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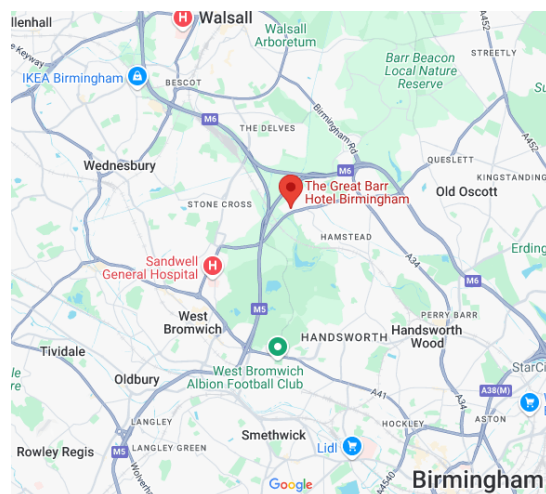
## WMOA Annual General Meeting

The WMOA AGM will be held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October at 7-30pm at The Great Barr Hotel, Pear Tree Drive, Newton Road, Great Barr, B43 6HS.

Zoom will hopefully be enabled for those not able to attend in person.

Minutes of the last meeting are [available here](#), and will be sent out with the Agenda shortly.

This is a particularly crucial meeting for orienteering in the West Midlands as **two key posts are currently vacant** for next year.



## WMOA Chair - urgent



Richard Lewis retrieved a difficult situation by standing in as Acting Chair for the latter half of the year. He has now filled this role for over five years in total and it really is time for someone else to step in!

**Please do read on and give it serious consideration.**

In many ways this is a job that takes as much time as you chose to give it. The nuts and bolts are listed below, but first Richard's reflections on his first time in office:

*"The ability, skill levels and knowledge of the committee mean that the role is both satisfying and well supported. They really help to make this position enjoyable and provide lots of camaraderie. During my term I have tried to attend at least one WMOA club monthly meeting just to see what's happening around the clubs and meet the key people, not essential but interesting. I have also tried to support WMOA events as much as possible by attending; again, this is not essential but is fun! I am always available to discuss the position of Chair, either face to face, email or phone."*

- The **opportunity to be involved with developing the sport within WMOA.**
- **Chair four WMOA committee meetings** each year in office. These are usually held every 3 months and tend to last about 90 minutes. They are held either by zoom or dependant on agenda content could be face to face at a convenient location.
- **Chair the WMOA AGM.** This is held every October and is open to all WMOA club's members and held under normal circumstances at Great Barr Hotel.
- Help **prepare the agenda** for these meetings with the WMOA.
- The Vicechair role is there to provide a substitute if the Chair is not available

- Throughout the year **respond to any correspondence with the secretary** and involve the committee, if necessary, where a response is needed between meeting dates.
- Attend 6 monthly WMOA fixtures meetings (by zoom) if required.
- Respond to BOF requests for WMOA attendees – either by attending the meeting or by asking for a suitable available delegate from the committee.
- English Orienteering Association AGM – either attend (virtually) or seek a suitable delegate. To give support from WMOA and discuss any key issues. I find the format enjoyable and have enjoyed these meetings but the task could be delegated to other members.

### WMOA Fixtures Secretary – also urgent

Rick Roberts is standing down from this role at the AGM. This is a liaison role, both between the club Fixtures Secretaries and with the at National level with Event Scheduling Group. There is a detailed [job description here](#).

The regions are the glue in the fixture planning process. If this vital role is not filled, then many more pages of next year's WM orienteering diary will look like the image opposite.



### Could you volunteer to take on either of these vital roles?

You would have full support from the rest of the committee. Please contact Carol Dredge (WMOA Secretary) or Richard Lewis (acting Chair) if you are able to help. [Email addresses for all committee members are here](#).

## Minutes of the September 2024 Committee Meeting

[Here is a link to the Minutes of the Zoom meeting held 9<sup>th</sup> September 2024](#) (subject to ratification at the 9th of December Committee Meeting)

(A couple of snippets to persuade you to follow the link - West Midlands Schools Championships are moving to a week day, Octavian Droobers are considering employing a Club Development Officer....)

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## Orienteering Foundation Coaching Day



The Orienteering Foundation is pleased to announce support for another coaching day in the Lakes, on Saturday 23rd November 2024. They are particularly keen to promote coaching of adult orienteers, who are often under-served, but also welcome groups including juniors.

