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WELSH ATHLETICS
ATHLETAU CYMRU

MOUNTAIN & TRAIL RUNNING COMMITTEE MEETING

7:45pm THURSDAY 10th NOVEMBER 2022 VIA ZOOM

- 1. MEMBERS PRESENT:** Alex Donald (AD) Dic Evans (DE) Neal Hockley (NH) Sharon Jones (SJ) Arwel Lewis (AL) Steve Mitchell (SM – WA Representative) and Peter Ryder (PR)
- 2. APOLOGIES:** Mike Blake. Tom Meredith & Steve Livett
- 3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** (SM) International tier system is not due to come into force until 2024. (AL) Confirmed the date of the British Inter-Counties event: Sunday 7th May 2023 Incorporating the GB World Mountain Trial Race at Sedbergh, Cumbria.
- 4. TROFEO VANONI TEAM REPORT:** (AL) Provided a written report. The men's team recorded their best result in the event in 6th position overall and their best accumulative time by 1 second.
- 5. SELECTION POLICIES:** (SM) Provided a detailed draft selection policy for all proposed events in 2023. **5a)** (SM in prior discussion with (PR) proposed the Cader Idris race as a possible selection race for the Senior Home International being a similar profile event to the Snowdon race. (PR) to liaise with the Cader race organiser to ensure that Welsh athletes capable of selection for Snowdon are guaranteed entries for the trial race who must enter within an agreed time frame. (The Cader race is usually oversubscribed) (AD) to liaise with W/A regarding the implications of the Cader race being licenced by the WFRA and not W/A (AL) confirmed that the senior Home International was being incorporated into the Snowdon Race this year as a one-off occurrence and in future, there will be a SHI elsewhere as well as the Snowdon race for our senior athletes to compete in. **5b)** (DE) proposed that his event at Devils Bridge should once again stage the International U18 Mountain Running Cup Trial race two weeks later than planned in the previous meeting 29th as opposed to the 15th of April. (SJ) queried whether W/A would be able to facilitate all the logistics for the event within a reasonable time to be cost effective and less stressful in allocating kit. All agreed that the selection meeting would take place on the day of the trial race and W/A would have all the required information regarding the IU/18MRC pre-prepared for a reasonable processing of the logistics for the event. (DE) Red Kite Challenge Half Marathon would also once again be the trial race for the Trail de Guerleden 26km race in Brittany (AD) voiced his concerns following this year's race at Devils Bridge when a group of leading runners ran off course which were allayed by DE and PR, who ran in the event, the issue was mainly down to human error. (PR) proposed the Brecon to Cardiff 70km Ultra Trail race (19th February 2023) as a possible trial event for the 65km trail race in Brittany? All agreed that current form over a calendar year would be appropriate. (DE) suggested that potential 65km athletes should race the Red Kite Challenge to provide form indication. **5c)** (AL) British Athletics are inviting the Home Countries to use the GB World Championships trial event at Todd Crag on Saturday 6th May as their trial races

5c Cont'd) for the British & Irish Junior Mountain Running Championships. England will be using the event as their trial race. Committee decision to adhere to the proposed date from the previous meeting of Saturday 22nd July 2023 (NH) to check for a suitable race and venue from the WFRA 2023 junior race series, possibly in Mid-Wales in liaison with (SJ) **5d)** Trofeo Vanoni. (NH) proposal that there should be gender equality for the event with Wales represented by 3 women as well as 3 men (Currently) The event organisers stipulate that they will only cover the accommodation H/B and airport transfer costs for 3 men and 1 woman + 1 Team Manager) All in agreement. (AL) to liaise with CSI Morbegno. Events and venues discussed for the Trofeo Vanoni trial race. All in agreement with (PR) proposal of the Maesgwm Detour British Championships counter on Saturday 5th August. (SM & DE) will be the contact persons for any trail running selection queries with (AL & SM) the contact persons for Mountain.

6) REGIONAL EVENTS: All agreed that the Maesgwm Detour, British Championships race would also incorporate the Welsh Athletics Inter-Regional MR Championships on Saturday 5th August. (AL) requested regional representatives look for suitable regional trail and mountain running championship races in their regions, North, West, East and South. With most mountain and fell running events in Wales licenced via the WFRA, that may be an issue for Welsh Athletics regarding licencing and insurance?

7) TRAIL RUNNING CHAMPIONSHIPS: (AD) queried the championship venues for 2023. (DE) Welsh Athletics championship criteria stated that venues were given a two-year remit to stage the championships. (AL) confirmed with the production of the trail running committee meeting minutes of Tuesday 7th December 2021 as being the Red Kite Challenge (Long) and the Rabbit Run (Short) for a two-year period.

8) DEVELOPMENT: (SM) Confirmed that the regional North and South development day would be on the weekend of 15th/16th April 2023. (NH – North) and (PR - South) to coordinate. (SM) Selection policies have previously stipulated those junior athletes capable of being selected should attend the development days would be amended too advisory. (AL) There is a Home Countries U17 camp (one day) at Sedbergh on 17th March with a combined Home Countries training camp to follow (April?) for U17, U20 and U23. These camps are educational with guest speakers and form a development pathway for Mountain Running.

9) Date of Next Meeting: 26th January 2023 at 1945 via Zoom