



East Wales Regional Athletic Council

Minutes of East Wales Regional Athletic Council, 11th November 2019, 7:00pm Newport Stadium.

Present:

Bethan Akanbi-Mortimer (BAM) (Secretary), Joyce Tomala (JT) (Cwmbran), Hilary Goodger (HG) (Newport) (Vice Chair), Jeanette Jenkins (JJ) (Fairwater Runners), Martyn Jenkins (MJ) (Fairwater Runners), Richard Sheehy (RS) (Parc Bryn Bach), Peter Sowerby (PS) (Brecon AC), Ryan Spencer Jones (RSJ) (WA), Lynette Harries (LH) (President of WA), Keith Matthews KM) (Treasurer), Dick Finch (DF) (Chepstow), Andrew Dickens (AD) (Torfaen Runners), Lou Summers LS) (Torfaen Runners), Emma Wookey (EW) (Lliswery Runners), Lyn Cushing (LC) (T & F Officials Secretary), Chris Vorres (CV) (Chair),

Apologies:

Kirsty Crance (KC), Peter Hitchings (PS); Gerry Ashton (GA); Ruth Powell (RP), Carolyn, Jon Hancock (Usk)

1. **CONFLICT OF INTEREST** (new declarations)
 - A. no new declarations were raised
2. **ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:**
 - A. EWRAC Mountain & Fell Representative
 - a. A representative for Mountain and Fell is required: John Like was interested but unable to at present because of personal circumstances. Alan Wood is also interested but not given a definitive answer either way. Andrew Dickens is keen to take over on Mountain and Fell Team Manager position as well as Mountain & Fell Representative. It was agreed that Andrew Dickens would take on the position going forward.
 - B. Confirmation of webmaster and launch date

CV reported that feedback had only been received from DF and he had asked how soon can we get results on there? Format of results is still to be agreed and decision about the best format needs to be considered. Website is virtually complete. The 'Event' page is having some enhancements. Selected people will have access to the website, they will have own login and it will be simple to use. Nathan will be invited along to give training. Different email addresses will also be set up and Team Managers will be able to use it for selection purposes. Monies have still not been received from WA but CV had been told to go ahead. CV reported that there were no images available

ACTION 1: All members to request images of East Wales athletes from clubs; permission must be gained for these from both the photographer and the athletes or parent/guardians.
 - C. Dissemination of Code of Conduct

RSJ confirmed that Code of Conducts had been sent out already and that it was also available on the WA website.

3. DISCUSSION:

A. Feedback from East Regional Sub Groups

A meeting was held prior to tonight's meeting to try and finalise the format for the EW Regional Road Races for 2019. 3 out of the 4 races have been agreed. There is a possibility of a new 5k race. The scoring format is still to be agreed following criticism that 10 runners was too many as some clubs were not able to field sufficient numbers. Mixed team scoring has been discussed but further discussion is needed before it's finalised.

B. Update on XC Team Managers

Faye Johnson and Damian Williams have taken on new role but have stressed that they are still Shadowing DF and Niki Morgan at present.

C. Update on East Wales Kit Stock & Kit Coordinator

a. JT has sent out Kit Stock document (attached) KM has ordered new stock but reported that we are still low on some sizes (e.g. Large Mens). JT requested that someone take on the role of Kit Coordinator going forward ready for the upcoming XC races. Lou Summers offered to take on this role and this was agreed. BAM asked re: smaller sizes for juniors and was reassured by JT that the smallest vests should be small enough. Clarification was sought by AD regards the re-ordering of kit once stock had reduced.

b. KM agreed to put kit prices together to be distributed to clubs. Prices will be dropped (with the exception of the crop tops). Younger kit will be reduced to £10, normal kit to £14, Crop Tops, £18. KM reported that £40-£50 of kit was lost each year due to borrowed kit not being able to be re-sold.

c. KM reported that there was enough kit to get through the XC but new kit would be needed for the summer. Current prices are £11.16 per vest inc. VAT. JJ suggested using Ruggerbug going forward as they are happy to supply small numbers and can set up an online shop to order from, 10% goes back to the club and eliminating the need for a Kit Coordinator. DF envisaged that XC athletes would use more than 50% of the current stock levels. KM emphasised the importance of using up current stock first before changing suppliers. BAM asked KM for a minimum stock level and it was suggested that an update be given on stock numbers after the last XC race in March. It was suggested that the empty kit sizes be sent to Ruggerbug to be ordered.

d. JT suggested that Sweatshirts and Polo Shirts be provided for the Team Managers. James Williams had provided JT with the details of the WA supplier who is local to the region.

