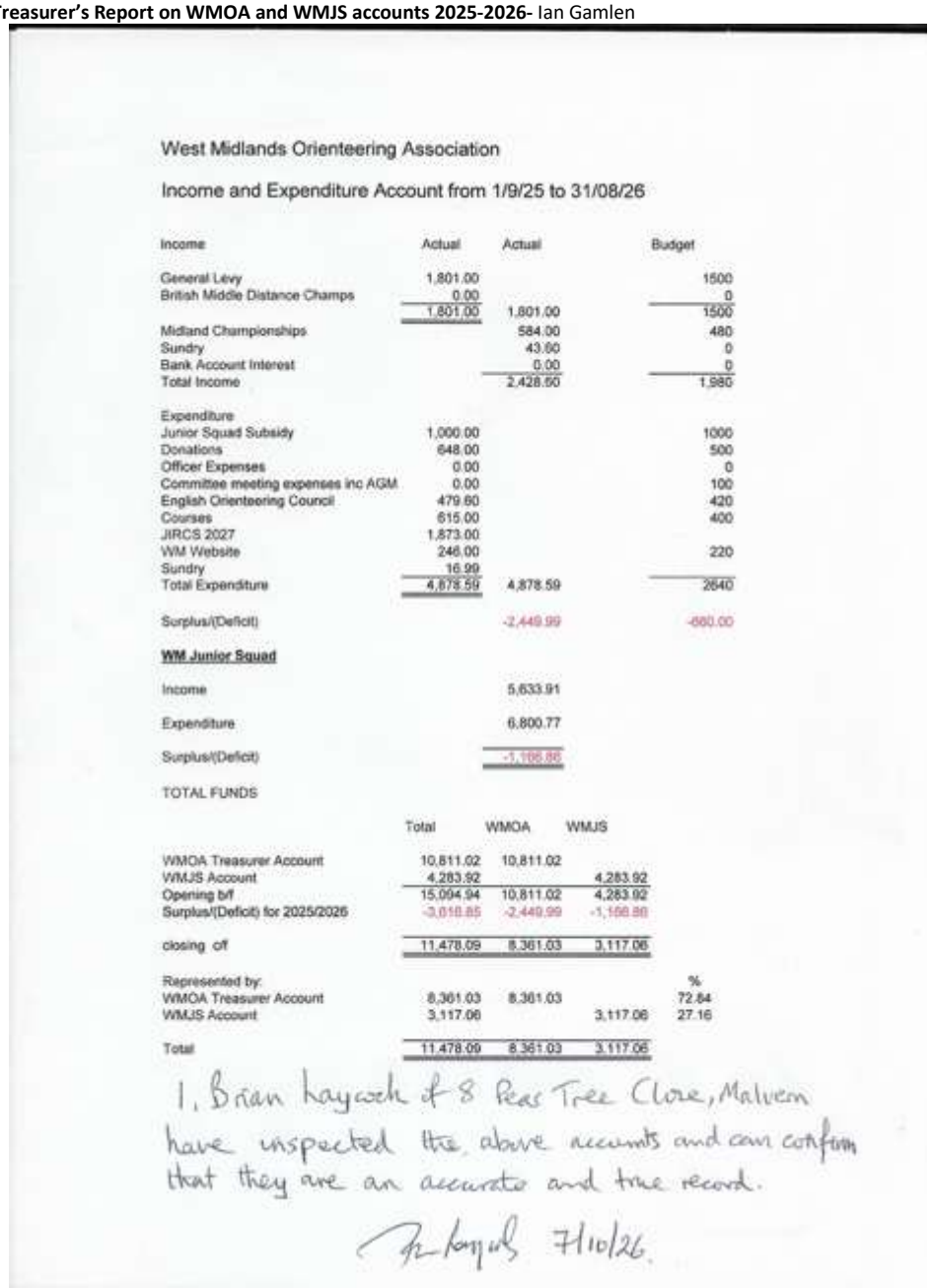
Minutes of WMOA AGM held on Monday 12th October 2026 at 7-30pm by Zoom

Present- Tom Lewis**,** Barry Elkington, Ian Gamlen, Carol Dredge, Marian White, Robert Vickers, Andrew Weaver, Karen Thompson, Lorna Fizor, John Leeson, Alex Hudson, Martin Piggott

1. **Apologies**- Richard Lewis, Mel Elkington, Rod Postlethwaite
2. **Declaration of Interest-** None
3. **Acceptance of Minutes of last AGM –** 13th October 2025 **–** proposed- Tom Lewis, seconded – Ian Gamlen
4. **Matters Arising –** None
5. **Correspondence –** Carol Dredge – BOF returns requested by 23rd October. IG to complete and return to BOF.
6. **Chair's Report-**
   Tom Lewis on behalf of Richard Lewis thanked everyone for the kind messages he had received during his illness. He also thanked everyone on the committee for the work that they had done during the last year. Chair was an easy role to pick up thanks to other committee members.

