

The West Midlander

Autumn 2021



**The Newsletter of the
West Midlands Orienteering Association**

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Chairman Richard Lewis presenting the W12 Midland Championship trophy to his granddaughter, Harriet Allinson (WRE), at Stapeley and Rorrington.

Photo: Ian Gamlen (COBOC)

Editorial

Welcome to the Autumn edition of the 'West Midlander'.

Firstly, apologies for missing three issues but I'm sure you'll forgive me because it is only recently that we have returned to something like 'normality'. As there have been very few events I have had very little to report so I decided not to publish anything.

Throughout the time since the last issue we have been subjected to restrictions such as the Tier system and a third national lockdown. This has led to a great deal of uncertainty with regards to planning and holding of events. Gaining permissions to hold events appears to have been difficult throughout the pandemic though this seems to be easing. Gradually fixtures are starting to appear in the region again since most of the restrictions have been lifted. This gives us something to look forward to again. However, cases and deaths are still high, despite the vaccination programme, and it is to be hoped that these do not accelerate any more as we head into Winter and cause further disruptions to orienteering.

Springtime in Shropshire was held on the Spring Bank Holiday but was reduced to a single day because of the restrictions at the time. It also incorporated the Midland Championships and it was good to meet up with old friends once again at the event on a glorious sunny day.

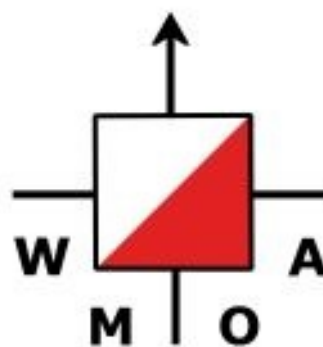
The CompassSport Cup/Trophy Final which has been carried over from 2020 was supposed to have been held at Sutton Park but permissions weren't forthcoming so it will now be held at Tankersley near Sheffield. Good luck to all the teams competing.

I am always looking for contributions to the newsletter so if you have anything that you think might be of interest please get in touch.

Rod

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Minutes of WMOA Committee Meeting 14 December 2020 via Zoom

1. **Present:** R. Collins, C. Dredge, B. Elkington, M. Elkington, I. Gamlen, J. Howell, P. Langmaid, R. Lewis, S.Parker, R. Postlethwaite, R.Rogers, M.White, A. Williams.
2. **Apologies:** B. Morgan, H. Morgan.
3. **Declarations of Interest:** None.
4. **Acceptance of Previous Minutes:** Accepted.
5. **Matters Arising:** None.
6. **Correspondence:**

- ❑ Report from Keith Willdig (OD) on the BOF Focus Group session, circulated to all committee members. R. Lewis to thank Keith for attending the meeting and sending the report (see page?).
- ❑ E-mail from BOF regarding U18 training which was sent to M. Elkington.
- ❑ Covid-19 Updates from BOF.
- ❑ R. Lewis received an e-mail from the Controller of the Shoal Hill event seeking clarity regarding moving between a Tier 3 area and a Tier 2 area. The event was postponed.

7. Chairman's Report:

Again thank you all for attending this Zoom meeting and to A. Williams for hosting it.

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 the 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 so 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.

8. Treasurer's Report:

The current Financial Report had been e-mailed to Committee members. Very quiet time financially. Expenditure: £14.39 to A. Williams to reimburse the cost of Zoom meetings. Income: £70 event levies from HOC, OD and WRE events.

9. Fixtures:

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

A West Midlands fixtures meeting had been held. At the time things were looking more positive for orienteering with 3 or 4 more League events planned and the WM Championships. With further restrictions put in place all had been cancelled.

Wait and see what happens - A. Williams to deal with any possible issues regarding dates, etc.

Only 3 events have been held in the 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 therefore Walton Chasers win the League.

10. West Midlander:

One edition had gone out recently but there was 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 it was feasible.

11. WMOA Website:

Covid-19 updates had been added to the site.

Should the Sutton Park embargo remain? CompassSport Cup/ Trophy Final may be held at Chatsworth next year. It was agreed to keep the embargo for the moment.

WM GPS League details to be added to the website.

12. Development:

Nothing planned.

13. Events and Competitions Committee:

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

14. West Midlands Junior Squad:

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

We have welcomed Grace and Harriet from WRE, Kieran and Robin from HOC, Jonah & Olivia from WCH and, finally, Adam, Henry, Max and Rupert, from OD. In 2021 James and Craig from HOC are aiming to join us.

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

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

We are currently working with the Junior Regional Orienteering Squads to develop a replacement to for the British Orienteering Talent Programme. It is intended to introduce Talent North and Talent South squads to replace the current programme. West Midlands are in the Talent South squad at present. Two athletes were invited of whom one declined and one accepted.

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

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

The Junior Regional Orienteering Squads needs to raise funds to continue supporting Lagganlia and coach development, especially due to loss of income from JK and BOC 2020,2021. Please consider donating to:

<https://www.orienteeringfoundation.org.uk/support-jros-2021>.

