

**Minutes of WMOA Committee Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7-30 pm**

**via Zoom**

**Present:** Marian White, Kirsten Strain, Carol Dredge, Jonathan Howell, Rick Roberts, John Leeson, Barry Elkington, Richard Lewis, Jim Cooke

**1. Apologies:** Ian Gamlen, Dave Ellis

Prior to the start of the meeting CD thanked Richard Lewis for agreeing to be co-opted on to the Committee as Vice-Chair and to act as Chair until a new one can be found.

**2. Declaration of Interest:** None

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

**4. Matters Arising:** RL to speak to Henry Morgan and Mike Smithard re controller's course.

**5. Correspondence:** a) Email from BOF re Safeguarding Webinar – KS and ME both took part in this.

b) Email from BOF re Levy guidance- sent on to IG. To update at next meeting.

c) Email from BOF Coaching Safeguarding update- sent on to KS and ME.

d) Email from Andy Yeates JK 2024 Update . Club reps to email club members asking for volunteers for JK Days 2 and 3.

**6. Acting Chairman's Report: RL**

Firstly I would like to thank Adrian Bailey for his term in office in carrying out the role of Chair.

Adrian decided, as he could not devote the time he felt the role required to stand down, it's always a difficult choice to make but fully understandable when you have a family and are in full time employment. However your family and work commitments must come first as I'm sure you will all agree.

So what am I doing back in this role, well hopefully only temporarily and here to work with the Secretary and committee and our association clubs to ensure we make progress and keep the good work the committee and its members have achieved over the last few years.

During this temporary period I would like to help the association recruit and find the next chairperson and then if needed hand hold the person into the role and perhaps stay as vice chair for a term?

One thing I must add is I wouldn't have returned, if it hadn't been for the excellent team and support provided to the Chair by all the committee and club representatives, always given to whoever has chaired the WMOA.

Competitions have already started strongly within the region, and congratulations to OD for winning the Laurie Bradley New Year's Day score event, it was a close contest again with under 300 points separating the top teams but the home team emerged winners after a recount. Well done to all those involved in putting the event on.

Next we moved to a new HOC area at Bodenham Arboretum and Shatterford Woods and what a nice change to get out in the mixed terrain and enjoy a new challenge. Well done to the HOC organisers and support team. I think you may have slightly deserved the small lead you have in the WMOA league, can you keep it up?

Then we moved into February and Walton Chasers, Brereton Spurs and the Compass Sport cup an area I should know well having been controller to a few events over the last 14 years.

Well done to the WCH team under Jonathan's organisation for putting on a great event which was enjoyed by most even if the weather didn't help the car parking situation.

Congratulations to OD, WCH and WRE for qualifying even if WCH did beat my club by a few points but a just reward for the efforts they put in for organising. Let's hope one of us brings the cup or trophy to the region in October.

As an interested member I enrolled on some of the BOF webinars as part of the Development conference series and found the information and advice very interesting, they are still available to catch up on BOFs web page.

The one which I found interesting and would recommend is the Webinar which covered Major events, and covered revised rules and control descriptions for all event levels, it also includes an excellent presentation by OD Barry Elkington who was able to answer questions raised on the technical side. Well worth a viewing especially if you are a controller.

The others are all worth a look and interesting, I chose the ones I thought best suited my interest and needs.

Available should anyone need to chat about the roles on the association you could help with or any other suggestions you have, please email me through the WMOA chair address.

**7. Treasurer's Report – IG not at the meeting.**

IG sent income and expenditure updates prior to the meeting and wrote this report.

I am pleased to report that the bank balances of both the WMOA and WMJS have increased since December 2023. The WMOA bank balance has increased to £9536.82 thanks to WM event levies from OD events at Sutton Park and Pooley Fields, HOC event at Bodenham and WCH

CSC/CST qualifier. The WMJS bank balance has increased to £2097.91 thanks to cake sales at Sutton Park, membership fees and some other items.

If anyone has any queries regarding the accounts please let me know.

As you may remember we normally transfer £1000 from the WMOA account to the WMJS account to support them in their activities. I will plan on doing this in the coming months unless anyone feels that this not appropriate.

