

Minutes of WMOA Committee Meeting 9th December 2024 at 7-30 pm

via Zoom

Present: Marian White, Kirsten Strain, Carol Dredge, Adam Bushnell, James Thomas, Barry Elkington, Richard Lewis, Jim Cooke, Ian Gamlen

1. Apologies: Mel Elkington, Dave Ellis

2. Declaration of Interest: None

3. Acceptance of Previous Minutes: Minutes of 9th September accepted

4. Matters Arising: None

5. Correspondence: a) Email from Alistair Powell – OD apologies for non attendance and requesting minutes of Zoom coaching meeting

6. Chairman's Report: RL

Firstly I would like to welcome James Thomas to the committee and the role of WMOA region fixtures secretary, James has the knowledge and understanding of this role as he also holds the HOC fixtures position. I'm sure he will continue the excellent job Rick R his predecessor did.

I have been sat at Home pondering how quickly the year seems to have past and that we will soon be into another year with new challenges and competitions to look forward to. The first will be the New Year's Day Laurie Bradley Score held this year by WCH.

We also have Spring Time in Shropshire in May with lead clubs HOC and WRE combining to put this on, and all these will be in addition to the well supported WMOA league events.

Whilst mentioning the WMOA league it's a close run race again this year, with as I write anyone of a possible 3 clubs taking the title

We also have at this time of the year most clubs holding their own individual club champs my own club being one of these, and it's interesting to listen to the pre-event chat when competitive chat comes in and friendships are on hold for the next 45 minutes, all normal chat resumed after the finish line.

Talking of listening, currently I can hear Storm Darragh blowing around home let's hope we don't get too much damage to local forests etc or more flood water. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year and look forward to seeing you at an event in 2025.

7. Treasurer's Report: IG

Prior to the meeting IG had circulated the latest accounts for both the WMOA and the WMJS accounts.

He reported that finances were healthy. Money from JK now in - £7,102 - ¼ each given to POTOC, WRE, WCH and WMOA.

IG had received a request from EMOA asking for some of this to be given to NOC and LOG who had both helped on WMOA days at JK.

After much discussion it was agreed that IG would speak to Chris Phillips, ex EMOA chair about this. It was pointed out that some WMOA members had helped at the JK sprint.

WMJS account currently held at Lloyds but they are now charging £4-25 a month for the account. Mel Elkington has looked into alternatives and proposes Metro Bank. This was approved by Committee. WMJS Constitution needs to be updated to show this.

1. Levy Amnesty for WMOA. IG had looked into bank balances over the last 6 years and pretty static. This year extra £1,700 from JK.

Due to number of big events in region over next few years it was suggested need to keep a reasonable amount in bank account.

IG proposed to keep current levy arrangements – agreed by Committee.

2. Junior Finances- awards for Tours

Current policy WMOA donates £1,000 annually to WMJS and offers to subsidise Juniors on tours and International Competitions by paying 15% of costs.

After discussion it was agreed that Juniors subsidy to be raised to 20% of costs. If WMJS need more money to achieve their aims ask for it rather than increasing annual amount.

8. Fixtures Secretary Report : JT

RL welcomed JT onto the Committee and thanked him for filling this vital role.

JT not beginning this new role until late December so no report given.

1. WMOA Schools Champs date.

IG had emailed competitors from last year about weekday or weekend date for next year. Individual entrants had preferred weekend and schools were happy with either. Shropshire schools had informally suggested weekday better but hadn't replied to emails re this.

Agreed to stick to Saturday 17th May at Apedale.

2. Cancellation of OD event at Brandon Woods – 8th December. This event had been due to be part of WMOA League and discussion took place as to whether if it was rearranged early in 2025 it could still be part of 2024 League. It was agreed that this would create too many problems with changes in age classes etc so the League would now only be the 6 completed events. Hopefully Brandon Woods can be rearranged for early 2025 as WMOA have no events scheduled until March. JT to discuss this with Richard Gardener and OD.
3. JT reported that there were currently 5 league events for 2025 with Brandon Woods making 6. Discussed whether SINS events could be added to League to increase total but due to numbers extra courses needed so not compatible, except for Day One Urban event.
Urban League currently has 4 events for 2025 with Castle Vale and Rugeley both in UKUL.
4. RL has spoken to Kerina Lake- WOA re potential use of Mid/ North Wales areas by WMOA for major event. Request being put to the Welsh Fixtures Committee.

