

**Meeting of East Wales Regional Athletics Council,
Wednesday 14th December 2022, via Microsoft Teams.
6:30pm**

Present:

Joyce Tomala, (JT) Christine Vorres(CV), Charlotte Moran(CM), Paul Adams(PA), Chris Davies(CD), James Blore(JB), Lynette Harries(LH), Nicola Brunnock (LB), Tom Meredith(TM), James Williams (JW), Steve Mitchell (SM), Rhys Williams(RW), Darryn McAttee(DM), Peter Hitching (PH).

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Points
1. Apologies	Jeanette and Martyn Jenkins, Tom Cole, Dawn Gully, Keiron Hearne, Keith Matthews, Becky Gibbs, Derek Osborne, Randal Jones.	
2. Conflict of Interest	None declared	
3. Welsh Athletics Presentation James Williams, CEO.	<p>James Williams informed the meeting about the following:</p> <p>a) Challenges facing the sport – especially in light of UKA making a significant loss last year. He advised that this is likely to impact on grants, and the home nations will be taking up some of the tasks previously done by UKA – such as Officials and Coaches training and event licensing. This will facilitate a refining of the pathway in relation to Officials qualifications.</p> <p>b) The impact of rising costs on sport facilities. He asked clubs to consider amending training to lessen the cost to our colleagues in the facilities industry, the example he gave was the cost of floodlights – can training be done at other times of the week He stressed we must work with local authorities and explore how we may support facility operators. James mentioned exploring the possibility to obtain grants from Lottery & Sport Wales. The members discussed various locations and facilities.</p> <p>c) Licensed track events and the Track Mark Scheme. James updated the members on how this will impact on events and the work that they are doing to support some clubs to obtain accreditation. Level 1 track events will not be impacted at the moment,</p>	<p>James W to ask WA Volunteer Manager to contact clubs to ask what help they can offer regarding volunteer recruitment.</p> <p>Joyce asked James to feedback to staff to organise webinars etc around the governance calendar, there were two clashes with tonight's regional meeting. Regional dates are set in December for the following year.</p>

	<p>but Level 2 events can only be licenced to take place on fully accredited facilities.</p> <p>d) Welsh Athletics are reviewing the Roles and Responsibilities of the development team. An update will be provided early next year.</p> <p>e) Club Leaders Conference. James said how they are keen to have face to face meetings to discuss what challenges the clubs and the run Leaders are facing – in order to explore how WA can help. The members discussed sub-groups and partnerships with Public Health Wales, (possibly with a view to providing grants), also the need for more volunteers, the challenges that clubs face in recruiting suitable volunteers.</p> <p>f) List of championship races has been published, along with the international race list and selection policy.</p> <p>g) An update on new roles WA will be introducing and new faces within WA.</p> <p>h) In an effort to understand fully what is going on with clubs the Ask Us Sessions will restart. The series of webinars will continue, dealing with issues raised by clubs. James asked members to contact WA if they have queries.</p> <p>i)JT reminded JW that WA had agreed to send a comprehensive list of grants available to regions and clubs at the AGM.</p> <p>Finally, James thanked the clubs for the work that they do in our community.</p>	<p>JW to ensure WA staff provide details of grants available.</p>
<p>4. Representative Opportunities Steve Mitchell</p>	<p>Steve outlined the pathway for athletes to represent their Region, Wales and then GB. He states that it is a large jump from representing Wales to representing GB. He is exploring the idea of tiers to make the pathway more defined.</p> <p>Moving forward it is intended that selection races and championship races will be announced early to allow athletes to train for them.</p> <p>Steve asked clubs to suggest high quality races in our region that may be suitable to send teams to.</p> <p>There followed a discussion regarding events and travelling costs – and supporting local club events for club championship events.</p> <p>Joyce suggested clubs share best practice on the East Wales website and social media sites.</p>	

