

WMOA AGM

Monday October 12th 2020 commencing at 7-30pm by Zoom

Present: Richard Lewis (Chair and WRE), Ian Gamlen (Treasurer and COBOC), Ray Collins (Vice Chair and WCH), Carol Dredge (Secretary and WCH), Allan Williams (WM Fixtures and WCH), Rod Postlethwaite (WM Editor and WRE), Mel Elkington (WMJS and OD), Barry Elkington (OD), Marian White (HOC), Barbara Ford (HOC), Kirsten Strain (OD), Harriet Lawson (OD), Marian Denham (POTOC), Robert Vickers (HOC), Bob Scott (HOC), Richard Rogers (WRE), Jonathan Howell (WCH), Dan Finlay-Robinson (WCH).

- 1. Apologies:** Henry Morgan (POTOC), Brenda Morgan (POTOC)
- 2. Declaration Of Interests :** None
- 3. Acceptance of Minutes of 2019 AGM:** The minutes of the 2019 AGM were proposed as a true record by Rod Postlethwaite and seconded by Ray Collins.
- 4. Matters Arising:** None
- 5. Correspondence :** None
- 6. Chairman's Report- Richard Lewis**

Before compiling this report I read over the 2019 AGM minutes, reports and comments, and one thing I noted was Ian's date and venue for 2020 tonight. The venue was noted as To Be Confirmed.

Did Ian know something we didn't as for many years we have been to Great Barr?

2020 started off with the Laurie Bradley Trophy where those competing gathered at Baggeridge Country Park. And what a fine event it was with Wrekin coming out winners followed by HOC and in 3rd OD, thus breaking the stronghold OD have had on the trophy for a number of years.

During January we launched our new look WMOA web page bringing news information and anything you need to know about Orienteering in the West Midlands at the touch of a button. This was developed by Marian White HOC and Richard Rogers WRE and hosted by Mike Farrington HOC.

Marian is the person who is keeping all the info updated on a daily basis.

Due to COVID 19 our WMOA league has only been able to hold 3 events so far and currently WCH are leading by a slender 86 points from OD. The pandemic has decimated our plans and fixture lists and made planning for the future difficult, although all our clubs have excellent Risk assessments and preparations including following the BOF guidelines which have enabled some events to take place, our land owners and managers of orienteering areas are very cautious and unwilling yet to give permission.

We have already lost next year's JK2021 with land access and I think it's going to be a while before we can get back to 2019 levels.

We also need to look at the costs when we get back into Forestry areas under the new agreement signed in August. Something the committee will be discussing in the future.

However lets conclude on a positive note with Orienteers being Orienteers we have found alternative routes to get our fix and enjoy our sport, with most clubs in our region and beyond becoming successful in developing Map-run courses, and whilst these are not the same competitively or socially it is a way to keep our hand in, but not the same as discussing routes in car parks after the event.

Map-run may be a way forward in providing individual and club competition within the WMOA and further afield, it is something we will discuss at our next committee meeting, and if you have anything you would like to add please let your club rep know or email me.

Finally on a personally note I would like to thank our committee for the support, help and understanding they have given me over the last 12 months

This next year will be my final year, if elected, so maybe now is the time to start to think would you like the role?

7. Treasurer's Report- Ian Gamlen

Treasurers Report for 2019-2020

It has been an unusual year financially for the WMOA due to COVID 19 which has meant that from March 2020 until now very few orienteering events have taken place that have exceeded 40 adult participants, resulting in very little income for the WMOA from March 2020.

In terms of income the WMOA collected £1278.50 from WM event levies, less than the £2500 budgeted for due to events being cancelled from 16/3/2020.

In terms of expenditure this has generally been lower than anticipated due to the following:

1. Lower than anticipated committee expenses £447.20 rather than £600 budgeted for
2. No English Orienteering Council fees - £500 budgeted for

However, there was unexpected expenditure of £300 due to the cancellation of the 1st round of the Compass Sport Cup/Trophy in March 2020.

Overall the WMOA Treasurer Account had a deficit of £890.80, the WMJS had a surplus of £494.43.

Going forward as of 1/9/2020

WMOA Treasurer Account £8727.86

WMJS £3402.27

The accounts have been inspected by Brian Laycock of 8 Pear Tree Close Malvern WR14 4AW and he confirms that they are an accurate and true record.

Questions about accounts-

Richard Lewis asked whether the English Orienteering Council fee would have to be paid at some point. Barry Elkington stated that there would be no charge this year but normal charge for 20220/21.

Budget for 2020/21

Normally I would propose a budget for 2020-21 however as both income and expenditure is totally unpredictable I suggest that in terms of income we continue to charge a WM event levy as follows:

Juniors and up to 40 adults - no fee

£1 for the 41st adult and £1 each adult thereafter

In terms of expenditure this will be paid by the Treasurer as and when necessary. For amounts less than £100 this can be authorised by the agreement of both the Treasurer and Chairman. For amounts greater than £100 this will be agreed by the WMOA Committee as a whole.

I have highlighted to the WMOA Committee that one of the disadvantages of the WMOA relying on an event levy is that it does make us financially less secure at exceptional times, when events do not take place as anticipated. A more financially secure source of income would be to charge a West Midlands membership fee which can be collected on our behalf by British Orienteering as part of the British Orienteering membership fee. Alternatively a combination of the 2 income sources could be considered. I suggest that the new WMOA Committee put this issue on the agenda for the next WMOA committee meeting so that this can be openly discussed and some options can be brought forward at the next AGM.

Richard Lewis proposed the accounts were accepted and Allan Williams seconded.

