

Minutes of WMOA Committee Meeting 13th June 2022 at 7-30pm

via Zoom

Present: Richard Lewis, Marian White, Barry Elkington, Ian Gamlen, Ray Collins, Rod Postlethwaite, Jonathan Howell, Kirsten Strain, Carol Dredge, Henry Morgan, Brenda Morgan, Rick Roberts, Mel Elkington

1. **Apologies:** Harriet Lawson, Richard Rogers

2. **Declaration of Interest:** None

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

4. **Matters Arising:** HM pointed out that Item 11- Development- should have read Planners Course in May not at the end of the year.

5. **Correspondence:** RL had had an email from Barry Elkington suggesting that WMOA may be able to secure funding from the Orienteering Foundation for next year's JHI's.

6. **Chairman's Report :**

As we approach the Summer Solstice on June 21st, it's perhaps an age thing, but this year seems to be passing rapidly.

Whilst I have not been able to get to all the major events around the country, it's been pleasing to view the results online. Well done to all our WMOA members and clubs who have been very successful at the national competitions.

As a region we have had a broad range of success in all disciplines, Urban, Relays, Individual and Trail O. Well done.

During April BOF announced the winners and runners up for the annual BOF awards. The clubs within our region had some very worthy winners and runners up. I can't remember all the names but well done to Paul Basher winning the Walsh Trophy for Urban mapping. Kirsten Strain and Harriet Lawson runners up in the Coach of the year award and to all those I have forgotten well done and sorry if I have missed your name out.

Recently we have had the AGMs of BOF and EOA which I attended via Zoom etc. My bullet points from those meetings will be mentioned later and a report is available to those who did not attend.

Sadly Henry and Brenda had to cancel a recent Planners training course, due to no one booking. Does this mean our clubs have enough planners for the future? Can Clubs please take this back to your club meetings and ask for suggestions, as to what regional training WMOA can offer clubs and can clubs provide volunteers?

We are in need of more controllers as a region especially at level B, and I'm sure Bob Brandon would appreciate a younger and bigger selection of both Men and Women to ask.

Finally, at this year's AGM we will need to select a new Chair person. My term was extended due to COVID etc. and I think it's time to retire. The role is not too difficult and you always have great support from the Committee and the clubs. I have found the role enjoyable and fun although the pandemic did bring a new set of challenges.

Please ask at your club who would like to volunteer, and please ask me if you need to know anything about the role.

IG commented that the Planner's course had been put on at short notice and details had not been well circulated.

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

Income -£1,479 from event levies. Expenditure £462. Surplus of around £1000.

Need to pay English Orienteering Council c £500 and Junior Squad £1000 but will be collecting more event levies.

Website costs were for renewal for hosting website - costs cover 2 years.

Both accounts quite healthy at the moment.

It was agreed to transfer annual payment of £1,000 to WMJS . If Squad needs more come and ask.

8. **Fixtures Report- R Roberts**

WM League- by 10th June 7 fully registered events for league with an OD event in pipeline for December. Lack of permissions and volunteers are resulting in fewer events post Covid.

WM Relays will happen but WRE not sure where.

WRE event on 27th November on BOF database but no venue - needs to be added to publicise the event. Wrockwardine Wood?

Urban League- 4 fully registered events and further event suggested by WCH - Lichfield 28th June. Two issues with this- Tuesday night and Map Run only. After some discussion it was decided that this would not fit the current league format. JH to report back to next meeting on how it went. Possibility of setting up a separate mini league using MapRun in the future.

Midlands Champs are being incorporated with SINS next year.

JHI's 2023- Wyndley Leisure Centre available for use 7th/8th October. Permission to use Sutton Park needed from Birmingham City Council-IG to arrange this. WM League event to be run by OD alongside JHI Relays on the Sunday. RL- Accommodation coordinator for JHI.

9. West Midlander - RP

Plenty of material for next edition but struggling to find time to put together. Planning to step down as editor at AGM. Will get next one out soon. RP was thanked for all his work on producing the West Midlander over the last 9 years.

10. WMOA Website

R Rogers will update MapRun pages to include latest version of the app.

RL requested an advert for future Chairman and West Midlander editor be added to website.

11. Development- HM

Planner's course had had to be cancelled as no interest- possibly due to short notice and publicity of this.

Plans for Controller's Course on 29th October at Marquis Drive or alternatively Sutton Park Youth Centre.

Sutton Park Youth Centre charge £200 for room. 2 weeks cut off to cancel. HM suggested need to get 6 people for course to be viable.

MW to get on WM webpage as soon as details are available. RL suggested courses also put on individual clubs websites.

12. Coaching Co-ordinator

RL stated that Dave Ellis, chair of COBOC, had shown an interest in this role. He seems well qualified for the post. Dave was proposed and seconded and will be formally invited to the next Committee meeting. He will be on the committee until 2023 AGM.