<p>5. Discussion points</p>	<p>i. Paul Adams told the members that with the exception of Caerphilly running club, all winners of the Road Race Championships have been given their trophies. The events for the 2023 Championships have been announced. Joyce thanked Paul for his hard work organising the Champs.</p> <p>ii. Inter-Regional Road Race Championships – This has been agreed to be a 10k race in Wrexham. The Helena Tipping 10k. Members present agreed that East Wales would support this event.</p> <p>iii. Tom Meredith told the members how well the Junior Development day was received, and he is hoping to arrange another for senior athletes, specifically, those who do not normally run on the fells. WA also organise development days for athletes for athletes in South Wales. He discussed championship races and selection races for 2023</p>	
<p>6. Reports</p> <p>i. Finance - Keith Matthews</p> <p>ii. Network Officers Report Tom Cole</p> <p>iii. Gen. Council - LH</p> <p>iv. Track & Field Report- JT</p> <p>v. Cross Country/Road – DO</p> <p>v(i) XC Regional and Interregional Champs – DM</p> <p>vi. Trail and Mountain Report</p>	<p>i. Finance Report - sent ahead of the meeting. There were no queries</p> <p>ii. Network Officers Report – sent ahead of the meeting. Joyce asked if Tom Cole was reaching the clubs – the response was negative</p> <p>iii. General Council Report – sent ahead of the meeting. Lynette told the members of the challenges the General Council face regarding communication and inclusion. She has created an Aid Memoir to outline the way forward for the council.</p> <p>iv. Track & Field Report – Sent ahead of the meeting. The intention is that the new Inter-club challenge competition will be run by clubs not WA. Further updates will be coming from Rhiannon from WA.</p> <p>v. Cross Country/Road Report submitted</p> <p>XC Regional and Interregional Champs. Clubs must ensure their contact details are kept up to date to ensure people know about the championship races. Medals for the events all issued. Thanks to Sandra Chipper, James Blore and Darryn for their hard work putting together excellent teams, and thanks to the athletes who took part. Slight drop in U15's – retention is a problem within most clubs. A few notable points</p> <p>*WA – parking should be free at the events, WA should negotiate free parking for athletes.</p> <p>*3 hour gap between snr male and snr female races is too long</p> <p>*Some kit not available in time for events</p>	<p>JT to take the following issues to WA regarding Cross Country Championships. Parking should be free at the events; WA should negotiate free parking for athletes at XC Events. 3 hour gap between snr male and snr female races is too long</p>

	<p>The members discussed events</p> <p>vi. Trail and Mountain report submitted for meeting. Feedback from the beginner's development day has been very positive. Further days are being organised, and possibly an adult one too.</p>	<p>WA website club contacts not up to date.</p> <p>JT to follow up kit issue with Total Teamwear.</p>
7. AOB	<p>Joyce congratulated recent WA Award winners from East Wales and thanked those who nominated them.</p> <p>Grant Officer – JT The region needs a grant officer and will possibly offer a % of grants awarded to the officer. She has asked WA for a list of grants available.</p> <p>Eligibility JT clarified that eligibility to race for East Wales is based on where the athlete lives or was born, not where their club is. (Eligibility is defined in WA Byelaws 16.2)</p> <p>JB – Stated that the borders for residency eligibility is cloudy in some areas – there is not a map of a clear boundary</p> <p>JT asked the members to consider topics for future meetings.</p> <p>PH advised the meeting that it is worth applying for grants even if you feel you do not meet the criteria laid down</p>	<p>JT to enquire with James Williams if region would be allowed to pay a % of funds raised to a grants officer.</p> <p>JT to follow up queries regarding eligibility</p>
	Date of next meeting is 15 February 6.30pm	
	The meeting finished at 8.15pm	
	<p>Dates of Future meetings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wednesday 19th April 2023 2. Wednesday 14th June 2023 (AGM) 3. Wednesday 16th August 2023 4. Wednesday 18th October 2023 5. Wednesday 13th December 2023 	

Minutes written by Christine Vorres 16/12/2022