



Carmarthen and District Harriers Committee Meeting – Ivy Bush Hotel – Carmarthen Wednesday 8th November 2017 19:00-22:00

Present: Hedydd Davies, Nathan Jones, Jake Morgan, Neil Thomas, Alison Thomas, Carol Jones, Mike Rees, Ralph Siggery & Andrew Lloyd-Hughes.

Apologies: from Cressy Morgan, Jane Batten & Hayley John

The minutes of meeting held on 20th September 2017 were checked for accuracy. In agreement, the minutes were accepted as a true record.

Minutes arising from the meeting:

- Track Condition: Jake reported the latest that there is a meeting planned in the next 3 weeks to see what programmes there are to improve the track and also the car park/fence that is at the Leisure Centre. A number of areas around the facility need to be looked at for improving to minimize traffic issues too.
- The High Jump & Pole Vault that need changing are being processed with the cost likely to be shared in half with Welsh Athletics and Carmarthenshire County Council. The pallets under the HJ bed also need changing which can also be discussed and completed before next summer.
- Carmarthenshire Primary Schools Cross Country Championships: Good numbers on the day of nearly 1,100 children and good organization. The two-way parking system worked very well with no queues at any stage during the races. It was suggested that the course was too short as children finished off in big groups resulting the finishing funnel not being long enough. However the course is restricted due to the roads surrounding the areas and fields available. Course layouts and venues is something that can be discussed in the future for any change.
- Football teams using the centre of the track: Games have been played on the middle of the field during the past two months. As part of the term and conditions, the mat is laid out across the track when there is a game during the weekends.
- Notice Board: Jake has followed this up and the proposal of moving the notice board further by the entrance inside the leisure centre is likely to be confirmed soon. The Harriers board has currently been at the other side of the building where the entrance used to be.
- Equipment: Portacabins have been cleaned up during the summer and equipment put back tidily. Starting blocks have moved from the shed into the portacabin for easier access.

- 25 new members have joined the Harriers from Let's Run Carmarthen. A weekly group turns out on Tuesdays and Thursdays by now including many U11 parents. It is hoped that many will take part in Pembrey in December.

Financial Report

Current Total: £41,129.49

(As on 8th November 2017)

Income includes Membership & Registration Fees, Sale of Vests, Training Levy, Sale of Refreshments, Grants, Gate Money and Entry fees collected at events.

Expenditure includes Coaching, Hire of buses, Hire of track for training at the track, sportshall and primary school events at the Showground, St John Ambulance, Purchase of vests and Welsh Athletics Registration Fees.

A profit is likely by the end of December with no other major expenses needed to be paid. Track & Sportshall Activities have all been booked and number of transactions paid weekly.

A discussion took place over the way of membership paying including direct debit for training suggestion. (paying per half term) It's a difficult situation for coaches on Tuesdays with close to 100 children at the track on occasions. A number are training to compete regularly while others don't have the same intention.

Athletes turning up and not all members and shouldn't be there. Despite a membership sheet available for team managers and coaches, many still don't know who they are training if any accidents occur. Cressy & Hayley are to start to organize a system + sign in format to see who's paying and members of the club. Neil is to send welfare information. This is a small step forward to test and move on in the AGM. The aim is to have something in place for December.

Annual Dinner 2017 on Friday 3rd November

The dinner was held on Friday 3rd November at the Ivy Bush Hotel where 154 were in attendance during the half term week. Dewi Griffiths' and Hedydd's question and answer interview was praised and inspired many of the younger athletes present. The food was great and awards set up positive too. Thanks went to Rhian Glynn for all work again this year in putting on the event on Friday.

Next year is the club 70th Anniversary dinner. An organization subcommittee group is suggested to be set up to support Hedydd in the event itself and especially next year, discuss possible line up and celebration at its 70th occasion.

Andrew mentioned about the way different clubs put on their presentation events and Pembrokeshire Harriers do audio visual presentations to add to the day. This is a possible way in the future going forward.

Chairman's Report

Since the start of the winter season and cross country, it has been a good start especially in the under 11 age groups. Good Cross Country results in the Gwent League and Cardiff Cross event in October followed by the medal haul won at the Welsh Cross Country Relays in Monmouth at the start of November.

