

## Minutes of WMOA Committee Meeting 12<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at 7-30pm

### via Zoom

**Present:** Richard Lewis, Marian White, Barry Elkington, Ian Gamlen, Ray Collins, Kirsten Strain, Carol Dredge, Henry Morgan, Dave Ellis, John Leeson, Richard Rogers

**1. Apologies:** Rick Roberts, Rod Postlethwaite, Jonathan Howell, Brenda Morgan, Mel Elkington

**2. Declaration of Interest:** None

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

**4. Matters Arising:** None

**5. Correspondence:** a) Great Barr Hotel booked for AGM on 10<sup>th</sup> October. IG to pay £70 booking fee.

b) BOF request for annual list of WMOA officials. CD to send after AGM.

c) Email from BOF re changes to membership structure. RL to send round to all committee members.

d) Email from BOF about possible need to register clubs trusts with HMRC. Awaiting guidance on this.

e) Email from EOC requesting waivering of eligibility period to allow a Ukranian refugee to be selected for Home Internationals. CD sent an email agreeing to this after discussion with RL.

f) Email from BOF after death of Queen Elizabeth II. Expressing both sadness and condolences to Royal Family. Guidance given on Orienteering events held over the next few weeks.

### **6. Chairman's Report:**

Firstly, I must add on behalf of the WMOA our condolences and sadness at the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II to all concerned.

During my lifetime I have only known Queen Elizabeth as the Monarch so this sad change seems so unreal and a history changing moment.

As COVID controls seem to have almost disappeared although not forgotten, we have been able to enjoy a varied calendar of Orienteering events all over the world.

Although in my world it's been more of an officiating and supporting role than actually competing, but I have enjoyed my involvements.

We have had the experience of the Commonwealth Games being within easy access and mostly within our area, I hope you got to see some of the events. The Coventry and Birmingham Urban races proved a big success and the lead clubs OD, HOC and COBOC should be congratulated. I witnessed first-hand the hard work by all the officials involved in the Birmingham Urban and I understand how professional and diligent the Organising team became from permissions to presentations. Well done to the Birmingham and Coventry Teams.

As we head quickly towards winter and the nights get darker, we can once again look forward to our WMOA league events either Urban, Forest or even Night events recommencing.

My next big challenges are to find who will hopefully be my replacement and along with Henry/Brenda officiating at the Welsh Champs, and VHI individual and relays in North Wales. I recommend the score event open to all on the Sunday. Henry may say otherwise.

Finally thank you on behalf of WMOA to all our clubs for putting on a varied event schedule over the summer months and all the Fixtures Secretary's for coordinating this.

### **(HM left the meeting due to connection problems with Zoom.)**

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

WMOA account showed a surplus of £274 for the year. WMJS account showed a deficit of £1,259 for year.

Both accounts have ample funds - WMOA £7,600 WMJS £4,000 Brian Laycock to audit accounts prior to AGM.

Coventry and Birmingham Urban events had contributed well to the finances.

### **8. Fixtures Report- R Roberts**

Firstly, apologies for my absence as I am on a holiday booked before I was appointed and learnt the committee dates for the year.

### **Leagues**

As of 31<sup>st</sup> August, 3 WM league events have been held with a further 5 fully registered events to follow, making a total of 8 events for the 2022 year, assuming that all the remaining five proceed. The decision on how many events to count needs to be finalised.

In the case of the Urban league, 2 events have been held and only 2 more remain registered. At present the WMUL webpage is set at 3 out of 4 to count but this could be altered if required.

Obviously, there is still the opportunity to include more events if clubs have any others in preparation, but this seems unlikely at this stage.

The club fixtures secretaries will be meeting by Zoom on 3<sup>rd</sup> November to follow up on the October national fixtures meeting, and we will start to collate events for the 2023 leagues.

## **WM Relays 2022**

Unfortunately, it has not been possible to hold the WM Relays this year. These were last held in 2019.

