

Minutes of WMOA AGM held on Monday 21st October 2024 at 7-30pm at Great Barr Hotel

and also by Zoom.

Present- Richard Lewis, Barry Elkington, Jim Cooke, Peter Langmaid, Ian Gamlen, Carol Dredge

By Zoom- Robert Vickers, Marian White, Rick Roberts, Kirsten Strain, Jonathan Howell

1. **Apologies-** John Leeson, Tom Lewis, Henry Morgan, Mel Elkington, Richard Rogers
2. **Declaration of Interest-** None
3. **Acceptance of Minutes of last AGM - 2nd October 2023** – proposed- Ian Gamlen, seconded – Jim Cooke
4. **Matters Arising** – None
5. **Correspondence** – Carol Dredge – BOF returns requested by 25th October. IG to complete and return to BOF.
6. **Chairman's Report-** Richard Lewis

At some time during the last 10 months, I was approached to act as stand in Chair, whilst new officials volunteered for the post, an ongoing request.

As we move into the evening's agenda, you hear the reports of the success and achievements of the current WMOA members. In carrying out volunteer duties, to the WMOA these duties have helped the Orienteering Sport be successful.

We have been kept up to date with the WMOA website and thank Marian White for her time in producing the News Updates and Richard Rogers help on the tech side as well.

Our Junior Squad is like a club on its own and run under the excellent supervision of Kirsten Strain, helped out by the regions club members. Imagine having 20 high energy, full of fun Juniors to look after and control, keep them all occupied etc. It needs a very dedicated person with good skill levels.

Our own regions potential to help with coaching ideas is moving forward and hopefully will gain more progress in the coming months.

We are also holding our first Planners training meeting in November and I thank Henry and Brenda for the time they have spent getting this in place.

Nationally the sport has held some major events like the WOC in Scotland, which I know a few members helped out and became involved in. Locally we had the JK coordinated from BOF's side by Andy Yeates with WCH Kristian Roberts, being the lead club, supported by PTOC, WRE and other members.

Whilst the Summer has seen a rest period in our WMOA League although the Urban version saw a couple of interesting new areas and challenges. The Grass version of the League restarts in November with WRE event being the first. It's a close run league at the moment and could go to any of 4 clubs.

POTOC after a small permission hitch put on a very enjoyable West Midlands Champs at Kidsgrove. Well done to all the WMOA champions and I hope you have all managed to clean the mud off and get dry.

2025 has lots of interesting events coming with the fixtures all mapped out by your club fixtures secretary and under the guidance of Rick Roberts. Rick has from tonight retired from the role due to personal circumstances and I am sure we all wish him and his wife all

the best for the future, and thank him for the time he has devoted to the sport nationally and locally.

Rick has been a great help in my role as WMOA Chair and in particular I wish it to go on record my personal thanks for his help, you are welcome back any time.

The future has many challenges to our sport and clubs locally in the recruiting and retaining of younger members to the sport. Young people have plenty of other sports opportunities to consider and try out along with other electronic distractions. Both regionally and at my club level we have to consider encouraging more new members, we have a very high age profile of members, by introducing younger people. It's something I will ask to be raised at WMOA level for future discussion and involve all club, so we can come up with a recruitment plan.

The future of our smaller clubs will depend on encouraging new members and giving them a calendar of events to plan at beginner level.

Before I close my report I wish to thank all the WMOA officials for your help over the last 10 months.

7. Treasurers Report on WMOA and WMJS accounts 2023-2024- Ian Gamlen

In October 2023 the WMOA hosted the JHI. This accounts for a significant amount of the income and expenditure in 2023/24. This is summarised in the table below:

Date	Item	Income	Expenditure
20/3/2023	Accommodation Deposit		£1395
23/7/2023	Ceilidh Deposit		£ 100
3/10/2023	Entry Fees	£10,194.00	
29/10/2023	Event expenditure		£8764.09
Totals		£10,194.00	£10,259.09

Overall, for the JHI 2023 there was a slight loss of £65.09, due to a slightly higher claim from one of the officials than I had budgeted for. I would like to point out that some of the event expenditure occurred in the previous year, which explains why in the accounts for 2023-24 there was a surplus of £1429.91 from the JHI. Thanks again to everyone who helped make the event a great success.

Regarding the remaining income and expenditure for 2023-24, our income was £1646.00 from event levies and £58.74 from HOC who bought some of the WMOA pens as prizes for the BSRC 2024.