It was agreed that the transfer to WMJS go ahead.

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

Since our last meeting I have attended the spring meeting of the national Events Scheduling Group on March 5<sup>th</sup> which will be followed up by our own West Midlands group of club fixtures secretaries at a zoom on March 21<sup>st</sup>.

There are several issues that I want to bring to your attention.

Firstly, our Leagues:-

In the West Midlands League itself there are currently 5 events registered and a further one likely, making a potential 2024 league of 6 events, barring mishaps. This is lower than previously reported due to permission change problems. The first event of the season was held by HOC in January at Bodenham Arboretum & Shatterford Woods – a new area for the league.

In the Urban League for 2024, there are currently 2 registered events and a further one likely making a potential of 3 event. However, the two events already registered are both in the UK Urban League and therefore should attract significant entry numbers. One of these events, HOC's on a new map of Worcester, is part of a UKUL weekend pairing with an NGOC event to be held in Stroud.

In terms of other regional events for 2024, OD has hosted the Laurie Bradley and Chasers the Compass Sport Cup Round 1 already, with plans in hand for HOC to host the Relays on 21<sup>st</sup> April, OD the Yvette Baker first round on 24<sup>th</sup> March, POTO the West Midlands Champs on 12<sup>th</sup> May and HOC the Schools Champs the day before on 11<sup>th</sup> May.

In addition, nationally, as we know, two days of JK 2024 will be based on the Chasers Beaudesert map and the annual BSC / BSRC weekend will be hosted by OD & HOC on the Birmingham & Warwick University Campuses over 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

Looking further forward, there are a number of major events allocated to the West Midlands over the next few years and we need to clarify the hosting arrangements for several of them in the near future to allow for appropriate preparation time.

In 2026, HOC have agreed to host the British Middle Champs on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April. This needs to be paired with the Midlands Champs on the 19<sup>th</sup> and Brown Clee has been booked for the weekend. I believe that HOC are hoping that another WM Club can agree to take the lead on the second day.

In 2027 it is the West Midlands turn to host the JIRCS over 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> September weekend. A host, or lead, club needs to be identified.

Then the larger issue. We were due to host BOC & BRC in 2029 but this has had to be brought forward to 2028 due to a crisis with the rota in an earlier year. It seems like a long time away but the earlier we identify hosts and venues the better – bearing in mind the need for embargoes etc. The change does have the advantage that this will no longer be in a SinS year.

BE commented that JHI accommodation and food had worked very well at Beaudesert so could be a possibility for JIRC'S.

## **9. WMOA Website**

MW to produce quarterly news roundup after OD League event. Situation Vacant ad for Chair to be included. Rick Roberts to send an updated fixtures list.

## **10. Development –**

a) RL- appointment of event officials at Level B events. BE confirmed that controllers for Level B events should be approved by WMOA but agreement from BOF not needed.

JH pointed out the difficulty to get a controller for CSC event as all events throughout the country are on the same day and all want to run for their own club.

b) Update on future courses- Henry Morgan to put on Planners course, in June at Sutton Park, and help with a controller's course. IG to sort out accommodation. Organiser's course to be potentially run by HM or RL with some assistance.

Potential numbers for courses- Organisers- 8, Planners – 8, Controllers- 6, Coaching-1, Mapping-2.

Rod Postlethwaite to run a course for WRE members on how an existing map can be updated. Not drawing a new map for a new area. Venue in Wrekin area- to be put on WMOA website to open up to other clubs.

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

DE sent an email thanking everyone who had contributed to the Coaching survey for their feedback. He will do a written report summarising the results and suggestions for the way forward to the next meeting.

**12. West Midlands Junior Squad –KS**

At the start of the year, squad membership is as follows: 1xM18, 0xW18, 9xM16, 3xW16, 2xM14 and 1xW14. Although this makes for healthy numbers for squad activities, the imbalance across the different classes is a concern, and will work against us at the JIRCs.