There is a need to order more Squad 'O' tops at a cost of between £250 and £300.

15. WMOA Levy/ Membership Fee:

Notes had been circulated to Committee members.

In most years the cost is about £2600. The saving at the current time with no travelling costs for meetings or room hire is £600.

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

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

I. Gamlen suggested waiting to see what was happening by August/ September. If more events are being held then there is no need to worry. We have over £8,000 in the bank so we could run for a couple of years without much income. No money would be going to WM Junior Squad if there was no orienteering.

R. Lewis thanked I. Gamlen for preparing the notes for discussion. It was agreed to review the situation in June.

16. WMOA GPS 'O' League:

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

Peter Langmaid has volunteered to be Co-ordinator of the League and was thanked by I. Gamlen.

Points for discussion were:

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

Juniors were to be shadowed so events could be on busier roads. It was agreed this would be difficult to apply so parks were to be used for Juniors where possible or very quiet streets.

What next?

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

Each club would 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.

R. Lewis to co-ordinate dates and venues with clubs and pass the information to A. Williams and M. White /R. Rogers to be put on the website.

17. Future WMOA Meetings:

R. Lewis suggested one face to face meeting be held each year plus the AGM.

B. Elkington felt the need for face to face meetings if there were contentious issues or if the WMOA clubs were running major events.

R. Postlethwaite suggested that Zoom could be used for additional meetings or sub-meetings-e.g. for the GPS League.

I. Gamlen suggested Zoom was easier as there were no travelling costs and they had a better attendance.

Zoom costs were to be paid to A. Williams.

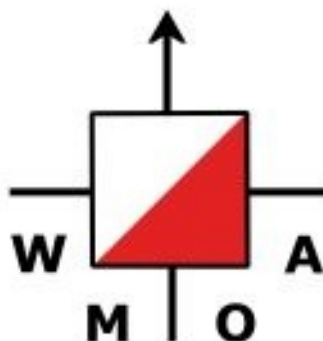
18. Club Round up:

- ❑ **COBOC:** At the last meeting it was suggested setting up their own league with an event round Sutton Coldfield using a park for Juniors.
- ❑ **HOC:** The Halloween Street 'O' in Redditch held in conjunction with a local community group had been a great success. The Club Champs were postponed on BOF advice, due to Covid-19 restrictions and movement between tiers, until February or March. The take up of the Night Street League, using MapRun, had been disappointing due to no socialising and some people feeling safer if other runners were around. It has now been changed to Winter Urban League so people can run at any time of day with no penalty for not running in dark. Events are on the website and are open to all.
- ❑ **OD:** Continuing to put on lots of MapRun events. No dates for any events as yet but have two events already planned that could be put on at short notice.
- ❑ **POTOC:** No representative.
- ❑ **WCH:** Haywood Warren and Shoal Hill have both had to be cancelled. Shoal Hill has been rescheduled for February 2021. The club have made a provisional list of events for next year to include new area Bagot's Wood, which is privately owned but managed by the Forestry Commission - possibly with a limit of 30 people?
- ❑ **WRE:** The Club Championships are to be held at Nesscliffe Hill on Sunday with limited numbers. Planning 1 or 2 low key events early next year at country parks. The Choc 'O' is to go ahead and will be advertised on WMOA Website.

19. AOB: None.

20. Next Meeting:

8 March 2021 (via Zoom).



Minutes of WMOA Committee Meeting**8 March 2021****via Zoom**

1. **Present:** C. Dredge, B. Elkington, B. Ford, I. Gamlen, J. Howell, H. Lawson, R. Lewis, B. Morgan, H. Morgan, A. Pickles, R. Postlethwaite, R. Rogers, K. Strain, M. White, A. Williams.
2. **Apologies:** M. Elkington, S. Parker.
3. **Declarations of Interest:** None.
4. **Acceptance of Previous Minutes:** Accepted.
5. **Matters Arising:** None.
6. **Correspondence:**

- ❑ Ambassador for Orienteering Foundation - I. Gamlen agreed to look into joining this.
- ❑ BOF consultation regarding changes to wording in the Constitution prior to AGM. R. Lewis and C. Dredge looked at the changes and replied to BOF that WMOA were happy with them.
- ❑ Updated Covid-19 guidance.
- ❑ David Pal (Chairman of WOA) is looking for a non SI equipment Co-ordinator for JK 2022. C. Dredge to send the job specification to all members.
- ❑ E-mail from SinS Co-ordinator: SinS will be a 2 day event but will not host the Midlands Championships as the Guidelines for it are too difficult to follow at the current time.

B. Elkington stated that the guidelines had not changed since the Midland Championships had moved from a Level A to a Level B event. There is a need for it as it was not held last year but only if it can be entered freely with no great restrictions.

