFs advice is to provide sanitizers and signage at registration something else for organisers to consider.

Happy orienteering hopefully see you in an event soon.

7. Treasurers Report: IG, In the absence of Ian, he provided the chairman with copies of the accounts.

We are in a reasonable state. £500 was to be transferred to the WMOA junior squad account.

8. Fixtures Report: AW, There was a full set of fixtures for the year. 3 league events so far; the next is WCH Sunday 19th April, Badgerslade, league 4 plus Yvette Baker heat; OD 12th July at Burton Dassett; event 6 will be on the 20th Sept. The Urban series is starting in Telford. Any info will be taken by AW to the fixtures meeting on 26th March in Tamworth.

British Sprint and Mixed Relay 2023 - OD agreed to do it, but it would be too much work for both, so could another club help, or do the Mixed Relay. The area would be Warwick University.

9. West Midlander: RP, Any articles please. He is trying to complete the records for the TSB Trophy. Does anyone know who won for the years 1985, 1986, 1987. This is now awarded for the Best Male Junior.

10. WMOA website: Thanks to Marian W, Richard R. and Mike F. for the smooth transition. There were praises for this very modern, up to date, version. MW would like any feedback re the website. Colour links embedded in the text are green, so on some screens and in some light, they are difficult to see.

Phase 2 (1) archive section, current competition and previous winners.

(2) competition - pull out help for officials. It is useful if Planners and Organisers look at it on the website. It gives necessary qualifications and what is required.

11. Development:

(1) "This Girl Can" - money is available, from charities, to promote girls in sport. RL's daughter is trying to get funding for this. If she succeeds, WMOA would have to distribute to clubs. How then would clubs use the money to promote girls in orienteering?

(2) RL showed promotional cards for the leagues, £87 per thousand. RP to do art work in future. Some were given to reps.

(3) HM reported Organisers and Event Safety course was cancelled due to low numbers. The new date will probably be in October and will be sent to RP for the magazine.

12. Updates in Events and Competitions Committee: No update at this point due to the absence of BE.

13. Junior Squad: Training day with WRE a week last Saturday, approx. 14 attended.

14. Club roundup:

WRE: SP. Club Champs 4th Jan. RL street O events are popular both socially and competitively. Wrockwardine 150 comps. Supported Bob Dredge for the Trig Point race and the Mercia Fell Runners. They are doing preparations for Woodside (Telford). Kristof was the champion for the British Nights, M35.

WCH: JH. 5th Jan. used an area at Marquis Drive as car park. It was a good event. Bagot Woods - a new area, a bit brambly, with a bird problem, so instead going to use Badgerslade. They are trying to train up more coaches and hopefully get new members. They are also trying to do Map runs.

POTOC: BM. Mark Clews is doing the Map runs. Would it be a good idea to do a development training to learn about Map runs and knowhow. Staffs. Schools at Hanley Forest Park already organised and Park League Activity evenings planned.

OD: BB. Pleased with the transition to SI. We were grateful for the advice and help from G.Urquhart. Printer for maps has doubled in price overnight. They are looking at using Hassle and Lucking. They have an evening event every Wednesday night during the summer. Compass Sport Cup Final will be at Sutton Park

HOC: PL. They are hosting the Laurie B. not the Compass Sport Cup. They have a full programme of Thursday evenings in the winter including a Map run. They piggy back NCOG at Ledbury. Paul Basher is uploading maps. They have summer evening or Saturday morning events. Birmingham Urban will be on the 14th June.

15. AOB: RL. had a letter re Postensplein from HOC. He gave apologies and thanks to HOC for doing all of the work and then the event was cancelled. There was a request from Barbara (HOC chairman), to reimburse the cost incurred to prepare the event that did not happen. She asked for £300 total (for controller, planner, organiser, toilets and maps). WMOA committee agreed to cover the money. Some reps wished to let WMOA pay; some wished to let their club pay part of the £300. RL. said this must be a one off, not to be a precedent to claim money, as a level B. The reps were asked to ask their clubs to comment on the following possibilities

(1) Could the Compass Sport Cup be held at Postensplein in 2021 to equalise all the costs?

(2) Should Postensplein be used as a WMOA league event?

(3) How should HOC be paid the money, either (a) by WMOA or (b) each club to pay part of the cost?

Reps to report back re decisions.

WRE offered to pay their share any way.

RC. Will the Midlands Champs take place in 2020? AW to raise on Saturday at the fixtures meeting.

16. Next Meeting:

8th June 2020.