



South Wales

Regional Athletic Council

**Meeting of the Executive of South Wales Regional Council
Tuesday 9th February 2021
6:30pm, Microsoft Teams**

- 1) Present:** Iwan Dowie [ID] (Cornelly Striders), Hannah Pretty [HP] (Network Officer), Pete Morris [PM] (Life Member), Jamie Clode [JC] (Secretary), Dai Williams [DW] (Chairman), Jeff Mapps [JM] (Officials Secretary), Dawne Louise Meynell [DLM] (Rhondda Valley Runners), Chris Pratt [CP] (Ogmore Phoenix Runners), Graham Webb (GW) [Cardiff Athletics]

Apologies: Lucy Archer, Jen Stone, Spiro Pezaros

2) Chairman Update

Welcome from DW. Nice to see the same faces. Other regions are reporting meetings are mostly the same faces. Thanks to everyone for taking the time out and supporting the region.

PM shared a message regarding John Penny, previously a president of region and WA, held a number of roles across multiple disciplines. John is unwell in hospital. DW is going to drop a message of support from the region.

ACTION – DW to send message to John Penny on behalf of the region.

3) South and East Joint Championships

Discussion was had around the feasibility of holding such an event and the working group proposed that the event should be cancelled. This has been considered with other regions who felt this was also a fair decision. It would not be fair on athletes to get competition ready by time and also logistics for the event would be impossible. It would not be viable for a full regional champs as there are often over 500 athletes. If Inter Regional cant go ahead, DW has suggested holding U17/U20 age cat to boost bigger drop outs.

PM - Should not it be a recommendation and not telling the executive its cancelled.

JC – Confirmed we are recommending its cancelled, if the feeling in the meeting is that it should go ahead, we will take that back, but we feel that this should be accepted and supported.



JM - Support this, as a parent of an athlete, just won't be enough time.

PM - fully support, just appreciate that the group should recommend the approach and not decide it.

DW - At the chairs/secs meeting, was discussed and all regions agree that there needs to be consideration around this. Will look to support niche events or club events to get it things going where possible.

DECISION – Regional Joint Track and Field Champs Event cancelled

4) Conferences

Welsh Athletics have launched the unite series of virtual conferences. They have looked to be segmented quite clearly. HP Shared a link which has been shared with all clubs that has information of all conferences.

Listed all conferences (I have it in Chris moss email)

- Friday 5th and Saturday 6th March: Run Wales Festival
- Sunday 7th March: Officials and Volunteers Conference
- Saturday 13th March: Clubs Conference
- Saturday 27th March: Youth Development Conference (Coaching)
- Sunday 28th March: Run Leaders Conference
- Friday 9th April: Teachers Conference

Run wales are hosting a festival these are being marketed via Run Wales to keep separate. Email has also been shared including details of the survey and funding.

DW – The Youtube channel has a number of webinars also. Funding is available and all clubs should look to maximise opportunity.

HP - Will be prioritising items that will have immediate impact and those who have tried to access the BeActive funding also.

DW - Panel is fairly shared across the regions. Get applications in ASAP so that any queries can be proactively managed to help support as many successful applications as possible, 26th is deadline. South Wales Region Council does not need any funds.

HP - Clubs will be prioritised and then schools.

5) Officer Update

General Council (DW) - on teams, as will most meetings be until suitable time. Graham was elected to vice chair. JC was nominated also.

JC - Highlighted that GC will look to upskill and support people as much as possible for future proofing.

It was Highlighted that athletes should not be travelling to tracks to use.

GW - has there been any feedback on impact of the message?

DW not seen as many people there now.

JM - Great that WA are trying to extend the number of athletes with elite status.

DW - Great article for supporting female runners. Also, great article shared by James this week about lost generation of the sport. Need to be mindful of the next generation missing out on opportunities.

DLM - WA input with getting runners to run with another person was really helpful.

JC gave update on Endurance officials.

DW - email sent out around IR T&F champs for early august. DW/JC/PM all involved in initial meeting and a handbook has now been developed. It is detailed and may take some time to review.



