

WELSH ATHLETICS ROAD/CROSS COUNTRY COMMITTEE	<u>ACTION</u>
<p data-bbox="252 275 1197 342">MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16th MAY 2018 AT J43 HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS SWANSEA</p> <p data-bbox="252 394 403 421">PRESENT: -</p> <p data-bbox="252 432 1193 499">Alex Donald, Nikki Haines, Graham Finlayson, Chris Jones, Steve Jones, Sharon Leech, Pete Sowerby, Kevin Tobin</p> <p data-bbox="252 510 443 537">APOLOGIES : -</p> <p data-bbox="252 548 303 575">n/a</p> <p data-bbox="252 586 1098 613">MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING (ref. 28th March 2018)</p> <ul data-bbox="304 647 1193 1189" style="list-style-type: none"> • IR and the Welsh Champs – no race organiser has applied to host the IR Champs to date • Barry 10K hosting Masters International, no confirmation as yet from WA and Run4Wales, decision on hold • Cost of meeting venue at Holiday Inn Express – video conferencing facilities available at the Stadium in Cardiff, however as yet there is no North Wales rep therefore no need for video conferencing. Committee to continue to meet at Holiday Inn as less travelling for most at this venue (therefore cheaper travel expenses) • The April Welsh Marathon Champs in London and the May Welsh 5K Champs at Cardiff were both successful events • 6 stage relays, no decision as yet from UKA as to whether Welsh Clubs will be eligible <p data-bbox="252 1211 651 1238">CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED</p> <ul data-bbox="304 1272 1193 1966" style="list-style-type: none"> • endurance fixture calendar received from JW and circulated to the committee • email from JB asking for selection criteria for the Commonwealth Half Marathon in Cardiff – CJ to confirm, however no information has been received yet from the Commonwealth Committee. There will be four in a team, three to count, it is likely that athletes hoping for selection will be able to submit performances from the previous 12 months, based on a Half Marathon and 10K, but without more information from the Commonwealth Federation nothing concrete can be published as yet • email from JB suggesting Newport Marathon becomes Welsh Marathon Champs. JW replied that applications must come from the race itself and that perhaps London should remain as the Welsh Champs given that it's a larger event in the same month as the Newport race • email from PB that still no NW rep for road/cross committee, but requesting reports be sent to Paul, Chris Yorke and John 	<p data-bbox="1217 741 1273 768">WA</p> <p data-bbox="1217 1447 1257 1473">CJ</p>

Hatton. SL confirmed that all reports are minuted and minutes are on the website within a week of the meeting

- Email from PS that the East region had suggested Glan Usk for the next Welsh XC Champs and not Swansea. SL explained that it was decided the venue would be on a three year rota so Swansea will not be a venue for next year, this to be discussed at the meeting

2018/19 ROAD & CROSS COUNTRY COMPETITIONS PROGRAMME

Domestic fixtures:

- Road Relays 22nd September Pembrey 2018
- Welsh Cross Challenge Cardiff 13th October 2018
- Welsh Cross Country Championships 23rd February 2019
- Welsh 10K Champs 31st March 2019
- Welsh Marathon Champs 28th April 2019
- Welsh 5K Champs 5th May 2019

Representative fixtures:

- Manchester 10K 20th May 2018
- Commonwealth Half Marathon Cardiff 7th October 2018
- Other representative opportunities to be confirmed at a later date, CJ to draw up a plan and propose it at the next meeting. Some suggestions mentioned tonight, however all will be listed after the next meeting

Championship races:

2019 Championship venues were decided, based on the applications received from race providers and the committee's opinion, as well as Run4Wales representation from AD. A discussion was held regarding the clashing of some key events, notably Run4Wales events with Championship races. It was felt that both bodies should discuss setting fixture dates in line with the competition calendar, as athletes are pulled from one event to another and larger races are not given a fair chance to grow into key quality races. One such example is the Commonwealth Half and the Cardiff Cross Challenge being just a week apart. Another example is the Newport 10K clashing with the Welsh 5K Champs. It would be easier if each body liaised with regard to dates, as do race providers. The Run4Wales strategy should be aligned to the WA strategy, in order to provide enough opportunities for all athletes whilst also not overloading the race calendar

- **Welsh 5K Champs**, applications received from Cardiff 5K Race for Victory, Carmarthen Mayor's Race, Ffrith 5K or Wrexham. It was felt that the Carmarthen Mayor's Race course was not deemed suitable as it's a three lap undulating course with many turns and if an alternative venue is found it needs to be tested first before

CJ

being used as a Championship race. It was felt that a lot of athletes may not choose to travel up North, as has been the case in previous years, therefore as the Race for Victory is a successful and popular event that was voted as the Welsh 5K Champs. GF did not vote due to a conflict of interest. Date 5th May 2019

