

Wednesday, 21 June 2023

Tonypandy Fire Station

Llwynpia Road

Tonypandy

CF40 2JQ

**Start Time: 18:00**

**End Time: 20:30**

Chairperson - Lee Hayward



South Wales

Regional Athletic Council

## Notes for Meeting

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**Attendees:** Chris Pratt (**Ogmore Phoenix**), Glyn Pugh (**Rhondda Athletics**), Pauline Dobbs (**Rhondda Athletics**), Pete Morris, Dawne Meynell (**Welfare Officer**), Kyle Perry (**Secretary**), Stuart (**CDF Runners**), Collin Frowley (**Hill & Mountain Officer**), Rowlie Williams (**Pontyclun Athletics**).

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**Apologies:** Jeff Mapps (**Track & Field Officials Admin**), Ron Morris (**San Domenico**), Fred Malkin (**Barry & Vale**), Bernie Plain (**SWRAC President**), Graham Finlayson, Keeley Jarvis (**Aberdare**), Steph Iverson (**Cross Country Officer**), Jen Stone (**Treasurer**)

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### Welcome & Apologies

- Welcome and thanks to all in attendance.
- Apologies above advised.

### Election of Officers for 23/24

**1) President** - Bernie Plain

**ACTION:** Bernie at end of 2nd year of term and needs looking at.

**2) Chairperson** - Lee Hayward

**3) Secretary** - Kyle Perry

**4) Treasurer** - Jen Stone wishes to step down as soon as a replacement can be found and Keeley Jarvis (**Aberdare Athletics**) has agreed to take over. **VOTE:** Proposed and seconded, no objections.

**ACTION:** Speak with Jen Stone and arrange transition to new treasurer. Chair wished to thank Jen Stone for her years of service to the region.

**5) Track & Field Representative** - VACANT. Due to the lack of a representative the committee will need to take this on jointly.

**6) Road Running Officer - Matt Jacklin**

**ACTION:** Discussions to be had with Matt Jacklin regarding what meetings he will be able to attend and also to ascertain what reports he can provide.

**7) Cross Country Officer - Matt Jacklin** has agreed to step down from this role and Steph Iverson (Ogmore Phoenix) has agreed to take over. **VOTE:** Proposed and seconded, no objections.

**8) Hill, Mountain & Trail Officer - Colin Frole**y to take over this role from Pete Ryder. **VOTE:** Proposed and seconded, no objections.

Chair wished to thank Pete Ryder for his contribution to the region.

**9) Official Admin (Track & Field) - Jeff Mapps.**

**ACTION:** Contact to be made with Jeff to ascertain what he is able to contribute to region if not attending meetings.

**10) Official Admin (Endurance) - Danielle Phillips.**

**ACTION:** Contact to be made with Danielle Phillips to see if she is staying in place and to agree responsibilities.

**11) Welfare Officer (Male) - Paul Davies**

**12) Welfare Officer (Female) - Dawne Meynell**

**Delegates to External Bodies**

**1) General Council - Lee Hayward or Fred Malkin**

**2) Welsh Athletics AGM - Lee Hayward or Kyle Perry**

**3) UK CAU AGM - TBC**

**4) Welsh Athletics Track & Field Committee - Lee Hayward**

**5) Welsh Athletics Road & Cross Country Committee - Steph Iverson**

**6) Welsh Athletics Trail/Fell & Mountain Committee - Collin Frole**y

**7) Welsh Athletics Officials Committee (Endurance) - Danielle Phillips**

**8) Welsh Athletics Officials Committee (Track & Field) - Jeff Mapps**

**ACTION:** A representative for the region required for UK CAU meetings.

## **Chairpersons Annual Report**

Thanks for everyone who has contributed to region this year.

This is my first address and it has been a tough start with lack of knowledge and understanding of what was expected.

Looking back look at some highlights, and the key challenges were, promotion of and visibility of region, moving meetings around the region to encourage greater participation, change of vest supplier and branding of stock with South Wales on tops being made available at a lower cost.

