

Minutes of WMOA Committee Meeting 27th March at 7-30pm

via Zoom

Present: Adrian Bailey, Marian White, Barry Elkington, Ian Gamlen, Ray Collins, Kirsten Strain, Carol Dredge, Richard Rogers, Jonathan Howell, Rick Roberts, Jim Cooke, John Leeson

1. Apologies: Henry Morgan, Dave Ellis, Mel Elkington

2. Declaration of Interest: None

3. Acceptance of Previous Minutes: Accepted

4. Matters Arising:

a) Fixtures- Rick Roberts approached EMOA re Urban League. EMOA were concerned about distances some of members would need to travel to attend some WMOA events. Happy for some of their events to be used in WMOA League subject to agreement as such with event organiser.

b) WMOA newsletter sent out by AB – next issue towards end of next month.

c) WM champs rules- M.Garside joined the call to discuss this. After various ideas were promoted it was agreed that for future WM champs competitors from WM would need to nominate the age class that they wanted to run in. AB to check with Fabian if it is possible to put this in entry system – report back at next meeting.

d) No volunteer for WM League Co-ordinator.

5. Correspondence: a) BOF Update on list of Controllers- clubs to check and update. OD suggested list was not accurate with many controllers missed off.

b) ZOOM call re Safeguarding- MW and KS both on call. WMOA needs a named Safeguarding Officer to be put on website with policy. Needs to be someone who has done Welfare Officer Training. Clubs to ask for a volunteer from their own welfare officers. This role also on WMOA Committee.

c) BOF membership structure to be left to next meeting.

6. Chairman's Report: AB

Adrian had been very busy with other commitments and thanked all the committee for keeping things going. Hoped to be at Bentley Woods .

7. Treasurer's Report –IG

WMOA funds have seen a significant expenditure with deposit paid for accommodation for JHI'S at Beaudesert. WMJS funds have also paid for flights to Finland. Both accounts are still healthy. KS was asked if needed the £1000 donation to WMJS now. Agreed to keep it at the same time each year. Minibuses would need to be hired for JIRC'S but not until September.

8. Fixtures Report- R Roberts

Since our last meeting the Club Fixtures Secretaries have met by Zoom on both 16th January and 23rd March, when all clubs were represented. There has also been a Zoom meeting of the national Events Scheduling Group on 13th March.

Firstly, Regional events: -

The West Midlands League 2023 – As reported at the last meeting, there are 7 events currently registered for inclusion in the league - although there have been a few changes in date and / or venue since last reported. The remaining events for this year are: -

2nd April OD Bentley Wood South – which is also the WM Championships

16th April WCH Shoal Hill – which is also the Yvette Baker round 1

3rd September OD Burton Dassett

19th November HOC Burlish Top

10th December OD Sutton Park South

The Urban League 2023 – Since the last meeting a further 2 events have been notified. That still gives us only 3 events for the urban league this year. These are: -

15th July. WRE. Woodside – which is also in the UKUL

13th August OD. Rugby

10th September HOC. Malvern

As well as the various regional events mentioned above COBOC will be hosting the West Mids. School Champs on 13th May and WCH the West Mids. Relays on 24th September.

So, on to National status events: -

WRE and HOC will be hosting their biennial SinS weekend from 27th to 29th May. This will include the Midlands Championships on the 28th and both 28th & 29th are in the UKOL for this year.

COBOC / HOC and OD will be hosting the Junior Home Internationals over the weekend of 7th – 8th October with accommodation at Beaudesert and events in Sutton Park.

Looking ahead, and for information, there are several major national events scheduled for the West Midlands in the next three years: -

At Easter 2024 WCH are hosting 2 days of the JK at Beaudesert as we all know.

In June 2024 OD & HOC are hosting the British Sprint and Sprint Relay Championships.

In 2026 HOC will be hosting the British Middle and the Midlands Championships over a weekend in mid-April.

And, finally, in 2027 we are due to host the JIRCs – although a host club or clubs are yet to be identified.

9. WMOA Website

Richard Rogers- no technical updates. Security certificate problem now sorted.

MW- Safeguarding page needs to be added. Rick Roberts to send updated League lists to be added. OD Quiz night to be added to WMOA site.

10. Development- Henry Morgan not at the meeting.

9 people attended the Organisers Course and 7 Event Safety Workshop put on by Henry Morgan.

11. Coaching Co-ordinator- Dave Ellis not at the meeting.

AB to speak to DE about club questionnaires- see last minutes.