A. Williams suggested that one day of SinS could be used for this. He will discuss the Midlands Championships and whether it can be held without all usual rules and regulations at the Event Scheduling Group meeting on Saturday 13 March.

R. Lewis to discuss this further with A. Pickles.

B. Elkington to support with any technical issues.

7. Chairman's Report:

Thank you all for attending. At this moment in time I am feeling quite positive that we will soon have some events to attend and hopefully remember how to orienteer. I'm sure future events will be organised in a different format to that which we have been used to experiencing but any event is better than none. Hopefully we will have the British Middle Championships in May and maybe our clubs will be able to arrange some further events over the Summer months. Hopefully we will have some positive news and update on SinS during the evening.

Our Federation, BOF, is actively still developing online courses which is a positive step towards the future and now includes an online introduction to orienteering for secondary schools. Can we promote this within our region?

BOF also have the AGM which, again, will be online on the 21 April. Please see the web page for details.

Finally, still finishing on a positive note, at our WMOA AGM in October I will have been Chairman for 3 years so we need to start thinking about suspects, no sorry, volunteers for this important role.

Finally, I'm sure we are only a couple of months away from being back at an event.

8. Treasurer's Report:

I. Gamlen reported very little change since December.

WMOA: £8785

WMJS: £2870

Expenditure Zoom calls and upgrade of the WMOA website cost £85 - the bill is awaited.
WMJS squad clothing purchased.

9. Fixtures:

An Events Scheduling Group meeting is to be held this Saturday by Zoom. This will be followed by a WMOA fixtures meeting in a few weeks. We will try and fit club dates into calendar though it may get congested and try to ensure there are no big clashes.

West Midland Championships are to be added to a future event.

CompassSport Cup/ Trophy Final now back at Sutton Park if permissions are forthcoming.

Coventry City Race postponed till next year.

2022: Coventry and Birmingham City Races hopefully on successive days.

24 April: POTO event is at Ladderedge Country Park.

25 April: WCH event - Shoal Hill.

10. West Midlander:

There has been no new edition due to a lack of events. Hopefully a new one will be produced in the near future.

11. WMOA Website:

The POTO and WCH events will be added to the website.

Clubs to let M. White know if they want any local events put on website (depending on number restrictions).

12. Development:

Nothing planned.

13. Events and Competitions Committee:

They are looking at ways to make all events and competitions, which can take place at the moment, easier for Organisers to manage, e.g. need for seeding, split start times etc, so that events can take place.

Re-staging events and reshuffling events but the problem still is getting permissions.

14. West Midlands Junior Squad:

Some more 'O' tops have been ordered which, all being well, should arrive by the end of March. We have donated £45 to BSOA for the use of their Zoom account. The program of online Physical and Technical training sessions continues to be held and are being led by both Kirsten and Harriet. We look forward to starting training together again soon.

15. MapRun League:

After some discussion it was agreed to leave this idea until September/ October to see how things are by then. C. Dredge to add to the next agenda. H. Lawson asked if anything is planned to coincide with Commonwealth Games in Birmingham? Using some parks in Coventry and Birmingham was suggested. COBOC or HOC may be able to put something on as in their area.

16. Club Round up:

- ❑ **COBOC:** Peter Palmer Relays 2022 are to be held in Sutton Park. Membership down - school children and parents.
- ❑ **HOC:** The Club Championships in December were postponed. There is a plan for a mixture of small Summer events in midweek and at the weekends. There will an event at Malvern Hills in the Autumn. Perhaps a WM League event? A new website, set up by M. White, is almost ready to launch.
- ❑ **OD:** Peter Palmer Relays 2022 are to be held in Sutton Park. MapRuns have continued but have proved difficult as they encourage travel. There will be no Urban Races until full lockdown is over. Local Country Parks are not possible as they are being overwhelmed by visitors. Private woodlands may be used. Bentley Woods is being saved until next year. From the beginning of April until the end of June it is planned to have small local events, with pre entry, every couple of weeks.
- ❑ **POTOC:** Membership level has been maintained with new members joining as a result of MapRuns. The dates for year are to be finalised next month with Local events in May and June and a Regional event in October at Bathpool. MapRuns are being held between other events. Staffs Moorlands Council are giving permissions for events.
- ❑ **WCH:** Need to revisit programme to see what may be put on in Autumn. The Urban event in July will not be held due to uncertainty. Very few MapRun events have been held as it was felt that it encouraged travel. A successful Club Quiz was held.
- ❑ **WRE:** Relaunching latest MapRun series. SinS: Day One at Corndon, Day Two at Stapeley and Rorrington. A new date for Severn Valley Country Park is being sought. There is a new map of Woodside in Telford which is ready to go - perhaps next year? Shropshire County Council have been good for permissions.

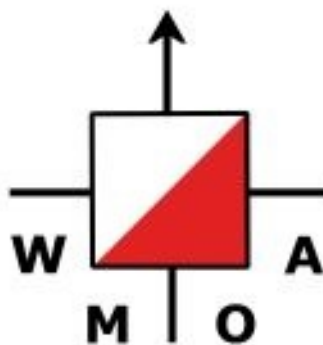
17. AOB:

The West Midlands Schools Championships are not being being held due to permissions and transportation of children.