T-shirts and hoodies and gazebo to be completed very soon. New relay batons for regional have also been purchased. Vests available in 5/6 weeks.

The goal when first appointed was to attempt to further enhance the regions reputation and to ensure that representing it was seen as an honour.

The stock that the region held was not clearly identifiable but with lots of work we have got things back into a better place and more centralised.

Past years medals have started to be issued.

Going forward we need to be more prudent with finances with some high purchases this year and with less funding from Welsh Athletics.

There are new monthly throwing comps for the region. There has been good participation in endurance and park run.

The Region need to tap into this popularity and get people in to support and improve. I has become apparent that we (Committee Members) cannot go on looking after all areas of region without more support.

YDL structure may be amended sooner. Maybe making it 13, 15, 17 an dropping the U20.

Regional T&F champs causing concern with participation. Re-evaluation of champs needed to make it viable and more volunteers are needed or comps will not go ahead in the future.

Clubs complain of lack of events but are not providing sufficient support to ensure they go ahead. There is a requirement to become self-sufficient and affordable.

Thanks to all that give time and effort to region.

## **Treasurers Annual Report**

Summary of finances advised to committee.

With the new suppliers we are able to sell regional shirts at £15 for Children and £18 adults.

The region cannot now go on paying for the YDL and that this now needs to be covered by the clubs. Therefore for the 23/24 season the region will not be paying fees and clubs will need to take on this responsibility and to facilitate this a standard £5 charge per athlete, with no additional costs for the number of events participating in.

**VOTE:** All T&F clubs in attendance happy to take the costs of YDL and charge £5 per athlete for entry.

The costs for the May 2023 inter-regionals will just about break even.

Funding available for region is again £2000 if we do another development plan.

Discussions had around further possible funding streams, however, Regions cannot apply for community funds but individual clubs can.

Sponsorship with the likes of Travis Perkins, Spar etc have money available for community funding that we could look to tap into.

A fundraising officer would be a great addition to the the region.

## **Any Other Business**

### **Regional & Inter Regional Championships (Track & Field)**

For 2024 are we looking at a South Wales only regional championships for Track & Field with a full timetable with all events. I would also like inter regionals to have a full timetable.

It is proposed that a review of the regional champs is required.

SWRAC can arrange things but we need the officials to make it happen.

Closing date for inter-regional was way too close for event to be viable across 2 regions, another issue was the timetable itself.

There was a specific acknowledgement for the work that Joyce Tomala of East Wales did to ensure that the event went ahead, her work is and always is excellent and she should be commended for her time and effort.

Chris Jeyens has agreed to step in and support the region get the regional champs hosted by South Wales.

Looking forward it is looking like it will be South only and not South and East. Reducing age groups. Officials and licences.

### **Officials & Volunteers**

Conversation had regarding officials and the region need to work better with Sue Hooper to ensure we can have the ability to put on events as they should be.

We also need clubs to provide support with volunteers. If we can get volunteers then we can get more events going and have more opportunities to get on Power of 10.

COVID was recognised as causing a number of issues with volunteers and clubs are building this back. We need to keep pushing volunteers to get qualified or just help out.

Officials are in such short supply and Welsh Athletics are calling on L1 officials at too late notice.

Clashes of events are causing issues and it is difficult to get the timings right.

Welsh Athletics were asked for help with regional events and it was a flat no.

Next year we need to do this ourselves and we should be looking to amend the events timetable and format.

The WJDL in Brecon had big gaps in the day and can be done better.

We need to restrict the regionals, inter regionals and JDL for next year. We need to take control of how the events go ahead. The number of athletes in any comp is an issue.

Do we look at an open meeting for the regional clubs excluding Cardiff who can go with Newport. Lets start a fresh and thrash this out to get it right for next year.

**ACTION:** Dawne is to get a list of officials for the Gwent League and this can be shared with the region.

**ACTION:** Seek to amend the events timetable and format for 23/24 season.

**ACTION:** Continue to improve on encouraging volunteers and officials.

### **Gwent League**

Gwent league is doing really well with 12 new officials although the older officials are not willing to go ahead with the way things work.

