

## WMOA AGM 2021

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 7-30pm at The Great Barr Hotel and also 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), Barry Elkington (OD), Marian White (HOC), Richard Rogers (WRE), Jonathan Howell (WCH), Mike Callow (WRE), Andy White (HOC), Peter Langmaid (HOC), Barry McGowan (HOC), James Thomas (COBOC)

**By Zoom:** Kirsten Strain (OD), Robert Vickers (HOC), Henry Morgan (POTOC), Brenda Morgan (POTOC)

- 1. Apologies:** Mel Elkington, Rod Postlethwaite, Paul Graetz, Adrian Pickles,
- 2. Declaration Of Interests :** None
- 3. Acceptance of Minutes of 2020 AGM:** The minutes of the 2020 AGM were proposed as a true record by Ian Gamlen and seconded by Ray Collins.
- 4. Matters Arising:** None
- 5. Correspondence :** CD has received from BOF the Association Affiliation Documents for 2022. These will be returned to BOF with updated information after AGM.
- 6. Chairman's Report- Richard Lewis**

Last year I reported that I thought it would be sometime before we could get fixture lists and league competitions back to pre COVID levels.

Well it's pleasing to read BOF's data, on how many events and participants have attended national events. It's also great to see WMOA have a forward fixture list with planned events throughout the region.

The popular events that build the WMOA league have been reduced but we will have a league this year, with a list of events on the WMOA web page.

Events further afield like the Scottish and British Middle and Long distance races have brought success to some WMOA club members. Congratulations to you all and especially the champions

This AGM brings the Chair's 3 years in office to an end. In general they have been an enjoyable 3 years if not somewhat challenging in various ways. The job of chair has been made simple by the support and commitment of the committee, who I thank.

I have to give special thanks to our WMOA secretary, Carol for the background work she does in supporting the WMOA and its Chair, always supporting the chair on time with minutes and reminders etc. Thank you.

A special thanks has to go to our retiring Fixtures Secretary, Allan Williams, who after over 12 years has decided to hang his fixtures calendar up or down. Thank you Allan.

Thank you also to all the WMOA clubs, Chairpersons and club reps for supporting me during my term.

So hopefully I will start to see more of you at events around the clubs as we start to plan ahead.

### **7. Treasurer's Report- Ian Gamlen**

West Midlands Orienteering Association

Income and Expenditure Account 1/9/20 to 31/8/21

Income	Actual	Actual
General Levy	276.00	
SINS	231.00	
	<u>507.00</u>	507.00
		0.00
		0.00
		0.00
External Support		0.00
Sundry		0.00
Bank Account Interest		<u>0.00</u>
Total Income		507.00

#### Expenditure

West Midlander	0.00	
Junior Squad Subsidy	1,000.00	
Donations	0.00	
Officer Expenses	0.00	
Committee meeting expenses inc AGM	57.56	
English Orienteering Council	378.00	
Courses	0.00	
Sundry	0.00	
WM Website	153.00	
JK Surplus passed onto clubs + OF	<u>0.00</u>	
Total Expenditure	<u>1,588.56</u>	1,588.56

Surplus/(Deficit) -1,081.56

#### **WM Junior Squad**

Income	1,259.03
Expenditure	754.28
Surplus/(Deficit)	<u>504.75</u>

#### TOTAL FUNDS

	Total	WMOA	WMJS
WMOA Treasurer Account	8,727.86	8,727.86	
WMJS Account	<u>3,402.27</u>		<u>3,402.27</u>
Opening b/f	12,130.13	8,727.86	3,402.27
Surplus/(Deficit) for 2020/2021	<span style="color: red;">-576.81</span>	<span style="color: red;">-1,081.56</span>	504.75

closing c/f	<u>11,553.32</u>	<u>7,646.30</u>	<u>3,907.02</u>
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#### Represented by:

WMOA Treasurer Account	7,646.30	7,646.30	
WMJS Account	3,907.02		3,907.02
Total	<u>11,553.32</u>	<u>7,646.30</u>	<u>3,907.02</u>

2020-21 has been an unusual year due to the COVID 19 pandemic. The usual number of WM League and local events have not taken place and SINS was only held on one day rather than over the usual three days. This has inevitably resulted in less event levies and since this is our only source of income, a significantly lower income for 2020-21 compared to previous years.