Expenditure included the usual £1000 donation to the WMJS and £369 to the English Orienteering Council. We donated a further £331 to West Midland Juniors who took part in Lagganlia and JROS. We spent £221 on 250 pens celebrating 60 years of the WMOA and £212 on the WM website. Total Expenditure excluding the JHI was £2238.44.

This resulted in an overall surplus of £896.21 in the WMOA account.

The WMOA bank balance on 31/8/2024 was £7312.96

JK2024

Walton Chasers, Wrekin and POTOC along with East Midlands Orienteering Clubs helped organise JK2024. It was agreed that any profit from the JK2024 would be split on the profit share basis ie the event profit is split 2/3 to British Orienteering and 1/3 to the organising body. The overall profit for the JK 2024 was approximately £42,000. On 7/10/24 the WMOA received £7120.35. This has been divided into quarters, with ¼ going to each of the

organising WM clubs and ¼ going to the WMOA. As this payment was received after 31/8/24 it will appear in the 2024/25 accounts.

WMJS Income and Expenditure for 2023-24

The WM Junior Squad's total income for 2023-24 was £5544.75 and their expenditure was £6895.44 resulting in a deficit of £1350.69.

The WMJS bank balance on 31/8/24 was £3208.81

Income and Expenditure for 2023 -24 and Budget for 2024-25

West Midlands Orienteering Association

Income and Expenditure Account from 1/9/23 to 31/08/24

Income	Actual	Actual	Budget
General Levy	1,646.00		1500
JHI 2023	10,194.00		0
	<u>11,840.00</u>	11,840.00	<u>1500</u>
External Support		0.00	0
Sundry		58.74	0
Bank Account Interest		0.00	0
Total Income		11,898.74	<u>1,500</u>
Expenditure			
Junior Squad Subsidy	1,000.00		1000
Donations	331.00		200
Officer Expenses	0.00		0
Committee meeting expenses inc			
AGM	80.55		100
English Orienteering Council	369.00		400
Courses	0.00		200
JHI 2023	8,764.09		0
WM Website	212.00		100
Sundry	245.89		
Total Expenditure	<u>11,002.53</u>	11,002.53	<u>2000</u>
Surplus/(Deficit)		896.21	-500.00

WM Junior Squad

Income	5,544.75
Expenditure	6,895.44
Surplus/(Deficit)	<u><u>-1,350.69</u></u>

TOTAL FUNDS

	Total	WMOA	WMJS
WMOA Treasurer Account	7,312.96	7,312.96	
WMJS Account	4,559.50		4,559.50
Opening b/f	11,872.46	7,312.96	4,559.50
Surplus/(Deficit) for 2023/2024	-454.48	896.21	-1,350.69
closing c/f	<u>11,417.98</u>	<u>8,209.17</u>	<u>3,208.81</u>

Represented by:

				%
WMOA Treasurer Account	8,209.17	8,209.17		71.90
WMJS Account	3,208.81		3,208.81	28.10
Total	<u>11,417.98</u>	<u>8,209.17</u>	<u>3,208.81</u>	

West Midlands Orienteering Association

Income and Expenditure Account from 1/9/24 to 19/10/25

Income	Actual	Actual	Budget
General Levy	446.00		1500
SINS 2025	0.00		1400
	<u>446.00</u>	446.00	<u>2900</u>
JK2024 Surplus		7,120.35	7120.35
Sundry		0.00	0
Bank Account Interest		0.00	0
Total Income		<u>7,566.35</u>	<u>10,020</u>
Expenditure			
Junior Squad Subsidy	0.00		1000
Donations	0.00		300
Officer Expenses	0.00		0
Committee meeting expenses inc			
AGM	0.00		100
English Orienteering Council	0.00		400
Courses	0.00		400
JK2024 Donation to Clubs	5,340.00		5340
WM Website	0.00		200
Sundry	17.90		
Total Expenditure	<u>5,357.90</u>	<u>5,357.90</u>	<u>7740</u>

Surplus/(Deficit)	2,208.45	2,280.35
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WM Junior Squad

Income	2,211.50
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Expenditure	2,618.54
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Surplus/(Deficit)	<u><u>-407.04</u></u>
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TOTAL FUNDS

	Total	WMOA	WMJS
WMOA Treasurer Account	8,209.17	8,209.17	
WMJS Account	3,208.81		3,208.81
Opening b/f	11,417.98	8,209.17	3,208.81
Surplus/(Deficit) for 2023/2024	1,801.41	2,208.45	-407.04
closing c/f	<u><u>13,219.39</u></u>	<u><u>10,417.62</u></u>	<u><u>2,801.77</u></u>

Represented by: %

WMOA Treasurer Account	10,417.62	10,417.62		78.81
WMJS Account	2,801.77		2,801.77	21.19

Total	<u><u>13,219.39</u></u>	<u><u>10,417.62</u></u>	<u><u>2,801.77</u></u>
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Richard Lewis thanked Ian for all his work with the region's finances.