There was a big recruitment push to get people involved but people believe that they need to have qualifications.

We need to give an incentive to volunteers, people see clubs as day care service and this needs to change.

A lower level official qualification was being considered by Welsh Athletics but we have not heard anything further to date.

There are large gaps in officials age and there are no peers for officials to learn from.

Junior Saturday league needs to be considered to re-engage volunteers.

Membership scheme, incentives are needed.

Clubs need to push for everyone.

Fear of making a mistake is a key aspect of why volunteers do not put themselves forward.

No judgement should be given to those who are willing to give it a go.

We should use the endurance community to get involved instead of continuing to use the parents.

Clubs could encourage participation through the membership forms asking for more voluntary contributions.

Could we write a standard letter or note to explain what officials do, what will be asked etc and can we then distribute this to clubs. We should be selling this in layman's terms.

Gwent League AGM Friday, 7pm

### **Promotion through Social Media**

We should be selling the region through pictures and videos to show how fun and active this is.

Contact has been made with Leigh James of Bridgend Athletics who is willing to support the region and look to handle the regions social media output. The goal will be to promote the regions successes, promote voluntary contributions and publicise fixtures across the disciplines with a key focus on regional events.

Rhys James of Rhondda is a photographer and would help out along with Paul Stillman.

Facebook may not be the best media to use for advertising events and it is hard to get through to everyone in one messaging a service.

**ACTION:** Put together an action plan for the use of Social Media to promote the region.

### **Schools**

Can we use schools, Duke of Edinburgh, SW institute for sport to get more involvement. Pete Morris is the rep for Schools.

Senior & Middle champs is going well and it is hard to understand why the region is in such a different position to others. The days are 6hrs 400 participants, 4hrs for 250 participants.

It has been suggested that the schools should be making a contribution to the region for use of the photo finish.

There are officials who are unwilling to take part if it is a WA meeting.

Can we get official trainers to train volunteers for our region and not through WA?

**ACTION:** Consider schools contribution towards the use of the regions photo finish.

**ACTION:** Look into official training specifically for regional clubs.

### **Fun Event 2024**

We should try and arrange a meet for May next year to give us time to prepare.

Costs aren't that much (£25p hour) for track hire.

Calendar will need to be considered when arranging this fun event.

**ACTION:** The fun day idea based on having a go. Ask WA for funding. Get snacks, music.

### **XC Regional Championships 23/24**

Cardiff Cross Challenge will now be in November for 2023 and so a new earlier race needs to be considered as the regional event.

Inter regional is going to be in Newtown instead of Monmouth for 2023/24.

**ACTION:** XC championships needs to be considered as Cardiff Cross is now going to be in November instead of October.

### **Welsh Athletics & General Council**

Welsh Athletics are restructuring. James Williams came back with a brief summary of movements but has not provided any further information on what this will do for the region.

We had hoped for more from the minutes.

The Regional Officer was previously attending giving a regular update of WA items however this role has not been combined with a development role reducing the availability for the regions

Regional officers are no longer available and would attend only if invited.

A development Officer is in the constitution and next year will now need to be take out. They were also originally supposed to be available for the regions for 20% of the time.

There is a new Development Officer in WA but not sure what they now do.

WA are not providing the support that we require.

Costs of races are getting more and more and it is disconcerting that WA are not providing the direction that the region needs.

World athletics have issued a shoe ban. WA has sent through a list of all shoes that are acceptable for T&F.

**ACTION:** Send out the list of acceptable shoes.

### **Next Meeting**

There isn't enough in these meetings that I can be taken away for endurance clubs in the region

We used to do a bit of a round robin of all who are in attendance to see what has been going on, what members have come in.

Next meeting to be Monday, 14th August @ 6pm. Venue TBC (Possibly Pontyclun)

**ACTION:** Introduce a round robin to each meeting to encourage a what's going on at your club.

**ACTION:** Try and get Steve Mitchell to attend meeting for endurance clubs.