

## Meeting of East Wales Regional Athletics Council

Wednesday 10 April via Teams

6:30pm

### Present:

Joyce Tomala,(JT) Christine Vorrés,(CV)), Kieron Hearne (KH), Lynette Harries (LH), Sandy Chipper (SC), Martyn Jenkins (MJ), Becky Bell (BB), Tom Meredith (TM) Nicola Brunnock (NB), Paul Adams (PA), Deb Howells (DQ),

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Points
<b>1.Apologies:</b>	Keith Matthews, Peter Hitchings, Dawn Gully, Darryn McAtee, James Blore	
<b>1. Conflict of Interest</b>	None stated	
<b>3. Actions from Previous Meeting</b>	<p>a. Tent – JT has had an email from Darryn, he is waiting for a response to a query he has made about pricing for a new marquee style tent with detachable sides.</p> <p>b. Female Results for Inter-regional Champs – Not resolved and no responses received.</p> <p>c. Regional Medals – CT has been exploring options. Difficulty obtaining prices as for the first year there is plenty of stock so the order will be small. For this year the Gold medals may not be the same as bronze and silver – no members objected to this.</p> <p>d. Regional Eligibility: Brought up at General Council – a map was requested again and the matter has been forwarded to WA.</p>	
<b>4. Finance</b>	<p>a. A statement of account was received from KM just before the meeting – and it shows that the grants for 2023 have been paid. East region is currently in a good financial position</p> <p>b. Most cross country payments that were outstanding have now been paid</p> <p>c. WA Regional Grants – CV and JT are currently putting together a development plan. The question of paying someone to source grants is still being explored.</p>	
<b>5. Discussion Points</b>	<p>a. Regional TF Championships (JT)</p> <p>b Development plan</p> <p>c. New competition age groups. (JT) All disciplines will have to adopt the new age category groups in 2026. England Athletics will host presentations on the England Athletics website or You Tube.</p>	<b>JT- Find out where the info re: new age groups is and forward details.</b>
<b>Reports:</b>		
<b>i.</b>	<b>Safeguarding</b> – KH had nothing to report. JT recommended that KH contacts WA to confirm if there are any new training requirements/courses.	<b>KH – contact WA and confirm if safeguarding qualifications are up to date</b>

ii.	Finance – Already covered- some headings are not correct on the finance statement from KM, but everything else is covered.	
iii.	General Council - LH provided a report. See attached.	
iv.	<p><b>Track and Field (JT)</b></p> <p>JT apologised for not sending the report out, but provided an update on dates and entries for regional champs. 3k for U15 added. She is also hopeful that a wheelchair sprint 100m race will be added to the timetable. No para field events at the moment. Entry lists may be viewed on Open Track. Officials needed for presentations and registration.</p> <p>Inter-Regional champs on 8<sup>th</sup> June – officials needed. Travel expenses will be covered. If we don't get the officials to support we cannot attend.</p> <p>JT provided updates and venues for future fixtures. WA website has details of all events.</p> <p>West Wales sent a letter re CAU – England will host a Snr CAU champs 19 – 20 July at Alexandar Stadium. JT read the letter to the members, stating the entry criteria and rewards. Expression of interest requested. The members discussed and it was agreed for JT to send the form back to keep option open for our region.</p>	JT – return CAU T & F form
v.	<p><b>Cross Country/Road</b> – SC UK Inter-regions, update on the issues faced trying to get full teams in, entries go in so early drop off is inevitable. Possible solution is to ask athletes to enter themselves to run for EW. JB and SC are exploring the possibility of having an inter-regional road race, using a grass roots club race to host (not expensive to enter). CV advised that WA have this week stated that for various reasons, if the regions want an inter-regional road race, they must organise it amongst themselves. The requirement is for someone to commit to arranging results etc. The members discussed options and agreed CV and SC meet at some point to discuss further.</p>	CV & SC – discuss options for an inter-regional road race.
vi.	<p><b>Trail and Mountain (TM)</b></p> <p>21 April British inter-counties, we have a male team and female representation. Junior Inter-counties 9<sup>th</sup> June. Selection policy will be circulated soon. 15 June, East Wales fell champs at Coity. Junior champs on 3 August in Llanthoney Show. A Fell referee is required. 16 June may host a development day at Llanfoist, probably in conjunction with the South Region. Aim to encourage good runners to try the discipline. Welsh Fell champs on 14 July.</p>	
vii	<p><b>East Wales Road Race Champs - PA</b></p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> race was Newport Half on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, Same number of athletes took part, next race is Kymin Dash. Club participation is improving. Scenic 7 is in August and Elan Valley in November.</p>	
viii.	<p><b>Officials – BB</b></p> <p>Officials who have not accepted the new T's &amp; C's have been contacted, some confirmed that they are no longer officiating. CV upgraded from level 2 to level 3 Endurance Official.</p> <p><b>CV</b> - New officials pathway stalled until 1 May a joint communication with English athletics will be sent out explaining the changes.</p>	

