

## Minutes of WMOA Committee Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021 via Zoom.

**Present:** Richard Lewis, Barry Elkington, Ray Collins, Barbara Ford, Kirsten Strain, Rod Postlethwaite, Henry Morgan, Carol Dredge, Marian White, Jonathan Howell, Mel Elkington, Rick Roberts, John Leeson

- 1. Apologies:** Harriet Lawson, Ian Gamlen, Richard Rogers, Brenda Morgan
- 2. Declaration of Interest:** None
- 3. Acceptance of Previous Minutes:** Accepted
- 4. Matters Arising:** None
- 5. Correspondence:** CD- returned forms to BOF updating WMOA officials after AGM.
- 6. Chairman's Report:**

Congratulations to OD and its members for regaining the WMOA league for 2021, as I have heard mentioned, it again was a close scoring league with changes at the top, throughout all the events.

I thank all the clubs who successfully held events safely and in a well organised manner, we should all have a pat on the back. All the events I went to, felt safe, had adequate facilities to cope with COVID measures, and for a competitor I found well planned courses.

Our regional clubs have all had AGMs and changes to officers and club reps in some cases, so I welcome the new club reps we have joining us for the first meeting this evening. Any help or comments please ask.

Congratulations to all those who did well at the British Night Champs perhaps one of you will be able to write a small piece for the West Midlander? Rod Postlethwaite will be more than glad to help you put anything together.

Lastly, can I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at POTOC's Laurie Bradley New Year's Day Score. Henry Morgan has found some great control sites, ensured we stay away from any brambles and even trimmed foot path verges.

- 7. Treasurer's Report:**

Ian was not at the meeting but had sent round a copy of the accounts to all Committee members. There were no questions or comments made about these.

### **7b. Review of WMJS annual donation**

Ian had had an email discussion with Kirsten and Mel discussing this. Committee members were asked for their comments. RC asked whether £1000 annual grant was enough as it hadn't gone up recently to reflect inflation. JH in smaller clubs there were fewer Juniors which led to a lack of socialising opportunities resulting in Juniors drifting out of sport. WMJS allows this to happen which clubs can't do. All clubs need to recruit more Juniors.

RL suggested that we keep an eye on WMJS finances. If they need more money let us know. ME and KS thanked the committee for this.

### **8. Fixtures Report:**

Rick reported that he had held his first Zoom meeting with club fixtures secretaries in November. Most clubs were reporting problems with both permissions and capacity. 5 events had been registered for the WM League with plans for a further 1. For the Urban League 3 had been registered with plans for a further 2. This means it would not be possible to run the leagues in their current format.

All clubs were asked to look at adding events for next year or leagues would be very thin.

Looked at WM commitments for 2023. Midlands Champs should this again be part of SINS or an individual club event? There was discussion that if part of SINS it would need more courses being planned dependant on entry numbers. No Fixtures secretary wanted to accept Midland Champs for their own club event, RL to speak to SINS coordinators from HOC and WRE to try and reach an agreement on this. Need to let BOF know urgently if not going to be part of SINS as trying to find another date to run this on may prove difficult now.

Junior Home Internationals 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> October 2023 to be held in West Midlands. WCH provisionally offered to take this on but on checking details- particularly the need to sort accommodation-felt this was too much to do. Suggested need for a collective of clubs. RL- offered help from WRE. BE offered to plan one of the days for Chasers.

RC to enquire about accommodation at both Shugborough and Beaudesert.

RR to email Fixtures Secretaries about what to do re JHI's.

### **8b. West Midlands League 2022 and Beyond**

WM League and WM Urban League cannot be combined due to different classes etc.

After discussion it was agreed that the number of events to count in the League would be half the number of events plus one - Eg if there were 6 events it would be 4 to count, if 8 events it would be 5. Hopefully by middle of the year we would know how many would be in League and therefore how many would be needed to count. MW to check how this would work with setting up of Urban League.

#### **9. West Midlander:**

RP reported that there was an issue ready to go out before Christmas.

CD to send list of officials and club reps to RP to update in West Midlander. Articles for future editions always gratefully received.

