

## **WELSH ATHLETICS MOUNTAIN & TRAIL RUNNING COMMITTEE MEETING THURSDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> JANUARY 2025 ON-LINE VIA TEAMS MEETING at 7:45pm**

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- 1. Attendees:** Mike Blake (MB) Dic Evans (DE) Sharon Jones (SJ) Arwel Lewis (AL) Tom Meredith (TM) Steve Mitchell (SM) Peter Ryder (PR)
- 2. Apologies:** Alex Donald. Neal Hockley. Steve Livett. Matthew Roberts. Owain Sciavone.
- 3. Actions from previous meeting/Key Points:** (SM) The link to the Welsh (Long) Mountain running Championships (Llanbedr-Blaenafon) is now on the Welsh Athletics website. (MB) who was congratulated for organising/coordinating the 2024 British (Long) Mountain Running Championships (Pedol Peris) iterated that it was a mammoth effort with 39 personnel involved on the day with the logistics for the event. (SM) to contact (NH) for a date for the North RDP day. Relevant information regarding the RDP's to be provided on SPOND.
- 4. Nasego Mountain Running Six Nations Update/Home International:** (SM) has contacted the Nasego race officials to confirm our interest in participating in the event with probably the same athletes competing in both the vertical (4.2km/1000m) and the up and down (21.5km/1330m) event on consecutive days. The event is in line with Welsh Athletics athlete competition policies to progress to GB representative level in contrast to the Trofeo Vanoni Relay race. Regarding trial races for both Nasego events (MB) suggested Y Garn (Rhyd Ddu as a possible Vertical trial race venue? at this late stage, it was decided that athletes will be requested to provide expressions of interest to compete in the Nasego international. (SM) In the near future, we should have an uphill only championships event. (SM) has contacted the other Home Nations for their opinion regarding the senior home international/Snowdon Race. The feed back was that the other home nations athletes value the home international more than the Snowdon race. The home international is usually the GB trial race while the Snowdon race is a difficult race to recover from and does not fit in with some of the athletes' racing plans. On the other hand, following last year's athletes survey, Welsh athletes value the Snowdon race much more than the home international! Continue to support the home international/Snowdon race with the athletes self-funding their participation in the events. There are discussions underway regarding funding/development support programmes for our elite mountain/trail/ultra running athletes who would be expected to compete in GB trial races.
- 5. Red Kite Challenge – Senior/Junior Trial Race Updates:** (DE) The event venue has been booked for 3<sup>rd</sup> May but currently, there is no organising committee, who have all stood down, no entry/results system and no event paperwork has been completed, and though (DE) is still enthusiastic and keen to organise the event, while appreciating all the hard work that (DE) has put into organising the Red Kite event for a number of years, we are uncertain whether the Red Kite event will go ahead this year? it was reluctantly decided to make the difficult decision to move the U18 Mountain Cup and Trail de Guerledan trial races to other suitable venues. The Nant yr Arian Trail Half Marathon on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March to be the Trail de Guerledan trial race event. Nant yr Arian is near the Red Kite

venue and was (DE) original Red Kite Challenge venue. (SM) to contact the Nant yr Arian event organisers. (MB) suggested the Fron Four race venue (Y Fron, nr Caernarfon) as the venue for the U18 Mountain Running Cup on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April. The Sugar Loaf junior event on 12<sup>th</sup> April was considered but (TM) along with (PR) were concerned about the lack of facilities at the event venue. Note: It is hopeful the Red Kite Challenge event will be back on the race calendar, if not this year, from next year onwards to carry on Dic Evans legacy.

6. **British & Irish Junior Mountain Running Championships:** The difficult decision was also made to re-locate the B&I Junior international due to the uncertainty of the Devils Bridge event going ahead. (MB) has a junior event in the race calendar for Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September on the Great Orme in Llandudno as a possible B&I event venue. B&I event logistics, accommodation, race routes to be discussed.
  7. **UKA Fell & Hill Relays Update:** (AL) has sent the latest information from the Meirionnydd Running Club organising committee with the event race routes currently being finalised with the UKA Fell Relays coordinator.
  8. **Anglo Celtic Plate – Selections Update:** (SM) The first phase of selection has taken place early this month. 4 men and 1 female selected. The 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of selection will take place on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March after the Barry Track 40mile event.
  9. **Off-Track Coaching Qualifications/Under 12:** (SM) Chris Moss has clarified and emailed (NH) with clarification on coaching U/12's (SM) to email the response to (TM)
  10. **2026 Trail Running Championships:** (Beast of the Bryn/Bwystfil-y-Bryn – 6.5m/288m & 10.5m/556m) race organisers have requested being a trail running championships event next year (2026) race routes encompass the mountains of Afan Forest Park near Maesteg (AL-PR) confirmed the recent news that the Coed-y-Brenin venue will cease to organise running events after next months Winter Trail Half Marathon. We still require a (Long) trail running championships for this year. <https://gotrail.run/en/race/beast-of-bryn/2025-08-17>
  11. **Date of next meeting:** Due to the prolonged meeting, committee to meet again on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January at 1945 to ratify and clarify issues from the meeting
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