7. **Treasurer's Report on WMOA and WMJS accounts 2025-2026-** Ian Gamlen



West Midlands Orienteering Association

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

Income	Actual	Actual	Budget
General Levy	1,801.00		1500
British Middle Distance Champs	0.00		0
	1,801.00	1,801.00	1500
Midland Championships		584.00	480
Sundry		43.00	0
Bank Account Interest		0.00	0
Total Income		2,428.50	1,980
Expenditure			
Junior Squad Subsidy	1,000.00		1000
Donations	648.00		500
Officer Expenses	0.00		0
Committee meeting expenses inc AGM	0.00		100
English Orienteering Council	479.60		420
Courses	615.00		400
JIRCS 2027	1,873.00		
WM Website	246.00		220
Sundry	16.99		
Total Expenditure	4,878.59	4,878.59	2640
Surplus/(Deficit)		-2,449.99	-660.00

WM Junior Squad

Income	5,633.91
Expenditure	6,800.77
Surplus/(Deficit)	-1,166.86

TOTAL FUNDS

	Total	WMOA	WMJS
WMOA Treasurer Account	10,811.02	10,811.02	
WMJS Account	4,283.92		4,283.92
Opening b/f	15,094.94	10,811.02	4,283.92
Surplus/(Deficit) for 2025/2026	-3,616.85	-2,449.99	-1,166.86
closing c/f	11,478.09	8,361.03	3,117.06

Represented by:				%
WMOA Treasurer Account	8,361.03	8,361.03		72.84
WMJS Account	3,117.06		3,117.06	27.16
Total	11,478.09	8,361.03	3,117.06	

I, Brian Haycock of 8 Pear Tree Close, Malvern have inspected the above accounts and can confirm that they are an accurate and true record.

7/10/26.

Since these accounts £1,600 has been paid out for the mapping course.
KT explained that WMJS showed a deficit due to hiring a coach, over £1,000 for JIRC's in Lakes. WMJS also subsides JIRC's runners.
LF questioned whether 0 bank interest was normal. IG- TSB don't charge to keep account open but pay no interest. WMJS account –Metro bank charges a monthly fee of £3.
LF- WCH account gains interest – IG to discuss with WCH Treasurer.
TL proposed accepting accounts, seconded by BE.

Budget Setting for 2026-2027.

Estimated Income and Expenditure from 1/9/26 to 31/08/27

Income	Budget A	Budget B	Budget C	Budget D
General Levy	1500	1125	750	0
SINS	1500	1125	750	0
Total Income	3000	2250	1500	0
Expenditure				
Junior Squad Subsidy	1000	1000	1000	1000
Donations to individual WMJS members	700	700	700	700
Committee meeting expenses inc AGM	0	0	0	0
English Orienteering Council	450	450	450	450
Courses run by WMOA	600	600	600	600
	0	0	0	0
WM Website	250	250	250	250
Total Expenditure	3000	3000	3000	3000
Surplus/(Deficit)	0	-750	-1500	-3000

Budget A - WMOA levy £1 per adult competitor at event >40 adults
Budget B - WMOA levy £0.75 per adult competitor at event >40 adults
Budget C- WMOA levy £0.50 per adult competitor at events >40 adults
Budget D - WMOA levy £0 per adult competitor at events >40 adults

IG – if we keep levy as it is we will hopefully break even from events next year. Lots of money going in and out re JIRC'S in 2027. Proposed new mapping course in 2027 - £2,000 plus. Keep levy as now but keep on agenda for next year.
Proposal to keep levy at £1. Proposer – Tom Lewis Seconder- John Leeson. Budget A accepted.

IG proposed an increase in mileage rate for courses on behalf of WMOA to be raised from 20p a mile to 25p a mile – this is in line with BOF. Seconded by TL and accepted.

