

Minutes of WMOA Committee Meeting 14th December 2020

via Zoom

Present: Richard Lewis, Allan Williams, Mel Elkington, Peter Langmaid, Marian White, Barry Elkington, Ian Gamlen, Richard Rogers, Ray Collins, Rod Postlethwaite, Jonathan Howell, Steve Parker, Carol Dredge

1. **Apologies:** Henry Morgan, Brenda Morgan

2. **Declaration of Interest:** None

3. **Acceptance of Previous Minutes:** Accepted

4. **Matters Arising:** None

5. **Correspondence:**

1. Report from Keith Wildig on BOF focus group session, circulated to all committee members. **RL** to thank Keith for attending meeting and sending report.

2. Email from BOF re U18 training - sent to **ME**.

3. Covid Updates from BOF.

4. **RL** - email from controller of Shoal Hill event seeking clarity of going from Tier 3 area to Tier 2 area. Event postponed.

6. **Chairman's Report - RL**

Again thank you all for attending this Zoom meeting and **AW** for hosting.

With the full agenda we have for tonight I specifically have kept my comments to a minimum.

I'm sure we will cover the cancelled/postponed events in either fixtures or club round up I will leave the clubs/officers to update.

I think we all are either in Tier 2 and some in tier 3 let's hope we soon have some light at the end of the tunnel

I would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a safe one also and hope that we will all be out and orienteering soon.

7. **Treasurer's Report -IG**

Current financial report had been emailed to Committee members. Very quiet time financially. Expenditure £14-39 to **AW** to reimburse cost of Zoom meetings. Income £70 event levies from HOC, OD and WRE events.

8. **Fixtures Report- AW**

A National Event scheduling meeting had been held by Zoom. Looked at major events 2021 and onwards. Plans in place for all major events subject to restrictions.

West Midlands Fixtures meeting had been held. At the time things were looking more positive for Orienteering - 3 or 4 more League events had been planned and WM Champs. With further restrictions put in place all had been cancelled.

Wait and see what happens- **AW** to deal with any possible issues re dates etc.

Only 3 events have been held in WM League and a discussion was held on what to do about the results of this. It was agreed to go with results from the three events. Walton Chasers win the League.

9. **West Midlander - RP**

One edition had gone out recently but no material for next one. It was agreed to wait until February to see what is happening by then and maybe produce a new edition then if feasible.

10. **WMOA Website**

RR- Covid updates had been added to site.

MW- should Sutton Park embargo remain? CSC Final may be held at Chatsworth next year. Agreed to keep embargo for the moment.

WM GPS League to be added to website.

11. **Development**- nothing planned.

12. **Update Events and Competition Committee - BE**

A virtual meeting was held to discuss Ranking system. It was agreed that no ranking points would be removed until Fixtures resume but new points can be added if attend a Ranking event. British Champs 2021 have been cancelled

13. West Midlands Junior Squad- ME

West Midlands Junior Squad- September 2020 to December 2020

The inclusion of 10 new younger juniors into the squad has been successful.

We have welcomed Harriet & Grace from Wrekin, Kieran & Robin from Harlequins, Jonah & Olivia from Walton Chasers & finally Henry, Rupert, Max, and Adam from Octavian Droobers. In 2021 James & Craig from Harlequins are aiming to join us.

The November training session at Itchington Holt has been postponed to early 2021

Meanwhile on Zoom monthly physical training has continued along with monthly technical training. This Thursday sees a Zoom Christmas Quiz finale for all current members and their families.

We are currently working with JROS to develop a replacement to for the BO Talent Programme. It is intended to introduce a Talent North & Talent South squad to replace the current programme. West Midlands are in the Talent South squad at present. Two athletes were invited, one declined and one accepted.

Looking forward we intend to resume in-person coaching in early 2021, restrictions permitting (access to areas will be required – we would welcome any suggestions of good areas with permission likely to be granted - note that youth sport is seen positively and often in a different category than open events)

Zoom trainings will continue (subject to review regarding scheduling and content) even if restrictions allow in person trainings.

The Junior Regional Orienteering Squads needs to raise funds to continue supporting Lagganlia and coach development, especially due to loss of income from JK + BOC 2020 and 2021 - so please consider donating to <https://www.orienteeringfoundation.org.uk/support-jros-2021> .

Need to order more Squad O tops at a cost of between £250-£300.

14. WMOA levy / Membership Fee - IG

Notes had been circulated to Committee members.

Most years need to spend about £2600. Saving at current time by no travelling costs for meetings or room hire - £600.

This year has been very exceptional with only a few events. WMOA and WMJS both have sufficient funds at the moment.

We could raise income by charging a membership fee to join WMOA.

IG suggested waiting to see what was happening by August/ September, if more events again no need to worry. We have over £8,000 in bank so could run for a couple of years without much income. No money would be going to WM Junior Squad if no orienteering.

RL thanked IG for preparing notes for discussion. It was agreed to review situation in June.

15. WM GPS O League -IG/PL

IG had held a Zoom meeting with representatives from each club and subsequently requirements for League had been sent out to Committee.

Peter Langmaid has volunteered to be Co-ordinator of League- thanked by IG.

Points for discussion-

Linear only or include Score events? It was agreed to keep it simple and only Linear courses.

Juniors to be shadowed so could be on busier roads? It was agreed this would be difficult to apply so use parks for Juniors where possible if not very quiet streets.

What next?

All competitors need to register for League via a link on WMOA website to ensure all data available to collate results.

Each club aim to put on two events during the year, ideally about six months apart.

Events to be registered as an activity by clubs.

Courses to run for three week period.

RL to coordinate dates and venues with clubs and pass onto AW and MW/RR to go on website.

16. Future WMOA Meetings- Zoom?

RL- suggested one face to face meeting each year and AGM.

BE- felt need for face to face meetings if contentious issues or if WM clubs running major events.

RP- Zoom could be used for additional meetings or sub-meetings- eg GPS league.

IG- Zoom easier no travelling costs and better attendance.

RL- Zoom costs to be paid to AW.

17. Clubs RoundUp.

COBOC IG

At last meeting suggested setting up own league with event round Sutton Coldfield, using a park for Juniors.

WCH JH

Haywood Warren and Shoal Hill had both had to be cancelled. Shoal Hill rescheduled for February 2021. Club have made a provisional list of events for next year to include new area Bagot's Wood- privately owned but managed by forestry - limit of 30 people?

POTOC No representative

WRE SP

Club Champs at Nescliffe on Sunday with limited numbers. Planning 1 or 2 low key events early next year at Country parks. Choc-O to go ahead - will be advertised on WMOA Website.

HOC PL

Halloween Street O in Redditch in conjunction with a local community group had been a great success. Club Champs postponed from last Saturday on BOF advice due to Covid restrictions and movement between tiers. Postponed until February/ March.

Night Street League using MapRun - take up had been disappointing due to no socialising and some people feeling safer if other runners were around. Now changed to Winter Urban League so people can run at any time of day with no penalty for not running in dark. Events on website and open to all.

OD BE

Continuing to put on lots of MapRun events. No dates for any events yet but have two events planned that could be put on at short notice.

18. Any Other Business - None

19. Date of Next Meeting- Monday 8th March 7-30pm by Zoom.

The meeting closed at 9-15pm.

Thanks to Allan Williams for coordinating Zoom Meeting.