

Minutes of WMOA Committee Meeting 12th June 2023 at 7-30pm

via Zoom

Present: Marian White, Barry Elkington, Ian Gamlen, Kirsten Strain, Carol Dredge, Jonathan Howell, Rick Roberts, Jim Cooke,

1. Apologies: Henry Morgan, Ray Collins, Richard Rogers

In the absence of both the Chair and the Vice- Chair it was agreed to continue with the meeting. Ian Gamlen and Carol Dredge acted as joint chairs.

2. Declaration of Interest: None

3. Acceptance of Previous Minutes: Accepted

4. Matters Arising:

a) KS- brought up possibility of adding a JROS fundraising page to JK entries next year. This would give competitors an option to donate to JROS when they enter. EMOA have already agreed to this. No objections were raised at the meeting. So OK to go ahead with this.

5. Correspondence: a) Email from BOF re EOC AGM on Wednesday – AB had agreed to attend.

b) Email from BOF updating Safeguarding policy. MW – Safeguarding page ready to be posted on WMOA site but still need a Welfare Officer to be able to do this. Note to go out in next Newsletter looking for volunteer. All clubs have Welfare Officer but WMJS look to region for this as don't have their own. Any concerns to be directed to BOF.

6. Chairman's Report: AB

No report

7. Treasurer's Report –IG

IG had previously circulated the WMOA and WMJS income and expenditure from 1/9/22 until 6/6/23. This showed that WMOA account has £7498.96 and WMJS has £5589.18. The SINS Levy amounting to £1200 to be added to funds shortly. The deposit of £1395 has been paid for accommodation for the JHI 2023 which the WMOA is hosting in October 2023. This will be paid back into the WMOA account once the entry fees have been collected. The WMJS bank balance has increased significantly due to entry fees being paid in ahead of their forthcoming Finland trip.

Both accounts are therefore showing a healthy balance. The annual payment of £1000 will be transferred to WMJS account shortly.

KS reported that two Juniors had been selected for the Lagganlia trip this year and may approach WMOA for help with funding.

8. Fixtures Report- R Roberts

The Club Fixtures Secretaries haven't met as a full group since the last WMOA Committee meeting. Currently, our next scheduled meeting is due to be on 2nd November. Similarly, there has not been a meeting of the national Events Scheduling Group – the next being 16th October.

Firstly, Regional events: -

The West Midlands League – as reported previously, there are 7 events registered for inclusion in the league in 2023. Four events have already taken place and the remaining events are: -

3rd September. OD Burton Dassett

19th November. HOC Burlish Top and

10th December. OD Sutton Park South

The Urban League – there are now 4 events in this year's urban league. These are: -

23rd July WCH Tamworth

13th August OD. Rugby

10th September HOC. Malvern and

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

The latter event is a change of date from the original plan of 15th July.

As well as holding the various league events above, various clubs have hosted other regional competitions. OD hosted the West Mids Champs at the Bentley Wood League event, POTO held the regional Compass Sport Cup & Trophy heat at Park Hall on 16th April, WCH the Yvette Baker Heat at their Shoal Hill League event and COBOC the West Mids School Champs on 13th May. WCH will hold the West Mids Relays on 24th September.

As far as National status events go: -

WRE and HOC hosted a highly successful SinS weekend from 27th to 29th May. This included the Midlands Championships on the 28th, which was also a Home International selection race. Both 28th & 29th were in the UKOL for this year.

On the back of this, I have secured national event status for SinS 2025.

Looking ahead, 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.

To complete the picture, looking even further ahead, there are several major national events scheduled for the West Midlands in the next three years: -

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 the weekend of 19th April.

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

9. WMOA Website

MW- Will update website with WM League events calendar.

10. **Development-** Henry Morgan not at the meeting.

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

IG to speak to DE about club questionnaires- see minutes from December 2022.

12. West Midlands Junior Squad –KS

Day trainings have been held at Nottingham, Clifton Campus in April and Rough Close, OD in May. A further day training is being planned for Downs Banks, POTOC in June. Thanks to all clubs for supporting us with permissions, maps and BO registrations.

Zoom trainings have been continuing regularly, both technical and physical, each once a month.

Plans are progressing for the Finland tour in August, joint with the Welsh squad, which will comprise a week of training with a team relay competition on the last day.

