

Sunday, 19 February 2023

Glamorgan Mission to the Deaf

1 Lanark Road

Pontypridd

CF37 2DH

**Start Time: 15:00**

**End Time:**

Chairperson - Kyle Perry

(Secretary)



South Wales

Regional Athletic Council

## Notes for Meeting

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**Attendees:** Kyle Perry (**Secretary**); Chris Pratt (**Ogmore Phoenix**); Steph Iveson (**Ogmore Phoenix**); Paul Davies (**Aberdare AAC**); Rowland Williams (**Pontyclun Athletics**)

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**Apologies:** Chris Jeynes - **Brackla Harriers**, Dawne Meynell - **Welfare Officer**, Lee Hayward - **Chairperson**, Bernie Plaine - **President**, Fred Malkin - **Barry & Vale**, Georgina Fraser - **Cornelly Striders**, Iwan Dowie - **Cornelly Striders**, Rhys Williams - **Welsh Athletics Talent Development Co-Ordinator**, Pete Morris - **Life Member**,

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### Welcome, Apologies & Thank You's

- Thank you to Bryn Griffiths, Steph Iveson, Collin Frolley & Keely Jarvis for team management for UK CAU.
- Apologies above advised.

### Regional Development Plan

- Email from Rhys Williams regarding most recent RDP event held at NIAC. Turn out was lower than expected with 12 athletes and 3 coaches turning up with the South and East regions being the lowest in terms of participants and engagement.
- Plan for Rhys and possibly new Regional Development Lead, Morgan Jones, to attend in person for next meeting.

### Update on actions from previous meeting

- Talk through action points completed from last meeting and ongoing tasks advised. (**See accompanying action sheet**).
- Key issue is with the need to have vests, hoodies, gazebo etc set as a priority for the future development of the region.

- Region is in need of a Social Media Manager to promote, upcoming races, meetings etc. Rowland Williams offered to provide some support in this area but he has limited time due to his club commitments. The region needs a designated officer for best outcomes.
- Communications with Welsh Athletics is happening but it can be slow to get responses and regular minutes are not distributed in a timely manner.
- Brief discussions regarding the designated Welsh Athletics Regional Development Officer (Currently Hannah Pretty) possibly not able to provide the region sufficient support given the business needs splitting her time.

## Track & Field

- Update advised from notes provided by Lee Hayward (Chairman):
- **Inter Regional Championships:** Met in January with members of Rhondda, Bridgend and Aberdare. The main topic of conversation was the upcoming Regionals and Inter-Regional competitions which Joyce Tomala from East Wales is helping us with. Aberdare has been booked for both meetings and we have licenses in place. We have also booked photo finish, EDM and Wind Gauges. We will have to start seeking officials and volunteers imminently.
- The Saturday of the regional will host the events which are represented at the inter-regionals. All other events will look to be incorporated into other competitions to reduce costs.
- Age Groups will be U15 / U17 / U20 and Seniors
- There was an objection because of the exclusion of U13's.
- We agreed that we were happy to host an U13 Regional competition and East would be interested but it would need to be arranged separately.
- **South Wales Throws** has been setup with timetable being distributed previously. All in attendance happy that the event was continuing and hoped that it would be a success.
- **YDL** meeting held in Feb to discuss improving the league. General feeling is that the issues are that the distance of travel for athletes puts people off along with events not allowing athletes to compete in more than a single event.

- There is no clear selection policy and no competition to select from, it would be much more beneficial if our athletes had more regular competitions.
- T&F Selection policy for U20 International briefly discussed.

