

## Minutes of WMOA AGM held on Monday 13th October 2025 at 7-30pm by Zoom

**Present-** Richard Lewis, Barry Elkington, Tom Lewis, Peter Langmaid, Ian Gamlen, Carol Dredge, Marian White, Kirsten Strain, Adam Bushnell, Robert Vickers, Jim Cooke, James Thomas, Barry McGowan, Martin Pigott

1. **Apologies-** John Leeson, Rod Postlethwaite, Henry Morgan, Brenda Morgan, Mel Elkington, Keith Willdig
2. **Declaration of Interest-** None
3. **Acceptance of Minutes of last AGM** – 21<sup>st</sup> October 2024 – proposed- Jim Cooke, seconded – Ian Gamlen
4. **Matters Arising** – None
5. **Correspondence** – BOF Association Affiliations requested by 20<sup>th</sup> October. IG to complete and return to BOF.
6. **Chairman's Report-** Richard Lewis

I said to myself last year that as next year would be my last year as a M70 I should put more effort into fitness and Orienteering including attending more National events.

Well it was going well until SIn's home territory and challenging areas, however I picked an injury up on the first event in Ludlow, and since then have been struggling to get over it, and indeed have not run or orienteered since. Hopefully all this will change in 2026 and I can start the new age class in full form.

The Regions clubs have supported the WMOA league events fully and have given a full and varied calendar of events to choose

The big event being SIn's which gave the region 3 event's a record number of entries, and well done to all those involved in making this happen.

I know that club fixture secretaries are working with James our WMOA fixtures secretary who we are grateful of taking on the role and already planning 2026 and beyond.

It's worth mentioning that in April 2026 we will have the British Middle Distance and the Midland Champs on Brown Clee all on the same weekend. I'm sure as we get nearer the clubs organising will be looking for any volunteer helpers.

Which leads me into my next thanks Volunteers, without members giving up time and volunteering to organise, coach, plan, control none of these events would happen - so thanks to you all.

The WMOA is lucky we have volunteers who give up time to support both the clubs and association these include finances - WMOA accounts are healthy and stable, more detail to follow. The junior squad our Junior squad Coaches, administrators and supporters give valuable coaching in their own time as volunteers, to help our juniors progress. Kirsten will give us an update on this as the meeting progresses.

The purpose of tonight's meeting is to elect officers to proceed with managing the WMOA into 2026.

I would like to keep my comments short as we have some important topics to discuss in any other business.

However before we move on I would like to thank the following, and I hope I haven't missed anyone, these members have supported the WMOA and myself over the last few years and I know I can be assured they will support the WMOA in the future.

Thanks go to Carol, Ian, James, Barry, Mel, Kirsten, Marian, Andrew W, Henry/Brenda, Richard R. and all the club reps who have to put up with me at each meeting, sorry if I missed you it's getting to the end.

Marian and Andrew are the ones we don't see. I was going to say the quiet ones, but that doesn't fit, Marian keeps our web page updated and provides an excellent info Newsletter. Andrew manages and inputs the WMOA league info

Thank you for your time this evening and I would like to proceed onto the next topic item.

## **7. Treasurers Report on WMOA and WMJS accounts 2024-2025- Ian Gamlen**

### **WMOA Treasurers Report 2024-25**

2024-25 has been a good year for both the WMOA and WMJS accounts. Regarding the WMOA account income, in addition to levies from West Midlands League Events (£1727) we have had levies from SINS in 2025 (£1629) and received the West Midlands share of the JK2024 surplus (£7120.35). As agreed, this has been divided into quarters and passed onto the 3 West Midlands clubs (WCH POTOC and WRE) who assisted with putting on JK2024 whilst the WMOA retained a quarter (£1780).

WMOA Expenditure was £214 higher than budgeted for largely due to a higher than usual number of donations to WM Junior Squad members travelling to training camps at Lagganlia and the Czech Republic.