8. **Fixtures Report**- James Thomas

WMOA Fixtures Secretary's Report 2025–2026
West Midlands League
The West Midlands League has continued to provide a regular programme of regional events, although the 2026 calendar has presented some challenges.
Initially, nine rounds were planned for 2026, but this was subsequently reduced to eight due to clashes with events in neighbouring regions. This has highlighted the importance of better coordination with neighbouring associations, particularly the East Midlands Orienteering Association (EMOA), where a number of these conflicts have arisen.
As in previous years, the League calendar has become increasingly concentrated in the winter months, resulting in a substantial gap between the spring and autumn rounds. While this is understandable given the number of other events taking place during the summer, it does present challenges in maintaining a balanced programme throughout the year.
The first four rounds were completed during the early part of 2026, with the remaining rounds scheduled between October and December.
Planning for the 2027 League is progressing well, with the first half of the calendar largely established and a reasonable distribution of events between the hosting clubs. Further work is required on the second half of the year, which will be reviewed at the next Fixtures Meeting.
West Midlands Urban League
The West Midlands Urban League has continued to operate with a relatively modest programme of events.
Five events were originally anticipated for 2026, including two consecutive WRE events in Telford and an OD event in Hinckley organised in conjunction with LEI.
HOC moved their Worcester event to June to complement the SEOUL/UKUL event in Gloucester, organised by NGOC. This was a positive example of cooperation between neighbouring regions and provided an opportunity for competitors to attend multiple events over the same weekend.

Unfortunately, the proposed WCH event in Lichfield was subsequently cancelled, bringing the 2026 Urban League programme to an earlier conclusion than originally planned.
Planning for the 2027 Urban League is underway, with provisional events at Kenilworth and Stratford-upon-Avon, together with a proposed WCH event in May. The programme will be finalised at the next Fixtures Meeting.

Other West Midlands Commitments

The region successfully hosted the Yvette Baker Trophy qualifying round at Whitfield Valley in March, organised by POTOC.
Unfortunately, both the West Midlands Schools Championships and West Midlands Relays were unable to take place during 2026.
Following discussions at the most recent WMOA Committee Meeting, it was agreed that the **West Midlands Schools Championships would be mothballed** for the foreseeable future. Instead, there will be a greater emphasis on supporting county-level schools championships, such as those already held in Staffordshire and Shropshire. It is hoped that this approach will provide more accessible opportunities for schools to participate in orienteering without the additional demands of organising a regional championship.
The Committee also agreed that the **West Midlands Relays should continue, but in a reduced format**. The precise arrangements have yet to be determined, but the intention is to simplify the competition and reduce the organisational burden on hosting clubs. Given the relatively modest participation in recent years, it is hoped that a more manageable format will make the event more sustainable while retaining a regional relay competition.
The 2026 West Midlands Championships are scheduled to take place at Hednesford Camp in December, hosted by WCH.
Looking ahead to 2027, the majority of regional commitments have been allocated to clubs, including the Laurie Bradley event, CompassSport Cup qualifying round and West Midlands Championships.
However, WRE have advised that they are unable to host the 2027 Yvette Baker Trophy qualifying round, and alternative arrangements will therefore need to be identified.
Further work will also be required to establish the revised format of the West Midlands Relays and identify a suitable hosting club.

National Commitments

The allocation and planning of national events has occupied a considerable amount of time during the reporting period, particularly with several major championships scheduled to take place within the region over the coming years.

2026 – British Middle Distance and Midland Championships

The British Middle Distance Championships and Midland Championships were held on Brown Clee Hill in 2026, jointly organised by HOC and OD. Both events were a great success and represented a significant achievement for the region. I would like to thank both clubs and everyone involved in organising and delivering what was a very successful weekend of orienteering.

2027 – Junior Inter-Regional Championships

Planning has continued for WMOA to host the Junior Inter-Regional Championships (JIRCs) in September 2027.
WCH and OD have been identified as the proposed organising clubs, with WCH responsible for the individual competition and OD for the relays.
Sutton Park has been proposed as the relay venue, while the individual venue remains to be confirmed. Beaudesert has also been identified as the accommodation base.
Further work is required to finalise the arrangements and ensure that the necessary support is in place.

2028 – JK Championships and British Championships

The arrangements for the British Championships and British Relay Championships have been a significant topic of discussion throughout the year.
WMOA was originally scheduled to host both championships in 2028, with several potential venues considered, including areas in Mid Wales and Beaudesert. However, with the JK Championships now taking place on Cannock Chase in 2028, it has been agreed that the British Championships and British Relays will be moved out of the West Midlands for that year.
Looking further ahead, **2031 has been suggested as a possible alternative year** for WMOA to host the British Championships and British Relays, as this was originally the year allocated to the region for hosting the JK.
This could provide an opportunity to use areas such as Brown Clee and potentially incorporate the championships into a Springtime in Shropshire (SinS) weekend over the early May Bank Holiday.
Although the 2028 arrangements have now been resolved, the proposed allocation of the British Championships and British Relays to WMOA in 2031 remains subject to further discussion and agreement.