8. Fixtures Report- Rick Roberts

Firstly, Meetings: -

Since our last AGM there have been three meetings of the national Events Scheduling Group, held by Zoom in October last year, together with March and October this year. The most recent one being only last week. I have both represented the West Midlands at all of these and provided a two-way flow of information for the West Midlands Club Fixtures Secretaries.

The meetings of our own West Mids group of Club Fixtures Secretaries are generally timed to follow a couple of weeks after the national meetings to allow for circulation and consideration of updated planning spreadsheets. Since the last AGM there have been 2 Zoom meetings. My successor will need to schedule a further meeting for later this year to follow up on last week's ESG.

Next, the Leagues: -

There have been 3 West Midlands League events so far this calendar year, with 4 more scheduled to come. As you will know from the website, after 3 events Harlequins are in the

lead, closely followed by Wrekin, Octavian Droobers, Chasers and POTO in that order. However, there are potentially another 4 events to come - so there is still plenty of opportunity to challenge the leaders and change the narrative!

The Urban League has again been underpopulated this year with only 4 events, 2 of which were also in the national UK Urban League. These have now all taken place. Scoring tables are on the West Midlands Urban League webpage by following the link from the WMOA website. However, I would preach some caution in the short term as I am aware of several reports of anomalous results in the tables, not all of which have yet been resolved. For those interested, the WM Urban League webpage also contains links to both the UK Urban League and all the other regional tables for this and previous years.

Then, Regional Events: -

This year the Laurie Bradley was hosted by OD, the West Midlands round of the Compass Sport Cup & Trophy by Chasers, the Yvette Baker qualifier by OD, the West Mids Schools Championships by HOC, the West Midlands Championships by POTO and the West Mids Relays by HOC.

In addition, Chasers, with some help from their friends, hosted 2 days of the, originally East Midlands, JK at Easter. OD & HOC hosted the national British Sprint and British Sprint Relay Championships at Warwick and Birmingham Universities respectively. Both navigating very successfully around student protest camps and Open Day crowds over a weekend in June.

Looking forward: -

For 2025, plans are in hand for Chasers to host the Laurie Bradley, OD the Relays, Wrekin the CSC/T Round 1, HOC the Yvette Baker first round, and POTO the Schools Champs.

In addition, the late May Bank Holiday this coming year will see the biennial hosting of Springtime in Shropshire by Harlequins and Wrekin, which will also contain the West Midlands Championships on this occasion.

Going even further ahead, in April 2026 HOC will host the British Middle Championships at Brown Clee, followed on the next day by the Midlands Championships.

In 2027, the West Midlands are due to host the national JIRCs in September, and in 2028 the British Orienteering Championships and British Relay Championships over a weekend to be determined.

At present, neither lead clubs, nor venues, for 2027 & 2028 have been determined.

This is the end of my final report as Association Fixtures Secretary. I would like to thank the various Club Fixtures Secretaries and the other members of the WMOA Committee, particularly Richard Lewis, for their help and support over the last three years. I have enjoyed the role and would have happily carried on if circumstances had been different.

Barry Elkington commented that OD have now agreed to take on the Sunday event at Brown Clee after the British Middles.

Rick Roberts reiterated that the lead clubs and areas for the National events in 2027 and 2028 needed identifying very soon. He would be happy to help new Fixtures Secretary settle into role and pass all details onto National Fixtures Secretary.

Richard Lewis thanked Rick for all his work.

9. **WMJS Report-** Kirsten Strain

Squad membership is currently 16 juniors. Club contribution is: 4 x HOC, 2 x WCH, 3 x WRE, 3 x POTO, 4 x OD. Age split is: 1xM18, 0xW18, 9xM16, 3xW16, 2xM14 and 1xW14. In

addition there are a small number of juniors who are either being invited to trial the squad or are 'associate members' until they are at the correct age/ability to become full members.

The Junior Inter-Regional Championships this year were held in the South-West region in September and we took a team of 14 juniors, equalling last year's team size. Overall WM finished 8th region, again equalling last year's result. The boys' results put them in 5th place, however the small number of girls in the team meant 9th was the highest we could achieve in the female competition. Well done to all the athletes and thank you to the supporting adults. Next year's competition will be in NW region in September 2025.