You can take part either as an individual or as part of a group which has provided their own coach. If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity then contact Derek Allison to register your interest. More information including his contact details are on the Orienteering Foundation website here:

<https://www.orienteeringfoundation.org.uk/coaching-day-23rd-november-2024>

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## West Midlands Championships

### Report from the POTO website:

“POTO held the 2024 edition of the West Midlands Championships at Bathpool Park on the 15th September. The event was originally scheduled to be held in May at the newly mapped Morridge area but access for that event was denied at a late stage. It is hoped to hold a West Midland League event at the area in May 2025.

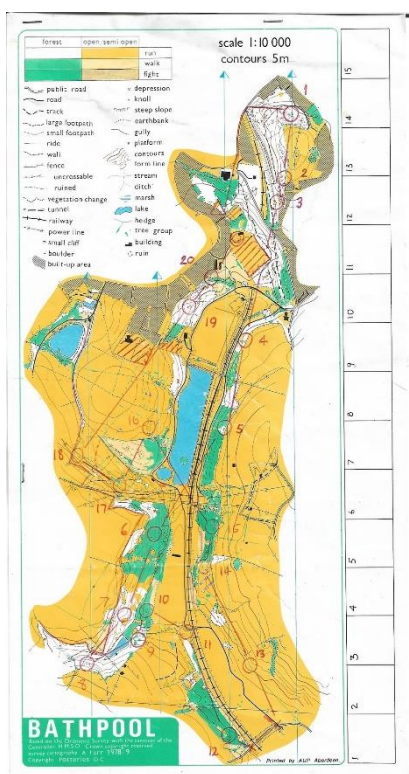
Thanks to all of the West Midlands orienteering community who supported the Bathpool event in atrocious wet conditions. And to the POTO volunteers for their help on the day with particular kudos to Gordon Witte and Marian Denham the organisers plus Jim Cooke the planner. Having the indoor small pavilion was definitely a huge bonus given the weather. Thankyou to Kidsgrove Cricket Club for use of their excellent facilities.

## Champions:

W10 - Georgina Hudson	M10 - Edward Lewis
W12 - Pippa Blackmore	M12 - Samuel Hudson
W14 - Eden Pigott	M14 - Seb Blackmore
W16 - Olivia Stamp	M16 - Jonah Hearn
W18 - <i>not awarded</i>	M18 - Max Straube-Roth
W20 - <i>not awarded</i>	M20 - <i>not awarded</i>
W21 - <i>not awarded</i>	M21 - Samuel Naylor
W35 - Juliette Soulard	M35 - Thomas Lewis
W40 - Katie Lewis	M40 - Alistair Landels
W45 - Julia Allinson	M45 - Martin Pigott
W50 - <i>not awarded</i>	M50 - Rob Bambrook
W55 - Diane Jacks	M55 - Ian Hopkins
W60 - <i>not awarded</i>	M60 - Marcus Tett
W65 - <i>not awarded</i>	M65 - Adrian Pickles
W70 - Margaret Willdig	M70 - John Robinson
W75 - Sheila Carey	M75 - Keith Willdig
W80 - Barbara Farr	M80 - Peter Carey
W85 - Alison Sloman	M85 - Trevor Simpson

Full results and Routegadget are on the [POTOC website here](#)

## A mapper's reflections



Rod Postlethwaite says

“With the West Midlands Championships being held at Bathpool Park it reminded me of the first time I ran there in December 1984 almost 40 years ago.

The event was a West Midlands Night League event held by POTOC and I seem to recall it was a freezing cold night and assembly was in one of the club member's kitchens (possibly the Fars but I can't be sure). Maps were hand drawn back then with pen and ink and you had to copy your course from a master map.

Bathpool Park was rather 'spooky' at night particularly as it was the site of the infamous murder of Shropshire heiress Lesley Whittle by Donald Neilson some 9 years before. Needless to say I was out for a long time (my Petzl headtorch was somewhat underpowered).

Little did I know then that I would map the area many years later!



## Junior round-up

### Deeside JROS training camp

[Junior Regional Orienteering Squads \(JROS\)](#) is the umbrella organisation for the 12 Regional Orienteering squads based on the British Orienteering Regions.



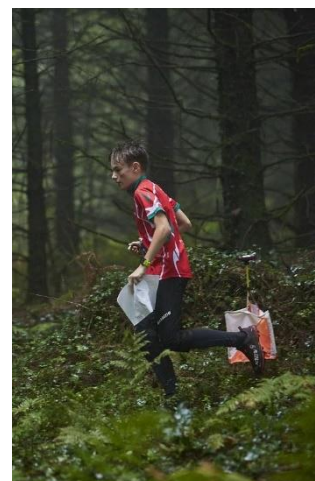
JROS was set up to further develop the junior orienteering talent which is nurtured by the Regional Squads.

