

**WELSH ATHLETICS ROAD/CROSS COUNTRY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF TEAMS MEETING WEDNESDAY 19<sup>th</sup> OCT 2022 5.15PM**

**ATTENDEES: -**

Alaw Beynon-Thomas, Alex Donald, Graham Finlayson, Steve Jones, Steve Mitchell, Nikki Haines, Kevin Tobin

**APOLOGIES : -**

Martin Green, Sharon Leech, Derek Osborne

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None

**ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING (5th Sept 2022)**

- Welsh Schools Cross Country date update. Proposed date was Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February, location already confirmed as Brecon, date now confirmed
- JW to contact Mark Munroe re Welsh inclusion in the National Stage Road Relays. AD to take this to JW  
*AD reported that JW had pursued this previously with British Athletics to no avail*
- AD to meet with WA Master's Committee to discuss fixture planning etc to avoid clashes with domestic events  
*AD noted that he had discussed the matter with Bernie and hoped that this could be avoided in future*
- Welsh Road Relays (24<sup>th</sup> September): *AD Noted that these had taken place successfully albeit there had been issues with the Open Track race management system (both entries and results). WA reviewing to see how this can be improved in the future*
- Mini Marathon (1<sup>st</sup> October): *SM reported that this had been very successful. Event to revert to April next year (2023) but stil likely to take place over the shorter distance (2.6k) and on the Saturday before the main race*
- Cardiff Cross Challenge (15<sup>th</sup> October): *All agreed that this had been very successful although similar issues with Open Track entry and result system (see above Welsh Road Relays)*
- Welsh Marathon Championships held within London Marathon 2<sup>nd</sup> October, Alaw Beynon-Thomas and Russel Bentley the two Welsh Champions
- European 50km Championships: Andy Davies 3<sup>rd</sup>, Dan Nash 7<sup>th</sup>

## CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- SM received notification from Rob Cameron that the North of England has changed their inter-regional fixture from Leeds Abbey Dash to Trafford 10km which is Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March. It would be better to have a Welsh team in a race competing against other representative teams and so SM proposed swapping Leeds for Trafford, requesting the Committee's views. SM confirmed that Trafford does not clash with Inter Counties XC. SL queried that the Big Half may be a week after Trafford, which would not be ideal. SL proposed Barcelona Half as an alternative to the proposed Big Half, as it's good course and weather will be better, it has also proved a good race for our elite athletes in previous years. SM suggested Barcelona be a tier 3 representative event for selected athletes, SL suggested it be added to the calendar. SJ agreed an overseas representative opportunity needs to be offered to athletes. SJ, SL, ABT, DO, NH all agreed that the Trafford 10K a good alternative to Leeds.
- GF emailed the dates of the Cardiff Whitchurch 5K, Caerphilly 10K (both Welsh Champs) and the SSAFA series, to be added to the events calendar, as confirmed by AD
- RLP emailed SL to ask her to contact Eamonn Martin to inform him that Wales would not be sending a team to the HCI at Milton Keynes. SL replied that the Committee were under the impression that the HCI would be at Scotland in January, possibly Perth on 14<sup>th</sup>, as AD had mentioned in September's meeting. AD confirmed that Scotland have abandoned this plan, due to budget restrictions, so although one of the Home Countries may yet offer to host, it's unlikely. England are at present pressing ahead with MK in November, although Scotland will not be attending. SJ (DO in agreement) voiced concerns about the possibility of losing these fixtures, the HCI and Celtics. Previously they were hosted on a rotation basis, if they are not held, then there is even less opportunity for the U20 age group to compete. SL proposed the Committee consider an U20 team for the MK as preparation for Liverpool and the European trials
- RLP replied to above emails that she would take the concerns re U20 opportunities to the Competitions Working Group, as the same concerns were raised by the T&F committee earlier in the year
- AD emailed Eamonn to explain that Wales were not planning to send teams, then SM sent an email to confirm that sending a full complement of Senior and U20 teams would be beneficial, having had confirmation from EM that England, Northern Ireland, North of England, England Midlands, South of England, Combined Services would all

have a team, there may also be a few individual Irish athletes. Committee agreed, SM circulated a selection policy to be advertised to athletes on 28<sup>th</sup> September, selection meeting held 18<sup>th</sup> October 2022

- DO queried the age-groups for the IR/ IS Cross Country Championships, AD replied with the following information:  
**Inter-Regional Championships**  
U13 - U17: 15 team members with 8 to score  
U20: 15 team members with 4 to score  
Seniors: 15 team members and 8 to score  
Masters: 35, 45, 55: 15 team members per age group and 5 to score. 65+ 5 team members and 3 to score
- JW emailed to confirm that SM has been made permanent in his WA role as National Endurance Talent Development Coordinator. He will attend Road/Cross Committee meetings as a representative of the Performance team, AD will attend as a domestic competition/ events representative. James Thie and RLP need only attend if invited on a specific matter, hence will no longer receive the minutes (minutes are available on the website)
- SM emailed to see if Committee agreed to sending teams to Armagh in February, CJ voiced his support, as did MG and NH, SL replied that she'd thought this had already been agreed in September. SM to confirm Wales' attendance

## DISCUSSIONS

- **Armagh**  
SM confirmed that it was the intention of the Performance Team to send Senior Men's and Women's Teams to compete at Armagh (over 5k and 3k respectively- 4 per Team) with the agreement of the Committee: Agreed to proceed
- **Communications**  
Agreed by all that notifications re representative fixtures, selection policies etc. should be published on the news section of the Welsh Athletics web site and not just social media
- **British Universities and Colleges (BUCS) Cross Country**  
GF/AD confirmed that they had been contacted by BUCS with a view to hosting the annual Cross Country Championship in Cardiff in Feb 2023

## FIXTURES

### DOMESTIC

- IR/IS Cross Country 19<sup>th</sup> November Monmouthshire Showground
- Welsh Cross Country 25<sup>th</sup> February 2023 Brecon

- Cardiff 5K (inc. Welsh 5K Championships), Whitchurch 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023
- Caerphilly 10K (inc. Welsh 10K Championships), 14<sup>th</sup> May 2023

### REPRESENTATIVE

- Home Countries International Cross Country 12<sup>th</sup> November Milton Keynes (Sen/U20)
- Armagh 5K Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023 (level 2 representative)
- Inter Area match Trafford 10K 5<sup>th</sup> March 2023 (level 1 representative)
- Anglo Celtic Cup 100km Champs April 2023 (level 1 representative)
- The Big Half Spring 2023 **or** an alternative (tbc) (level 2 representative)
- Inter-Counties Cross Country 11<sup>th</sup> March 2023
- Summer 5K Podium (tbc) (level 1 representative) probably to be hosted by Scotland

### SCHOOLS

- Inter Schools Cross Country combined with Inter Regionals 19<sup>th</sup> November Monmouthshire
- Welsh Schools Cross Country Champs 15<sup>th</sup> February Brecon
- SIAB Cross Country 25<sup>th</sup> March Sefton Park Liverpool (level 2 representative)
- Mini Marathon London Marathon Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2023

### **PERFORMANCE**

Reported as follows:

- Regional Development Programme – training days had been successfully held across all regions over the weekend of 8<sup>th</sup> October
- National Development Programme – 14 endurance athletes have been selected for the programme
- Welsh Futures – candidates have yet to be selected
- Representative fixtures – Performance Team to publish details of all opportunities together with selection policies for upcoming events in November

### **DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

- Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2022 5.15pm. Microsoft Teams invite will be sent to members for another virtual meeting