Throughout 2023-2024, a full programme of squad trainings has been held. This included single-day trainings as follows: Hartshill Hayes (OD) in October, Lickey Hills (HOC) in December, Haywood Warren (WCH) in January joint with Talent North, Allestree Park (DVO) in March joint with EMJOS, Nottingham University (NOC) in June joint with EMJOS and YHJS, Brereton Spurs (WHC) in September joint with EMJOC and Kinver Edge (HOC) in October. We appreciate the support of the regional clubs in getting permission for areas, giving us map files and registering our trainings with BO.

Zoom trainings have been on average once a month. They have either been on general orienteering skills or race preparation for the major races.

In November 2023 we had a successful training weekend in the Lake District. 10 WM juniors participated, together with 4 EM juniors, using the same accommodation as the 2022 weekend. The training was organised by the O Foundation and the Sunday competition was held by LOC. A similar format of weekend is planned for November 2024, but with the location being in the New Forest instead of the Lake District.

Later in November is the JROS Hawkshead weekend for M/W16s. We will have seven athletes this year and three adults. Training will be on three different high-quality areas and the juniors will also have the full experience of staying at YHA Hawkshead and running the famous night-sprint.

In March 2024, six WM juniors participated in a pre-JK training camp in North Wales organised by Mark and Alice of the Welsh Junior Squad.

We have had successful cake sales at four events, both raising the profile of the squad and raising useful funds for our activities. In addition, Barry's Quiz night brought in considerable funds through entries and a raffle.

We ordered more stock of squad kit and that arrived over the summer, so we are able to offer o tops and jackets to any new members.

We are very pleased to have 6 juniors participating in JROS summer training camps this year. Eden Pigott and Fraser Stamp went on the Lagganlia camp (for M/W14s) and Jonah Hearn, Max Straube-Roth, Adam Landels and Craig Thompson went on the Deeside camp (for M/W15s). Congratulations to those juniors, who earned their places through performance at the defined selection races. In addition, Eden Pigott was been selected to represent England at the Junior Home Internationals in October and Max Straube-Roth has been awarded a place in the Talent South squad.

Earlier this year, squad activities were to some extent being limited by coach capacity. This situation has improved in recent months with guest coaches using squad sessions towards their coaching qualification. More coaches would always be welcome, whether for one-off sessions, while working towards a coach qualification or as a longer-term commitment to the squad. Karen Thompson has stepped up to take on more and more of the administration

which has been a great help, especially with the residential weekends. We are also thankful to Ian Gamlen for continuing to produce regular financial reports.

Intake of new squad members continues to be a concern. Ideally regional junior squads coach at TD4 and TD5 level, with club training being available to support young athletes up to that standard. In practice, we have been lowering the standard of our intake, in order to get any new juniors into the squad. However, it is difficult to provide quality training at such a large range of abilities, at least without additional coaches. We'd be interested in working with clubs to support their developing athletes with coached training activities, for example holding joint or side-by-side squad/club sessions.

Richard Lewis thanked Kirsten for all her work with the squad.

10. Election Of Officers-

Chair- Richard Lewis- WRE Proposed by Ian Gamlen Seconded by Kirsten Strain

Vice Chair – no volunteers for this role

Secretary- Carol Dredge- WCH Proposed by Kirsten Strain Seconded by Ian Gamlen

Treasurer- Ian Gamlen- HOC Proposed by Carol Dredge Seconded by Peter Langmaid

Fixtures Secretary – No volunteers for this role

Coaching Coordinator- Dave Ellis- HOC

Welfare/Safeguarding Officer- Mel Elkington

Webmaster- Marian White

WMOA Junior Squad- Kirsten Strain

11. AOB-

Jim Cooke asked for input on whether WMOA Schools Championships should be held on a weekday or as traditionally on a Saturday. Venue is Apedale with provisional dates either Thursday 15th May or Saturday 17th May. After a brief discussion it was decided to add this to next committee meeting agenda for final decision.

Henry Morgan has arranged a Planner's Course for Saturday 9th November at Pooley Fields. Currently there are only 4 members planning to attend this. Minimum number of 6 required. Other regions have been notified about the course and club rep's have been asked to recirculate details to try and get more volunteers. Marian White to put add on front page of WMOA Website.

12. Next Year's AGM will be held on Monday 13th October at 7-30pm.

Next Committee Meeting will be held on Monday 9th December at 7-30pm by Zoom.

Meeting closed at 8-46pm.

Thanks to Barry Elkington for facilitating Zoom.