- Only one application was received to host the **Welsh 10K Championships**, this from the Brecon Carreg Cardiff Bay Run, likely date 31st March 2019. As this is also Mother's Day, the date may change, although it is difficult to move as there are other fixtures in the weeks following. The committee felt that the fact that it's Mother's Day shouldn't change the numbers taking part and that the date should remain as set
- Virgin London Marathon has applied to be the **Welsh Marathon Championships**, they are the only race to have applied and it was agreed that they will host
- The **Welsh Half Marathon Championships** will remain at Cardiff
- There were no applications for an **IR 10K** or an **IR Half Marathon**
- Pembrey (Carmarthenshire County Council) have made a 'bid' for the **Welsh Cross Country Championships**, with financial support from Carmarthenshire Council but organisational input from Welsh Athletics. Glan Usk has also been proposed by the East region as a Welsh Cross Country venue. Again the Championships will be held at the venue for three years, to give the event a chance to grow. This proved successful at Swansea. Pembrey are hoping also to eventually bid for an International event, such as the SIAB or the European Cross Country, therefore having the Welsh Cross Country would help in preparing for this. There was a discussion that too many events are being held in the West, however the 5K, 10K and HM are all in the East. The North have not applied for any cross country event. The entry fee to the Park at Pembrey needs to be cheaper than they were for the Road Relays (£5). PS argued that financial reasons shouldn't be the reason it goes to Pembrey, the Committee feel Pembrey offers opportunities for the family to enjoy the day, the course is drier and although further West accessibility and accommodation opportunities are good. It was also felt that the course can provide more options than that at Glan Usk and as it would be beneficial for Wales as a whole to host a large event such as the European Cross Country Championships in the future, the Committee voted for Pembrey to host the next cross country Champs
- **Welsh Cross Country Relays**: a discussion was held with regard to the purpose of the cross country relays – the proposed date clashes with an established road race on the calendar and the calendar is very full, by having the relays are we over filling the calendar? Could the relays be held in January, however it's very wet in January so finding a suitable venue is more difficult.

Another option is to ask the Gwent League to move to January instead of March, then have the relays in March, however the Leagues may not wish to change date. In the future, the cross country season may well become shorter, especially if the World Cross moves to February. This may be what a lot of athletes prefer as the season is long and numbers drop off by March. As a committee it's felt that there is little demand to have the Relays in November, in theory they should be in September with the Road Relays in April, however this would then need to be changed for 2019/2020, it's too soon for 2018/2019.

After a lengthy discussion the committee agreed to postpone the Cross Country relays for 2018, a conversation can be held next year when the fixture calendar is set, to decide whether or not the event is brought back. A conversation needs to be held with the Gwent League committee to look at their fixtures and ask whether they would consider either changing it to a four match league or possibly have five but athletes must run in four, not all. The Gwent League do many things correctly as they have large numbers at their matches. The committee accepts that the League is very successful but perhaps they could work alongside the WA strategy to focus on some key events and perhaps offer some flexibility in either moving a fixture to January or not expecting athletes to compete at all five. This would offer the opportunity for some of the Club athletes, in particular the younger athletes, to have more opportunity to rest, to keep them fresh for the long season. It would also free up some time in March for Cross country Relays in the future (or road relays if the date was changed). The committee need to approach the League with this proposal. The Committee need to put these ideas to the League Committee, SL to speak to Roland Sherwood of the Gwent League

- The **Inter-Regional Cross Country Champs** have not been decided as yet, neither date nor venue wise. One proposal was to hold the IR within the Inter-Schools in November, however this has not been confirmed

BUDGET AND FINANCE

CJ explained as in a previous meeting, that for some of the elite athletes, funding comes from the performance budget and not from the Road/Cross Country budget.

The Road/Cross Country budget has been well managed this year with no over spend. Spending on the races we send athletes to next year as a representative experience will be decided at the next meeting. All fixtures must be decided to plan the forthcoming year's budget, which will be sorted at the next meeting.

SL

Opportunities are either paid from the domestic or the international road/cross meeting

AOB

- Tom Marley unable to come tonight as planned, due to a sprints event at Cardiff. His new role is the Competitions Manager, across all disciplines. AD will continue to work for two days for WA, responsible for endurance events. RLP will have responsibility for T&F events
- The North Wales XC dates are out of sync with the fixture calendar which causes clashes. This has been raised before and it would be better if they were aligned to other League races
- Post Commonwealth Games, WA is now embarking on a new 4 year cycle. The strategy will be in place by the Autumn. The programme will also highlight the role of the committee within the strategy. WA will also align with Welsh Schools and the Regions, a focus will be on the younger developing athletes, as do UKA with their talent programme. There will also be links with Universities and the talent coaches there. The challenge in Wales is managing talent when it's identified at a young age. A specific meeting may be required to discuss these various changes and proposals. CJ must submit his strategy proposal to WA by Sept/Oct
- Caryl Jones has been selected for the European Marathon and Jenny Nesbitt and Charlotte Arter have been selected for the GB 10K team. Congratulations to all three
- The Committee wish to pay their respects to John Chidlow who did a great deal of work for endurance events in Wales. He will be sadly missed

CJ

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

- Wed 13th June, 7pm, Holiday Inn Express Swansea East SA10 6GZ