West Midlands Juniors selected for training camps, orienteering tours and international competitions are invited to submit a request for assistance towards their expenses; [details of how to apply are here](#)

**Jonah Hearn (WCH)** was one of four WMOA juniors selected to attend; many thanks to him for this report:

“This summer I was lucky enough to be selected for the jros camp in Deeside. In total there were four of us going from the west midlands junior squad and we all travelled up on the train together.

Over the course of the week we orienteered on the following areas: Birsemore, Easter Clunie, Balmedie, and Glen Dye. Balmedie was a sand dune area next to the sea with very big sand dunes and was very runnable. Easter Clunie was a forested area on the side of a hill and was quite runnable but had steep terrain in parts and lots of boulders. My favourite area was Glen Dye which was open runnable forest and was fairly flat.



Over the course of the week i improved my bearings and my abilities to read contours and am already seeing the benefits as I just won the west midlands champs

I also enjoyed being able to swim after orienteering every day and enjoyed the trip to the lido and the excellent sprint o on the rest day” (Photo Will Heap)



### **Adam Landels (OD)** reports:

“This summer I was selected for Deeside, the national camp for 15-year-olds along with 3 other West Midlands juniors, Craig Thompson, Jonah Hearn and Max Straube-Roth. We had a great time competing in Races, doing lots of training and much more.

For travel on the way there, most of the juniors travelled via the train from various stations to Aberdeen where we were met by Iain the head coach with the minibus we would be using for the week. We had to bring our own tents and sleeping bags and if we wanted to sleep with friends, we had to organize it ourselves. My bag weighed about 20Kg due to the camping equipment and those essential unnecessary things like the over trousers (which were never used).

For the accommodation, we all slept in tents in a field. The tents were great and comfortable other than when it rained, we had lots of space for our bags and everything else. The boys were in tents of 1 to 3, but for the girls all slept in one big tent. The coaches were lucky and slept in bunk beds in the main building. The toilets, dining area, kitchen, and athlete's room were all located in the main building."



## Peter Palmer junior relays

Two teams of juniors from assorted West Midlands clubs combined to take part in this year's event, hosted in the Lakes by West Cumberland OC. **Jonah** reports:



"I ran first leg at the Peter Palmer relays and came in sixth place. We all had good runs but sadly despite one of our runners running through the control it did not register so we were DQ but everybody had really good runs overall. The area was very scenic and the camping was good fun."

(photo from WCH facebook page)

## JIRCS

The [West Midlands Junior Orienteering Squad](#) will travel to the Forest of Dean on the 28th and 29th September to take part in this year's Junior Inter-Regional Championships. It is being hosted by the SW region in Mallards Park and Sandford and Lyncombe Woods. The WM team will comprise 14 juniors, out of which we should get 9 scoring individual results and 3 competitive relay teams. A better balance of ages would be an advantage for the team competition but we hope for some good individual runs and that all the juniors going have a positive experience.



## West Midlands Urban League round up

The scores and standings after the first three events can be viewed on the [WMUL site](#). The fourth and final event will be on the 13<sup>th</sup> October in Stratford, organised by Octavian Droobers. More [details are here](#).

### Worcester, Event 3 - 1<sup>st</sup> September (HOC)



- [Results](#)
- [RouteGadget](#)

“The city looked at its best and made a great venue for people staying over after the Stroud Urban the day before. The back to back events seemed to generate good attendance on both days making this something to contemplate for the future.

The planner, Dave Aldridge made us visit all the best bits of the city, including the university, the cathedral and Diglis Docks as well as the cannon on the highest part of Fort Royal Park. The event venue and finish were great and the HOC machine, guided by Chris McCartney, delivered smooth starts and results, and were present in force to help collect signs and controls in.”

### Shrewsbury, Event 2 – 25<sup>th</sup> August (WRE)

[Summary results](#) as PDF  
[Full results with splits](#)  
[Routegadget](#)





## Tracking down trophies

One of the challenges for organisers of the WMOA Championships and Relay Competitions is arranging for the return of trophies, particularly if they were not awarded the previous year. The two pages on the Website have been updated to track where these are if they are not held by the current year's winners.

- [West Midlands Champions](#)
- [West Midlands Relay winners](#)

## Regional events coming up in the West Midlands

13/10/2024 Stratford Urban Event - WMUL Event (OD)

03/11/2024 Nesscliffe – WML Event (WRE)

10/11/2024 Eymore – WML Event (HOC)

24/11/2024 Oldacre and Middle Sherbrook – WML Event (WCH)

08/12/2024 Brandon Wood – WML Event (OD)