GW - need to be a mechanism for creating IR teams,
DW - Handbook is there to help the regions and support the future of the event. Even to point of a technical meeting being online. I will review your comments already provided and will share.
PM - Will an u17/u20, be in the format of 2 for each.
DW - more of saying if anything can go ahead, why not look to pilot event at those age groups. If restrictions said 30, then it would be those for that age group or not at all.
PM - could always split track and field.
DW - Yes, idea is just more to have if anything, should target that age group.
JM - in recent meetings, we will look at clubs to get some small competitions going also.
DW - Small scale meetings are looking like the way forward for the rest of year. Even look to get any event type going, even XC in the summer.
PM - This is a very useful template for region events too, in the future.
DW - Agreed, perfect for development and a future template for our events.
JM - hopefully everyone will want to be involved after all the lockdown.
PM - would be great if we could look to take on the roles performed by WA were by the region and even the region having its on champs.
DW - definitely long term goal.
DW - need comments back by 22nd so can be taken to the meeting on the 24th for review. It will then go to GC for final review/acceptance at GC March 4th.
PM - Relays, are we expecting to fill 2 relay teams.
DW - Should just be 4,
PM - what do people think of medley relays?
JC - love them, don't lose standard events, but exciting additional event.
JM - Think its great, relays are always a crowd pleaser.

ACTION – All comments to be with DW by 22nd February

6) Benefits of Welsh Athletics Affiliation

Welsh Athletics are the only affiliation doing a modernisation grant. Increase of affiliation funds these activities. We want to get as many as possible affiliated as it increases. Other benefits are discounted courses, officials' courses. Not all home nations are able to offer this.

HP - Without our membership support we cannot achieve what we want to for the sport.

ID - Seems like that there are a few clubs that offering for free, why sign to affiliation. Run Wales clubs.

HP - they do not have the same benefits, mostly a support network for the leaders.

DW - Also affiliated clubs get the discounts on the courses and not pay full whack.

DLM - Less people paying fees, is there any way we can get some regional support. Around encouraging more road runner's involvement. Struggling to get people to affiliated.

DW - Would like to make it more endurance forum also, as we have a lot of not T&F that attend. Looking for an inclusive virtual race.

DLM - Some great initiatives been had, but has also in part encouraged people getting together, which is not in current rules.

CP - regional endurance forum would be a great idea. Builth was a great virtual event, every 30 mins a different runner. Something like that could be great for the region.

DW - some people may be put off publishing their individual times.

CP - beauty is combined distance of the team, includes everyone and photo challenges have been a great incentive to get people running also.

DLM - A lot of members have done John O Groats, some 5k challenges, virtual events are losing their incentive.



ID - We are also getting a bit like that and a regional relay would be a great idea. Maybe CP/DLM and me can put our heads together.

HP - Run wales festival has lots of great ideas to motivate and get different types of runs in.

ACTION – CP, ID & DLM - to look at event for the region. Will help boost inter club relations and competitiveness.

7) Club Update

OPR – keeping going with same old stuff. Have organised a valentine relay in which randomly allocating the teams in a live draw.

Cornelly - have a running pentathlon named after Cobra Kai. Had a complaint about people running together, prior to last announcement. Have reminded people about social distancing, however its impossible to police everyone.

RVR – Have had lots of complaints around runners breaching rules. Looking to refocus and a relay event will help and affiliation will be highlighted for the VLM entries.

8) AOB

Covid control plan - Current lvl 4, no action. If there is an event with 30 does this include officials.

DW - The current interpretation was that 30 athletes and officials would not be included. As not participated. But still waiting for confirmation

Junior Athlete Voice (JAV) - PM would like to nominate Cassy Grimwade to come to regional meeting and possibly GC.

HP - Haven't had chance to meet the JAV at present, but a call planned on Friday to work through ideas before meeting with JAV around these. North region JAV have attended, went well and meeting was restricted.

DW - need to ensure that the content is relevant and structured for them.

PM - if we are keen about young athletes' views, we should share the handbook with them.

HP - we could share some highlights with them, for comments.

Next meeting is to be April 7th via MS Teams.