The WMOA funds have increased by £2601.85 in 2024-25

The WMJS decided to move their current account from Lloyds Bank to Metro Bank in January 2025 following the introduction of a monthly charge by Lloyds Bank for their services. This appears to have gone smoothly.

The WMJS funds have increased by £1075.11 in 2024-25.

The closing balance on 31/8/25 for the WMOA account was £10811.02 and the closing balance on 31/8/25 for the WMJS was £4283.92. The 2024-2025 WMOA and WMJS accounts have been inspected by Brian Laycock who confirms that they are an accurate and true record.

### **Budget for 2025-2026**

Please see proposed budget for 2025-26 overleaf. We are hoping to break even this year.

### **WMOA Levy for 2025-26**

My recommendation is that we continue to charge a £1 WM Levy per adult participant at those events that attract more than 40 adult participants. For example, if there are 100 adult participants the club will pay £100-£40 = £60

### **West Midlands Orienteering Association**

#### **Income and Expenditure Account from 1/9/24 to 31/8/25**

Income	Actual	Actual	Budget
General Levy	1,727.00		1500
SINS 2025	1,629.00		1400
	<u>3,356.00</u>	3,356.00	<u>2900</u>
JK2024 Surplus		7,120.35	7120.35
Sundry		80.00	0

Bank Account Interest		<u>0.00</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Income		10,556.35	10,020
Expenditure			
Junior Squad Subsidy	1,000.00		1000
Donations	522.00		300
Officer Expenses	0.00		0
Committee meeting expenses inc			
AGM	168.70		100
English Orienteering Council	418.00		400
Courses	251.90		400
JK2024 Donation to Clubs	5,340.00		5340
WM Website	212.00		200
Sundry	<u>41.90</u>		
Total Expenditure	<u>7,954.50</u>	7,954.50	<u>7740</u>
Surplus/(Deficit)		2,601.85	2,280.35

### **WM Junior Squad**

Income		5,193.95
Expenditure		4,118.84
Surplus/(Deficit)		<u>1,075.11</u>

### TOTAL FUNDS

	Total	WMOA	WMJS
WMOA Treasurer Account	8,209.17	8,209.17	
WMJS Account	<u>3,208.81</u>		<u>3,208.81</u>
Opening b/f	11,417.98	8,209.17	3,208.81
Surplus/(Deficit) for 2024/2025	3,676.96	2,601.85	1,075.11
closing c/f	<u>15,094.94</u>	<u>10,811.02</u>	<u>4,283.92</u>

Represented by:				%
WMOA Treasurer Account	10,811.02	10,811.02		71.62
WMJS Account	4,283.92		4,283.92	28.38
Total	<u>15,094.94</u>	<u>10,811.02</u>	<u>4,283.92</u>	

## Income and Expenditure Account from 1/9/25 to 31/08/26

Income	Actual	Actual	Budget
General Levy			1500
British Middle Distance Champs			660
Midland Champs			480
Sundry			0
Bank Account Interest			0
Total Income			2640
Expenditure			
Junior Squad Subsidy			1000
Donations			500
Officer Expenses			0
Committee meeting expenses inc AGM			100
English Orienteering Council			420
Courses			400
			0
WM Website			220
Total Expenditure			2640

Richard Lewis thanked Ian for all his work with the region's finances.

### 8. Fixtures Report- James Thomas

So officially I took over the Fixtures role in January of this year. After being the HOC Fixture Secretary for several years, I was asked by Richard if I would like to be the same role for the West Midlands. Therefore, I officially took over the role in January of this year. I will admit that I'm still settling into the role and currently still working with the other fixtures secretaries to provide the solutions to the regional calendar.

#### West Midlands League

So currently there has been 5 WM league events which started in February with two events, being Brandon Wood from OD and Wrockwardine from WRE. Then in March two more events with Arrow Valley with HOC (which also hosted the YBT) and Bentley Woods. In May we were treated to Morridge from POTO C which hadn't been used at this level for a long time and was challenging to obtain access.