I.Gamlen has Treasurer's records from 1967 which legally need to be kept for 6 years. It was suggested that they should be offered to the archive of orienteering materials at Sheffield University.

18. Next Meeting:

14 June 2021 (via Zoom).



Minutes of WMOA Committee Meeting**14 June 2021****via Zoom**

1. **Present:** R. Collins, C. Dredge, B. Elkington, M. Elkington, I. Gamlen, J. Howell, H. Lawson, B. Morgan, H. Morgan, A. Pickles, R. Postlethwaite, R. Rogers, K. Strain, M. White, A. Williams.
2. **Apologies:** R. Lewis, S. Parker.
3. **Declarations of Interest:** None.
4. **Acceptance of Previous Minutes:** Accepted.
5. **Matters Arising:** None.
6. **Correspondence:**
 - ❑ JK Review from BOF: Richard Lewis has agreed to be WMOA representative on this review.
 - ❑ WMOA Relays from Jonathan Howell: These were cancelled this year, after discussion at the WMOA Fixtures meeting, due to social distancing problems.
 - ❑ POTO: Officials updated.
 - ❑ EOC AGM (Barry Elkington): No Home Internationals or Interland have taken place this year which has affected the financial situation. These will take place next year. Wales and Northern Ireland are struggling with the Home Internationals rota so English regions will host more of these events.
 - ❑ Publicity for Newcomer Retention Group (Ian Gamlen): a couple of Zoom meetings have been held. Sport England's 'Mystery Shopper' idea to see user-friendliness of clubs i.e. how approachable clubs appear based on websites for attracting newcomers. The idea is to share good ideas to recruit and retain new members.
 - ❑ Fixtures Secretary resignation letter: Allan Williams is to resign at the AGM after 11 years in post. He was thanked for all his work.
7. **Chairman's Report:**

Firstly, if I haven't made this evening's meeting, many thanks to Ray and Carol for taking over. If I have not made it, it's because of connection issues in the area where we are staying for a few days.

How nice it was to be back orienteering and well done to HOC and WRE for managing to, at least, have a condensed SinS event. Congratulations to those from the region who became Midlands Champions.

Not only was it nice to be out in glorious weather, but to see friends and faces I haven't seen since my last event, which was in February 2020. We had plenty of social distance catch ups in the car park.

Well done also to all those that went to the British Middle Distance Championships with some very good results for local club members. Barry must be training more now that he has retired?

It's quite a full agenda this evening so I won't go on too much but will let Ray add any comments he wishes.
8. **Treasurer's Report:**

Financial situation very healthy. Income from SinS, WCH and OD events.

There is plenty of money in both the WMOA and Junior Squad accounts.

I. Gamlen proposed to donate the annual £1000 to Junior Squad account. All were in agreement. Thanks from M. Elkington.

9. Fixtures:

A WMOA fixtures meeting was held in March. It looked at the rota with no Laurie Bradley Trophy, CompassSport Cup/ Trophy round, WM Relays, Yvette Baker heat or Schools Championships held in 2021.

HOC are to hold the West Midlands Championships.

2022: OD will hold the West Midlands Championships and HOC will host the CompassSport Cup/ Trophy round.

The next WMOA Fixtures meeting will be held in October.

2021 CompassSport Cup/ Trophy Final at Sutton Park is still awaiting permissions.

Peter Palmer Junior Relays are to be carried over to 2022.

National Fixtures have been settled until 2022. At the next meeting in October it is hoped to roll out National Fixtures for the next 4/5 years.

West Midlands League: 2 races have been held so far at Shoal Hill and SinS. The OD event later in year will count and hopefully others will be added.

10. West Midlander:

There has been very little material so contributions are needed. It is hoped to issue one soon.

11. WMOA Website:

There is a need to update the League on the website. Level C and above events are normally promoted on the website but very little is coming through from BOF. The list of Midlands Champions is to be added to site.

12. Development:

Nothing to report

13. Events and Competitions Committee:

The Ranking list goes back to March 2019 at the moment. There have not been enough Ranking events held to change this.

Event guidance has been changed for some events so they can be held e.g. Traders discouraged.

14. West Midlands Junior Squad:

The 'O' tops have arrived so they are now available at £25 each to Squad members. The programme of online physical and technical training sessions continues. A training session was held at Itchington Holt which went very well. The next session is at Pitcher Oak Wood on 27 June. Many thanks to OD and HOC for allowing us to train on these areas. It is hoped that the Junior Regional Squad Summer tours will take place. Sadly we are very disappointed to not be able to nominate anyone for these. The Junior Inter Regionals are being held in the North East which will hopefully happen but the logistics will be far more complicated than usual. We only expect to take a very small team this year.

