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WELSH ATHLETICS
ATHLETAU CYMRU

MOUNTAIN & TRAIL RUNNING COMMITTEE MEETING

7:45pm THURSDAY 26th JANUARY 2023 VIA TEAMS

- 1. MEMBERS PRESENT:** Neal Hockley (NH) Sharon Jones (SJ) Arwel Lewis (AL) Steve Livett (SL) Tom Meredith (TM) Steve Mitchell (SM – WA Representative) Matthew Roberts (MR) and Peter Ryder (PR)
- 2. APOLOGIES:** Mike Blake.
- 3. INTRODUCTIONS:** All expressed their concerns for the welfare of Dic Evans and wished him a speedy recovery.
- 4. ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** a) (AL) The entries for the Red Kite Challenge have gone live. Tom Roberts is now the lead event organiser with Dic in his current predicament. (NH) queried the junior race age groups as being out of synch with UKA guidelines, the trial race for the U18 Mountain Running Cup is noted on the Red Kite event website and paper entry forms as being under 17 for years of birth 2006, 2007 when it should be under 18 (AL) to contact Tom to clarify and check if everything is in order for the event to go ahead as planned and if they required any assistance from Welsh Athletics? (SJ) highlighted the requirement for maps of the race route available for athletes and race information (How many laps etc) (SL) Emphasised the requirement for a deadline date for entries to the Welsh Trail running championships and for those eligible athletes to confirm if they are available for the U/18 Cup., with such a short timescale following selection and event logistics. (SM) Apologised for not being able to attend the event at Devils Bridge due to other athletics commitments but available via phone for the selection meeting after the event. A.2) British & Irish Junior Championships. (NH) Due to the uncertainty of utilising WFRA licenced events, possibly best not to use one of the WFRA North or South junior fell running series this year and to organise a standalone event on the previously agreed date of Saturday 22nd July. (SJ) to explore the Gregynog area for suitable race routes (MR) Suggested the Fron area near Caernarfon where there are ample race routes already in place and an old School for use as an event HQ. (MR) and (AL) to investigate. (AL) to confirm the B&I race distances and height gain/loss in communication with Scottish Athletics. (SM) enquired about the teams travel arrangements for the B&I (SL) confirmed the best option, as done in the past was for himself to drive one minibus for the Mid and South Wales athletes and (AL) to drive another from the North. b) Wales International Vests Tier System (SM) Still an on-going process and one that W/A new head of performance will have some input on. C) Trial Race for the Senior Home International. (Cader Idris) (PR) confirmed that he had liaised with the event organiser and that all athletes capable of selection for the SHI, those who are interested have entered the event via the guaranteed entry system. (d) Selection Policies, Flexibility. (SM) All selection policies have been published on the Welsh Athletics website. (e) Dialogue with the WFRA. In the previous meeting, Alex Donald was to liaise with the WFRA (PR) to liaise with Alex on any outcomes

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regarding licensing, dual or otherwise.

(f) Trofeo Vanoni. (SM) confirmed the gender equality decision to send the equal number of male and female athletes to the event, whereas 3 male athletes are required to run as a relay team, the female event is not a relay and run individually, if the selection criteria are not fulfilled by our female athletes, we could end up sending any number of 1, 2 or 3 athletes to the event? (MR) confirmed the date for the event as being Sunday 22nd October which is unfortunate as it clashes with the British Fell Running Relays, one of the most popular events in the fell racing calendar that may deter some of our athletes from being available for Italy? (g) Regional Championships. (PR) confirmed what all other regional representatives are currently encountering, most, fell, mountain running events in Wales are licenced through the WFRA, Welsh Athletics events remit is to be licenced by British Athletics via Welsh Athletics which has more stringent licensing requirements, The course must be fully marked, or clear and obvious, Must have a qualified Race Referee and have the correct level of first aid cover which could be subject to discretion? (NH) First Aid is not necessarily required at the start/finish of fell/mountain running races, fine to have an organisation similar to St John Ambulance at the finish, at a substantial extra cost to the race organisers but, there is more of a requirement to have the first aid cover on the actual race routes. Most events use qualified first aiders and mountain rescue teams on the mountains at a minimal cost, usually a donation to Mountain rescue of an amount that suits both parties.

5. **DEVELOPMENT DAYS:** (SM) confirmed the development day dates, North and South Wales as Sunday 16th April. (PR or TM) to coordinate the South event along with Hannah Hopkinson? (PR) to confirm her availability? (NH) to lead the North event alongside (SJ) and (SL) as support staff. (SM) to ensure that there is funding available for the event coordinators and support staff. Venues to be confirmed, possibly North – Plas y Brenin and South Cribyn? (NH) At the British Junior Inter-Counties event at Church Stretton on 24th June. It would be beneficial for the Welsh regions to gather for familiarisation. Several of the athletes from each region will undoubtedly be competing for Wales in the near future.
6. **Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 30th March at 1945**