So after a quiet summer with regards to West Midlands League, we kick back off in October with Park Hall. This will also be very significant to the organising club POTO C as this is their 50th anniversary race. Next in November two events, the first in Severn Valley Country Park with Wrekin on the 2nd November. This event is also the West Midlands Championship event. The second two weeks later on the 16th November with HOC using British Camp. Finally, two events in December to round off the season with Brindley Valley on the 7th December and a Middle-distance event at Brandon Wood a week later on the 14th December.

6	26/10/2025	Sun	POTO C	Park Hall
7	02/11/2025	Sun	WRE	Severn Valley Country Park (Also WM Champs)
8	16/11/2025	Sun	HOC	British Camp
9	07/12/2025	Sun	WCH	Brindley Valley
10	14/12/2025	Sun	OD	Brandon Wood (Middle)

For 2026, there are 4 events currently in BOF with 1 in January Lickey Hills (a venue not used at this level since 2016) with HOC and 2 in February with Satnall Hills by WCH and the Long Mynd with WRE. Note that the WRE event is on a Saturday. Finally for WML 2026 we have Whitfield Valley in March which will also host the YBT round.

18/01/2026	Sun	HOC	Lickey Hills
08/02/2026	Sun	WCH	Satnall Hills
14/02/2026	Sat	WRE	Long Mynd
29/03/2026	Sun	POTOC	Whitfield Valley (Also YBT)
05/10/2026	Sun	WRE	TBC

Regarding the West Midlands League, I've advised the Fixtures Secs to consider Middle distance formats for certain areas if a long format isn't suitable for the area. I've also advised that clubs should be open to the idea of putting events on a Saturday if a Sunday event isn't workable for the area. Hopefully with these two recommendations it will make it possible to host more events.

### **West Midlands Urban League**

For 2025 there are 5 events listed for the West Midlands Urban League of which 4 of them have now been completed. The league kicked off in Ludlow as part of the SinS weekend having a finish in Ludlow Castle. Then in July, it was in the very technical Randlay and Stirchley part of Telford. In August OD hosted Kenilworth and just a few weeks ago HOC hosted its second Urban event of the year in Castle Vale, which was also part of the UK Urban League.

So, after 4 events in the West Midlands Urban League, we're down to the final event of the year which will be WCH event in the Etching Hill area of Rugeley in November this is also part of the UK Urban League.

09/11/2025	Sun	WCH	Etching Hill, Rugeley
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For 2026, 3 out of the four current WMUL events are in July with OD hosting a joint event with LEI for Hinckley on the 12th and WRE putting on an urban weekend in Telford for the 18th-19th July. HOC have an event planned for September, but the venue is currently TBC. I will make it known to the Fixture Sec's that Roger Thetford will be looking at venues for UK Urban League next month so clubs that are interested to add an event before the deadline.

12/07/2026	Sun	OD (LEI)	Hinckley
18/07/2026	Sat	WRE	Randlay & Malinslee
19/07/2026	Sun	WRE	Woodside
13/09/2026	Sun	HOC	TBC

Same as the main league, I'm open to different event formats for the WMUL (most likely Sprint style event) and will be advising the Fixture Secs to do so.

### **Other West Midlands commitments**

So the 2025 WM commitments started of course with the Laurie Bradley on Haywood Warren. The Compass Sport Cup was unfortunately unable to be held in the West Midlands this year by WRE and HOC hosted the Yvette Baker as previously stated at Arrow Valley. POTOC then host the British School Champs at Apedale in May.

Just the other week the WM Relays were held at Pooley Country Park with OD as the organising club.

The final main WM Commitment is WRE hosting the WM Champs on Severn Valley Country Park in November.

WM Relays	OD	05/10/2025	Pooley Country Park
WM Champs	WRE	02/11/2025	Severn Valley Country Park

**2026 events.** Currently the only confirmed venues are the Laurie Bradley at Hartlebury Common by HOC, the CompassSport Cup Round in February in Sutton Park by OD and Telford Town Park for the WM Relays. I'm still waiting for confirmation from clubs for the other venues below.