15. MapRun League:

I. Gamlen said that as events are now back up running we won't need this.

POTOC are still putting on successful MapRun events with an average 30+ competitors. OD and WRE are having very little uptake for their MapRuns now.

16. Club Round up:

- ❑ **COBOC:** Sutton Park Gates Run to be held on 7 July.
- ❑ **HOC:** Pleased with how SinS went. Redditch Urban event in September and Malvern Hills Event in November which are both to be part of the WM League.
- ❑ **OD:** Holding small Local events as they are restricted in numbers to 50. Fixtures are planned until December with small local events on Saturdays/ Sundays which will hopefully be open to all in time. Pre-entry makes organising on the day so much simpler. Will we go back to EOD? CATI events with only White, Yellow, Orange courses to be kept simple which are not for experienced orienteers.
- ❑ **POTOC:** Berry Hill event to be held next Saturday. Local events being held every 2 weeks. with a Level C event in September.
- ❑ **WCH:** Regional event planned for Autumn and one next year. The focus is on more Local events and fewer Regional events. JK 2024, if WMOA stand in for EMOA, will be at Beaudesert for the two longer days which means it will be out of use for 2 years.
- ❑ **WRE:** Looking at doing new things or doing things differently.

17. AOB:

AGM to be held on Monday 11 October at 7-30pm at The Great Barr Hotel. C. Dredge to book the room.

18. Next Meeting:

Monday 13 September at 7-30pm. (*subsequently changed to 20 September Ed.*). After some discussion it was agreed that this would again be a Zoom meeting as much better attendance at these meetings.

Vacancies at the AGM

Chairman:

Richard Lewis has completed his three year tenure and a new Chairman is sought.

Fixtures Secretary:

Allan Williams has held this important position for eleven years and has decide to call it a day so a new Fixtures Secretary is sought.

If you feel in a position to take on either of these jobs please contact either Richard at chair@wmoa.org.uk or Carol at secretary@wmoa.org.uk

UK Elite Orienteering League 2020 Ellie Bales (POTOC and EUOC)

The Elite League started in Scotland at Johnshaven on the 7 March 2020 for a Sprint race around the town. Racing started through streets blended into narrow alleyways behind the harbour front and finished stepping up and down terraces of a former stately home. I had been doing quite a bit of training with EUOC before these races so I was feeling fairly confident going into the competition as the Sprint is usually my best length. The first half of the course went really well, I was running fast and felt I made good route choices through the smaller alleyways. It was just towards the end where I lost time in the gardens and terrace, stopping to decide which stairs to run up. As I was seeded quite low I waited at the finish to see if I had beaten any of my friends. I came 4th overall and was the 2nd W20 only 10 seconds behind Niamh Hunter, who was the first W20, and 20 seconds off Laura King. I was really pleased with my result!



2S (20/22) 2.7 km 35 m 17 C Status of: 08:41

1	10	Helen Bridle	79	ESOC	WO	17:01
2	77	Laura King	99	EUOC	WO	17:34
3	88	Niamh Hunter	00	EUOC	WO	17:48
4	80	Ellie Bales	00	EUOC	WO	17:58
5	11	Eilidh Campbell	01	EUOC	WO	18:10
6	78	Helen Ockenden	97	EUOC	WO	18:48
7	12	Kirsty Campbell	01	MAROC	WO	18:54
8	41	Rachel Kirkland	71	INT	WO	20:15
9	34	Rachel Hendrie	97	FVO	WO	21:05
10	96	Roanne Lilley	99	EUOC	WO	21:06
11	84	Rachel Collins	01	EUOC	WO	22:05
12	91	Lucia Parga	95	EUOC	WO	22:15
13	131	Heidi Ross	99	AUOC	WO	22:55
14	150	Karen Maxwell	95	RR	WO	25:27
15	130	Lucie Hamplova	94	AUOC	WO	28:49
	172	Katrina Shilladay			WO	mp
	107	Jon Hollingdale	63	MOR	WO	dnf
	1	Anwen Darlington	90	FVO	WO	dns

The 2nd round of the League was the next day at Birsemore in Deeside. The first few controls were all uphill accounting for most of the course's climb so I tired out pretty quickly as hills aren't my speciality. It was quite frustrating as I felt like I could run but my calves were very tight and I had to stop and stretch them out a couple of times. I still had a pretty good run making no major mistakes, just a couple going into some of the controls. It was really nice running in the Deeside forest and I came in 2nd place on the blue course.

Due to lockdown the next stages of the League were postponed until late August and were held in the Lake District. It started on Friday the 28th, with a half-Forest half-Urban Sprint in Windermere. I was feeling pretty nervous for this race as I hadn't orienteered in months and was quite unfit. Unfortunately, the sprint didn't go very well. I got lost in the forest section and then got a bad stomach. Due to camping and being ill in the night I was not looking forward to the long the next day! I didn't make many mistakes, I was just very slow and tired. I came in 12th place.