As you can see our total income for 2020-21 was £507.00 – £231 coming from SINS, the remaining £276 from local and WM league events.

The WMOA total expenditure was £ 1,588, which is broken down as follows:

We continued to fully support the WMJS transferring £1000 into their account. This proved to be a generous donation as their expenditure was lower than in previous years leaving them with a surplus of £504 by 31/8/21. We also paid the English Orienteering Council levy of £378. The WM website has been updated and made more secure by changing it from http to https. This has cost £153.

We have continued to hold WM Committee meetings via Zoom which has saved us a significant amount of money as we have not needed to pay Committee members their travelling expenses. The total Committee meetings costs incurred was £57.56 for the Zoom meetings which Allan Williams has kindly set up and run for us.

In summary the WMOA had a deficit of £1081.56 and the WMJS had a surplus of £504 resulting in the following closing funds: WMOA £7646.30 and WMJS £3907.02 as of 31/8/21.

As in previous years Brian Laycock has kindly inspected the accounts and declared them to be a true and accurate record.

## **Budget for 2021-22**

Like last year, due to the unpredictability of whether events can take place as planned and uncertainty regarding our expenditure I do not feel I am able to set a budget for 2021-22. I am however confident that we have sufficient funds to cover likely expenditure over the next 12 months even with little or no income. In view of this I suggest that we continue with the current WM event levy, ie no charge for the first 40 adults at a WM event and £1 per adult for any additional.

Peter Langmaid asked whether next year we should rebalance the money paid to the WM Junior Squad as they had fewer members now? Ian Gamlen suggested that monies allocated may be in future based on numbers in squad- to be discussed with squad leaders. Item to be added to next committee meeting agenda – Review of WM Squad donations. Barry Elkington pointed out that expenditure depended on where JIRCS held each year. Next years JIRCS in Northern Ireland.

Barry Elkington also noted that 2 City Races were planned for June 2022 with hopefully 500+ entrants at each so expect a good income from these.

## **8. Fixture's Report – Allan Williams**

At the 2020 AGM there was hope that several events would happen before Christmas and a small WMOA league could take place. The November lockdown scuppered those plans and the year ended with few events. Following the lifting of restrictions in the spring there have been many events and it now looks likely that a WMOA league consisting of 6 races will occur. It was a shame that OD could not host the Compass Sport Cup Final in Sutton Park. At the last minute SYO have stepped in to save the event. It looks like 2022 can approach the normal with a full range of WMOA events.

After 13 years I am leaving this post. In recent years there have been some very positive changes in my lifestyle and for the time being I've left orienteering behind. My partner Charlotte and I formed a civil

partnership last month and are enjoying our new home in South Derbyshire. Walking and the occasional Parkrun keeps us active.

I've been coming to WMOA meetings on and off for over 30 years and I will miss the friendship of the committee. I wish you all well in challenging times and hope that orienteering will thrive in the West Midlands. I think there are presently some difficult challenges. I don't think orienteering understands its environmental impact fully, and I don't think those who control our access to land understand that either. I also think that post pandemic demand to access the countryside are increasing and the sport needs to find its place in a crowded market and work in co-operation with other users.

Take care everyone.

Richard Lewis thanked Allan on behalf of the WMOA for all the roles that he had fulfilled in his time orienteering in the West Midlands both as a competitor and an official.

