



WEST WALES REGIONAL ATHLETICS COUNCIL



Minutes – West Wales Regional Athletics Council Wednesday 20th April 2022

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Present: Rob Campion (RC) Chairman

Nathan Jones (NJ) Secretary

Andrew Jenkins (AJ) West Wales Club Manager

Les Cuthbert (LC) Treasurer

John Elward (JE) Officials Secretary

Steve Hames (SH) Officials Committee Representative – Endurance

Wayne & Kelly Griffiths (WG) Pembrokeshire Harriers

1. Apologies Jennifer Boyce, Dic Evans

2. **Declarations of Interest** None Declared

3. Actions from Previous Meeting

a) Officials Development Day & Electronic Gun purchase was actioned and been completed.

4. Discussion

a) Regional Officials Development Day in West Wales

An Officials Development Day for West Wales was held on the same day as the Swansea Harriers Open Meeting on Sunday 3rd April rather than on a separate non-competition day where parents could try out officiating on the track and the field. It was decided to appoint key Officials as Mentors to look after the volunteers and Zoe Holloway (Welsh Athletics) had advertised the day and included an expression of interest section. Once the meeting started the volunteers did not want to move from their first choice. 13 enthusiastic volunteers took part in the regional day from various clubs across the region Swansea Harriers AC, Carmarthen & District Harriers, TROTs, Llanelli AAC, and 3M Gorseinon Road Runners. Some have now shown interested in attending the Regional Championships, YDL and WA courses.

Thanks to Swansea Harriers Trustees who allowed the Region to use their open meeting as an opportunity to host a Regional development day, and to John and Zoe for their work.

b) West Wales Regional Athletics Championships - May 2022

Cwrt Herbert Athletics Track in Neath on Sunday 15th May for U13 – Seniors. Entries opened on OpenTrack on Saturday 9th April (four weeks window) and closes on Saturday 7th May 23:59. Provisional timetable and eligibility has been included with entry link and will likely see some changes after closing date when number of athletes and officials are known. 1500m and 2000m Steeplechase for U17-Seniors are incorporated into the joint South & East Wales Regional Championships in Aberdare on Wednesday 18th May.

Officials and trainee officials in the region have been emailed by JE asking to help at the championships. Pole Vault for South & East Wales Championships will be at Aberdare.

c) West Wales Trail Running Championships Devil's Bridge – 30th April

Red Kite Challenge – West Wales and Welsh Trail Running Championships at Devils Bridge will be taking place on Saturday 30th April, including junior and senior races. The half marathon is a trial for the Celtic Challenge, while the under 17s race is also a trial for the WMRA International Youth Cup.

d) Electronic Gun Purchase

New starter kit / electronic gun has been purchased by JE and trialled by the start team recently for the first time at the Swansea Harriers Open Meeting.

5. Information - Reports

a) General Council

No report available.

b) Track and Field Committee

No report available.

c) Officials Committee

No additional details to add.

d) Officials Secretary

No report available.

e) Road Running/Cross Country Committee

Welsh Athletics are looking to host the Welsh Cross Country Championships at a new venue next year. Possibility of the Welsh Cross Country Relays event being reinstated. Welsh 5K road in Whitchurch and Caerphilly 10K Road Races are coming up in May. Possibility of a Podium 5K at Bute Park in August which could incorporate a home countries event.

f) FMR Committee

No report available.

g) Welfare Officer

Carl Williams has been appointed as the new Welsh Athletics Compliance and Safeguarding officer. There's a meeting on 23rd May to get all club officers up-to-date and given support. Qualified officials and coaches are to complete a safeguarding course as part of their licence.

h) West Wales Club Manager Update – Andrew Jenkins

- In regular contact with all 19 West Wales affiliated clubs, at this moment in time a particular focus on completion of the key 7 club standards to fully affiliate to Welsh Athletics with a deadline of 30th April, my support is there for those that request or need it in fulfilling the process. Scheduling of club visits and providing bespoke support when required or requested.
- The new online membership is now available to all affiliated clubs.
- May & June very, very busy with numerous schools events to support throughout Wales, although more hands on with Dyfed & Afan Nedd Tawe events.
- Coaches are advised to check the new rules on maintaining licences in relation to first aid and safeguarding training and renewals over the next cycle.

i) Financial Report

Balance at present - Community Account: £1,760.00, Savings Account: £12,480.00

- £3,000 Transferred from savings to community a/c to meet incurred costs.
- Outstanding invoices still to be received: Venue Hire Neath and Carmarthen Aug 2021 –
 Estimated £800, Bus Hire West Wales YDL Team to Yate £950
- Electronic Start System Final costs £2,380.
- All three meeting (1 at Neath, 2 at Carmarthen) held in Aug 2021 made a loss.
- Discussions ongoing regarding entry fees for future region competitions.

6. AOB

- Junior Development League Mixed feelings about the season's upcoming competitions and league formats. Clubs have signed up for the West Division fixtures, venues planned at Neath, Swansea and Carmarthen in May, July, September (three matches instead of four) There are some clashes between WA open meetings and Youth Development League.
- Looking at organising a local competition / Triangular matches / U11 championships in the West Wales region in particular U11/U13?
- 7. Date of Next Meeting Annual General Meeting Wednesday 15th June 2022 at 7:00pm

 WWRAC Meeting Wednesday 24th August 2022 at 7:00pm

ACTION POINTS:

- £150 contribution towards the photofinish equipment agreed for the Swansea Harriers Open Meeting. Swansea Harriers awaiting invoice from Welsh Athletics.
- Club officers to look at organising junior track and field events e.g Triangular match format for younger athletes in the region during the summer.