



## *East Wales Regional Athletic Council*

### **Minutes of East Wales Regional Athletic Council, 10<sup>th</sup> January 2018, 6:30pm, Newport Stadium**

#### **1. Present:**

Joyce Tomala (JT) [Secretary/Cwmbran Harriers, John Chidlow (JC) [Trail& Mountain/Fell Secretary], Christine Vorres (CV) [Chair/Pont y Pwl Runners], Keith Matthews (KM) [Treasurer], Peter Sowerby (PS) [Brecon AC], Richard Sheehy (RS) [Parc Bryn Bach], Martin Jenkins (MJ), Jeanette Jenkins (JJ) [Fairwater Runners], Michael Herne (MH) [Islwyn], Dick Finch (DF)[Chepstow Harriers], Ken Goodger (KG), Hilary Goodger (HG) [Newport Harriers], Ruth Powell (RP), Bethan Akanbi-Mortimer (BAM) [Rhymney Valley], Matt Collins (MC), Stefan Simms (SS) [MMRT], Ryan Spencer- Jones (RSJ), Chris Moss (CM) [Welsh Athletics.

**Apologies:** Mary Jones (MJJ) [Cwmbran Harriers], Gerry Ashton (GA) [Endurance Official's Secretary/Chepstow Harriers], Satu Haikala (SH) [Network Officer], Carolyn Key (CK) [Blaenau Gwent], Lyn Cushing (T & F Official's Secretary/Rhymney Valley)

2. **Conflict of Interest.** Conflict of Interest forms have been circulated to all clubs. JT explained why the forms need to be completed and stated that completed forms should be sent to Andrew Thomas at Welsh Athletics Office. The forms will need to be submitted annually, any change of circumstances will need to be notified at the beginning of regional meetings.

#### **3. Presentation – Chris Moss WA Network Manager**

a. Chris Moss outlined Welsh Athletics Club Modernisation programme (CMP). Key points:

- i. Need to focus on establishing more robust and modern operating models within club structures.
- ii. WA must ensure that the Club Modernisation programme is focused and targeted at developing modern, vibrant and progressive clubs that have the potential to operate in a competitive environment and continue to offer opportunities for all.
- iii. Club Modernisation refers to a series of support services and opportunities that are available for clubs to access.
  1. A bespoke model of support including;1;1 support, a new online clubs' portal, club based officer support, club project support as well as existing and continued direct support available from WA are all opportunities that form part of the CMP.
- iv. The CMP was formally launched in October 2017. A number of small pilot projects have begun with a limited pool of clubs.
- v. The Club Portal has been trialled twice and due to go live at the end of January 2018. It is intended that the new online portal will be used for Club Affiliation to WA from April 2018, replacing the traditional annual club

affiliation. It is anticipated that the portal will eventually also be linked to the TRINITY membership scheme currently used by WA. Welsh Athletics have asked that clubs should inform them of any items that need to be highlighted.

- vi. Clubs wishing to establish Officer Support and Project support should complete the formal application form available from WA.
  - vii. A copy of the outline documents was circulated to all members present. Further information is available on WA website and from CM.
- b. JT asked if Club Support Officers could support more than one club as some clubs have few members. CM replied that WA would consider this. RP suggested an agenda item for future meetings could be updates from clubs regarding their experiences of using the portal.
  - c. CV thanked CM for his presentation.

#### **4. Finance Report:**

- a. KM circulated a financial statement to all members. KM stressed that any money that's left over from Grassroots funds (GRF) need to be spent. RSJ& SH working with members to provide a development day, which would utilise most of the GRF. CV thanked KM for his detailed report.

#### **5. Grass Roots Grant Update:**

- a. Total funding available has been raised from £1000.00 to £2000.00
- b. Closing date for this year's grant applications 18<sup>th</sup> February 2018.
- c. RSJ and SH are regularly emailing clubs with GRF information.

#### **6. YDL Update:**

- a. Affiliation fees, £90 per match, are due by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018.
- b. Structure for Midland S/W divisions as 2017, except new composite in UAG Division 1 and Gloucester have withdrawn from UAG Division 1.
- c. 3 matches for all teams in both LAG and UAG, with an Area Final and promotion match in both age groups as 2017. Teams who qualify for 4<sup>th</sup> match will be invoiced for a further £90 after three matches.
- d. The two UAG composite teams will look at sharing transport.

#### **7. Cross Country Update:**

- a. JT reported that IR Cross Country Championships will not be held this season as WA unable to find an alternative date, which is logistically feasible.
- b. National Championships will be held in Swansea.
- c. CAU championships are to be held in Loughborough.
- d. Members suggested that Welsh Athletics should consider a reserve date for Inter Regions for future years.

**ACTION: PS to report to Cross Country/ Road committee. JT/RP to bring this matter up at GC.**

#### **8. Endurance Group Update:**

- a. MJ provided a report which included a status update on forthcoming events as well as summaries and comments regarding completed events.
- b. A full and frank debate was held as to the future of events.
- c. Some of the issues that have arisen appear to be:
  - i. that not all clubs are communicating information to all members.

- ii. Runners not stating club when registering for races
- iii. Some concern regarding the number of runners required for a full team.
- iv. Should we continue with 10-mile race as part of the series next year. There were some doubts expressed about the timing and remoteness of the Elan Valley 10 mile race for future Championships.
- d. It was agreed that the structure of the programme would be reviewed after the final race on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2018.
- e. The events will continue to be publicised on EW website and face book page.
- f. CV thanked MJ and JJ for their hard work.

## 9. Website:

- a. CV stated that the current website was unfriendly.
- b. CV has acquired a quote for a new website (£840.00 with £60.00 budget costs). She asked for members to get other quotes to compare against this quote. CV to work with RSJ on grass roots application to secure funding for setting up website.