The JIRCs are being hosted by the SW region, near Bristol, in September, for M/W14, 16 and 18 classes. Max 4 runners per class may be entered in the individual and relay teams comprise W14+W16+W18 or M14+M16+M18 so despite having 16 squad members currently, we will be quite far short of a full counting team unless more juniors become available.

Since the last meeting, squad day trainings have been held at Haywood Warren in January, joint with Talent North, and Allestree Park (Derby) in March, joint with EMJOS. We have also had two technical Zoom trainings. Future Zoom training dates are set, while future training days are in the early stages of planning.

Barry Elkington kindly organised a fundraising quiz in Kenilworth at the start of March. Proceeds from ticket sales and the raffle totalled just over £400. Thank you Barry. We're hoping to have a cake stall at the WML event at Coombe Abbey next weekend. Further ahead, we're wondering if we can do one at the WM relays.

Mark and Alice extended an invite to WMJS to a pre-JK training camp in North Wales, which is organised for WJS and had spare capacity. 6 WMJS juniors have taken up this offer, and are being accompanied by Simon Thompson (HOC) and Stuart Duckworth (WCH).

Several juniors are hoping for selection to JROS tours this summer. In most cases this depends on their performances at major events such as the JK and British champs, so we wish them the best of luck.

We are still looking to the clubs to provide training opportunities for developing juniors through the TD1-3 stages and then signpost suitable juniors to us. As shared in the last meeting, we'd be keen to support coaches in their development. Another option we'd like to explore is putting on squad training sessions alongside club training sessions (whether for developing juniors or for adult club members). Our recent training at Allestree provided a good model for how adults and juniors could be coached separately but using the same resources by use of a rotation system around different bases within the area.

JL commented that training at Allestree Park could be used as a model in WMOA.

**13. 60 years of WMOA**

RL to follow up commemorative pens with IG.

**14. Club Round-Up**

**OD-BE**

Winter Saturday morning events will be changing to Wednesday evenings over the Summer.

Coombe Abbey event – now have to pay a parking charge which has resulted in higher entry fees.

British Sprints in June progressing well.

Midland Champs at Sandringham - OD had at least 6 winners.

OD taking on Alistair Powell as Club Coach.

**HOC – JL**

MapRun Night Street League ending after 10 events.

British Sprint Relays in June are a big time consumer. Roger Edwards controller has final draft of courses. University being very cooperative. Caribbean caterer. Encourage club members to take part. AdHoc teams can be made from members of adjoining clubs.

Summer events a series of MapRun and conventional orienteering events.

Urban event in Worcester – map finished, organiser needed.

#### **WRE- RL**

Thanks to OD for taking on YB trophy round at Coombe Abbey event.

Difficulty putting on events due to out of date maps and permissions not being granted. Professional mapping c£2000 for SINS cost cant be justified for smaller events. Hopefully train people through Rod P to update current maps.

Permission granted for 2 areas that have been lost for years – now need maps updating. SINS 2026 could maybe use these areas.

Shrewsbury School has been mapped for schools orienteering. Maybe used as part of an Urban later in the year.

Looking for ways to recruit new members.

#### **WCH – JH**

CSC/CST was a difficult event. Need to look at more mitigations for parking- not good parking on the road. Farmer had to be paid extra due to state of field and also use of tractor - £500+ . Matting expensive option. JL commented that HOC have a small amount of matting that could be used by WMOA clubs when needed. Donation for use? JL to report back on state / size of matting at next meeting.

Entry system for CSC/CST event also difficult as entries made by clubs rather than individuals and lots of details needed changing.

RL thanked Chasers on behalf of the region for putting on the event particularly with all the car park problems.

#### **POTOC- JC**

Staffordshire Schools Event being held this Thursday. Local event at Apedale on Saturday.

WMOA Champs will have an entry fee of £14 per adult- due to license fee from Army. Entries to open on Fabian 4 after JK weekend.

#### **15. Any Other Business**

Rick R pointed out that at National Events Scheduling meeting some ranking points were not being added for events. Important that box is ticked to add ranking points.

**16. Date of Next Meeting-** Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June at 7-30pm by Zoom.

Meeting finished at 20-55pm

Thanks to Barry Elkington for coordinating Zoom Meeting.