## **Midlands Championships 2023**

As discussed previously, plans are now in hand to include the 2023 Midlands Champs into the SinS weekend programme 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

## **JHI 2023**

I have had no further updates from my previous report and the discussion at our meeting last time. In the meantime, I have confirmed to BO that the originally listed date is possible and that flexibility on dates will not now be required unless an unforeseen complication occurs. Any other updates would be gratefully received.

Richard Rogers pointed out that in previous discussions it had been agreed that total for WM League events would be half the number of events plus one. In this case then 5 out of 8 and for Urban League 3 out of 4.

It was suggested that we may be able to merge WM Urban League with EM Urban League as a way of having more events. This may be more beneficial to WM so is there a possibility we could adopt some of their events to our League?

Rick Roberts to add this to the agenda for next WM Fixtures meeting and also discuss feasibility with EMOA.

WM Relays- WRE were not able to secure a suitable area or planner for this event. WCH to hold Relays in Summer 2023.

Midlands Championships to be held as part of SINS at Brampton Bryan.

JHI's – bookings to use Sutton Park cannot be made more than a year in advance- Birmingham City Council.

## **9. West Midlander –RP not present.**

Edition of West Midlander had recently been published. There had been no interest as yet in a new Editor.

CD questioned whether WMOA minutes needed to be in West Midlander as published on the website.

Vote of Thanks to be given to Rod at AGM.

## **10. WMOA Website**

MW- keeping site up to date with fixtures and notices.

## **11. Development- HM not present.**

Bob Brandon had requested information on Planning and Controllers Courses for OD member. RL to send him details.

HM planning Level 3 Controllers course and possibly Planners course on 29<sup>th</sup> October. Venue still to be sorted. Need for this to be confirmed within next 10 days so information can be put on both WMOA websites and individual club sites.

## **12. Coaching Co-ordinator**

RL introduced and welcomed Dave Ellis to committee. Dave then gave a brief insight into his athletic and coaching background.

Dave aims to try to expand both the pool of coaches and the pool of knowledge available in the WM. Orienteering is largely an uncoached sport except for Juniors. Need to provide coaching for older runners if they need it / want it.

Plan is to spend first few months finding out what is happening in clubs and identify needs at regional level. Courses to get youngsters involved, expand membership, working with current members to expand knowledge – whatever is needed.

Clubs asked to send short summary of what is going on in clubs and what they would aspire to to DE.

DE to send some initial notes to be put on website .

Reminder of Coaching Session in Lakes on 24<sup>th</sup> September.

## **13. West Midlands Junior Squad**

We finished the spring series of trainings with Burton Dassett in June. 5 juniors participated, which was down from 9 signed up due to illness (covid)/injury.

We had a very successful tour to Morayshire, Scotland in July for 6 WM juniors and 12 Welsh juniors. 5 WM parents helped, Kirsten and Harriet each coached for part of the week and Wales' Mark and Alice led the tour and coached throughout. WMJS funds raised for the cancelled 2020 tour were used to subsidise the costs to participants and cover the coaches' expenses.

At the end of this year's tour, we were invited to join the Welsh Junior Squad next summer on a tour to Finland. We have just publicised this to current squad members so will soon be able to gauge the interest. Assuming we do have sufficient interest to go ahead with it, we will be looking for as many fundraising opportunities as possible, including cake sales at regional events.

Our next training is next weekend, on 17<sup>th</sup> September at Hartshill Hayes. We are currently looking for areas to use for trainings in the coming months. Provisional dates are 15<sup>th</sup> October, 5<sup>th</sup> November and 11<sup>th</sup> December. We appreciate the support of the regional clubs in getting permission for areas giving us map files and registering our trainings with BO.

We are also planning a weekend away to the Lake District in November, for all squad members and their families. We will share training areas and exercises with the JROS Hawkshead 16s weekend but use accommodation elsewhere.

Zoom trainings are continuing twice each month, to complement the in-person trainings and provide greater continuity to the squad experience.

