

**WELSH ATHLETICS ROAD/CROSS COUNTRY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF TEAMS MEETING WEDNESDAY 13TH APRIL 2022
5.15PM**

ATTENDEES: -

Alex Donald, Graham Finlayson, Sharon Leech, Kevin Tobin, Alaw Beynon-Thomas, Martin Green, Derek Osborne (East Rep deputising for Pete Sowerby)

APOLOGIES : -

Nikki Haines, Steve Jones, Rhiannon Linington-Payne

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None

ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING (16th Feb 2022)

- Welsh Road Relays and Welsh Cross Country venue: Road Relays to be in Pembrey for 2022, AD to confirm if venue will change from 2023. Also AD to confirm next Welsh XC venue, Margam is one option but there are others being looked at, AD to confirm at the next meeting
- Competitions since previous meeting: **Welsh Cross Country Championships 26th February Pembrey** James Hunt and Lauren Cooper senior winners, other results online. **SIAB Cross Country 26th March Pembrey** results online. **Cardiff Half Marathon 27th March** James Hunt and Paul Graham first Welsh in the field, Natasha Cockram and Bronwen Owen 1st and 2nd in the female race. Feedback was that the event went well, standard wasn't as high as usual (international athletes), but domestic field ran well

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- JT confirmed Cardiff Half selections and updated on changes made before the day
- JT, SL, KT and GF liaised re the selection policy for the Cardiff Inter Area match (selection meeting 4th April). The race should have been advertised to athletes mid March, however this was delayed. JT sent out emails to athletes informing them of event and then messaged asking for availability/interest. KT queried why there was no social media or 'news' item for the event, WA replied '*No news release was requested as the feedback from our comms team is the engagement of these posts are low and more targeted*'

communication is better. However because of the concern I will ask the team to put something up on social media today to signpost to this page. Further explanation has been requested, as Committee had expected that the representative match be featured on WA social media and website

- GF confirmed the Inter area teams as Wales, North of England, Midlands, Combined Armed Forces, England under 20. Senior Men and Women 4 to run and 3 to score, Under 20 Men and Women 4 to run and 3 to score. To date 1622 athletes have entered, number is expected to rise
- Brian Fox sent an email to James Williams (forwarded to Committee) expressing his disappointment with Swansea Council for the late notification that Singleton Park would not be available for the Gwent League. This caused great personal stress to BF and he contemplated ceasing his volunteer role as a Club cross country organiser. He then sent a further email confirming that a last minute meeting with the Parks Dept of the Council and Nigel Jones had rescued the Gwent League, it's hoped that the Council will avoid creating such stress next time
- Liz Davies confirmed that there would be three nominated Welsh Clubs at the ERRA men's 12 Stage Road Relays at Sutton Park on Saturday April 9th. This is as a result of an email received from Ken Smith, ERRA Championship Secretary : *"UKA are again providing medals for a British Championship. As per previous years can you please nominate 3 clubs who will be allowed to enter this championship, and let me know who they are please. Both the women and Young Athletes can enter directly via Sportsoft. We are looking to promote the Young Athletes events , under 15 and Under 17 individual races on a certified 5k course with team and Individual medals."* KT agreed with the selection of the Welsh Road Relay first three Clubs, namely Swansea, Cardiff and Pontypridd Roadents. The event has now taken place, Cardiff unfortunately were unable to field a team

DISCUSSIONS

CROSS COUNTRY REVIEW 2021-2022

- Domestic competition started with the Cardiff Cross Challenge, which went well, the IR and Inter Schools at Brecon, the Welsh Schools and the Welsh Championships at Pembrey
- Representative events: European XC (three Welsh athletes selected for GB team, as in previous minutes), the Celtic

International Cross Country at Dublin, the SIAB at Pembrey. ABT added that some of the athletes at the SIAB were a year young, however performed well for their age. The relay was a popular and successful event – JW asked ABT to ask the Committee whether there was an option to bring back the Welsh Cross Country Relays. AD has also had a conversation with JW about it – there was little interest among senior athletes previously and finding a date was more difficult, but it is something that AD is looking into. JW suggested one week either side of the road relays, which wasn't supported. JT suggested St Helens in Swansea as an evening fixture, 'running under the lights', with a bar - he has also mentioned this to JW. It would be similar in style to the night of the 10K races. It may be a junior event as opposed to a senior and junior event, although masters may also be interested. A mixed relay is another option. AD to look at potential dates. CJ had also suggested Brecon as an option for a relay event. GF suggested that September and October are too full, that November may be better. AD will give a further report at the next meeting

FIXTURES

DOMESTIC

- Welsh 5K Championships Whitchurch, Cardiff 1st May 2022 (run under UKA age groups/ rules)
- Welsh 10K Championships Caerphilly 15th May 2022
- Welsh Road Relays 24th September 2022 Pembrey

REPRESENTATIVE

- Welsh 5K Championships Whitchurch, Cardiff 1st May 2022. Team Senior Men: James Hunt, Abed Teweldebrahn, Paul Graham, Matthew Edwards Res: Dewi Griffiths, Nathan Jones (to be entered in the race) Senior Women: Charlotte Arter, Olivia Tsim, Anna Bracegirdle, Angharad Davies U20 Men: Adam Barber, Finley Hines, Jack Davies U20 Women: Moli Lyons, Rhiannon Paton TM: Carwyn Jones plus one other

SCHOOLS

- The SIAB was a successful event, thanks to ABT and Matthew Edwards as TM at the event and the various Welsh Schools staff and WA staff who contributed to making the event a success

PERFORMANCE

- Training camps (and some race opportunities) offered to some athletes in Flagstaff Arizona (endurance), Florida (sprints) and Turkey (throwers)
- Wales have been asked to host a Home Countries 5K event in August of 2022. The location being proposed is at Bute Park, Cardiff. Accommodation and travel costs for fellow Home Countries athletes would not be covered by WA, but the cost of hosting the event would be. Although it's another 5K, which isn't ideal, it does mean that the distance suits a greater audience, potentially. In 2023 the event would be hosted by one of the other Home Countries. The event is a proposed senior event, no junior teams.
- An autumn 10K or Half (or both) and an international cross country fixture also need to be considered as a representative opportunity for athletes – committee members to have a think of suitable venues, in preparation for next meeting

AOB

- Congratulations to Rosie Edwards on her selection for the GB team at the European Championships Marathon event and to Joshua Griffiths on his selection for the GB team at the World Championships Marathon event. Both competitions take place this summer, either side of the Commonwealth Games. Due to the nature of the event and the recovery time needed, neither athlete will therefore be able to represent Wales at the distance at the Commonwealth Games.

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

- 1st June 2022 5.15pm. Microsoft Teams invite will be sent to members for another virtual meeting