

**Meeting of East Wales Regional Athletics Council
Wednesday 26 June via Teams
6:30pm**

Present:

Joyce Tomala, Christine Vorrés, Paul Adams, Kieron Hearne, Lynette Harries, Nicola Brunnock, Peter Hitchings, Emma Wookey, Craig Williams, Martyn Jenkins, Tom Meredith, Becky Bell.

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Points
1.Apologies:	Keith Matthews, Sandra Chipper, Deb Howells, Lorraine Clark.	
1. Conflict of Interest	None stated	
3. Actions from Previous Meeting	A. for safeguarding courses contact Karl Williams	
4. Reports:		
i.	Safeguarding – . Male and Female officers are now mandatory for every club. Lynette pointed out that there is no consistency across the home countries when Sport England cover the cost of courses, but welsh officers have to pay.	LH/JT Bring up inconsistency at GC .
ii.	Finance – Thanks to Keith for his work on behalf of the region. Cost covered include 50% towards a laptop for JT to use for Athletics work. Also the costs of an Electronic Gun was split 50/50 between the East Region and the South region.	
iii.	General Council - LH provided a report. See attached. There are concerns regarding boundaries not clear. Officials’ allowances still less than England. Sharon Leech is pursuing any perceived issues with new age groups for events. Mountain and fell running continues to experience issues with licencing – but England Athletics use a different model. Take to GC.	LH/JT raise inconsistency re fell running licencing to GC
iv.	Track and Field (JT) JT – Report provided.	
v.	Cross Country/Road – No report. Dates of events need to be provided to give time to select team	
vi.	Trail and Mountain (TM) TM provided a report. The members discussed the issues encountered finding suitably licensed events to use as qualifying races. Most events do not lend themselves to the criteria laid down by WA. (toilets, first aid etc)	
vii	East Wales Road Race Champs - PA Next event is the Scenic 7 in August. Thoughts of changing format as it is currently bias towards larger clubs. Paul will discuss options with Martyn.	
viii.	Officials – BB The new officials pathway, designed to make it easier to qualify, is concerning as no experience is necessary to reach level 1. The members are concerned that safety issues may arise. It was agreed that mentoring should be reintroduced.	BB – take suggestion for mentoring programme to T & F Officials Committee

<p>ix.</p>	<p>Website – CV The East Wales site is updated regularly. No members present want access to update/add-to the content, but are happy sending items for inclusion on the site.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>AOB Medals: JT – there are currently enough medals for XC this year and indoor meetings. Vests – JT – The region is now short on vest stock, alternative suppliers are being sourced. Discussion Points: Should meetings continue in person or online – currently a mix of both seems to be acceptable JT – requested ideas for discussion/presentations for future meetings.</p> <p>Future meetings It was agreed to cancel the scheduled August meeting Meeting Dates: 16 October 2024 11 December 2024</p>	

**Minutes written by Christine Vorrés
4 July 2024**

East Wales Mountain & Fell Report 2023-4

Championships

The 2024 senior championships were held at Coity on Saturday 15 June. Thank you to Dmitri and Chris Vorres for permitting us to use their race and for applying for a Welsh Athletics licence. We can only hold regional championships at WA licenced events, which are few and far between on the fell circuit. There was an increase in the number of male entrants, but only one female runner entered. We will persevere and, hopefully, the publicity surrounding the race and results will encourage further participation in years to come.

The 2024 junior championships will be held at Llanthony Show once again, on Saturday 3 August. Not only is this a great race (with routes from U7 to seniors), but a fun day out as well.

Regional teams

There was a male team for the senior intercounties, although only 1 female runner. The simultaneous timing of the London marathon did not help.

Unfortunately, injuries and exam timings meant we did not have a junior team at the junior intercounties. The increased distance compared to last year probably had an impact as well.

We will continue to offer the opportunity to represent East Wales at intercounties events going forward, as these races offer a different level of competition which is only accessible to pre-selected elite runners and county representatives.

Development

There is a junior regional development day, in conjunction with the South Wales region, at Llanfoist near Abergavenny on Sunday 7 July 2024. This is designed to offer mountain & fell development for new runners to the sport, and also for those interested in trialling for Wales vests in the future.

International representation

We have had some very strong performances from regional runners who have progressed from East Wales to Wales representation, including seniors Bethan Logan and Lucy Williamson, and junior Joe Murphy. Congratulations!

Tom Meredith, East Wales Mountain & Fell representative, 23 June 2024

Track and Field Report. Joyce Tomala

1. Welsh Junior Championships

10th and 11th August in Swansea

2. Inter-Regional T & F Championships 8th June 2024, Deeside

The venue was changed shortly before the competition from Wrexham to Deeside.

East Wales provided 8 field judges, a timekeeper and 2 Track judges for this competition.

East Wales RAC athletes achieved 19 PBs, and gained 11 gold medals, 15 silver medals and 19 bronze medals.

A huge thank you to all our amazing athletes who travelled to North Wales and to our wonderful officials and team managers who supported our team throughout the day.

East Wales finished third.

Congratulations to Harry Bradley on his U20 CBP in the 400m taking Dai Greene's record 🙌

Female overall 196 3rd

Male overall 190 3rd

Combined overall 3rd

A selection of photos have been posted on EWRAC website.

