

Group name:	North Wales Regional Athletics Council
Date/Time:	7.00pm on 15.8.2024 by Microsoft Teams
Attendees:	Kay Hatton (K.H.), Paul Brooks (P.B.), John Hatton (J.H.), Crispin Backshall (C.B.), David Peters (D.P.), Arwel Lewis (A.L.), Amy Edwards (A.E.), Tracey Wheatman (T.W.), Yricka Gardner (Y.G.) Kevin Clark (K.C.) and David Peters (D.P.).
Apologies:	Nigel Parr and Mike Blake
Secretariat:	Paul Brooks

Declarations of interest: None

1. Update on Actions reviewed from previous meeting (previous items numbers in brackets):

(3) C.B. reported that the EDM equipment had been received but the programme for track and field events had not been installed. It is planned for a computer to be purchased and for this to be done and tested in September next. K.H. reported that Mike Blake has now received the electronic tablet. Welsh Athletics (W.A.) evaluation forms will need to be completed for the EDM equipment and electronic tablet as they were purchased with grant funding.

(10) The question of Regional vests being paid for in advance of an event is ongoing as Bernie Jones wants to sell them on-the-day.

2. Key points discussed /Decisions made:

(a)The minutes of the meeting of 18th April were agreed.

(b) P.B. has received his annual secretary's allowance.

(c) K.C stated that Cybi Striders had seen several members of Cybi Striders leave the Club and join "irunwales", an online Club promoted by W.A. He also stated that several other local social running groups had reported that their members had been approached by this organisation and felt that this should be discussed with the National Body. It was agreed that K.H. and J.H. will raise this at the next General Council meeting and will write to W.A. on this matter.

(d) It was agreed that the Region would again nominate Ian Robinson (Wrexham AC) for the W.A. Performance Coach of the Year award, for his work with Sabrina Fortune (b) It was also agreed that we would nominate Arwel Lewis for the W.A. Award of Honour (25 years of active service) and Kevin Clark for the W.A. Meritorious Service award (15 years of active service). It was agreed to complete the nomination forms when they are published next September. Clubs are asked to make their own additional nominations for these awards to be made to their members. It was also agreed that as no Club has put forward any motion to NWRAC for discussion at the AGM of W.A., they should now send such direct to the National Body.

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(e) (i) Y.G. put forward a motion for discussion from Wrexham A.C., that events for U/11 athletes should be included in the Regional t&f championships. A.E. reported that at our indoor championships, there had been non-championship run, jump and throw events for this age-group. However some athletes wanted to enter only one event, and officials had received abuse when implementing the rule that requires athletes to report at least 90 minutes before their first event. She stated also that there will be development events for this age-group in October and January. T.W. reported that there had been problems with the younger athletes age-groups, especially U.17's at the Welsh t&f championships and that changes to the make-up of age-groups have been agreed for implementation by U.K.A. It was agreed that this issue will be looked at again in January after the development meeting in that month.

3. Budget Update: J.H. has now completed the formalities at the bank to complete the changeover to Regional treasurer. He and K.H. gave an overview of the region's accounts (a) following the payment of the entry fees for the Caernarfon 10km Inter County match, it was agreed to close the Sherion a/c and transfer the remaining balance to the main account (b) it was agreed to send the annual grant of £500 to N.W.C.C.A. (c) the balances for the individual disciplines and the admin budgets were reported (d) Regional medal funding: (1) £253 had been paid for the shortfall of medals for 2024/5; this will be offset against the £750 grant received. (2) a new design for the medals and lanyard had been discussed, which will be Regionalised; a new order for the year commencing 1st April 2025 will be necessary. (d) it was agreed to pay for a laptop to link with the EDM equipment; KC reported that he may be able to obtain such second-hand (e) the accounts for 2023/4 have been approved and audited by Helen Blair; KH has thanked her for her work on our behalf.

4. Inter Region t&f championships: report: C.B. reported that he had received very positive feedback from the other 3 Regions and N. Wales had been the overall winners of the event. The meeting thanked all those involved for making the event such a success.

5. Track and Field Report: (a) A.E. reported that the final meeting of the NJL will be held at Wrexham on Saturday 31st August and that the previous match at Deeside went well. There are now 4 new level one officials for t&f. She also had received good feedback for the series. (b) CB reported that the refurbishment of the track at Eirias Park is going well, but there are no areas for throwing at present. Regarding photo finish equipment, such would cost between £16000 to 20000; the maximum grant from Gwynt y Mor, if approved, would be £5,000. Active Wales would possibly contribute half the amount required, with the proviso that the balance would be raised by crowdfunding. KH suggested the possibility of asking entrants to the t&f championships to donate an additional £1 p.p. towards this.