2029 – British Night and Midland Championships

HOC have agreed to host the British Night Championships in 2029, with Bodenham Arboretum identified as the preferred venue and Eymore as a reserve.
The venues have been selected in advance of the two-year embargo period.
A National Event is also anticipated on the following day. HOC have indicated a preference for another WMOA club to organise this event, potentially using a HOC area such as Dudmaston (Comer Wood) or Burlish Top.
WMOA is also due to host the Midland Championships in 2029, for which OD have offered Bentley Woods.
Given the other significant national commitments falling within this period, I would recommend accepting OD's offer, subject to the necessary approvals.

2030 – Senior Home Internationals

WMOA is currently earmarked to host the Senior Home Internationals in 2030.
Although detailed arrangements are not yet required, this commitment will need to be considered as part of the region's longer-term fixtures planning.

Looking Ahead

The coming years will present a considerable number of challenges for the regional fixtures programme, particularly with several major national events scheduled between 2027 and 2031.
The immediate priorities are to complete the 2027 West Midlands League and Urban League calendars, resolve the future arrangements for the West Midlands Schools Championships and Relays, and confirm WMOA's longer-term national hosting commitments.
Continued cooperation between clubs, neighbouring regions and British Orienteering will be essential in ensuring that the programme remains both sustainable and attractive to competitors.
On a personal note, I have recently decided to step down from my committee role at HOC. Having balanced responsibilities at both club and regional level for several years, I hope this will allow me to dedicate more time and attention to my responsibilities within WMOA, particularly the coordination of regional fixtures and the planning of future national events.

With several significant commitments on the horizon, I look forward to continuing to work with clubs across the region to ensure that we can deliver a successful and sustainable fixtures programme.
Finally, I would like to thank all the clubs, event organisers, planners, controllers and fixtures secretaries for their continued efforts in supporting the regional fixtures programme.

Proposed simplification of WMOA relays was accepted – committee to take away and make rules simpler.
Proposed moth balling of WMOA schools was accepted until there is more interest.

LF- questioned how events chosen for UK Urban League.
BE suggested JT reminded club fixtures secretaries in July / August to register following years urban events as regional events in hope to get in the league.

9. **WMJS Report-** Karen Thomson

On 26–27 September, 12 members of the WM Junior Squad competed in the Junior Inter-Regional Championships (JIRCs), hosted by the East Anglian Orienteering Association (EAOA). The individual event took place at Writtle Forest, the relay event at Hatfield Forest, and the squad stayed overnight at Essex Outdoors in Danbury.

Individual event: WM finished sixth overall, with four competitors placing in the top 10. The best individual performances came from Seb Blackmore, who finished sixth in M16, and Eden Pigott, who finished sixth in W16. WM also received the Best Small Squad award for achieving the highest score among the smaller regional squads.

Relay event: We entered two teams in the men's relay and one team in the women's relay. Three additional runners competed in non-competitive ad hoc teams. The men's teams finished 6th and 13th, while the women's team finished 7th.

10. **Election Of Officers**-

Chair- John Leeson HOC Proposed by Tom Lewis Seconded by Robert Vickers
Vice Chair – Tom Lewis WRE Proposed by Ian Gamlen Seconded by John Leeson
Secretary- Carol Dredge WCH Proposed by Tom Lewis Seconded by Lorna Fizor
Treasurer- Ian Gamlen HOC Proposed by Tom Lewis Seconded by John Leeson
Fixtures Secretary – James Thomas HOC Proposed by Ian Gamlen Seconded by Lorna Fizor
Coaching Coordinator- vacant
Welfare/Safeguarding Officer- Mel Elkington OD Proposed by Tom Lewis Seconded by Barry Elkington
Webmasters- Marian White and Richard Rogers
WMOA Junior Squad- Karen Thompson

11. AOB-

MW- Happy to continue updating WMOA website but scope for someone more proactive to be involved with this. MP- offered to work alongside MW with this.
JL- update on mapping course – very good investment of region's finances. Now up to clubs to identify new areas to be mapped.
TL- thanked LF on first edition of WMOA newsletter. MW questioned whether this should be open on the WMOA website- safeguarding etc? To be discussed at next WMOA meeting.

12. Next Year's AGM will be held on Monday 11th October 2027 at 7-30pm.
Next Committee Meeting will be held on Monday 7th December 2026 at 7-30pm by Zoom.

Meeting closed at 8-50pm.

Thanks to Barry Elkington for facilitating Zoom.