Laurie Bradley NYD Score	HOC	01/01/2026	Hartlebury Common
CompassSport Cup Rd1	OD	22/02/2026	Sutton Park South
Yvette Baker Rd1	POTOC	29/03/2026	Whitfield Valley
WM Schools Champs	OD	TBC	
WM Relays	WRE	07/06/2026	Telford Town Park
WM Champs	WCH	TBC	TBC

### National Commitments

Our 2026 commitments are well established with Brown Clew hosting both and British Middle Championships and the Midland Championships respectfully.

2026

British Middle Champs	HOC	18/04/2026	Brown Clew
Midland Champs	OD	19/04/2026	Brown Clew

The main commitment for 2027 is the Junior InterRegional Championships (JIRC's) and its relays. This is what should be the focus to resolve for the WMOA region. The current plan is for Beaudesert (or another venue on the Chase) with the Scout Campsite as the main venue for competitor venue. Alternatively, Sutton Park could be used with use of Wyndley Leisure Centre. When the fixture secs met earlier in the year finding a suitable venue for hosting JIRC's was challenging due to accommodation requirements. Also looking at the rules, it is possible to host a league event on the same area, but this must be after the main competition. 2027 is also a SinS year for which the late Spring bank holiday has been earmarked.

2027

SinS	HOC/WRE	29-31/05	
JIRCS	TBC	25-26/09	TBC

Currently the decision for the event venue for the British Champs and British Relays is still up for discussion. The initial proposal is for WRE to use one of the Welsh Areas. However, as 2028 is a Croeso year there could be an issue with using these areas. I will be discussing this matter with my WOA counterpart within the coming weeks to get an understanding of this situation. Haywood Warren was also discussed but we've been advised it would have to be earlier in the year.

Other venues may still be possible, but this needs to be discussed as soon as possible.

2028

British Champs	TBC	TBC	TBC
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IG –JIRC's 2027- feedback from coaches at this year's JIRC'S expressed a preference for accommodation to be at Wyndley Leisure Centre. Suggesting potentially Individual on Cannock Chase and Relays at Sutton Park.

Richard Lewis thanked James for all his work with the fixtures.

#### 9. **WMJS Report-** Kirsten Strain

Squad membership is currently 18 juniors plus 3 'associate members' who are of lower age/standard but are joining in with squad activities with additional parental support. Club contribution is: 8 x HOC, 3 x WCH, 3 x WRE, 2 x POTOC, 5 x OD. Age split is: 3xM18, 1xW18, 7xM16, 3xW16, 3xM14 and 1xW14 and associate members 1xM12 and 2xW12.

The Junior Inter-Regional Championships this year were held in the North-West region in September, and we took a team of 14 juniors. Overall WM finished 7<sup>th</sup> region, one up on last year's result. Well done to all the athletes and thank you to the supporting adults. Next year's competition will be in East Anglia region in September 2026.

Throughout 2024-2025, a full programme of squad trainings has been held. This included single-day trainings as follows: Outwoods (LEI) in December, Sherwood Forest (NOC) in January, Stanton Moor (DVO) in March, Rough Close (OD) in April, Park Hall (POTOC) in June and Beacon Hill (LEI) in September. Most have been held joint EMJOS. We appreciate the support of the regional clubs in both EM and WM 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 2024 we had a successful training weekend in the New Forest together with the EM squad, which comprised a day of training and a competition day with two nights in group accommodation. A similar weekend is planned for this November, this time in South Wales, incorporating the Orienteering Foundation training day.

Later in November is the JROS Hawkshead weekend for M/W16s. We hope to have seven athletes this year and four 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.

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. Two more cake sales are planned for 2025.