KS attended Coaching Conference . BOF not aware of active coaches Regional Reps need to pin these down for BOF.

12. West Midlands Junior Squad –KS

At the start of 2023, squad membership stands as follows: 1xM18, 1xW18, 2xM16, 1xW16, 6xM14, 3xW14, making a total of 13 athletes. We'd welcome more juniors of the required standard and commitment.

Day trainings have been held at Pooley Country Park (OD) in December and Lilleshall (WRE) in March. Further day trainings are being planned for April (Nottingham, Clifton Campus), May (Rough Close, OD) and June (Downs Banks, POTOC). Thanks to all clubs for supporting us with permissions, maps and BO registrations.

Zoom trainings have been continuing regularly. Attendance at technical Zoom trainings is usually very good while the physical Zoom trainings are starting to feel less popular. We plan to continue with the regular schedule through April. We may review what/when we do them if we see attendance persistently low for the physical sessions.

Plans are coming together for the squad tour to Finland this August. Flights have been booked for 11 juniors and 6 adults. The tour is joint with the Welsh Junior Squad, who have 16 juniors and 4 adults. The trip will comprise a week of training with a team relay competition on the last day.

Fundraising will be particularly important this year due to the Finland tour. A cake sale is going to be held at the WM Champs at Bentley on 2nd April. Barry Elkington is organising a quiz night in Kenilworth later in April, with money raised going towards the squad. Thank you to Barry for this support. Other fundraising opportunities will be welcomed.

The Junior Inter-Regional Championships this year are being held in South Wales on 23rd-24th September. We hope to take as full a team as possible, of M/W14, 16 and 18 classes. While we have enough juniors to fill some of the classes, we have some gaps, especially in the female classes. Can all clubs think about what to do to encourage more juniors to reach squad standard, especially girls.

A notable result from a squad junior was Eden Pigott coming 3rd on W14A at BOC Long, on Saturday 25th March, earning a Bronze medal and a Championship standard. Congratulations Eden!

Several juniors are hoping to attend the JROS tour to Lagganlia this summer. Places are limited and are awarded based on Championship or Gold standard being achieved at a series of defined races. After the JK it will be clear who we are able to nominate and by the end of April the successful athletes will receive their invitations.

13. HOC/ COBOC merger

Over the last few years merger has been discussed as both clubs share same geographical area of Birmingham. Merger to take place in accordance with both club's constitutions.

JL- document has gone out to all HOC club members- overwhelming support shown- need to hold an EGM to put to formal vote.

IG- positive feedback after discussion with COBOC members. Special General Meeting needed to approve merger.

Both clubs agreed there will be a merger.

Some issues still to be resolved- HOC competing in final of CSC this year. COBOC areas – Birmingham Parks- Sutton Park shared with OD. BE confirmed that new merged club would still be able to put on small local events within the park.

Rick Roberts confirmed that new merged club would still take on all events they were already committed to.

IG-needs to consult with BOF re merger – will COBOC members be able to compete as HOC this year?

Meetings for both clubs planned for June – accounts to be closed then – could be delayed

14. Clubs Round Up

HOC- JL

WM League Event at Longdon was successful and well attended. NSL Map Run events finished and Forest League resulted in a few new members. Summer Series starting will be open to other clubs.

Merger with COBOC has been main focus.

Urban event at Malvern coming up. Worcester City Centre has a new map to be used for UKOL next year hopefully.

OD - BE

Very successful British Champs. 5 Individual Winners, Relay Men's Open Class winners and 2nd in Women's Short.

Bentley Woods next weekend. Hoping for a successful JK.

COBOC- IG

WM School Champs had a poor turn out last year. Hoping for more competitors after success of Staffordshire Schools Champs.

WCH - JH

MapRun programme of 13 events now finished- pulled in a few runners/ non orienteers.

Summer Training programme planned on Cannock Chase – opened up to other clubs if not on County Council land.

Shoal Hill event on 16th April. Regional event in Autumn subject to getting a Planner and Organiser.

WRE- Richard Rogers

Successful New Years Day event. Small events planned for future and SINS in May.

POTOC- JC

Compass Sport qualifier was very successful with 267 competitors. Thanks to those who car shared which allowed more competitors.

110 competitors in Staffordshire Schools event. Smaller Park events to be held over the Summer.

15. Any Other Business

None

16. **Date of Next Meeting-** Monday 12th June 2023.

Meeting finished at 9-00 pm.

Thanks to Barry Elkington for coordinating Zoom Meeting.