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We still need a Chair

Hopefully you all are aware via your clubs that our Regional Association currently has no Chairperson. Richard Lewis has very kindly stepped in as Vice Chair, covering the role of Chairperson until a permanent volunteer can be found.

Could it be you? What does it involve?

Richard writes:

“I did think I could write a job description for the role, but as it's not that detailed I will list below the attributes I think you need, although I'm sure some will agree that I don't hold all of these!

Important

- Communicate with Secretary and other Committee members and ensure good relationships and any timescales are met, with us all being volunteers it is essential that we respond quickly to any questions raised by the Committee.
- Chair four meetings annually plus the WMOA AGM. Most meetings are online apart from the AGM.
- Occasionally you may be required to attend a British Orienteering meeting or the English Orienteering meetings.

Helpful

- Discuss Fixtures and support the Fixture secretary if required. The role offers a big insight into the work which goes on both nationally and locally to make events happen.
- Support our WMOA club events and give support if needed.
- Just be yourself and give as much volunteer support as you can.

The club officials and WMOA officials are a great team and make the job very easy, indeed I am willing to continue and ensure the new either Vice Chair or Chairperson has my full support for however long it's needed. [Email me](#) and we can arrange to have a chat.

Negatives

- The money's poor,
- committee members show you no respect when out in the forest and will frequently beat you,
- and you always end up buying the beer!”

Minutes of the March 2024 Committee Meeting

Here is a [link to the Minutes of the Zoom meeting held 11th March 2024](#) (subject to ratification at the 10th of June 2024 meeting).

Major fixtures in the West Midlands

Several major events are due to be held in the West Midlands over the next few years. We need to identify host clubs and venues soon due to the long lead times to organise & the need for embargoes in some cases.

These fixtures are:-

- **2026** - HOC has agreed to host the British Middle Championships on 18th April 2026. This needs to be combined as a weekend with the Midlands Championships on the 19th. Both will also be in UKOL 2026. To accommodate this, HOC has secured Brown Clee for the whole weekend. HOC is hoping that another WM Club will agree to partner, and lead on the Sunday Midlands Championships to help split the workload. It is anticipated that the same assembly area, parking etc could be used for both days to reduce duplicated effort.
- **2027** – The West Midlands is due to host the annual JIRCs over the weekend of 25th/26th September 2027. A host club(s) need to be identified. WMOA Committee has suggested that the use of Beaudesert for accommodation should be explored as this had proved successful for the JHIs in 2023.
- **2028** – West Midlands is due to host BOC/BRC in 2028 – date to be decided. The venue(s) will need to be embargoed in advance. These events will require input from all the West Midlands clubs to be successful. Initial discussion amongst the Fixtures Secretaries supported the view that either Brown Clee or Brampton Bryan would be appropriate venues, if available, whichever club(s) then took the lead.

West Midlands Urban League update

There are four confirmed events for the 2024 season:

Event	Date	Club	Venue	Details
1	09/06/2024	WCH	Lichfield	club website
2	16/06/2024	WRE	Whitchurch	club website
3	01/09/2024	HOC	Worcester	club website
4	13/10/2023	OD	Stratford	club website

West Midlands League update

Club	Points
WRE	2595
HOC	2564
OD	2341
WCH	1309
POTOC	518

After the first two events, defending champions Wrekin have a very narrow lead over Harlequins, with Octavian Droobers not far behind.

The League events and scores are displayed on [the WMOA website page here](#); this has the link to the [Club](#) and [Individual](#) tables.

The remaining fixture are:

Event	Date	Club	Venue	Details
3	12 May	POTOC	MorrIDGE, nr Leek WM Champs	club site
4	03 November	WRE	Nesscliffe	club site
5	10 November	HOC	Eymore Woods	club site
6	24 November	WCH	Oldacre & Middle Sherbrook (tbc)	club site
7	8 December	OD	Brandon Wood	club site

JK 2024



Walton Chasers report:

“2 of the 4 days of the JK Orienteering Festival were held on the Chase over Easter, with over 2400 competitors coming from around the world. Great turnout from Chasers in both helping organise the events and racing too, with some good performances, only just missing the podium in a couple of cases. Our runners ranged from the age of 2, right up to 80 - a brilliant family sport!”

A selection of photos from WM clubs' Facebook pages:



West Midlands Orienteering Association news update April 2024



Regional events coming up in the West Midlands

- 21/04/2024 WMOA Relays 2024 - Baggeridge (HOC)
- 12/05/2024 West Midlands Championships + WML – Morridge (POTOC)
- 09/06/2024 Lichfield Urban Event (TBC) WMUL Event (WCH)
- 16/06/2024 Whitchurch Urban Event - WMUL event (WRE)
- 22/06/2024 British Sprint Relay Championships – University of Birmingham (HOC)
- 23/06/2024 British Sprint Championships (UKOL) – University of Warwick (OD)