ix.	<b>Website – CV</b> Nothing to update JT – Selection policy for the inter-regional champs. needs updating and will be sent over to put on the website when ready.	
5.	<b>AOB</b> <b>Following a discussion regarding the date of the AGM and clashes with club fixtures, the date was agreed as 26 June.</b>  <b>MJ</b> – When will the event licencing portal be ready? It is becoming urgent to licence upcoming events. CV – understood from Nigel Jones that you need to register with Sport 80 as an event provider in order to access and set up a new event on the Welsh portal.  LH – awaiting confirmation from WA on personnel/roles and will send this info out when received – this may help communications. Future Meeting Dates: 26/06/2024 -includes AGM 14/08/2024 09/10/2024 11/12/2024	JT – book Newport Club Room for meeting on 26 June.  CV – contact Jacqueline Brace re the event licences.

**Minutes written by Christine Vorrés**  
**16/04/2024**

### **Report of the Welsh Athletics General Council held on Wednesday 13 March 2024.**

James Williams updated the council on matters relating to funding and in particular where cuts have been made to the receipt of funds from the Welsh Government, Sport Wales and UKA.

Whereas some of these losses have been reduced by increasing athlete affiliation fees and commercial sponsorship a range of challenges remain including increases in insurance premiums, the cost of hosting events and staff cuts.

Implications for the Regions.

- Regional funding has been reduced to £1.500 and £750 to cover the cost of medals. In addition, there will be a one-off grant of £1000 due to an under spend on development.
- Whilst Welsh Athletics will continue to prioritise core activities and frontline services, Welsh Athletics are keen to empower regions to promote their own competitions.
- Regions will still be required to produce development plans in keeping with the strategic plans for the organisation.
- The purchase of medals. their design and use will be entirely up to the region.
- There is a need for clubs within the regions to organise more open meetings as a means of funding the sport.
- Regions should consider fundraising at a local level.
- Zoe Holloway will engage with regions to explore ways of recruiting more officials.

Responses and questions from council members.

- Joyce stated that the criteria for modernisation grants needed to be updated in that elements of the grant application form are no longer relevant.
- Joyce also questioned why the regions are charged for the use of technical equipment held by Wesh Athletics. There was a strong feeling within the council that regions should not be charged for the hire of equipment as we were one organisation.

- James expressed concern that he and his staff had recently received negative criticism Lee acknowledged that some of the criticism from the South Region had been unfair. James did however acknowledge that this did not apply to all regions and that the East region had made significant progress in the development of the sport within the region.
- Lee from the South region sought help from Welsh Athletics relating to Open Track in relation to setting up a Junior League, James responded that staff members Darran and Ieuan would provide the relevant guidance/information.

Additional Matters,

- Affiliation – Athlete affiliation increasing by £1.50.
- Changes will be introduced to simplify the official's pathway.
- Discussion points from East Region – could regions pay a volunteer to find sponsorship?
- Clarification sought from James Williams relating to regional eligibility and regional boundaries, asked for a map to be produced.

Lynette Harries