

Minutes of the East Wales Regional Athletic Council,

3rd July 2019, Newport Stadium.

Present: Hilary Goodger, Joyce Tomala, Bethan Akanbi-Mortimer, Lyn Cushing, Jeanette Jenkins, Richard Sheehy, Ryan Spencer-Jones, Kirsty Crane, Charlotte Moran, Paul Adams, Martyn Jenkins.

Apologies: Andrew Dickens, Keith Matthews, Lou Summers

1. Conflict of Interest (new declarations)

2. ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:

a. Update re: need for SSL certificate for website (RSJ)

RSJ to ask Colin Slater again for his recommendation.

b. Update re: availability of access to Run Britain Reports (JJ)

JJ contacted Gavin Likewood and he said that it would cost too much to update the system to allow adjudicators to access the documents online and there was no plan to do this going forward. The current plan is for the race organiser to email the documents to the adjudicators. JT concerned at the archaic nature of this and will raise it at the next General Council meeting.

ACTION: JT to raise concerns about accessibility of Run Britain reports at General Council.

c. Equality and Diversity update (JT)

JT reported that we are awaiting further update from the WA as to what they would like discussed. This is to remain on the meetings. JT has raised the awareness of hidden disabilities with WA and feels that these need to be recognised and club members need to be aware, especially during competition. BAM suggested that the members of the regional council complete the ASDinfoWales training online. It was agreed that this should be actioned. JJ agreed that raising awareness of different conditions was important as individuals may have differing needs. It was suggested that the league declarations include the option of details any special requirements for athletes with disabilities.

ACTION: JT to feed these ideas back to WA.

3. DISCUSSION:

a. Clarification required for club affiliation consultation process (JJ)

Concerns were raised that we were not following a consistent path when affiliating new clubs. Recently a club was affiliated without the opportunity for discussion at a regional level. BAM reported that when papers were sent for distribution amongst committee members, it was raised with Jacqueline Brace from WA. WA advised that because of the length of time between submitting the application and the next meeting members were requested to put any concerns in writing to WA instead of it being discussed. JT reported that the process has been changed recently and would be reviewed. Members felt that the region should have the opportunity to discuss any application at their meetings and that there should be consistency across all new applications being considered.

ACTION: JT to bring up concerns about the club affiliation process with WA.

4. REPORTS:

a. Network Officers' Report (RSJ)

- i. Quad Kids has now finished in the East with approximately 4000 primary school children taking part. Finals took place in Leckwith with two Caerphilly schools attending. Newport Sports Festival was unfortunately called off due to the weather conditions. Bleanau Gwent Schools festival will be taking place on 10th July.
- ii. RSJ will be taking up his new post as National Throws Coordinator and would like to present to the region at the next meeting his plans for the regional and national throws development days. His role will focus on the regional and national pathway but he is keen to ensure that the foundation days do not fall away as it sits very importantly in his plan. There will be 3 regional coordinators in the South East, North and West and RSJ will be looking to the regional council to support the foundation days. RSJ will be requesting the same support from all regional councils.
- iii. JT asked if there was any update on his replacement. RSJ confirmed that the advert would be out shortly.
- iv. JT thanked RSJ for the fantastic work he had done in the region.

b. Officials.

i. Endurance

RS reported that the Endurance meeting had been postponed and so there was no update.

ii. T & F (LC)

LC reported that the Officials Development Day that took place at the beginning of the season formed the basis of recruitment for the season but was disappointed that it wasn't attended by a number of clubs. The day itself was very successful and LC felt that it would have greatly benefitted the clubs that did not attend. LC would like to run another day in the autumn but would like attendees from all clubs.

JT requested that we look at officials for the inter-regional champs in Aberdare on 4th August. The region are required to bring 8 officials.

c. Other reports.

i. Finance (KM)

Report covered in AGM.

JT spoke to JW about some of the funding mechanisms and have asked if he and Chris Moss can come to the next regional meeting to discuss ways of raising money for the clubs and the regions.

ii. WA General Council (JT)

No report as the General Council meeting is next week. As mentioned at the meeting in May, JT has been asked to present to the general council the success of the structure of our regional meetings. Chris Jones reported back to JW how impressed he was with the diverse representation at the meetings.

iii. Cross-Country/Road (PS)

No report

iv. Track & Field (JT)

A lot of the meeting was taken up with discussion about the inclusion of the 1200m in the Welsh Junior League. It was agreed that it would be removed from the programme with immediate effect. It is anticipated that some clubs may not be happy about this but it had been removed because they felt it was a welfare issue.

As an aside, we have been asked by the YDL to discuss the different event distances for boys and girls following a complaint made to UKA by a parent in the region who felt that the girls

were unfairly discriminated against as they did not have the opportunity to run the same distances as the boys. JT asked the Endurance representatives for their thoughts on this. JJ and RS reported that female athletes have voted for different distances in the senior races and they did not feel that girls were at a disadvantage. RS raised the wider question of whether race distances should be based on development/ability rather than gender.

Length of the league competition day is still being discussed and there will be a full review at the end of the season which will be fed back through the Track & Field committee to the General Council and the Regions.

Inter-regional Championships – the age groups have been set

The u20/senior Regional events have now been allocated to the senior leagues, the junior pole vault competition is likely to be held at the meeting in August. LC reported that including the regional events in the senior league had improved attendance and improved the competition. The format of competitions will continue to be reviewed.

Photofinish hire charge has gone up considerably. Previously it had been £150 which included the technicians fee, but now there would be an additional charge of £75 for the technician and they expect the competition provider to go and collect the equipment. JT has raised concerns about this as the competition provider should not be expected to collect technical equipment that they do not know anything about. The region agreed that it made more sense for the technician to collect the equipment.

Concerns had been raised about events being split across the Welsh Championships in the North and South of Wales. JT reminded members that there had to be a split because it was a three day timetable. Both LC and HG confirmed that when the dates had been released, parents booked accommodation in Wrexham early and then found out at a later date that the events were taking place in Cardiff. BAM felt that the split worked better when the senior and junior champs were in the same place. BAM asked for clarification why it was the under 15 age group that had split events. JT confirmed that it was because the under 17 and 20 athletes could enter the senior events.

v. Welfare (JT)

5. Minutes of Last Meeting/ Matters Arising not already covered.

- a. JJ asked if we could carry over to the next meeting what type of support the clubs would like from WA. BAM confirmed that nothing had been received from member clubs.

6. Any Other Business.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 11th September 2019, 6:30pm in Newport Stadium.