ACTION 2: JJ to approach Ruggerbug for the costings of vests and online shop from March/April time.

ACTION 3: JT to pass on web link for Team Managers Kit to BAM

Funding from WA

a. KM reminded us that the Region would need to put together a bid going forward for monies from WA.

b. Development plans will need to be written by the regions for any future bids. JT asked if there was a template available following trial in other regions as there was a need for it to be the same across regions. LH

reiterated the importance of getting this done quickly and reported that there would be a period of transition going forward in WA and it was not yet known how the Finance Group was going to operate going forward, and what the structure will look like.

c. CV suggested that a Development Plan be discussed straight away and asked members what the region's Aims and Objectives were. The following items were discussed as a starting point:

- * Raise profile of EW as a region within the clubs in EW so that other clubs are aware of the existence in the region. More athletes want to compete and gain a regional vest. (Hopefully website will help with communication difficulties)

- * 2 Development Days to develop the EW Regional Endurance Teams. EW Athletes and those on the cusp of being EW athletes to be invited to motivate athletes to progress (most recent day – 50 athletes had attended).

- * Track & Field Regional Development Days for juniors to extended from throws and jumps to other disciplines.

- * Club Development – flyers were taken to clubs when region was GWENT

- * LC suggested that the Region give vests to all regional winners.

- * RS suggested a 'Regional Olympics' to raise the profile of the region incorporating all disciplines in one day. CV suggested a Festival of Running instead as they seem to be more popular at the moment. The practicalities of hosting such events were discussed.

- * LH suggested including the development of Officials and Coaches into the plan. JT reported that there was money available for this through Community Chest but clubs were not utilising this funding stream enough.

ACTION 4: RSJ to follow up request for Development Plan template from WA.

D. Roles and Responsibilities for the EW Regional Indoor Champs

BAM reported that clubs had received an email regarding the roles and responsibilities for the upcoming event. Jobs include registration, medal ceremonies and front desk. BAM suggested that the duties be shared amongst the clubs that have athletes entered, as per the league events. HG reported that allocating times for each club to cover had worked well in other events. LC reported that she emailed the clubs in the region regarding this and had not received any responses. Permission was sought from the region to contact the clubs to allocate time slots for non-officiating duties. This was agreed. LC confirmed entry numbers to date for Day One: RVAC (24), Newport Harriers (40), Cwmbran (7), Brecon (4), BGAC (4).

- * CV suggested that this should be a condition of entry and suggested that a sub-group be set up to discuss the issues raised.

- * JJ suggested that 'Development of Officials and Volunteers' be added to the development plan and cited confidence amongst parents as a possible obstacle. LC confirmed this was going to be addressed in the T & F Officials update later.

- * LH suggested contacting WA for an updated list of Technical and Non-Technical Officials.

E. Dates for next year's EWRAC meetings:

a. Suggested Dates for 2019 based on General Council Dates (either week before or week after):

Wednesday 16th January

Wednesday 13th March

Wednesday 15th May

Wednesday 3rd July (AGM followed by meeting)

Wednesday 11th September

Wednesday 13th November

b. CV put forward the suggestion that 2 meetings be held in venues in the North of the Region. This was discussed and PS confirmed that Brecon AC appreciated the gesture but as the representative from Brecon, Newport was more convenient due to work commitments. JT also confirmed that when meetings had been held in the North, no representatives from the North had attended. JJ suggested contacting the clubs to ask why they don't attend. JT reported that the South Region use social media to let clubs know when the next meeting would be held.

ACTION 5: BAM to email clubs in the region and ask for reasons as to why they don't attend regional meetings.

4. REPORTS:

A. Network Officers' Reports (RSJ) – see attached

Ryan Spencer-Jones report disseminated to all clubs. – also attached.

