



South Wales Regional Athletics Council

Date: Sunday, 14 January 2024

START: 11am

END: 12:30pm

Venue: Aberdare Fire Station, Cwmbach Road, CF44 0NE

Chair: Lee Hayward

Minutes

Attendees: Kyle Perry (**Secretary / Barry & Vale Harriers**), Rowland Williams (**Pontyclun Athletics**), Ron Morris (**San Domenico**), Chris Pratt (**Ogmore Phoenix**), Pete Morris (**Life Member**), Cath Alford (**Rhondda Athletics**), Lee Hayward (**Chairperson / Rhondda Athletics**), Julie Hayward (**Rhondda Athletics**), Colin Frolley (**Mountain Officer**), Paul Davies (**Aberdare**)

Apologies: Phil Warwicker (**Cardiff Archers**), Pauline Dobbs (**Rhondda Athletics**), Glyn Pugh (**Rhondda Athletics**), Angela Foster-Swales (**Albany Road Run**), Pete Ryder (**Aberdare / Mountain & Trail Officer**), Graham Finlayson (**Cardiff Athletics / WA President**), Steph Iverson (**Ogmore Phoenix**), Dawne Meynall (**Welfare Officer**), Fred Malkin (**Barry & Vale Harriers**)

1. Welcome, Apologies for Absence & Thank you's

- Wish Glyn Pugh best wishes and speedy recovery.
- Condolences for Paul and his family on his fathers passing
- Get well to Neil (Cardiff Athletics)

Team Managers for Inter-Counties

- Steph Iverson (Ogmore Phoenix)
- Bryn Griffiths (Rhondda Athletics)
- Victoria Garvey (Barry & Vale Harriers)
- Matt Jacklin (Aberdare Athletics)
- Richard Edge (CDF Runners)

2. Finances

- Future funding, medals, current financial position, stock.
- Grant has been requested with Chris Moss and James Williams but we have not had much of a response and WA advise that there is no money. There is an email from WA advising that we would get £2k but this may not now happen.
- North Wales have had funding but West, South and East have not.
- We have very little way of bringing in money.
- Medals will not be purchased through WA and a grant of £750 has been offered which will not be enough.
- We need to start to make some tough decisions. How important are medals for athletes.
- Individuals are important but are team medals?
- We could make some funding through our Junior League but this may now be provided by Welsh Athletics.
- A request for money has been made.
- Club Membership and individual membership to be paid directly to Welsh Athletics.
- Medals cost £3 each.
- Medals may be different between the regions.
- Possibly continuing to purchase from Nottingham company with the support of Joyce Tomala.

3. Reports & Updates

- Mountain & Trail Running update provided via secretary.
- Inter-Counties Cross Country 2024 discussed
- Regional Cross Country Championships 2024 (initial contact made and sub-group to be formed) COLIN FROLEY, DAWNE MEYNALL, STEPH IVESON, KYLE PERRY
- **ACTION:** Selection policy needed.

4. General Council Feedback

- Volunteer Development. Raised that it is difficult to progress as an official. Looking to make it easier to be a L1 official, looking to take away the experience requirement.
- Will unlikely be retrospective change as there may be some different aspects to the course.
- Desire would be to make it easier to be L1. L2 are looking to take away the questions. Looking to take away the report and assessment.
- Funding
- Funding was raised.
- Presentation from meeting will be provided once received.

- **ACTION:** Has the board approved the changes?
- Regional Eligibility. Some questions raised but from my opinion with the exception of Powys is fairly straight forward.
- Suggestion to have representation by club.
- Suggestion for schools was that each region would have 2 schools regions with the exception of Caerphilly.
- The South relinquished Caerphilly from the South Wales region. Historically, Montgomeryshire. Competitions are held by UK rules but WA use Welsh bylaws.
- **ACTION:** Discrepancy between UK rules and WA bylaws needs resolving as South use UK and others use WA bylaws. (Working should be the same).
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5. Endurance Sub-Committee Update

- 10 CLUBS AT MEETING including Cardiff Athletics
- 3 new Bridgend AC members
- Fell club involved
- Club affiliation costs discussed to have input into WA meetings
- Volunteer issues and retention discussed.
- Relationship building done at meeting
- Rhondda Valley Runners concern that at point off race there were drop outs meaning runners missed out.
- Average best runners from a events
- Interest in joint inter club events to forge better relations
- Fun day event discussed.
- Regional races - **Pentyrch Hill race** (Fell race). More discussion about road races needed so no firm race agreed. **ACTION:** Get in touch with organisers.
- Diversion, inclusion and equality policies through clubs.
- **ACTION:** Working party for club affiliation fees. When will this be started by WA?

6. Junior League Update & New Age Categories

- James Williams states that Welsh Athletics will host a Junior League.
- Answers to queries about junior league will be discussed at next meeting with James Williams and regions.
- There are no
- Cardiff model of large number of athletes but no officials.
- YDL clubs need to have people step up and provide more people to support it if not then it will be disbanded.
- What we are asking for is a single individual who will be the link for each club. Chief officials
- Age category changes has been approved to be implemented in April 2026.

7. AOB

- Consideration to encourage Team Manager take-up - Can we offer that any Team Manager has a free choice for selection to include themselves for Inter-Regional events. General feeling was that this may cause more issues than it solves.
- We need to continue to offer kit for Team Managers.
- Promotion of Team Managers at events is still needed.
- There is a need to offer encouragement but there could have some backlash.
- Consideration that if we do not get Team Managers in place to cover age groups for Seniors and over then these age groups will not be selected. Agreed by all.

8. Venue and Date of Next Meeting

- Barry Fire Station, Port Road West, Barry, CF62 3AZ
- Friday, 23rd February 2024.