Thankfully the middle race was much better. It was very technical with lots of small paths through darker green vegetation. Therefore, me being slower was actually an advantage. It was a tricky course with everybody making mistakes but I came in 8th place beating Grace Molloy! Woooo

Even though I didn't do as well as I had hoped, it was still a really fun weekend. I got to see all of my friends again and run in the Lakes on nice terrain with great technical courses.

I didn't attend the other weekend of races in the League as I was in Edinburgh studying. However, my only rivals ran the W21 courses, therefore it didn't count towards the W20 League so I still got the most points and won!

I won a voucher for NVii and £30 from the prize fund, which is amazing. I've never won anything like this in the UK. With thanks to Duncan Birtwistle for organising the events and prizes!



(this article first appeared
in 'The Potter')



Robin Baker (POTOC) 1949 - 2021**John Pigott (POTOC)**

Robin Baker was a stalwart of POTOC from when he joined the Club in the mid-1980s until he moved from the area in 2001.

In 1988 when the AGM was inquorate a Special General Meeting was called and Robin was elected Chairman with Austin Farr as Secretary, myself as Vice-Chairman and John Heaton continuing as Treasurer. During the period of Robin's chairmanship the Club prospered winning the CompassSport Trophy in 1989 and significantly increasing the number of Local events staged.

Robin was an excellent Organiser with his eye for detail. He was a fan of Swynnerton Forest organising two very large events in Feb 1988 and March 1990. Each attracted around 900 competitors. He also planned there the following year. In later years he also organised and planned Colour-Coded events at Maer Hills, The Roaches and Park Hall.

One of his favourite 'O' disciplines was Night 'O' and he organised nearly all the Night events ever put on by POTOC - 7 in total. I only competed at the event at Park Hall in Dec 1991 which was memorable because of the very thick freezing fog!

He was also editor of 'The Potter' for a number of years and tried his hand at mapping, creating the first map of Brereton Heath.

In terms of his own orienteering, he was a very competent Gold standard navigator and competed at many JKs, BOCs, Scottish 6 Days and Welsh 5 days.

I am regularly reminded about his actions at Shining Cliff during JK91 when my other half, Brenda, fell over and injured her back when nearly at the Finish. Robin and I happened to come across her at the same time and I didn't think she had a real problem so ran on to finish. 'Gallant' Robin stayed with her and when I went back later she was being carried off on a stretcher!

One of Robin's lasting legacies to POTOC is the handicap formula for the Club Handicap Champs which he produced in 1988. The results always favoured older members and although the handicap calculations were always derided each year no-one else wanted to try and modify them! To give younger members a chance a new category was created a few years ago for the under-55s!

Robin and Ann moved to Devizes in 2001 and he did not compete for some years after having two hip operations. He re-joined POTOC about 5 years ago and competed at various events in Southern England, often meeting up for a chat with Andrew Rowe. Being too far from Staffordshire he missed helping at events and competing in the CompassSport Trophy so a couple of years ago joined his local Club NWO.

As well as orienteering Robin and Ann were very keen bridge players at their local clubs of Devizes and Trowbridge. They were of a high standard and regularly played in County matches for Wiltshire.

Some years ago, they downsized and bought a motorhome which saw plenty of miles driving around the UK and Europe.

Robin was always very cheerful and had a wicked sense of humour at times!

Of his time at POTOC I think this comment from Austin & Barbara (Farr) sums it up very well.

'Robin was cheerful, confident and optimistic, and a very effective force in POTOC as Chairman, Editor and event Organiser in particular. We were sorry to see him go and remember him with affection.'

Robin died at his home in Devizes on 7 May 2021 after suffering with multiple cancers.

R.I.P. Dear Friend

(this article first appeared in 'The Potter')



*Robin having just finished at Lake Vyrnwy
08/08/1996 during the Welsh 6 Days*



*Competing at Shoal Hill during the WM Relays
14/06/1998*



*Robin and I at the Brindley Heath event
on 05/01/2020*

Springtime in Shropshire and the Midland Championships

Springtime in Shropshire was originally going to be three days, then two and finally one which is, perhaps, a reflection of these extraordinary times. Corndon Hill was due to be the first day but, as it is in Wales where different Covid-19 rules applied at the time it was decided to hold just the one day at Stapeley and Rorrington. With numbers limited, it was initially open only to orienteers who were eligible for the Midland Championships (i.e EAOA, EMOA and WMOA).

The event took place on 30 May, a sunny and quite hot day and proved to be surprisingly tough with some fairly steep climbs on most courses and, perhaps, a lot of 'ring rust' after months of very little orienteering activity. The region was very successful in providing 22 out of the 32 winners. Congratulations to all the champions.