- a. Timetable for Clubs Conference
- b. Schools XC dates – over 2500 children in the school's races.
- c. High Jump Foundation Days – BAM requested that booking details be made be clear on the adverts. RSJ to speak to Stephen Bailey regarding this but RSJ confirmed that it was open to anyone.
- d. New UKA Safeguarding Process – all coaches in the club should have an email regarding this and from April 2019 it's a requirement that all coaches will have to complete the online course regardless of whether they have recently completed a course. JT that it was highly likely that Officials will have to do this also.
- e. UKA Throws Safety Guidance - link to important update on RSJ's report.
- f. 'Shot in the Dark' Shot Put competition – online entries
- g. Education Online Modules

Action 6: RSJ to ask for an update on sprints program

B. Financial Report (KM) – see attached

a. KM asked for clarification on if we holding a YDL final in Wales this year as in previous years monies for hosting had be split 60/40 across the regions. JT confirmed that it would but that it would be hosted by EW only.

b. There will be a deficit this year. The size of which will be determined by whether we pay for coaches to the XC Champs. If we do, deficit is likely to be in the region of £2000. Every year up until now the regions have had £4000 from WA (this comes from membership money) the region also gets £1500 worth of medals. Over a 2-year period, all Officials in the region have also received a free yearbook along with a copy for each club. KM confirmed that going forward this £4000 wouldn't be automatically given. Any funding will have to be bid for and without it we would have to be more

careful. Concerns were raised by members that the region was being penalised by WA for managing its finances. JT has requested clarification from James Williams on whether there is a limit on the amount of funding that will be given.

- c. RSJ confirmed the need for regions to make sure that the money received from WA is used and not just sat on.
- d. PS requested the need for it to be reflected in the Development Plan that the region would like to be able to afford to continue to provide team coaches for matches and vests to be gifted to all Regional Champions to encourage participation. CV encouraged all clubs to email with ideas for the development plan.

C. Officials.

a. Endurance – see attached update from Gerry Ashton

- 1. Concerns regarding paper reports going missing in Cardiff. Reports have been sent to Jackie in WA but confirmation is required going forward because of a change of structure in the office.
- 2. LH updated on mentoring scheme for Endurance officials – WA would like to offer this initiative as a pilot and would like each region to identify a mentor for 2 or 3 individuals who would like to be supported. All information will be on the WA website.

ACTION 7: BAM to write to James Williams for clarification (in all disciplines) as to who the reports are to be sent to in WA going forward, and if we don't get replies back who do we need to follow it up with.

b. T & F (LC) - Update from Lyn Cushing:

- 1. RVAC recently held Officiating Courses at club - 5 RVAC parents attended Field Officiating and H & S courses, 4 parents attended the Track Official Course.
- 2. 2 further parents to attend field and H & S Training.
- 3. Officials Development Day to be held in Blaenau Gwent in March (date tbc) – it will cover all disciplines and Darran Williams may also attend. Open to all East Wales Clubs to have a go and under 11 athletes to compete in an informal setting.
- 4. Outstanding DBS checks from Brecon clubs
- 5. Outstanding license still outstanding for Newport Coach who has waited over 6 months – this has been taken up with WA and UKA to no avail.

D. Other reports.

a. WA General Council (JT) – report attached

- 1. Chair thanked LC for all the help over the previous years as secretary.
- 2. Chris Moss gave presentation on Club Development including Club Portal and Club affiliation Process.
- 3. Grassroots Grant- reviewing and renaming and aligning to modernisation process. Details have not yet been received.

b. Cross-Country/Road (PS)

- 1. Dates and venues for the Welsh Championships are on the WA website.

2. The committee has been selecting which fixtures will have opportunity for athletes to gain a Welsh Vest. Discussions re: Team Selections. First step is for athletes to express an interest in competing. Selection standard criteria is posted on the WA website for the Celtic Internationals and Barcelona ½ Marathon.

c. Track & Field and Fixtures (JT) – see attached report for details, summary of important points below:

1. WA will contact clubs to find out if they want to take over the league.
2. Inter-Regional Champs – JT has proposed that U20 & Senior Age Groups be removed from the regional and Inter Regional Champs due to low numbers and if necessary, nominate events where the Regional Champs could be incorporated. This was agreed by members.
3. It was proposed that the South/East Wales Regional Champs will be held in Aberdare. Only drawback to the fantastic facility is that food is not provided for officials onsite on a weekend. Parking is free.
4. Proposed dates for the forthcoming season. Please can clubs take the time to read the report as there are lots of dates on there.

d. Welfare:

1. JT was pleased that clubs now seem to be correctly reporting Welfare concerns.

5. Any Other Business

- a. JT concerned that the Sprints & Hurdles Coordinators have not presented to the region, when all other disciplines have presented.

ACTION 8: RSJ to chase and BAM to email.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 16th January, 6:30 pm

Attachments:

RSJ Report
Finance Report
Endurance Officials Report
General Council Report
Track & Field / Fixtures Report