6. Pathway for Officials: T.W. and P.E. gave details of the new "pathways to advancement" for t&f and endurance officials, respectively.

7. Regional road running championships 2025: P.B. had received confirmation that Cybi Striders were willing to host the 5 miles championships and the organisers of the Llanrug 5km race were willing to host the 5km championships in 2025. This was agreed. Having had no reply, he will contact Colwyn Bay A.C. again regarding the 10km championships next year. The meeting agreed that the Caernarfon half marathon and the Rhyl 10 Miles (which will be held in Colwyn Bay next year due to continuing work on the seafront), both organised by runwales.com, should host the Regional championships for those distances.

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8. Competition Officer: A.E. reported that cross country relays are being held at Eirias Park on Saturday 14th December, which will cover all age-groups from U/11 to masters and include mixed-sex teams. Entries will open on Monday 19th August.

9. Road running: (a) P.B. reported that the Regional 5 miles championships had been held within the Holyhead Breakwater race and had been won by Connor Rogers (Wrexham) and Anna Drinkwater (Eryri) (b) our home Inter County match will be the Caernarfon 10km on Sunday 18th August. This will be followed by the Guilden Sutton 10km on Sunday 15th September (Cheshire's home match) and the Flying Fox 10miles on Sunday November 3rd (Staffs home match).

10. Officials Secretaries Report: (a) T.W. had nothing further (b) PB had attended a meeting on 5th August and reported that the Event Licencing Portal still needs tweaking and will not be fully functional until the new year; discussion had taken place concerning an unlicensed race in Rhes-y-Cae, following complaints by some of the runners; winter fixture lists are being compiled in the office; details of current and planned courses for endurance; the Inter Regional 10km road championships are very unlikely to take place this year. Next meeting 7th October.

11. Mountain and Fell Running: A.L. had sent a written report which had been circulated, concerning: (a) W.A. will not be sending Welsh teams to the Trofeo Vanoni event; it was agreed that the Region would send a team of 3 men and 2 women to the event at minimal cost (b) the Cilcain mountain race on Monday 26th August will include the senior Welsh championships, Regional championships and Inter Region championships. The first two males and the first woman will automatically be selected for the Regional team, with a selection committee deciding the third male's and the second woman's places. He gave details of the Regional team for the I.C. match. (c) a report of the Castell Howell international Ras yr Wyddfa event and details of performances (d) W.A. junior mountain championships at Y Fron, Caernarfon, the Regional athletes that won their age-groups were: Noa Dafydd (Betsi, U/15 boys), Tamsin Seguin (Menai, U/15 girls) and Osian Parry (Menai U/17 boys). The event was also a selection race for the British and Irish junior championships on Saturday 14th September; athletes selected for the Welsh team were: Madison Hughes (Maldwyn) U/17 girls; Osian Parry (Menai) U/17 boys; Efa Baines (Eryri) and Maddison Griffiths (Maldwyn) U/20 women; Noa Vaughan (Eryri), U/20 men.

12. Trail running: A.L.'s report included the Regional championships at the Fairy Freckled Cow race, organised by Denbigh Harriers. The winners were: Ian Edwards (Eryri) and Amie Smith (Cheshire Dragons).

13. A.O.B.: (a) K.H. reported that Wrexham University have opened a new unit which would be of interest to athletes. P.B. reported that he had been invited to the opening but had been unable to attend. He planned to agree another date to visit with the University (b) it was agreed to pay £12 for a spike to hold down the feather banner. (c) Due to a decrease in funding of £296k, W.A. has had to make a change to strategy with some redundancies and restructuring. Overall the sport is in good health with increases in club membership, as the Largest ever to date. A focus will be on safeguarding and welfare. The new Licence portal for events is live. Independent competitions are being encouraged. The change in junior age-groups has been agreed by the UKA board; the focus will now be on implementation on the transition from April 2026.

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New Actions arising	Owner	Due Date
1. Mentoring	TW & PB	Next Meeting
2. Budget revisions	KH & JH	Next Meeting
3. Sale of Vests	CB, KH, BJ	Next Meeting

Next Meeting: Thursday 17th October, online only, starting at 19.00 p.m.