Kirsten and Harriet are being added as signatories to the squad account, replacing parents of juniors who have left.

The new jackets arrived and have begun to get distributed to squad members. The Poundland Foundation grant paid for approximately 15 jackets, which covers the current squad members. To be more cost-effective, to provide jackets to the two regular coaches and to have stock for the future, a total of 25 jackets were purchased, with the remaining costs coming from squad funds.

The Junior Inter-Regional Championships (JIRCs) is happening at the end of September in Northern Ireland. 9 juniors (M18, M16, 4xM14, 3xW14) are travelling with two coaches and two parents. The age distribution of the team makes a high overall placing unlikely but we hope for a positive experience for everyone and we could get some good individual results.

Following on from the BO Coaching of the Year nomination made earlier in 2022, Kirsten and Harriet are being nominated by BO for UK Coaching's "UK Community Coach of the Year - Children and Young People" award.

We would be happy to welcome new squad members, if there are WM juniors (top year 12s though to 18s) who show the required standard (confidence on orange courses as a minimum) and commitment. The scheduling of WM league events this year has limited the opportunities for us to gauge the standard of new juniors. Can clubs please alert us to juniors that you believe should be considered, and if possible give us information about events that show their abilities. Encourage such juniors to go to the upcoming WM league events.

#### **14. Chair and West Midlander Editor for next year**

No interest as yet for either job.

#### **15. Clubs Round Up**

##### **HOC-JL**

Held 7 events in Summer League. High point Birmingham Urban. Had put on fortnightly series of family/coaching events in Baggeridge. After a request from Forestry Commission HOC laid on coaching for families in Wyre Forest – Gruffalo course and POC already there.

How do we get some of these people to come to more events further widespread?

Winter plans- 14 events mixture of Night Street League and Forest League plus Saturday events.

Urban event - Redditch in October

WM League event – Malverns in November

Attracting some newer / younger members through Street league using MapRun.

Stretched for Planners / Organisers of bigger events.

##### **OD – BE**

City race Coventry well received. MapRun events being held alongside normal events. Permanent courses being promoted in parks with club banner and members in kit and free POC maps.

2 WM League events later in year including WM Championships.

Not many new members.

##### **COBOC- IG**

Very busy with Community Games- 0 maze and white/ yellow MapRun course at some locality- attracting lots of children but not translating to members. Involved in putting on successful Birmingham Urban.

Last weekend organised Peter Palmer Junior Night Relays – only 15 teams in total – went very well.

Beginners/ Families / Schools events start in few weeks. Usually get between 30-60 people but reluctant to travel further afield.

October Beginners/Families/Schools event promoted jointly with Birmingham and Black Country Wildlife Trust.

Involved in Find Your Way project- 3 year project partly funded by Sport England- promotion of Virtual orienteering courses using MapRun. 16 virtual courses up and running.

##### **WCH – RC**

For first time Summer training was limited by lack of organisers.

October event – WM League Haywood Warren – struggled to find organiser. Clashes with event in EM – not ideal with so few events on.

Possibility of series of CATI events starting in 2 weeks time?

Over Winter MapRun events fortnightly on Tuesday evenings.

Trying to coordinate some Saturday events with POTO but awaiting positive response.

##### **WRE- RR**

Held 6 local events over Spring / Summer.

Planned events at Church Stretton 22<sup>nd</sup> October and WM League- Wrockwardine Wood – November.

1<sup>st</sup> January Laurie Bradley Score – Telford Town Park.

Planning to launch a new website in next few weeks.

**POTOC- no representative**

**16. Any Other Business**

AGM to be held in person and via Zoom. RL to bring computer for Zoom link. IG to check tea and coffee will be available when pays booking fee.

**17. Date of Next Meeting-** Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 7-30pm by Zoom.

The meeting closed at 9-10pm.

Thanks to Barry Elkington for coordinating Zoom Meeting.