



MOUNTAIN RUNNING COMMITTEE MEETING (ZOOM)

FRIDAY 30th OCTOBER 2020

1. **MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dic Evans (DE) Sharon Jones (SJ) Arwel Lewis (AL) Steve Livett (SL) & Peter Ryder (PR)
2. **APOLOGIES:** Paul Jenkinson
3. **CONDOLENCES:** The committee send their sincere condolences to Welsh Athletics CEO, James Williams and his family & friends following the passing of his father and to the family and friends of GB and England international Chris Smith who sadly lost his life while out running in the Scottish mountains nr Aberfeldy, Perthshire this week.
4. **INTRODUCTION/UPDATES:** Peter Ryder is to become a member of the WA Trail Running Committee. Andrew Dickens has decided to step down from the committee due to work demands which leaves a vacancy to join the committee from the East Region.
5. **SEASON REVIEW:** (AL) Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it has been a very strange year, with hardly any competitive events taking place. The only British Championship event that took place was Ras y Aran in Llanuwllyn, nr Bala, just before the lockdown of which, some of the local population were annoyed that the event went ahead despite the strict Covid-19 stipulations put in place by the race organiser. All the proposed British & International events have now been transferred to next year 2021. We (Wales) were close to being able to send a team of 3 men and 2 women to compete in the Trofeo Vanoni Relays on Sunday 25th October but, due to the uncertainty, and the worsening of the Covid-19 cases in Wales/UK, though the invitation still stood, we were asked to provide a Covid-19 test at the arrival airport, stay in a designated Covid-19 self-isolation Hotel near the airport to await the Covid-19 test results before being allowed to travel to the event venue if the test results came back negative, as things transpired, on our return to the UK, we would have had to self-isolate for 14 days! **MRAG** have confirmed that GPS devices and poles will not be allowed in British Championship events.
6. **BRITISH/WELSH/REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2021:** The first British Championships event will again take place at Ras Y Aran on 27th March. In the current climate, it is too early to say if the event will go ahead due to the coronavirus and all agreed for the Welsh Mountain Running Championship event to be held later in the year at the Inter-Counties event at Llanberis (Llanberis Ridge) on the weekend of 8th May 2021. The event will also be the Welsh Regional Championships. The British Relay Championships are due to take place at Tebay on 17th



WELSH ATHLETICS
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October 2021, Carnethy, Scotland will host in 2022 with Wales due to host in 2023. Committee to seek a Welsh host club for 2023.

7. **INTERNATIONAL EVENTS:** The Senior Home International & British Championships are scheduled for Sedbergh (GB European Trial Event) on 5th June 2021. The Welsh trial race will be the Inter-Counties event at Llanberis. The British & Irish Junior Mountain Running Championships will be in Northern Ireland (Newcastle) on 11th September 2021. Dic Evans (DE) to organise the trial race at Devils Bridge on either the 19th or 26th June 2021. The event will also be the trial for the U18 Mountain Running Cup at Ambleside on 24th July and incorporate the Welsh Junior Mountain Running Championships. (SL) mentioned the cross over of certain age groups in trial races but one that we have managed in the past. (SJ) commented on the possibility of School examinations taking place around the trial race dates, depending on the format of the exams in 2021? There is also the possibility of no examinations taking place. The Snowdon International is scheduled for Saturday 17th July. The Cader Idris event on Saturday 22nd May will be one of the major selection events for Snowdon. The European (Italy) and World (Austria) Master events are to be entered individually.
8. **TRAINING:** SL, SJ and DE confirmed that, but for the lockdown periods, coaching has taken place under strict Covid-19 regulations with attendees of less than 30. With no events of note taking place, keeping the young athletes motivated and involved in athletics is a concern.
9. **BUDGET:** (AL) Nothing spent this year due to Covid-19, hopefully, Mountain Running will have an enough budget in 2021 to develop and continue to be competitive in international events.
10. **AOB:** (AL) Encouraged all to undergo the WSA on-line Covid-19 Awareness Course for the sports and leisure sector for a small fee of £2.00. All events must now complete a specific Covid-19 Risk Assessment as well as their usual event RA. The Welsh Athletics Return to Mountain & Trail Running Competition advisory document will have to be adhered to and all events must have a designated COVID-19 Officer, however, what is currently unknown is when or whether restrictions will be lifted on mass gatherings by National and local authorities.
11. **Date of Next Meeting:** Mid to late January when hopefully, we will have a better insight into when we may return to competition and an opportunity for the committee to go through the Return to Mountain & Trail Running Competition document.