## 10. Delegates Reports.

### a. Club Network Officer Reports.

- i. Satu Haikala – report outlined by JT in SH's absence.
  - 1. Coach Education dates outlined – further details on WA website
  - 2. Safeguarding Workshop dates outlined
  - 3. DBS procedure highlighted including on-line procedure.
- ii. Ryan Spencer Jones
  - 1. RSJ gave a brief outline of his programme including club and local authority contacts visited.

### b. Officials.

#### i. Endurance

##### 1. UK 100K/50K & Anglos Celtic International

- ii. JCh stated that a large number of volunteers are required to assist as this event held on 31<sup>st</sup> March in Redwick. The event will commence at 8:00am and be a 12-hour day. CV asked why manual timing is used for this event as it is very labour intense. JCh replied that the number of athletes competing does not warrant the cost of electronic timing. It was agreed to advertise on EW Face book page and website.

#### iii. Track & Field

- 1. The updated T&F Officials report from UKA states that EW currently have 96 T&F Officials. However, of these only 48 are licenced and 48 Unlicensed.
- 2. LC has emailed these unlicensed Officials as some have had their DBS expired over the last year or two unfortunately most have not responded to the email and some are saying that they no longer want to Officiate on a regular basis. LC believes to get a true picture of East Wales T&F Officials these need to be removed and will email Tom Marley with all details and ask if they can be removed.
- 3. LC highlighted case of Newport official who has said they intend to renew DBs but has not yet done so.
- 4. LC has emailed a reminder to 5 Officials whose DBS will be expiring in the next three months.
- 5. With increasing competitions, it is vital that all clubs within the region promote Officials education

c. **Other reports.**

i. **Welsh Athletics AGM and GC Council report.**

1. Congratulations to EWRAC members who will receive either the WA Meritorious Award or the Award of Honour, these include our Chair Christine Vorres and Colin Bradley, Chris Boswell, John Gould and David Llewellyn.
2. Congratulations to clubs, Officials and coaches who received awards at the WA dinner.
  - a. Young Official of the Year  
Amy Price (Cwmbran Harriers)
  - b. Development Club of the Year  
Rhymney Valley AC
  - c. Track & Field Participation Coach of the Year  
Rob Saddler (Rhymney Valley AC)
  - d. International Performance Coach of the Year  
Ryan Spencer Jones
3. Ian Griffiths and Graham Finlayson elected as WA Vice Presidents
4. Sue Hooper elected as WA T & F Officials Secretary
5. Registration:
  - a. JT raised the following points regarding registration.
    - i. **What age are athletes registered (and thus covered by insurance)** JW replied that athletes need to be aged 8 to compete, no process as yet for athletes below this age, however any age to be covered by insurance (if a member of a WA affiliated club)
    - ii. Park run activities are outside of scope for insurance and membership of Welsh Athletics
    - iii. **When are athletes deemed to be 'actually' registered,** JW replied that once a Welsh club raises remittance, the athlete is deemed to be registered by Welsh Athletics. In England, the athlete may not be considered registered until payment has been received in full.
    - iv. **Examples of athletes thought to be registered not showing as such on the 'Licence Checker'.** JW replied that the process is controlled and completed by individual clubs not by Welsh Athletics Office.
6. WA GC have started a self- evaluation process.
7. The ethos and inclusive nature of EWRAC meetings were highlighted as examples of good practice by JW, TC and LH. JT has received correspondence from members of South Wales Regional Council asking if they could attend the next meeting to share good practice.
8. Consultation process has started. Details have been sent to all EWRAC clubs. The next meeting is scheduled for 18<sup>th</sup> January @ St. Michael's Centre, Abergavenny.
9. Regional delegates to GC roles and responsibilities have been issued by WA.
10. Regional Officers roles and responsibilities to be confirmed shortly.

11. Themes of future GC meetings include Club modernisation and consultation update, Schools athletics, Governance, WA strategic Plan, Retention, Facilities, GC delegates engagement. EWRAC members are asked to notify the EWRAC secretary of any views in relation to these themes in order that they can be discussed at regional meetings.

**ii. T & F Competition Group Update**

1. Reducing number of athletes to 4 per age group, in the Junior Leagues.
2. No change in number of events.
3. Next meeting to be arranged after the indoor season has finished.

**iii. Mountain/Fell & Trail:**

1. Mountain/Fell IR champs included in next race 7<sup>th</sup> April at Sugar Loaf. JCh stated that a suitable; WA licensed event; needs to be identified for the EW Championships.
2. Sirhowy Challenge 13<sup>th</sup> May, EW Trail Championships. I/R Trail Championships as Trail Fest at Builth Wells on 19<sup>th</sup> May

**iv. Road Correspondence from Paul Brooks**

1. Members discussed the email received from Paul Brooks. DF contacting athletes to ascertain interest in attending the IR Road Championships. It was noted that EW did send a team last year.
2. Members asked if Road Championships could avoid clashing with Gwent League in future?

**ACTION: PS to report to Cross Country/ Road committee. JT/RP to bring this matter up at GC.**

**11. Matters Arising from Minutes of last Meeting:**

- a. Minutes had previously been circulated and unanimously agreed.
- b. No matters arising

**12. Any Other Business.**

- a. Structure of Future Meetings:
  - i. A suggestion was put forward that the future meetings be split into off track and track and field then come together to cover issues that relate to both. This matter will be tabled at the next meeting.
  - ii. Dates of Future Meetings – All meetings to be held at Newport Stadium.

14/3/2018

2/5/2018

**13/6/2018 AGM**

5/9/2018

14/11/2018

Members were thanked for their attendance

**Next Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> March 2018, 6:30pm Newport Stadium.**