Midland Champions 2021

M10	Marcus Richardson	NOR	W10	Alys Powell	WAOC
M12	Max Straube-Roth	OD	W12	Harriet Allinson	WRE
M14	Henry Jeffries	OD	W14	Hebe Darwin	WAOC
M16	Jake O'Donnell	DVO	W16	Hannah Mather	LOG
M18	Barney Steventon-Barnes	HOC	W18	Not contested	
M20	Not contested		W20	Not contested	
M21	Axel Wetherill	WAOC	W21	Nadine Wright	OD
M35	Robert Holdway	POTOC	W35	Kirsten Strain	OD
M40	Anthony Squire	NOC	W40	Emma Jarrett	OD
M45	Andrew Rowe	POTOC	W45	Anne Straube	OD
M50	Alistair Landels	OD	W50	Juliette Soulard	OD
M55	John Duckworth	DVO	W55	Jill Emmerson	OD
M60	Mark Pearson	WRE	W60	Mary Adams	WCH
M65	Barry Elkington	OD	W65	Carol Dredge	WCH
M70	Andy Hemsted	HOC	W70	Judith Holt	DVO
M75	Derek Gale	DVO	W75	Sheila Carey	OD
M80	Mike Callow	WRE	W80	Caryl Roscoe	WRE
M85	Not contested		W85	Alison Sloman	HOC



A view of Corndon Hill from the finish at SinS.

Photo by Andy Johnson (HOC)

British Middle Championships

The 2021 British Middle Championships were held on 5 June at Summerhouse Knott, Newby Bridge in the South Lakes. The event was originally scheduled for 2020 but was carried over following postponement due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Congratulations to all the winners.

WMOA British Middle Championship Winners

M12	Max Straube-Roth	OD	W35	Kirsten Strain	OD
M50	Alistair Landels	OD	W85	Alison Sloman	HOC
M80	Mike Callow	WRE			

British Sprint Championships

The 2021 British Sprint Championships, like the Middle Distance Championships, were carried over from 2020. They were held on 22 August in the intricate housing estates of Skelmersdale in Lancashire. Congratulations to all the winners and to the three, Max Straube-Roth, Kirsten Strain and Alison Sloman who completed the Sprint/ Middle 'double'.

WMOA British Sprint Championship Winners

M12	Max Straube-Roth	OD	W35	Kirsten Strain	AROS/OD
M35	Robert Holdway	POTOC	W85	Alison Sloman	HOC

Agenda for the WMOA AGM at The Great Barr Hotel

Monday 11 October 2021 commencing at 7-30pm

1. Apologies
2. Declaration of Interests
3. Acceptance of Minutes of previous AGM
4. Matters Arising
5. Correspondence
6. Chairman's Report
7. Treasurer's Report
8. Budget for 2021/2022
9. Fixtures Report
10. Other Reports
11. Election of Officers:

Nominations for the following committee positions are invited:

Chairman

Vice-Chairman

Secretary

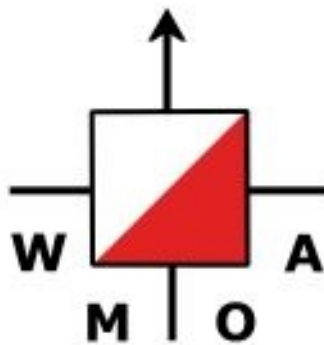
Treasurer

Fixtures Secretary

Magazine Editor

Webmaster

12. AOB
13. Next WMOA Committee meeting Monday 13 December 2021 via Zoom



The Orienteering Foundation Coaching Day November 2021

After a year off during lockdown, the Orienteering Foundation is pleased to announce support for another Coaching Day in the Lakes on Saturday 20 November 2021. We are particularly keen to promote coaching of adult orienteers, who are often under-served, but also welcome groups including Juniors.

Date: Saturday 20 November 2021.

Location: Summerhouse Knott (as used for British Middle Distance Championships in June 2021.). Parking to be confirmed but may be at Lakeside (wherever it is there will be a charge).

Organisation and Planning: Derek Allison

Timing: 10am until 2.30pm when controls will be collected.

The coaching day is open to the following participants:

- **Individuals:** Cost £12 per individual participant. This covers access fees, planned training exercises, hung controls, printed maps, and expert coaching from Derek Allison and/ or other experienced coaches. Any standard from TD4 (Light Green) up to full TD5 can be catered for. All individual participants must be 18+ years of age.
- **Groups:** For example clubs, schools, or junior squads. Cost £6 per group participant. This covers access fees, and supply of electronic map (OCAD) and course files (Purple Pen) to group leaders. Groups **MUST** supply their own coach(es), who are suitably qualified, sufficient in number, and responsible for the safety of their group. Groups will need to print their own maps, and may either use the planned courses, or modify/ design their own using the same controls (please do not hang additional controls in the forest, unless by prior agreement with Derek). Group participants may be of any age that their coaches are happy to supervise. There are plans to have some TD 2/3 controls for use by groups, details to follow.

Facilities: None, please use public toilets prior to arrival. All individual and group participants should bring their own orienteering equipment (compass etc.), lunch/snacks and drinks.