We have had several successful Fundraising activities recently. Of most note is the Quiz night organised by Barry Elkington, which made a total of £740 (of which £306 was raffle). In addition, cake sales at events made £252.75 at Bentley Wood WM Champs and £156.75 at SINS Midlands Champs.

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.

Squad member Eden Pigott added to her Bronze BOC Long Medal with a Bronze at JK Sprint, 3rd place at JK Long and Bronze at BOC Sprint. These are very impressive results for a first-year W14.

Two juniors – Max Straube-Roth and Adam Landels – have been awarded places at the JROS tour to Lagganlia this summer. One other athlete was nominated but unfortunately did not make the threshold for selection. We wish Max and Adam an enjoyable and beneficial experience.

Taking a broader view of the junior squad, we believe it is in a healthy state. There are real friendships between squad members, there is a very good level of commitment to squad activities, and the recent success in major competitions and tour success reflects the improvements to their orienteering that the squad members have achieved. We wish to continue building on this success, to support the current juniors and any others that soon join, and give them equally good experiences including international tours, training or competition weekends and support to achieve their full potential in the sport. However, due to changing personal circumstances, the current squad coaches feel they are unable to continue delivering the same quantity of activities for the squad. To avoid the young orienteers missing out, we'd like one or more new coaches to join the team. They could be experienced or inexperienced at coaching and could be qualified coaches or willing to become qualified, with our support. It is a very rewarding position. Anyone interested in finding out more should contact us on wmjsquad@gmail.com

MW suggested that a note aimed at attracting new coaches should be put on the website and also in the forthcoming newsletter- to liaise with KS over content.

13. BOF Membership structure

Email from BOF re this on 16th February – no follow up as yet.

14. WMOA AGM

To be held on Monday 2nd October at Great Barr Hotel with option of joining by Zoom. CD to book venue and send out details of AGM to all WMOA members.

RC stepping down as Vice Chair at AGM. AB to contact other committee members to see if they are still willing to continue.

Suggested that there could be a free drink to all attendees at Great Barr.

15. West Midlands School Champs- IG.

Number of individuals took part at recent champs rather than as a school group also some home schooled children.

IG suggested that the name of the champs should be changed to West Midlands Schools and Junior Champs to cover this.

BE pointed out that we already have WM Junior Champs as a separate event. British Schools allow individual entries and from home schooled children.

Agreed to leave name as it is - West Midlands School Champs.

IG also pointed out that there was very little competition from schools. Need for more schools to take part.

One problem identified was that it was always held on a Saturday. Staffordshire Schools and other schools champs held midweek when schools can bring children along in school time.

Possible change to midweek next year for further discussion at next meeting.

16. Club Round-Up

OD-BE

Map runs and simple events continuing on a regular basis – 30/40 people at each.

September- Burton Dassett- WM League event.

Urban events struggle to find areas where Juniors can run.

HOC/ COBOC- IG

Merger between HOC and COBOC – COBOC holding a Special General Meeting on 21/6 to decide whether the club wishes to dissolve and merge with HOC. If a majority of COBOC members are in favour of this HOC will hold an Extraordinary General Meeting on 27/6 to consider whether it wishes to merge with COBOC. If a majority of HOC members are also in favour of merging with COBOC the clubs will merge.

COBOC organising Sutton Park Gates Run on 28/6. Yellow, orange, light green courses also.

HOC continues with its Summer Series including the June Jaunter around the Clent Hills on 22/6.

WRE- MW

No update. Have held successful midweek schools events on Long Mynd – few 100 at each.

WCH – JH

Urban event in July at Tamworth – Ok for Juniors.

Hopefully Regional event in Autumn but club struggling as don't have full number of officers in club and struggling for volunteers.

POTOC- JC

Some of monthly local events are struggling with permissions –eg Biddulph Grange – can now only be used midweek.

WM Champs 2024 - planning to use Swynnerton but can't be used due to HS2 work. Hoping to use Leek Training area.

Trying to avoid using Park Hall for next few years.

15. Any Other Business

None

16. Date of Next Meeting- Monday 11th September at 7-30pm by Zoom.

Meeting finished at 8-45pm.

Thanks to Barry Elkington for coordinating Zoom Meeting.