

WMAA Minutes from meeting 30 September 2015 at the Sandmartin, Leckwith

Present: Mel James (Chair), John Collins, Cath Alford, Sue Hooper, Rob Hooper, Eirian Arwyn, Rachel Matthews (minutes), Brett Davis, Brian Webb

Apologies: John Davies

Opening Address: The chairman thanked everyone for attending and noted that there will be quite a lot to cover as the committee has not met for quite some time, the previous committee meeting was on 20 May 2015 and the AGM 14 June 2015.

Acceptance of minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true record.

Proposer: Brett Davis, Seconder: Sue Hooper

Matters Arising:

WMAA vests – the treasurer highlighted the need for better accounting of vests bought and sold. Going forward, treasurer to raise cheque for any stock bought, then records to be kept of kit when it is sold to tally against the moneys being paid back into the account.

Indoor medal costs - The treasurer confirmed that a cheque has been received from Welsh Athletics for their contribution to the costs of the Indoor medals.

Audit of WMAA accounts – Huw Roberts has kindly agreed again to audit the accounts. Rob passed the accounts to Eirian during the meeting so that she can deliver them to Huw.

Matters arising from chairman's report 20 May:

- Manchester University project still underway with them proposing to fit transponders to recruits.
- BMAF Kit – following the unsatisfactory standard of the kit received, notice has been given to cancel the contract with the current suppliers and there will be a new supplier in place for next year.
- BMAF magazine - the decision has been made to go digital however there is currently a vacancy for the Editor's position (following Brian Owen's retirement) and there will not be any publications until a new Editor has been appointed. **Action** – Sue to put a notice on the website saying that once a new editor is appointed there will be a free online copy of the magazine which members can access. For those who still wish to have a hard copy this can be obtained through a subscription fee, BMAF to confirm details in due course.
- The decision on the uplift to BMAF fees will now be made at the council meeting in November.

2018 WMAA hosting XC International – Mel confirmed that Swansea Council are interested in getting involved and hosting the event, helping with the banquet venue (potentially Brangwyn Hall) and XC course (potentially Singleton Park). Nigel Jones, special events manager, is our main contact. **Action** – Mel & John C to liaise with the council.

WMAA Track and Field championships standards – as agreed at AGM we must produce a final set of standards which will apply to the outdoor championships and make these available for our members well in advance of the competition date. **Action** – Eirian to send the amended standards to Brett so that he can analyse them and present with any further changes to the committee for approval at the next committee meeting.

Vice Chair / men's team manager's report

Brett Davis reported on the Inter area competition which took place in Solihull in July this year: the highlight for me was seeing Matt in the M35 walk, the first one he has done in his life. It was not a fast performance however he concentrated very hard on his technique and came home with the necessary points, where other teams were unlucky in being disqualified. The weather started off dismal but by the time of the competition it was perfect. The Welsh men displayed great team spirit and overall in my personal experience this was the best inter-area competition I have been to. The Welsh team presence stood out and there was a lot of pride from the members in representing the WMAA. There were many people also competing with injuries, a lot of strapping and bandages on display! Glyn Sutton did himself and the WMAA proud with his European record over 100m, well done Glyn.

Membership secretary's report:

WMAA now up to 371 members (from 303 reported at the last committee meeting). Again we expect to see a rise in members due to the recruitment of people for the cross country international. Sue confirmed that she is now sending Peter Kennedy updated lists every 4 weeks.

Treasurer's report:

Rob Hooper ran through the accounts for period 29 Dec 14 to 29 Aug 15. Bank Statement 81 plus accruals. A small loss was made on the championships this year. Overall Rob estimates a small loss this year once all of the membership has been paid to the BMAF. This is something we need to keep an eye on but the overall position of the association at this point in time is healthy.

Correspondence:

A letter was received from Paul Brooks of WA (dated 25.08.15) regarding a Masters International (Home Nations) road race to be held within a major Welsh 10K race such as Swansea Bay, Cardiff or Caerphilly. WA will organise and provide some funding from the 2016/7 road running budget and WMAA would have voting rights in the selection of the teams and team managers. **Action** – Rachel to reply that we agree with the proposal in principle but wish to discuss the details, specifically the proposed scoring system which we would wish to challenge.

Track and Field:

Outdoor Championships

The outdoor track and field champs went well overall this year and the Chairman thanked the T&F Committee for their hard work. The Committee discussed some ways of improving:

- Mel commented that the outdoor champs could do with more atmosphere and this could be achieved through hiring an official announcer to provide live commentary and also some music.
- Rob mentioned that the event really needs to have a clerk of the course / meeting manager. Someone who can take overall responsibility for issues on the day, can coordinate things and deal with any on the day problems, communicate with ground staff and make sure all the equipment is out.
Action: advertise a couple of months in advance of the champs for someone to fill this role.

