

WEST WALES REGIONAL ATHLETICS COUNCIL



Minutes – West Wales Regional Athletics Council Wednesday 8th December 2021

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Present:	Rob Champion (RC)	Chairman
	Nathan Jones (NJ)	Secretary
	Andrew Jenkins (AJ)	West Wales Club Manager
	John Elward (JE)	Officials Secretary
	Steve Hames (SH)	Officials Committee Representative – Endurance
	Dic Evans (DE)	Trail, Mountain & Fell Running Committee Representative
	Jennifer Boyce (JB)	Pembrokeshire Harriers

1. **Apologies** Les Cuthbert, Kevin Tobin, Jake Morgan
2. **Declarations of Interest** None Declared

3. Discussion

a) Matters arising from previous meeting – October 2021

Minutes from the previous meeting in October were circulated by email and were checked for accuracy. Accepted as a true record.

b) Welsh Inter Regional Cross Country Championships, West Wales Cross Country Championships and West Wales Indoor Championships 2021/2022

West Wales had a successful day at the Welsh Inter Regional Championships in Brecon on Saturday 20th November and team medals picked up in several categories. Thanks to all those involved before and on event day, including Rob Champion, Steve Hames and Tony Clements team managing.

Regional Cross Country Championships were held at Pembrey Country Park on Saturday 4th December. Regional Indoor Championships for some events were held at Cardiff on Sunday 5th December. Both went well, medals were presented to the top three juniors on the day at Pembrey, (seniors and masters age group medallists have been confirmed after results were published) and top three U13-U15-U17 in each event indoors.

Day 2 of the Welsh Athletics Junior Indoor Open (U13-U15-U17) will be on Sunday 9th January (closing date 16th December). The region requires club volunteers to help on the day (registration desk and medal presentations). Again, this is a regional indoor championships and West Wales medals will be presented to the top three on the podium.

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c) UK Youth Development League – Upper Age Group

Youth Development League UAG Dates have been confirmed, planned to change back to how the league operated in 2019. West Wales requires team manager support for the 2022 season from the region's clubs.

Match 2 at Swansea University proposed on 29th May, second choice at Cwrt Herbert, Neath if Swansea isn't available.

d) Regional Development Grant Application

The Modernisation Grant is open for applications, it will support clubs to grow and develop through 2022 and focuses around increasing engagement and growth. Regional Athletics Councils can submit grants up to £1000.

Two ideas so far in the region include marketing materials/leaflets for promoting officials/volunteering courses and chip timing for races. The deadline for applications is 10th January. <https://www.welshathletics.org/en/blog/post/boost-for-clubs-as-modernisation-grant-2022-opens-for-applications>

4. Reports

a) General Council

DE attended the last General Council meeting. Regions were asked for opinions for Inter Regional Trail Championships.

Region agreed to include Inter Regional Trail Championships into an event already planned in the calendar.

b) Track and Field Committee

No report available.

c) Officials Committee

Rhiannon outlined the course calendar for the winter and the Championship meetings for 2022. It was intended to retain the event specific meetings. She said that an Under 15 League was in their plans, but it would be in a different format and would involve a shorter timetable.

It was suggested to insert a 'maybe' on availability returns as people's circumstances and availability can change. Also, officials were going to be asked to state if they were attached to a club.

Zoe Holloway said that online training courses were suffering from dropouts after people had registered to attend a course. Therefore, it was proposed to charge a registration fee for course members which was refundable after attending.

With the launch of the 'new' UKA strategy, attempts were going to be made to arrange an extra briefing for Welsh personnel will be held on 12 January.

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d) Officials Secretary

JE has an idea to compile a leaflet to give out at Track and Field Meetings/training nights to find out anyone who is willing to train as an Official/Assistant Official or willing to help at meetings. There could be funding available to cover the cost.

From that he would hope to compile a database of volunteers who could be asked to help at meetings. If the Under 15 League resumes in a similar format to previous, then it could be possible that clubs would have to organise volunteers themselves with a few graded Officials.

JE is pursuing Nigel Jones' upgrading as he is a Level 3 for Endurance but a level 1 on the track. Nigel has worked at a lot of track meetings last summer and is keen to progress. He had completed all the paperwork to be a Level 3 some time ago, but Uka lost his records, therefore, he must start all over again to get to Level 2. He is going to submit 10 experiences for Level 2, and has asked Jeff Wickens if he can report on Nigel at the indoor meeting on December 19th. Delyth Williams has now achieved Level 2 status.

The Region supplied an average of ten officials at every Indoor meeting. An average of 45% of selected Officials came from England.

On Sunday, the start team were supposed to see the latest version of the electronic 'gun', but unfortunately it was cancelled. A new date will be arranged. If WA buy into the new system, then JE hopes to procure the old for the West. WA plan to eventually have three or more electronic starting devices, one in South, one in the North and one in the West. He could look after the West's equipment and take it to wherever it is needed. As far as WA procuring another system/s depends on cost and funding.

We now have 94 officials on our books in the West Region.

JE sat in on a meeting with Welsh Athletics about Governance and the conduct policy for officials, volunteers, and committee members.

e) Road Running/Cross Country Committee

All cross country fixtures have been confirmed in the calendar until the end of March. Teams for Celtic/Home Countries International in Dundonald (Ireland) in January being selected on 13th December. U17, U20, U23 and Senior (under IAAF Age Groups). Possible Senior fixture 5K in Battersea Park on 5th February (Armagh has been cancelled).

Warm weather training arranged for Spain and a separate group in Portugal for performance level athletes in January (may now be under threat due to Covid).

The West Wales Regional Development Day 2, due to be held at Carmarthen and Neath on Saturday 18th December has been postponed.

f) FMR Committee

Red Kite Challenge - Welsh Half Marathon Trail Championships in Devils Bridge planned for 30th April, including junior and senior races. U17 race selection for International Youth Cup mountain race in Italy and Half Marathon is a trial for the Celtic Trail Championships.

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Region agreed to host the West Wales Championships at the Red Kite Challenge again. This will help encourage more athletes to enter this event.

British Inter Countries Trail Championships will be in Llanberis, planned for 7th May. The aim is to get a West Wales team to the British Championships.

g) Welfare Officer

No report available.

h) West Wales Club Manager Update – Andrew Jenkins

West Wales Club Manager AJ outlined a number of initiatives and key club development points/reminders including:

LIRF & CIRF active coaches audit for off track clubs.

18th December regional development day is also for any coaches CPD, not just athletes

Four funding opportunities for WA Modernisation, Sport Wales Be Active & Sport Wales Crowdfunder & WA RAC annual grants

Scheduling of UK Coach Education calendar will be dictated by expressions of interest moving forward. Numerous other online CPD workshops are available

Club development plans resource and support in formulating.

Non perfect parent workshop

Affiliated clubs obligations for adopting new UKA Codes Of Conduct and having named male & female welfare officers, enhanced DBS checked with appropriate safeguarding training.

Reminder of regional volunteer award nomination process.

A brief overview of his past and future work programme.

i) Financial Report

Balance at present (December 8) - Community Account: £1,841.37, Savings Account: £15,480.53

5. **Correspondence** None

6. AOB

UK Inter Counties Cross Country Championships @ Loughborough in March – Letters to be sent out to top West Wales finishers in Brecon for interest/availability.

7. **Date of Next Meeting** Wednesday 16th February 2022 at 7:00pm

ACTION POINTS:

- JE pricing of officials recruitment promotional material
- DE pricing/quote for chip timing system
- RC distribution of email invitations for CAU Inter Counties at Loughborough