Concerns raised over the fixture congestion upcoming during the next months, especially in March with a number of middle distance races in the space of a few days.

It was confirmed that Welsh Athletics were satisfied with the level of organisation and competition at the recent events held at Pembrey Country Park (Welsh Road Relays the latest in September) Jake has met James Williams (WA Head of Operations) to discuss possible agreements over the coming years – including the road relays returning next year and the Welsh cross country championships. The last year is in Swansea in 2018 with a possible new venue available after that.

Importance was emphasised on building and investing venues and events for long term hosting. The SIAB Schools Cross Country in 2021 was also a possibility when it comes to Wales next.

Gwent League Cross Country Pembrey

Carmarthen Harriers and Carmarthenshire County Council host the third Gwent League in Pembrey on Sunday 3rd December. Jake and Neil have already met to organize with the license and risk assessments and also the facilities all in place. Dyfed Powys Police's stand likely to be in attendance again to contribute on the day. Catering is provided by Pembrey but suggestion was for children to help on a stall provided by the Harriers (no final decision made.)

Due to the time of year, the timetable needs to move forward and will start at 11.30am with the final race around 2pm. Jake and Neil have asked for volunteers to come forward to offer assistance on the day via e-mail and WhatsApp. Any help will be appreciated with people having already agreed.

Set up will begin on the Saturday with a team needed at the venue at 7.30am on the morning to finish off before the races start. People from other local clubs have also been contacted.

The club agreed to purchase radios for club use especially at big events such as these. Communication is important to marshals and organizations who are out on the course.

Coaching/Committee Report

No latest report however numbers were raised. The large crowds these days are an issue with a number of competing and non-competing children coming to training evenings. Thursdays are more manageable and coaches know who they have but Tuesdays is more of a concern. The way perhaps is a way to look at developing pathway development groups.

Fund Raising

Cressy has been in touch with Tesco about the Harriers Bag Packing activity done in December last year. Unfortunately, there are no available slots available before Christmas this year. The New Year could be an alternative with further discussions to come.

Carmarthen Town Raffle: Last year, it was difficult to sell a big amount of these raffle tickets. Opinions felt that there is no need to do again this year.

Any other Business

- *Club Modernisation Program: Andrew to meet up with a sub group of a few people (Jake, Neil, Alison, Kathryn, Mike, Nathan) on briefing as to what it entails and the way it is beneficial to look at club set up.*
- *Welsh Athletics Awards on 21st October: Nathan was awarded the Volunteer of the Year Award at the dinner in the Coldra Court Newport last month. Carol also attended the Coaching Conference a day later.*
- *Closing dates for the Carmarthen Town Awards and Carmarthenshire Sports Awards are coming soon with details already on the website. It was noted that anyone can nominate any athletes therefore it was not left to one person to do or a team manager. Suggestion made for all coaches to nominate athletes in time of the closing date.*
- *Communication with athletes: A way of engaging with athletes and their experiences is by doing a questionnaire on the club and a way of doing something different. In the summer season would be the best suitable time.*
- *Harriers Christmas Party: To be held at Xcel Bowling in Johnstown on Saturday 9th December. Hayley has agreed to take names and payments. 40 attended the social event in 2016.*
- *Ralph and Andrew have arranged for National coaches to visit the track in Carmarthen to update coaches on best practice and tips on field events. Ryan Spencer-Jones and Goldie Sayers are likely to be in attendance in the near future.*

2017/18 Fixtures

A latest fixtures list of the 2017/18 Welsh championships and junior leagues were circulated as agreed at the WA fixtures meeting in Cardiff. The Louise Arthur continues to be four matches but reduced from 6 to 4 athletes as the timetable needs to be reduced to 6 hours. The Dyfed Schools Athletics is on 15/16 June with the Welsh Schools in Cardiff on 7 July.

Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 10th January 2018, 6.30pm at the Ivy Bush Hotel
Annual General Meeting: Wednesday 7th February 2018, 7.00pm at the Ivy Bush Hotel

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