Cath mentioned that she had received a compliment from a competitor that the WMAA champs were the only one to include the heavy weight. Off the back of this the idea of hosting a throws pentathlon was put forward as there could be strong interest in it. Could possibly hold within a WA grand prix event? Develop the idea further, Cath sound it out with contacts, e.g. Adrian Palmer.

Indoor Championships

Sue reported that James Williams of WA has approached them regarding the need to have talks about the indoor champs and what options we have for them this year. **Action** – Sue has an officials meeting next week where it will be discussed and she will then report back to the Committee.

NB – BMAF Indoor Champs are on 12/13 March 2016.

Indoor Inter-area

It was agreed that we will be looking to enter a team again this year. The team managers for this will be Brett Davis (men) and Roger Garland (women). Mel has volunteered to organise a coach. Cath suggested we approach Helen Coles for a comparative quote as well as Ferris who we have used in the past. It was also agreed that a contribution to costs could be made by those travelling on the coach and this could be mentioned in the selection letters / emails.

Outdoor track and field league

Cath reported that the t&f committee will wait until the fixture list is produced by WA in Oct/Nov before setting the WMAA league dates and venues.

There is a problem with using Jenner Park for a match as the facilities only allow for the shot put and each of the league matches needs to incorporate at least 2 throwing events. So we are faced with a dilemma of what venues to use and whether to hold two matches at the same place?

John Elward has appealed for us to hold the Brecon meeting earlier in the year as it gets darker/colder there later in the season and there is generally more travel involved. The t&f committee agreed and will aim to put the Brecon meeting in July.

As per the outdoor champs, it would really help to have a “meeting manager” for each of the league matches.

Cross Country:

Bernie Jones (Men’s team manager), Mick McGeoch, Mel James and John Collins along with Ali Whitlaw (Women’s team manager) will meet regarding the selection of the International XC team in Rhayader the Weds after the Gwent league. Expenses approved by Committee for this.

AOB:

Membership form – add a request for members to include a home and a mobile number to make it easier for team managers when selecting teams. **Action** – Sue update membership form, also put a notice on the website for members to contact us to update their contact details if they have changed.

Men’s 3000m race (race 15) results from Brecon league match still missing. **Action** – Eirian to email Rachel a copy of the results to update the sheet and get up onto website.

Mel reported that John Evans set what would have been a new GB M80 record for LJ/TJ at the Welsh indoors but it wasn’t ratified at the time. He didn’t realise he had to report it himself at the time and unfortunately it can’t be taken as a record.

Date of next meeting: Weds 25th November, 7pm the Sandmartin, Leckwith

Annex A

Record of Actions

| <u>ID</u> | <u>Action</u> | <u>Progress</u> | <u>Status</u> |
|-----------|---|---|---------------|
| 01/10/8b | Sue put item on website calling members to form a discussion group on the future of WMAA with regards to WA affiliation. | Potentially ongoing but the issue has cooled off for now. | Open |
| 20/05/1 | Rob raise invoice to WA for medals used at Indoor Champs (50% cost of 104 medals) | Payment received. | Closed |
| 20/05/2 | T&F committee to finalise standards and then get them out on the website. Eirian to email set to Brett for analysis then present to Committee for approval. | Ongoing. Draft set to be presented at next committee meeting for approval (25/11/15). | Open |
| 20/05/2 | Eirian ask Huw Roberts if he can audit the association's accounts. | Huw agreed. Accounts taken by Eirian to give to Huw. Await results of his audit. | Open |
| 30/09/1 | Sue put notice on website to explain situation regarding the BMAF magazine. i.e. once a new editor is appointed it will be available online with the option for a paid subscription for those who want a hard copy. | | Open |
| 30/09/2 | Mel/John liaise with Swansea Council regarding hosting the 2018 Masters Cross Country International. | | Open |
| 30/09/3 | Rachel reply to letter from Paul Brooks regarding the proposed Masters International 10K Road Race. | | Open |
| 30/09/4 | Clerk of the course / meeting manager required for Championships and League matches. Advertise in advance for volunteers for these roles. | | Open |
| 30/09/5 | Indoor Champs – Sue to report back from WA officials meeting regarding potential to collaborate with WA. | | Open |

| | | | |
|---------|---|--|------|
| 30/09/6 | Sue update membership form to capture people's home and mobile numbers. Put notice on web for members to inform us if change to contacts details. | | Open |
| 30/09/7 | Eirian email Rachel men's 3000m (race 15) results from Brecon match to update sheet. | | Open |