## Endurance

- **UK CAU** teams have been selected and registered and a team coach is being considered for a number of athletes.
- There is good take up with the younger categories but the older age groups less so.
- There was also an issue with the senior team with the original team manager not being able to select the team in the time given and there was a bit of a rush to get a team at all. We have managed to get some athletes to attend but this was not quite as good as was hoped.
- Great results for **South Wales in the Welsh Schools District Cross Country** held in Brecon with Cardiff & Vale coming out on top overall and there were race wins for:
  - Cardiff Athletics - Junior Girls
  - Aberdare - Junior Boys
  - Cardiff Athletics - Middle Girls
- Prior to meeting Matt Jacklin (Road Running & Cross Country Officer) suggested that we look at pre-registering athletes for inter-regionals following the issues that raised with this years selection for the inter-regionals and UK CAU.
- A clear selection policy is needed so that in future all who wish to be considered can be included on register prior to the start of the season.
- General discussions had and feeling was that we do not want to add work to volunteers at regional or team manager levels but would like to make the process simpler and easier to manage. Maybe we could start using Microsoft Forms as a tool to help with user friendliness.

### **ACTION: Look into Microsoft forms to see if it can help with registration of athletes and in identifying eligible athletes etc.**

- Further suggestion for the region to look into developing an electronic mechanism for the future if we are to have a greater participation in inter regional races.

- The Endurance committee has not been able to progress as desired and general feeling is that the region need an attractive hook for further engagement or we need to rethink what the regions purpose is.
- PaD - What is needed is a presence at all regional events in the form of gazebo, flags, region representatives with hoodies and offer T-Shirts and hoodies for purchase. There needs to be a team atmosphere offering tea, coffee etc. The problem is that we need a single person to be an ever present for each event from start to finish. I (Paul Davies - Aberdare AAC) am willing to be that person to setup camp and be present for the day leaving others to be team managers.
- We should also look to pick an event that will be teared as the Regional Event such as the Roman Run.

### T&F Summer comps

- Feeling is that Welsh Athletics need to provide some certainty that the WJDL events penciled in for the summer of 2023 will go ahead.
- Last year had too many issues with race events clashing and stopping athletes from competing in their specialist events. We the events should be planned so that an athlete can compete in 2/3 events of their specialty.
- If the region does not get any assurance from Welsh Athletics then we as a region will put it on ourselves and share the costs.

### AOB

- **Regional Roles** - GC have prepared descriptions of roles. Circulated in advance.
- **Welsh Athletics General Meeting (Jan 23)** - CEO update read out to those in attendance.
- **Website** – It was mentioned in the T&F meeting that East had set up a website and should we do the same? General feeling from chairman is that websites are a little outdated and difficult to maintain, however we do have a Wordpress account that could be used and is much more accessible through a mobile phone. Or we can use the Facebook page in the same way but we can be more proactive and disciplined in how we use it.

- ChP has experience with Wordpress and is happy to help offer advice on how it works.
- A dedicated person to manage the website and social media would be ideal if anyone knows of a person wishing to be involved and has the necessary skills and time please ask them to get in touch.
- **Vests / tents etc** - Still waiting for responses from several companies with suggestions. Had one good response with black as the colour and a very low cost but James Williams has asked us to pause while he does a piece of work on a larger deal with vests. When we agree colours (or decide not to go ahead) we can progress with gazebo. Further options for vest production has been provided by Cardiff Athletics that are under consideration.
- **Mailing list** - There has been a request for the regions mailing list to be made available to all committee members.
- KyP - My concern is that there are personal emails on this list that are not the designated chairperson or secretary as they have been the only respondents at the respective club and with Data Protection this list is best kept as secure as possible.
- General feeling was split between offering as much openness for committee members but also in securing the privacy of members who are not registered as chairman, secretary or another official role.
- A compromise in this is to provide an official list of all club chairpersons and secretaries that are already publicly available and to ask clubs to provide up to date details and contacts and other main contacts if not chair or secretary.
- General point made that U13 T&F athletes are expected to pay an affiliation fee but are not offered any meaningful competition.

**ACTION: Provide slim down version of contact list for distribution and seek to firm up contacts details.**

### **Date & time of next meeting**

- General discussions had regarding the date and time of the meeting with those in attendance feeling that it was ok as long as it does not clash with races.
- Hybrid facilities are needed as a regular option and equipment can be offered by Lee Hayward or if not available by Chris Pratt.

- Sunday 16th April date agreed and Bridgend to be the location of the meeting pending venue agreement.