13. West Midlands Junior Squad

Since the last report, we have had two more training days. In April we trained on the Clent Hills (HOC) and in May we trained on Park Hall (POTOC). Thank you to HOC and POTOC for permissions, BO registrations and maps. The next two sessions planned are Burton Dassett (OD) in June and Hartshill Hayes (OD) in September, both of which will be joint with the East Mids Junior Squad so will be a nice chance for the juniors of both squads to mix. Zoom trainings are continuing twice a month until mid-July when we'll break for the summer holidays.

The grant application to the Poundland Foundation was successful and £750 has been received towards a set of squad lightweight running jackets. The design, based closely on the existing WMJS o-tops and banner, have been agreed and it is hoped that the jackets will be received in July.

No WMOA juniors have been selected for JROS tours this year. One athlete was nominated for the Lagganlia tour but the selection standard was higher than this athlete had achieved so a place was sadly not awarded.

In July, 6 WM juniors are joining together with 12 Welsh juniors for a week-long summer tour to Morayshire, Scotland. Mark Saunders is leading the tour, Kirsten and Harriet are each attending for portions of the week and several parents are coming to support. Funds raised in 2019 for the Sweden tour that was planned for 2020 then cancelled will be used towards this year's Scotland tour.

In September the Junior Inter-Regional Championships is being held in Northern Ireland. 9 WMOA athletes have been selected and are going to travel to the event with 4 adults. Flights from Birmingham to Belfast are being booked this week, then travel within NI is being coordinated by the event organisers.

Kirsten, Harriet & Mel

14. English Orienteering AGM

RL attended this meeting virtually and shared these notes from that meeting-

On 30th May I attended/Participated in the Zoom meeting of the English Orienteering Council AGM on behalf of the WMOA.

The meeting was chaired by OD and our committee member Barry Elkington, in his role as chair of the council.

It was a well-attended meeting with most regions in attendance.

Within the agenda items, discussions took place on Interland working with the ESG and the rota for Home internationals taken from previous actions.

Following the chairmen's report the AGM was given a detailed financial report by Harriet Lawson Treasurer (OD)

Discussions then took place on various balances and expense contribution to members

It was decided that due to fuel and cost of living rises that mileage allowances would be increased to mirror BOF suggestions.

Election of officers followed and all main officers were re-elected.

Changes to Team selectors, Team managers, the chair advised on those retiring and thanked them for the work carried out over the years and announced who the replacements would be.

The role of Interland Team manager is becoming available when John Rye retires this year, all delegates at the AGM were asked to raise the position at the associations for suitable Nominations.

Other discussions took place before the meeting closed at approx. 8.45pm

I have copies of the current finance accounts should members or clubs wish to view.

15. Chairman for next year

Prompt for clubs to start looking for someone to fill this role.

16. Clubs Round Up

COBOC IG

Heavily involved in Community Games, by running an Orienteering Maze, at venues all over Birmingham. Any volunteers to help gratefully received.

Peter Palmer Relays next event. Small clubs can join together to make a team. DayBreak Trophy starts at 6-30am with 4 legs.

West Midland School Champs had a disappointing turnout. Very few schools just individual Juniors. Only about 50 competitors instead of 150.

WCH JH

Chasers are hoping to put on some local events in the Autumn. JK 2024 middle and long courses are both on Beaudesert.

POTOC HM

Summer League started although permission issues with event at Festival Park. Trophies ordered for presentation and barbecue in August.

WRE RL

Nothing to report.

HOC IG

New areas are being mapped. Midland Champs as part of SINS next year.

OD BE

Various events being held. Some with banners and some using MapRun. Some events using Permanent Courses for newcomers and providing help. These are followed up by proper event the following week.

Councils allow areas where there are Permanent Courses to be used free of charge. Councils paid for Permanent Courses to be put in and club maps areas for free.

16. Any Other Business

a. RL pointed out that there had been 3 Level D events in region last Saturday. R Roberts explained these events have never been coordinated as not enough weekends for all of them in season.

b. RL questioned whether the WM region could enter an AdHoc team in the Peter Palmer Relays. It was felt that this was not in the spirit of the competition but ok to put two small clubs together to make a team.

c. RL asked if BE and HM could be on the jury for the Birmingham City Race. HM was unable to do this but BE accepted.

d. IG, who is Ambassador for West Midlands on Orienteering Foundation, asked RL if he could be copied in to the final submission for grant aid for JHI's.

17. **Date of Next Meeting-** Monday 12th September at 7-30pm by Zoom.

The meeting closed at 9-15pm.

Thanks to Barry Elkington for coordinating Zoom Meeting.