#### **10. WMOA Website:**

No updates on website. Fixtures for next year to be put on. Promote Easyfunding on website for WMJS funds.

#### **11. Development:**

HM willing to organise an Organiser or Planners Course whichever clubs feel they need most. No Controllers course held for last 4/5 years may need another.

#### **12. Update from Events and Competitions Committee:**

There had been no meetings and not a lot happening. Mike Cope is working with fixtures and event scheduling-still making events happen despite Covid. No progress re JK questionnaire.

#### **13. WM Junior Squad:**

The Junior Inter-Regional Championships (JIRCs) took place on the 25th/26th September in the North East. Our small team of 3 juniors was down to two after one of them tested positive for COVID. A good weekend was had by those that went. We stayed in a bed and breakfast, paddled in the sea and flew kites. The orienteering was very testing but both juniors felt they improved as they got used to the complex terrain. Being in ad hoc relay teams enabled them to get to know juniors from other regions.

Zoom training restarted in October, with a schedule of two per month - one physical and one technical. These are generally well attended, with one junior even joining in technical training on a parent's phone in the back of the car as they drive home from their running club's evening session.

In October, 3 juniors joined the East Mids Junior Squad for a day training in Leicestershire. Thanks for EMJOS for the invite to an enjoyable day that got the juniors mixing well and learning about contour interpretation and compass bearings.

The highlight of the autumn was November 19th-21st when a group of 6 juniors, their parents and two coaches spent the weekend in the Lake District, training on Summerhouse Knott, Tarn Hows, competing at Great Tower and staying at Ambleside Youth Hostel. This was very much enjoyed by everyone.

We rounded the year off with a Christmas themed training session on Shoal Hill.

Thank you to WCH for sorting out permission for us to use the area and also for providing two coaches to carry out the training - Mike Barnby and Neil Adams.

Also in December, Kirsten represented WMJS at the JROS AGM. JROS summer tours and the new Talent South/North/Scotland programmes were discussed. At least one of the tours is looking for a cook, so please get in touch if you know of anyone that would be interested.

Looking forward to next year, we are going to continue with the schedule of Zoom trainings twice a month and will be looking for dates and areas for day trainings. Any juniors (M/W12-M/W18) who are successfully completing orange courses or above should get in touch if they'd like to join us.

#### **14. Club Round-Up:**

**HOC:** JL- WM League event at Dudmaston in January. Event on Malverns planned for later in the year. Holding Thursday winter night league events. MapRun street league coming up. Coaching Series based round Baggeridge area in Spring – led by Kirsten Mitchell and Adrian Bailey aimed at newcomers. Have had a trickle of new members.

**OD:** BE- schedule of events one a month to end of March. Permissions getting easier. Pleased with turn out at Brandon Wood.

**WCH:** JH- struggling to put on same number of events as in previous years. Focus on CATI for newcomers to try and build up membership.

**COBOC:** No report.

**POTOC:** HM-. Park League set up consisting of 5 events with 3 to count. Trophies for winners. Details on website. 3 new areas mapped to be used for Saturday morning events next year.

**WRE:** RL and RP: Unlikely to hold any WM events until after the Summer.

#### **15. AOB:**

RL- Had received a request from BOF as to whether we did any coaching in West Midlands. BOF website shows WM has no coaching contact – every other region does. Need to find out what this role involves.

WRE suggested that Andy Clough may help with coaching in New Year if needed.

WCH had done coaches training on 4 Saturdays at Marquis Drive with Hilary Palmer.

HOC trying to do some coaching for newcomers.

KS happy to mentor coaches training if needed.

Clubs to check number of qualified coaches they have.

JROS- South Central need Level 2 qualified coaches – possibility West Midland people could attend course with them to maximise numbers.

Email has been sent by BOF – survey re coaching.

RP- pointed out a new online entry system- The Start Kite.

**16. Date of Next Meeting:** Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 7-30pm. Decision to be made in February as to whether a Zoom meeting or not.

**Meeting closed at 9-40pm.**

Thanks to Barry Elkington for facilitating this meeting.