9. WMOA Website: MW

MW has access to WMOA Urban League scoring system for this year. JT to have access to this for next year.

SINS Website to be up by Christmas.

10. Development –

Henry and Brenda Morgan and RL ran a successful Planners course in November with 7 enthusiastic participants.

Henry willing to put on a Level C controllers course next year. RL to contact HM to arrange a date.

11. Coaching Co-ordinator- DE – not present

In November a Zoom meeting was held by Dave Ellis to discuss Coaching survey results. Representatives from all clubs were on the call.

Actions agreed at meeting – for participation - develop the Car Park to Start Kite concept and looking at further training to support clubs to attract and retain newcomers. For performance – training day looking at skills needed to move from level 3 to 4 and level 4 to 5. Looking at date in first part of next year.

Written report on meeting from DE awaited.

12. West Midlands Junior Squad –KS

The two main activities that have happened since the AGM are a whole-squad weekend trip to the New Forest and the 16s-only JROS weekend training camp in the Lake District. Both weekends were excellent opportunities for our juniors to experience unfamiliar terrain types and improve their technical skills to cope, as well as socialise with one another and other juniors from other squads. Thanks are expressed to the many people who contributed to making both of these weekends happen.

We will finish the year with our Christmas training together with EMJOS on Sunday at Outwoods (LEI) area and our end-of-year family Zoom quiz on Monday.

Looking ahead to 2025, we have identified provisional training dates on 18th January, 8th March, 6th April and 8th June, mostly in conjunction with EMJOS. Some will need WM areas so we will be in touch with clubs in the coming weeks. Zoom trainings will continue to complement in-person trainings, with one scheduled each month.

Successful fundraising cake stalls were held at the WM champs in September and two WML events in November. One more was planned for the OD WML event in December but that was postponed.

A few new juniors are being invited to the upcoming trainings with a view to becoming squad members in due course, at a lower entry standard than ideal for a regional squad. It would be great if more was done at club level.

Kirsten represented WMJS at Dave's discussion in November about coaching provision within the region. We are looking forward to seeing what practical outcomes are reached following that. The JROS AGM and working group meeting is midway through with one online session attended by Kirsten last week and the second online session tomorrow being attended by RL thanked coaches for all their work and time.

13. Club Round Up:

OD-BE

Saturday morning local events and MapRuns continuing over the Winter.

Rough Close Relays- 28th December.

Brandon Woods cancelled due to adverse weather.

Money received from O-Foundation for Development Officer but no interest as yet.

WCH-AB

Chasers held 2 successful Saturday local events attracting some newcomers.

Oldacre Regional event went well. Thanks to HOC for loan of matting for car park which saved the day.

MapRun league held fortnightly over Winter – attracting some local experienced runners who are not orienteers.

HOC-IG

COBO events continuing on 4th Saturday of the month. Cancelled November event now scheduled for February.

Night Street League/ Level D events continue every Thursday.

WMOA League event at Eymore Woods was very successful.

HOC Club Champs had been cancelled but will now be held on Saturday at Lickey Hills.

POTOC-JC

Downs Bank event cancelled due to weather.

Festive fun event planned between Christmas and New Year.

Early next year league of 6 local events planned.

Awaiting permission from army for Morridge event.

WRE- RL

Successful night and day events held at Nesscliffe.

AGM and Club Champs to be held on 22nd December. Fun Run on 28th December.

MapRun events end of January and February.

14. Any Other Business:

MW- News round up planned to go out shortly. Including results of WMOA Leagues. Advert for OD Development Officer to be included.

Extra News round up in January.

15. Date of Next Meeting: Monday 10th March 2025 7-30pm by Zoom

Meeting closed at 9-20 pm

Thanks to Barry Elkington for coordinating Zoom Meeting.