

Minutes of WMOA Committee Meeting 20th September 2021 via Zoom.

Present: Richard Lewis, Allan Williams, Barry Elkington, Ray Collins, Barbara Ford, Kirsten Strain, Rod Postlethwaite, Ian Gamlen, Richard Rogers, Henry Morgan, Brenda Morgan, Carol Dredge

- 1. Apologies:** Marian White, Jonathan Howell, Harriet Lawson, Mel Elkington
- 2. Declaration of Interest:** None
- 3. Acceptance of Previous Minutes:** Accepted
- 4. Matters Arising:** None
- 5. Correspondence:** CD- note from BOF requiring update of WM officials- to be returned after AGM.
- 6. Chairman's Report:**

Firstly thank you to Ray for chairing the last meeting, an administration error by my wife meant we would be away, and secondly thank you all for accommodating the date change this time, I was due to have my wisdom teeth out but as I sat in the waiting room they had to cancel due to staff problem.

Whilst we are all coming to terms with how we handle COVID which is still very much with us, its pleasing to see more and more large scale events taking place successfully, and in a safe environment.

I think the way we have changed to accommodate safe practices with COVID will stay with us as we move forward, processes like pre-entry for local events etc, will help clubs manage map printing/usage and reduce any wastage along with other entry/lists.

I seem to have got out of the habit of checking web sites and calendars for fixtures and have missed a couple of events whilst I get back to a process habit,

I did manage a small Tuesday afternoon/evening event recently from WRE but also seem to be out of practice on orienteering as I ran to No 3 before No2 and then completely missed the last but one control as I could see the finish and didn't check my map, need to get back into the routine.

Hope Kirsten, Harriet and the juniors didn't mind me turning up at the WMOA junior squad day at Pitcher Oak? Thank you to Kirstin and Harriet for giving me an insight as to what they do. I was impressed with the high quality training sessions they had prepared for the juniors and they certainly put a lot of time and work into getting these events run. Thank you all involved.

October 11th is our AGM please can everyone help me to ask members for suitable nominations for the vacant officers positions we have coming up.

7. Treasurer's Report:

There had been a few events with total income of £507. Money had been saved this year on travel to and booking of Great Barr Hotel for Committee meetings. Overall made a small loss but WMJS were £500 better off than before.

Brian Laycock to look at accounts prior to AGM.

8. Fixtures Report:

No fixtures meetings had been held.

WM League three more events to be held –POTOC, HOC,OD. So total of 6 events in League- with Shoal Hill, Rorrington and Stapeley and Redditch Urban already taken place.

Awaiting reply from POTOC re Bathpool Park in League, HM thought this would be. BE- to contact Lesley Ross to process results from League, suggested we use best 3 out of 6 or 4 out of 7.

RR- to put League events still to come on website.

AW- to modify listings on BOF website to show League events.

RC- suggested WCH Brereton Spurs event could also be a league event.

AW reminded everyone that he was standing down at AGM after 13 years as Fixtures Secretary. Thanks from RL for all his work.

National Fixtures Meeting week after AGM, probably by Zoom, need someone to stand in for this if no Fixtures Secretary appointed at AGM. IG to stand in?

9. West Midlander:

RP reported that there was an issue ready to go out and hoped there would be another one before Christmas. Articles always required.

10. WMOA Website:

Trying to return to some normality after Covid. League events to be added. Regional Fixtures List now added local events to website.

11. Development:

HM hoped to run a Planners or Organisers Course next February/ March , whichever was needed the most, with a Controllers Course in the Autumn. Club reps to find out which would be most useful first.

Event Safety course can be added to Organisers course or can be done online. Better face to face.

12. Update from Events and Competitions Committee:

BE stressed that this year had been all about making events happen and changing rules to allow this.

Hopefully next year events can be run according to rules.

Mike Cope done lots of work over last year rescheduling events where possible.

RL- participated on JK review meeting held by BOF on Zoom. This was a fact finding discussion and nothing was finalised or changed.

BOF questionnaire to be sent to all members on JK format.

- *How many days ?

- *Resources for putting on event ageing- should someone be employed to run it?

- *Rotate within 5 areas

- *Core function and expectation of people attending JK

- *Review of age classes for JK

No questionnaires have been seen yet. BE to follow this up.

IG asked if any discussion on financing of JK. RL reported none but BOF would like it run like Scottish 5 days- funded from event.

13. WM Junior Squad:

The training at Pitcher Oak on 27th June went well with Harriet coaching while Kirsten was 'pinged' that morning so could not coach. Thanks to HOC for area permission.

No WM juniors participated on JROS tours this summer, nor will any be at the JHIs.

The Junior Inter-Regional Championships (JIRCs) is this coming weekend (25th/26th September) in the North East, where we are taking a small team of 3 juniors.

Training dates in the Autumn term are hard to fit in because of such a busy calendar of events. We have a few dates to investigate and will be contacting clubs directly to ask for help with area permissions.

Zoom trainings continued through the summer term until the school holidays started in July. They are going to restart in October, with a schedule of two per month - one physical and one technical.

KS- reported that there were only about 12 children currently in squad with half of these only being M/W 12. Lots of squads had had a drop in membership over the last year. IG- stressed need for all clubs to renew their efforts with Juniors. BE- BSOA have sold more equipment this year than ever before – need to get children out from school events to other local events.

14. AGM: Great Barr Hotel booked for 11/10/21 from 7pm. Cost £65.

Agreed to hold meeting via Zoom as well. CD to contact hotel to arrange.

CD to send out AGM reminder to all members adding Zoom option details and also stressing need for new Chair and Fixtures Secretary.

IG suggested RL continue as chair if no one else was forthcoming, due to circumstances of last year. RL agreed to this.

15. Club Round-Up:

HOC- BF- Redditch event had lower numbers than hoped for would look to use area again as new map. Programme of Winter events in terrain. CSC Heat for next year in Wyre Forest forestry creating some issues. November 14th WM Champs and League event at Worcestershire Beacon.

OD: BE- Getting back to normal with one event per month. Bob Brandon sorting Saturday and Sunday events for next year. Benefit of Covid restrictions – pre entry and printing correct map numbers, problems- newcomers entry on the day.

WCH: RC- Tuesday night Urban League- 45 minute score events using MapRun. 6 planned prior to Christmas – open to all contact RC to reserve maps.

COBOC: IG- Beginners, Family, Schools events 4th Saturday of each month. Encouraging people to let know if coming as limited EOD subject to maps. Lichfield Community Games held last Saturday – 230 children took part in COBOC Maze.

POTOC: HM- series of monthly events continuing and planning events for next year. Big input into schools- updating maps, working with staff etc hoping for positive results. Park Hall New Year's Day Score Event needs a Controller.

WRE: RL and RP: Nesscliffe event this Saturday. 16th October Godbatch on Long Mynd. Both have limit of 60 people.

16. AOB:

IG- Orienteering Foundation working group held a virtual meeting- report to be out in November. Looked at club websites assessing how useful for newcomers etc. Feedback to be given to individual clubs. A worthwhile exercise.
20th November – Coaching Day in Lake District open to individuals and groups.

17. Date of Next Meeting: Monday 13th December at 7-30pm by Zoom. (BE – to arrange this.)

Meeting closed at 9pm.

Thanks again to Allan Williams for facilitating this meeting.