3. Welsh Schools Update:

DaiW confirmed the following on behalf of Welsh Schools:

Welsh Schools – Cardiff on July 6th

SIAB – Carmarthen on July 20th

Cup and Plate - Brecon on July 10th (date rearranged from the original 17th July)

4. Open track results program update (DW)

DW said that he would rather stay with Open track because everyone is now trained in use of Open track and it will take too long for everyone to familiarise themselves with another provider.

5. Training for Competition Organisers

DW confirmed that here is a document on how to organise a competition.

JT asked if there was a possibility of face-to-face training for new people to be able to organise athletics matches.

The committee felt that it was unfair that certain individuals were being criticised about the way competitions were being organised, yet the same individuals were not prepared to help out themselves.

It was unanimously agreed that more people needed to step forward and learn how to organise competitions.

6. U11 registration

JT said that there had been some confusion about Under 11 registration. DW said that this is in the process of being rectified and should all be sorted out soon.

7. U11 Events

JT asked if they are they restricted to the same number of events as Under 13 athletes.

DW said that these restrictions have been lifted and they can compete in any three events in the junior leagues.

DW expressed some concern that some regions run 75m and 150m for Under 11 athletes, whereas others are running 100m and 200m for Under 11 athletes. However, there is a welfare rule in place that they can run any events, as long as they do not run more than 1000m during the competition. This is something that has to be monitored closely, with Welsh Athletics being the only UK nation that caters for Under 11 athletes.

8. Officials Committee (SH)

- A replacement is needed to step into Alan Currie's role as track representative on the officials committee. Sue Hooper acknowledged that Alan would be a very hard act to follow.
- The officials committee are currently looking for a walks official to sit on the committee.

9. Any Other Business

- a. JT asked about updates on transfer of athletes between clubs. DW confirmed that this has now been updated.
- b. DaiW asked if there were any updates on the clarification of borders for selection purposes. JT said that we would hopefully get an answer soon, with it being discussed again in the next General Council meeting.
- c. LH asked for an update on staffing within Welsh Athletics.
- d. DW confirmed that licensing rules will be changing for officials to attract more new officials and allow more officials to be upgraded. More information will follow shortly.

East Wales Regional Athletics Council.

Welsh Athletics General Council Report of the meeting held on 8th May 2024.

Actions from the previous meeting,

4.1 Sponsorship - James Williams confirmed that it would be down to the Regions to agree and deal with any sponsorship that they could secure.

4.2 Trail and Mountain Licensing - Welsh Athletics is the only recognised NGB and would not accept a license from a separate body such as WFRA.

4.3 Regional eligibility- There is no reference in the Welsh Athletics Bye laws relating to the need to have club membership.

4.4 Regional boundaries – JW has instructed Chris Moss to meet with JT and KH to discuss this matter further. -

4,5 Invitation to Euan Corey to discuss adding regional pages to the WA website- his role within WA has

now changed. Josie Postle will now be the WA representative and will require further guidance.

Items discussed.

East Region.

Officials' welfare and expenses. Joyce stated that there was concern that mileage allowance for officials remained low and that the quality of packed lunches for Welsh Athletics events was not good. There had been a suggestion that officials could supply their own refreshments and that an allowance of £5.00 could be claimed from Welsh Athletics on production of a receipt. This arrangement was not seen as practical for a variety of reasons.

There was a detailed discussion relating to Welsh Athletics led Track and Field events and devolved responsibilities in that volunteers were required to undertake the responsibility for the organisation and delivery of certain events.

Action.

The current roles and responsibilities of the competition staff team be sought and clearly communicated to the membership.

UKA rule change for Level 1 Field Officials. Members of the council expressed concern about the implication of this rule change especiall in relation to Health and Safety issues. Regions had not been made aware of these changes.

Action.

LB to seek further information from Welsh Athletics.

North Wales Region.

KH & JH stated that there had been some ambiguity relating to individual and club membership.FM had been told by Jacqueline Brace that all affiliations would have to go through Stripe. KH said that the extra work and forms for clubs to affiliate have become a too complicated and lengthy process.

FM said that there were seven standards that a club had to meet to be able to affiliate. LH expressed concern that more volunteers would be lost if workloads continue to increase. RC stated that from next year athletes would be required to affiliate themselves.

Action.

Clarification required from Jacqueline Brace and LB to request clear guidance on the club affiliation process.

Regional Medals and 10K Championships.

All four regions agreed to use existing medals for this year and to make their own arrangements for 2025.

JT stated that CV had secured a good deal for the purchase of medals and suggested that regions might wish to obtain contact details of the supplier from CV.

Regions will now be responsible for the organisation and delivery of their respective 10K Championships. Alex Donald confirmed that Welsh Athletics would not be involved in the

organisation and delivery of the inter-regional 10 K event. It was suggested that regions discuss this matter at their next regional meetings.

Road and Cross Country.

SL stated that there was some confusion relating to age groups for forthcoming events in that combining

age groups would present athlete welfare problems. This issue would be discussed at the next committee meeting.

AOB.

FM requested that details relating to the composition of the Board of Welsh Athletics together with their

photographs are posted on the Welsh Athletics website.

Action.

LB to communicate this request to James Williams.

Lynette Harries