First Aid and Safety/: Derek and other coaches are qualified first aiders. Groups should also ensure they have a qualified first aider. Derek will do the risk assessment for individual coaching, and also provide a copy for group leaders to adapt to do a risk assessment for their own group.

Registration: Individual participants, and group leaders with provisional numbers of participants, **MUST** register in advance. At the latest by Sunday 31 October 2021, but ideally sooner. You cannot just turn up on the day. Please register in advance with Derek Allison, e-mail dereka57@gmail.com, telephone 07980 583478.

Payment must be made in advance by Sunday 7 November 2021 at the latest. Payment details will be provided on application. There will be a limit of 120 individual and group participants, given the limited size of the area, and to preserve a quality coaching experience. First come, first served.

Cancellations: If the Coaching Day has to be cancelled for whatever reason (e.g. severe weather), those who have booked and paid will be offered refunds, or the option of keeping a place on a rescheduled coaching day. The Orienteering Foundation cannot accept liability for any other costs incurred by participants/ groups in the event of cancellation (e.g. accommodation)

Refunds: No refunds will be given, but if a participant has to withdraw, their fee minus £2 admin charge will be refunded if the place is subsequently filled by another paying participant.

Copyright and Permissions: The map files provided to group leaders are copyright of Lakeland Orienteering Club, and must only be used in conjunction with this Coaching Day, and deleted afterwards. Moreover, access to the area is sensitive, and permission is only granted on the Coaching Day itself - groups and individuals must not attempt to use the area at any other time, without first seeking permission via LOC.

WMOA Fixtures

September 2021 to March 2022

Please note all Fixtures are correct at the time of publishing. Please check club websites for further details.

2021

September

25	POTOC Local	POTOC Local Event Florence and Longton	Longton Stoke-on-Trent	SO910418
25	OD Local	OD Summer Event Cracks Hill	Crick	SP598734
25	COBOC Local	Beginners, Schools and Families Event Rectory Park	Sutton Coldfield	
25	WRE Local	WRE Local Event Nesscliffe Country Park	Shrewsbury	SJ389198

October

16	WRE Local	WRE Local Event Gogbatch, Long Mynd	Church Stretton	SO460969
23	COBOC Local	Beginners, Schools and Families Event Witton Lakes	Birmingham	
24	POTOC Regional	POTOC West Midlands League 4 Bathpool Park	Kids Grove	SJ835537

November

13	OD Local	OD Saturday Score Event Itchington Holt	Harbury	SP369557
14	HOC Regional	HOC West Midlands League 5 and West Midlands Championships Worcester Beacon	Malvern	SO766448
18	HOC Local	HOC Winter Evening Event Shire Oak	Malvern	
21	WCH Regional	WCH West Midlands League 6 Chetwynd Wood	Rugeley	
27	COBOC Local	Beginners, Schools and Families Event Banners Gate, Sutton Park	Sutton Coldfield	

December

2	HOC Local	HOC Winter Evening Event Uffmoor	Halesowen	
5	OD Regional	OD West Midlands League 7 and OD Club Champs Brandon Wood	Coventry	SP386762
11	OD Local	OD Saturday Event Newbold Comyn Park	Leamington Spa	
27	OD Local	OD Christmas Event Rough Close Scout Camp	Coventry	SP264780

2022**January**

13	HOC Local	HOC Winter Evening Event Walton Hill	Halesowen	
15	OD Local	OD Night Event Burton Dassett Country Park	Southam	SP396519
16	HOC Local	HOC Local Event Dudmaston (tbc)	Bridgnorth	SO747891
22	COBOC Local	Beginners, Schools and Families Event Pype Hayes Park	Sutton Coldfield	

February

6	WCH Regional	WCH Regional Event Beaundesert	Hednesford	
13	HOC Regional	HOC CompassSport Cup/ Trophy Postensplain	Bewdley	SO766448
19	OD Local	OD Saturday Event Everdon Stubbs	Daventry	SP606562
22	COBOC Local	Beginners, Schools and Families Event Perry Hall Playing Fields	Birmingham	

March

13	OD Regional	OD Regional Event Hartshill Hayes Country Park	Nuneaton	SP317942
19	OD Local	OD Saturday Event War Memorial Park	Coventry	SP322772
22	COBOC Local	Beginners, Schools and Families Event New Hall Valley	Sutton Coldfield	

2021 West Midlands League Events

Apr 25	Shoal Hill	WCH	Nov 14	Worcestershire Beacon	HOC
May 30	Stapeley & Rorrington	HOC	Nov 21	Chetwynd Wood	WCH
Sep 12	Church Hill	HOC	Dec 5	Brandon Wood	OD
Oct 24	Bathpool Park	POTOC			

The schedule for the 2021 has only just been finalised therefore there are no tables at present. If the system allows four events from seven should count towards the final totals.



*Glorious views, warm sunshine
and steep climbs at Springtime in
Shropshire.*

Photo by Andy Johnson (HOC)