## **9. Other Reports:**

### **WMOA AGM Junior Squad report 2020 to 2021**

Post lockdown the West Midlands Junior Squad training began again in September 2020 with a session for three squad members at Elmdon Park. There were originally four but sadly one had to quarantine due to a Covid case in his school year group. Another training session was held at Hartshill Hayes, and both sessions were made Covid secure by following British Orienteering coaching guidelines.

The 2020 Junior Inter-Regional Championships did not take place.

In 2021 a training session was held at Itchington Holt which went very well, followed by one at Pitcher Oak Wood in June. Many thanks to OD & HOC for allowing us to train on these areas.

We have held Zoom monthly physical training along with monthly technical training throughout the year. At Christmas we held a Zoom Christmas Quiz finale for all current members and their families.

In view of the lack of opportunities for children to orienteer this year, we offered the opportunity for any 12 year old and above who had completed an Orange course to start training with the squad. This resulted in the inclusion of ten new younger juniors into the squad, which has been successful. We welcomed Harriet & Grace from Wrekin, Kieran & Robin from Harlequins, Jonah & Olivia from Walton Chasers and Henry, Rupert, Max & Adam from Octavian Droobers. Then in 2021 Craig from Harlequins joined us. We have therefore bought some more O tops, which are available at £25 each to squad members.

Over the year we have worked with JROS (Junior Regional Orienteering Squads) to develop a replacement for the British Orienteering 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.

The JROS Summer tours took place in 2021. Sadly, we were very disappointed not to be able to nominate anyone for these, but hopefully with such a young squad this will change next year.

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

### **West Midlander**

Rod is happy to continue as Editor and as always is happy to receive material for the next edition.

## 10. Election of Officers

There were no nominations for the role of Chairman so it was suggested to Richard Lewis that he could be co-opted into this role, which he agreed to. (He could not be elected to the role as he had already fulfilled his 3 years as Chair as per the WMOA Constitution.) A vote was held to co-opt him which was passed unanimously.

Position	Nomination	Proposed	Seconded
Chair	Richard Lewis	Brenda Morgan	Robert Vickers
Vice Chair	Ray Collins	Allan Williams	Richard Rogers
Secretary	Carol Dredge	Kirsten Strain	Henry Morgan
Treasurer	Ian Gamlen	Carol Dredge	Kirsten Strain
Fixtures Secretary	* There were no nominations for this post.		
Magazine Editor	Rod Postlethwaite	Andy White	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.

- Allan Williams to put together a brief job description of Fixtures Secretary role to go out with AGM minutes, in next WM newsletter and also to be put on WMOA Website.

## 11. AOB:

1. Richard Lewis has received a request from Andy Yeates about JK 2024. EMOA are struggling to find areas of their own and clubs to organise days so have suggested that EMOA organise the Sprint and Relay days and WMOA the Middle and Long at Beaudesert. Only LEI and DVO have the resources to put on a day. JK 2024 would then be a combined EMOA/ WMOA event.

JK 2028 scheduled for WMOA but AY would ask Mike Cope to defer this to a later date if joint event went ahead.

Jonathan Howell commented (as Beaudesert is a Chasers area) that it would be up to the new Chasers committee to consider the proposal. Concern was expressed that it would embargo the area again for two years. Walton Chasers are not a big club and may struggle to put this on. It was suggested that if this went through all clubs in the region would have to help.

Richard Lewis to reply to Andy Yeates stating new Chasers committee would need to discuss this. Also to point out that SYO are nearer to current planned area for Relays.

Barry Elkington pointed out that the current 2 year embargo put clubs off holding major events. Could this be reduced to one year?

2. Robert Vickers endorsed the thanks given to Allan Williams for all the time and effort he has put into WMOA over the years and wished him well in the future.
3. National Fixtures Meeting to be held virtually on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> October. In absence of Fixtures Secretary Ian Gamlen agreed to represent WM at the meeting.

**12. Next Year's AGM to be held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022.**

**Next Committee Meeting to be held on Monday 13th December 2021 by Zoom.**

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8:30pm.