

<b>WELSH ATHLETICS ROAD/CROSS COUNTRY COMMITTEE</b> <b>MINUTES OF VIRTUAL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> NOV 2021</b>	<b><u>ACTION</u></b>
<p><b>PRESENT: -</b>  Alaw Beynon-Thomas, Graham Finlayson, Martin Green, Sharon Leech, Derek Osborne (East Rep deputising for Pete Sowerby), Adrian Palmer, Kevin Tobin</p> <p><b>APOLOGIES : -</b>  Alex Donald, Nikki Haines, Steve Jones</p> <p><b>MATTERS ARISING (from previous meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> Oct 2021)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leeds 10K: some team changes, winning shield found and returned, good team performances</li> <li>• Race applications for Welsh Championships was advertised to Clubs and Race providers, applicants invited to submit their bid by 8<sup>th</sup> November, RLP to update</li> <li>• Welsh Half Marathon Championships: held within Llanelli Half 31<sup>st</sup> October</li> <li>• Performance team to suggest/ confirm potential cross and road representative fixtures for the forthcoming few months (Milton Keynes as a preparation race for the European Cross Country Trial at Liverpool and the Telford 10K in December were dismissed)</li> </ul> <p><b>CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liz Davies replied regarding the Mini Marathon, following the Committee’s concerns that U13 should not be left out of the event. Her reply has been shared with the Committee, she’s happy to include U13s in the event, but for it to be seen as a fun opportunity as opposed to a Welsh International opportunity</li> <li>• JT emailed regarding a possible alternative to Armagh, SL replied that performance team is meant to feed back on above matters from last month’s meeting</li> <li>• AD sent an email received from James Vallely re Armagh 5K: ‘At a meeting last night of the Armagh A.C. Committee it was reluctantly decided to cancel the Armagh International Road Races scheduled for 10th Feb. 2022 due to concerns about rising numbers of Covid-19 infections and a lack of any degree of certainty about the future course of the pandemic. We plan to hold this event again on February 9th 2023, and we will once again be inviting teams from Welsh Athletics to take part. The Race Committee is as enthusiastic as ever for this event to</li> </ul>	<p>RLP</p> <p>Performance Team</p>

take place, despite having had to cancel now for two years in succession due to Covid-19 concerns.

- Email from GF on 9<sup>th</sup> November regarding the European Clubs Cross Country Competition. (See discussion in AOB)

## **2021 ROAD & CROSS COUNTRY COMPETITIONS PROGRAMME**

- RLP update: Cross country season is underway, kick started with a successful Cardiff Cross Challenge. League races continue, the next domestic fixture is the Inter Regional and Inter Schools on 20<sup>th</sup> November. The course for the Inter Regional has had to be changed slightly due to the non-availability of one of the fields, map is online. ABT queried the suitability of the course, as there will be athletes running in both directions at times. AD has designed the course, from a spectator viewpoint it is a similar design to a European course and will be ideal for spectators, it's fairly flat and fast with the majority of the course on playing fields, however there is a testing incline at one end. Due to the number of loops and turns, good marshaling will be required to ensure the races are a success. All road championships for 2021 have been held. Many road races have been held within the small time frame since restrictions were lifted and so there has been some congestion in the calendar. Some races are still virtual, such as the Nos Galan 5K.
- SJ has now left WA and his previous role is being split into two, the safeguarding responsibility a stand alone role and the Schools Competitions programme coming under the Competitions umbrella. WA are currently recruiting. Although SJ will no longer be a WA member of staff, he remains a valued member of the Road/ Cross Country Committee

### **Forthcoming Competitions**

#### **Domestic:**

- Gwent League 13<sup>th</sup> November, Parc de Pugh Brecon
- Inter-Regional Cross Country 20<sup>th</sup> November, Brecon, to include Inter-Schools and Colleges
- Liverpool X Challenge 27<sup>th</sup> November, U17 U20 teams, up to 4 m/f (first two from Cardiff Cross, selection meeting on Monday 15<sup>th</sup>). Managers: Neil Edwards, John Messum, Carol Jones
- Celtic and Home Countries International 22<sup>nd</sup> January inc. Seniors U20 U17 teams, Dundonald, Scotland. There's a possibility of a U23 team, tbc. Selection meeting likely to be in December. Clarification needed regarding age groups

- Welsh Schools Cross Country Championships 12<sup>th</sup> February 2022, venue tbc
- Welsh Cross Country Championships 26<sup>th</sup> February 2022
- SIAB X Country Championships venue tbc, possibly Pembrey, 26<sup>th</sup> March 2022 (inc 2 teams of 4 mixed relay U15 U17)

#### **PERFORMANCE**

- AP update: Warm weather training has been offered to athletes at Aguilas (mid/long endurance) and Albufeira (short/mid endurance) in January. The Commonwealth Games programme is focusing on providing opportunities both for the development group and those who have obtained or are within 2% of achieving the standards for Birmingham 2022. A virtual meeting is planned in December. CJ and AP have been to Birmingham to see the progress of the stadium and the accommodation planned for the athletes (University accommodation), good progress is being made. AP stated that Performance team are looking at marathon opportunities for athletes, KT and SL queried whether this is for those specifically targeting the distance at the Commonwealth Games and that perhaps a Half marathon or 10K race opportunity should also be offered to athletes. AP to liaise with JT and CJ and get back to the Committee before the next meeting

**Performance Team**

#### **SCHOOLS:**

- No specific update

#### **AOB**

- European Clubs invitation. Email received that Liverpool will be a trial for Clubs wishing to qualify for the European Clubs Competition in Portugal, clarification needed as to whether the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> placed clubs will be offered a place or just the 1<sup>st</sup>. Notification seems to be a little late, Clubs will be updated once details have been confirmed. Information initially came from UKA. KT stated that ideally a Welsh team, (English, Scottish and Irish) could be sent to Portugal, as a mixture of Club athletes, but all of the same Home Nation, as Clubs may not have the depth of quality athletes to be able to compete as a standalone club. (GF remembers Les Croupiers women winning one year and qualifying for the European competition). JW is currently liaising with UKA and hopefully a decision will be announced shortly so that Clubs/ athletes are aware of the situation before they travel to Liverpool
- Derek Osborne asked what the Committee's opinion is regarding the equality of distance argument at cross country.

**JW**

<p>The Committee has previously discussed the issue, many also responded to the UKA and League surveys which were circulated. The committee agreed with the UKA stance that distances should remain the same.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DO also asked about the combining of the Inter-Regional and Inter-School Competition and whether it was appropriate to put the two together, which is a comment made by certain others. RLP confirmed that a schools panel had discussed the issue after the 2019 event and were happy that the competition was a success. There will be further analysis after the 2021 event</li> <li>• ABT asked why some athletes aren't selected as part of a Welsh team even though they are competing at the event, (such as in Leeds where Charlotte Arter performed well). Athletes are invited to be part of the team, however at times sponsorship contracts do not allow an athlete to race in any other kit apart from sponsorship kit, therefore athletes race independently of the team</li> <li>• RLP read out the list of race host applications for Welsh Championship races (5K to Marathon) in 2022/ 2023, the committee will have time to think of the options then liaise by email, feedback to be sent back to RLP by Fri 26<sup>th</sup> November</li> </ul> <p><b>DATE &amp; TIME OF NEXT MEETING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2021, <u>5.15pm</u>. Microsoft Teams invite will be sent to members for another virtual meeting</li> </ul>	<p><b>Committee</b></p>
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