Karen has been managing the stocks of squad kit and we have been 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. Seb Blackmore went on Lagganlia (for M/W14s), Eden Pigott and Fraser Stamp went on the 'Deeside at Findhorn' camp (for M/W15s) and Jonah Hearn, Max Straube-Roth and Craig Thompson went on the Czechia camp (for M/W15s). Congratulations to those juniors, who earned their places through

performance at the defined selection races. In addition, Seb Blackmore, Jonah Hearn and Olivia Fraser represented England at Interland in March and Seb Blackmore represented England at the Junior Home Internationals in October. Eden Pigott and Craig Thompson have been awarded places in the Talent Programme (Talent North and Talent South, respectively). Max Straube-Roth was also offered a place in the Talent South squad but has turned it down this year due to injury.

Squad admin has been helped by adopting use of the Spond phone app and online platform. It makes it quick and easy for parents to respond to availability requests for juniors and adult helpers for squad activities, including training days, zoom trainings and cake sales. We changed bank from Lloyds to Metro Bank in January, to avoid incurring charges. After a few initial problems, the new account has been working smoothly.

Training sessions have been planned and organised by a range of coaches this year: Andy Simpson (LEI), Alistair Powell (OD), Ann-Marie Duckworth (DVO), Dai Bedwell (DVO) and Kirsten Strain (OD). Combining with other squads has been effective in reducing the workload for coaches with more juniors benefitting from each session. Isla Foffa (HOC) has been a great addition to the WMJS team: helping at several trainings and managing the team at JIRCs. Isla has recently begun her level 2 coaching qualification, and we look forward to supporting her through that. Karen has continued to provide invaluable admin support in all aspects of squad management. 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 lowered the standard of our intake to those only just moving to TD3 courses. If clubs have young members who are nearing that standard, please get in touch with us so we can invite them along to a taster session. It is, however, more difficult to provide quality training at such a large range of abilities. We are open to ideas and discussion about how to improve numbers of juniors participating in club and regional activities, and what we can do as a squad to support this.

Richard Lewis thanked Kirsten and all the team for all their work with the squad.

#### 10. Election Of Officers-

**Chair-** Richard Lewis- WRE Proposed by Barry Elkington Seconded by Kirsten Strain  
**Vice Chair** – Tom Lewis-WRE Proposed by Carol Dredge Seconded by Ian Gamlen  
**Secretary-** Carol Dredge- WCH Proposed by Adam Bushnell Seconded by Robert Vickers  
**Treasurer-** Ian Gamlen- HOC Proposed by Jim Cooke Seconded by James Thomas  
**Fixtures Secretary** – James Thomas – HOC Proposed by Richard Lewis Seconded by Peter Langmaid  
**Coaching Coordinator-** vacant  
**Welfare/Safeguarding Officer-** Mel Elkington  
**Webmaster-** Marian White  
**WMOA Junior Squad-** Kirsten Strain

#### 11. AOB-

- a) **Changes to WMOA League-** a Very Short Green course had been used at a number of events but not a current course in WMOA League. Voted unanimously to add this to League. Course would be for Women 75+ and Men 80+. Suggested length 2.5 to 3kms.

From 2026 this would be a new course at all WMOA events.

RL to contact Andrew Weaver to look how this could be incorporated using the current software.

**b) WMOA League-** it had been proposed that Organisers/ Controllers and Planners be awarded points for the League – suggested 80 points.

**JT-** participation to these roles by those who want to compete in League.

**JC-** POTOOC give an average of person's course at the end of the year for those who have carried out these roles.

**AB-WCH's** planners/ organisers/ controllers do it for enjoyment of role.

**JT-** do we need to cap the number of events people can get points for?

**RV-** awarded points should be based on maximum number of points they have scored in an event that year.

**Club Reps to take this back to clubs for their opinion.** Decision to be made at next Committee Meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> December.

**c) Club Reps to canvas their members for volunteer to edit WMOA Newsletter.**

**d) HOC Controllers** – in the absence of John Leeson this will be held over to the next Committee Meeting.

**12. Next Year's AGM** will be held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2026 at 7-30pm.

**Next Committee Meeting** will be held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 7-30pm by Zoom.

Meeting closed at 8-52pm.

Thanks to Barry Elkington for facilitating Zoom.