8. Fixture's Report – Allan Williams

2020 got off to a normal start with the traditional New Year's Day score event at Baggeridge. By the start of February 3 league events were complete and Chasers were in the lead. Then things started to take a turn for the worst, there were dark clouds on the horizon. Storm Dennis caused the cancellation of our Compass Sport Cup qualifier and for a time it looked like we were all going to be washed away. That turned out to be the least of our worries.

On March 14th I attended the Event Scheduling meeting in an unusually quiet Birmingham, there were no visiting football fans in town that day, professional sport was already being cancelled. BOF were on the verge of calling off the JK but the following weekend's British Champs still looked on. Most Compass Sport cup rounds took place the next day.

On the following Thursday HOC's Night Street League in Worcester became the first of a long list of events to be cancelled. Our normal year of orienteering had come to an end.

For several weeks as lockdown progressed all was quiet but then in May Orienteering showed its resilience and ability to adapt, just as it had done when Foot and Mouth struck. From May the new craze was Maprun.

Since August it has been good to see clubs start to hold conventional events, doing what they can within the restrictions. Even though these events are being conducted under very complex regulations, if ever there was a group of people who are happy to read, digest and act on pages of complex instructions it's us. It's clear that in 2020 we will have a truncated league and sadly there won't be a WMOA Champs.

On Saturday I will be attending the ESG meeting by Zoom and I am holding another virtual meeting for the WMOA fixtures secretaries on the 27th. We usually use that meeting to map out the coming year, but I think we will find that difficult. It seems that clubs should just do what they can until we find we can begin to operate a bit more normally.

A discussion followed the report about the possibility of holding the WM Champs at another event. It was agreed that the Champs should be held at the first WM event that was able to have a suitable number of competitors provided this was agreed by the organising club. Potentially this could be OD's event at Brandon Woods with WCH's event at Shoal Hill in reserve.

9. Other Reports:

West Midlands Junior Squad- Mel Elkington

We started on 22nd September 2019 after the West Midlands Relays at Whitfield Valley with a post event training session. Then on the weekend of the 28th /29th September 2019 the Junior Inter Regional Championships took place at Cowms Rocks with the relays being held on Tankersley on the Sunday.

The team was: -

M18 (Brown) Ollie Lunn, Felix Lunn, Oliver Flippance, Henry Webb
M16 (Blue) Nathan Chapple, Matt Bambrook, David Knott, Jacob Oxtoby
M14 (Light Green) Lewis Oxtoby , Oscar Barnby
W18 (Blue) Holly Craig
W16 (Green) Pippa Smart, Holly Stodgell, Florence & Tabitha Lunn
W14 (Light Green) Josie Smart

Kirsten Strain, Harriet Lawson, Rob Smart & Mike Barnby accompanied the team. The boys were 11th in the Individual & 8th in the Relay so 9th overall boys' team. The girls were 7th in the individual & 6th in the relays and so were the 6th girls team, putting the whole squad into 7th position.

On 19th October 2019, the squad trained on Burton Dassett. Then on the 2nd November 2019 a training session was held on Shoal Hill. Late November saw some of our M/W 16's heading up to Hawkshead to take part in a weekend of training with all the other Regional squads.

To finish 2019, on the 15th December 2019 the squad enjoyed a festive themed training session on Hartshill. Then in early January a couple of the squad attended a training session on Big Moor run by the YHOA squad. On the 29th February 2020 there was a session held on the Wrekin concentrating on contours.

Several successful cake stalls were held. There were regular emails to squad members throughout April/May/June.

Kirsten ran a West Midland Junior Squad Lockdown Challenge throughout Lockdown, which some of the squad participated in. Weekly Zoom training sessions were held in July both technical and physical ones.

Sadly, we had no one to put forward for Lagganlia this year. However, Florence Lunn was successfully put forward for the Deeside tour, which was run virtually.

The squad intended to go to Sweden this year with the East Midland squad however that was cancelled. Flights had been booked and paid for.

Richard Lewis thanked Mel, Kirsten and Harriet for all their work with the Squad.

West Midlander – Rod Postlethwaite

An issue of the West Midlander would hopefully be out within the next few weeks. There is a shortage of articles and no fixtures or leagues to put in.

10. Election of Officers

Position	Nomination	Proposed	Seconded
Chair	Richard Lewis	Carol Dredge	Ray Collins
Vice Chair	Ray Collins	Barry Elkington	Allan Williams
Secretary	Carol Dredge	Mel Elkington	Rod Postlethwaite
Treasurer	Ian Gamlen	Bob Scott	Carol Dredge
Fixtures Secretary	Allan Williams	Marian Denham	Ian Gamlen
Magazine Editor	Rod Postlethwaite	Richard Lewis	Ian Gamlen

Marian White and Richard Rogers were happy to continue as Webmasters.

Mel Elkington, Kirsten Strain and Harriet Lawson were happy to continue running the WMJS.

11. Review of Data Policy:

Marian White proposed that the Policy be only reviewed every two years unless due to a change in legislation it needed updating. Seconded by Richard Rogers.

12. AOB:

Ian Gamlen asked whether future committee meetings and possibly next year's AGM would continue to be held over Zoom. Richard Lewis suggested that maybe the committee should get together once a year. To be discussed at next Committee Meeting.

Ray Collins pointed out that the SE were putting on Map Run Leagues and suggested WM did the same. It was agreed that Ian Gamlen would set up a Zoom meeting with Map Run specialists from each club to discuss the feasibility of this idea. Ian thought this would be a good way of getting money for WM. Ian to report back to next Committee Meeting.

13. Next Year's AGM to be held on 11th October 2021- venue to be confirmed.

Next Committee Meeting to be held on 14th December 2020 by Zoom.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8:35pm.