

Minutes of the Carmarthen Harriers Committee held at 7.30pm at the Ivy Bush Royal Hotel on Wednesday 30 November 2016

Present

Hedydd Davies (Chairman), Carol Jones, Steve Glynn, Ralph Siggery and Rebecca Gatt (WA Dyfed development officer)

Apologies

Apologies were received from Nathan Jones (Secretary), Joan Goldsmith (vice chairman), Cressy Morgan (Treasurer), Edward Morgan, Hayley John, Jane Batten, Delyth Brown, Rhian Glynn and Neil Thomas

Minute of silence

A minute silence was held in memory of Ossie Morgan and Richard Wyer who had both passed away recently. Both had been long standing coaches with the Club and had contributed enormously to the success of the club over many years. Many Harriers members past and present attended the funerals. It makes us think at times how much we rely on volunteers

It was agreed that the first Carmarthen Harriers Throws meeting on 27 April 2017 would be called the Richard Wyer Memorial Throws meeting and the third one on 29 June 2017 to be known as the Ossie Morgan Memorial Throws competition

- It was also agreed that there would be two new awards at the Carmarthen Harriers Dinner on Friday 4 November 2017
- The Ossie Morgan Award (best hurdler of the year)
- The Richard Wyer Throws Award (to replace the Wilf James Award)

Richard was the anonymous donor of a substantial sum of money to the Club in 2016 for the purpose of giving grants to the 11 Carmarthen Harriers athletes who were ranked No 1 in Wales in 2015

Chairman's Report

Hedydd reported that there were three very urgent areas of concern to Carmarthen Harriers which needed to be addressed immediately

- **Catering in 2017 at the two big events at the Showground (Carmarthenshire and Dyfed primary schools cross country championships) and at the Carmarthen Athletics Track in the summer (10 events, weekday as well as at the weekend) (fixture list attached)**

If there is no catering in place for 2017 then events may have to be cancelled as it is a requirement that refreshments are provided for all officials. The refreshments sales to the public in the last 15 years have given the Carmarthen and District Harriers Athletics Club an income of between £3000 and £5000 a year, without which the club would have been bankrupt

The alternatives are as follows;

- 1 We appoint a Club catering manager and a Catering Committee to plan and oversee all the catering requirements at all Carmarthen Harriers organised events in 2017, both at the

Showground and the Carmarthen Athletics Track. The basic requirement would be tea, coffee, soup, soft drinks, hot dogs and bacon rolls. This should provide an income for the Club

- 2 Have an outside catering firm e.g. Cegin Fach y Wlad to do all the catering (little income for the Club and prices will be much higher)
- 3 Bring in a Burger type van (no income to the Club and no control on food provided)

Carmarthenshire County Council and the Carmarthen Leisure Centre would need to be consulted

Results since September 2016

Carmarthen Harriers crosscountry teams have done well in recent competitions. The U11 boys doing really well winning the team races at the two events in Brecon. U13 boys cross country relay team won the Welsh U13 cross country relay in Monmouth

Daisy Thompson has had a very good cross country season so far winning the Welsh U13 cross country title at the Welsh inter regional cross country championships and finishing 3rd and 4th in the UK cross country challenge events at Milton Keynes and Liverpool.

Ben Thomas has been selected to compete for Wales in the Celtic cross country international in Cardiff on Sunday 22 January 2017

- **Dyfed schools will not be entering teams in the Cardiff Cross Challenge on Sunday 22 January 2017.**
- **This event is one of the 5 races listed by Welsh schools for consideration for selection for the 2017 London mini marathon race**
- **It is important that the top Carmarthen Harriers members enter as individuals**
- **Carmarthen Harriers will be entering U11 teams as the boys are the holders of the trophy they won last year**

Coaching at the Club

Carmarthen Harriers had its glory days in the period 1994-2007 when we won the Welsh Junior (11-20) Cup Final 16 times in 17 years

We are in danger now of becoming a junior middle distance/cross country club

- **At the next meeting we need to address this weakness at once and appoint an official coaching committee chairman and a committee to see how we attract parents to help out with coaching in particular the specialist events (hurdles, jumps and throws)**

Track and Field Officials

- At every Welsh Athletics events Carmarthen Harriers is required to provide 1 track judge, 1 timekeeper and a field team of 5. Officials are now have to be qualified.

We have been for a long time not providing our quota of qualified officials

- **We need to address this problem now otherwise we will be disqualified from team competitions in 2017**

Dates of next meetings

- **Committee meeting on Monday 9 January 2017 at 7.30pm at the Ivy Bush Royal Hotel**
- **AGM at 7.30 pm on Monday 13 February 2017 at the Ivy Bush Royal Hotel**

It is very important that we all make an effort to attend the meetings

Minutes of the meeting held on 30 November 2016

Minutes accepted as a true record

Matters arising from the meeting

Sincere thanks once again to Nathan Jones for his excellent work in producing minutes so promptly and efficiently and also his fine work with the website and reports for the local papers

- **Cost of repairs to the roof of the Carmarthenshire County Council owned Portacabin**

The total cost was over £6100. An application has been made to the Council for a grant or assistance towards the cost of repairs

- **2016 Carmarthen Harriers Annual Dinner**

By all accounts the Dinner went well. Not having soup as a starter helped to speed up the proceedings. Rhian Glynn was thanked once again for her work in arranging the Dinner

Again it was sad to see half of the Annual Reports left behind after the Dinner

- It was agreed that Dewi Griffiths former Carmarthen Harrier and British international athlete would be the chief guest and guest speaker at the 2017 Annual Dinner to be held on Friday 3 November 2017

Financial Report

Chairman reported that there was a total of £36,866.17 in the bank that day. This amount was the lowest for several years

The cost of hiring coaches to matches was still a matter of great concern and also the cost of hiring the track for training on Thursday nights

Welsh Athletics Club Conference in Cardiff

Jane Batten represented the Club at the Conference. She enjoyed the conference and gave a written report afterwards

2016 Christmas Party at the Xcel Bowls on Saturday evening 10 December 2016

37 athletes and many parents attended and it was an excellent social evening

Many thanks to Hayley John, Cressy Morgan and Rhian Glynn for making all the arrangements for the evening

Tesco bag packing on Sunday 18 December 2016

Many thanks to all the Harriers members and the parents who supported the event

£834 was raised from the bag packing and the raffle. The Tesco store was rather quiet on a Sunday before Christmas

Cressy Morgan and Rhian Glynn were thanked for arranging the event

A letter of thanks was sent to Ian Little the manager of the Carmarthen Tesco store. He said we would be welcome again in 2017 (riding stationary fitness bikes?)

Welsh Athletics Awards Evening at Cardiff on Saturday 8 November 2016

Ron Mounsey of McDonald's attended on behalf of Carmarthen Harriers to accept the 2016 Welsh Athletics Carmarthen Harriers / McDonald's Partnership Award

Kevin Evans for the second year in succession received the Welsh Athletics High Performance Coach Award and former Carmarthen Harrier member Dewi Griffiths won the best Welsh male endurance award

Ivor Hopkins

Ivor moved to Chepstow at the end of September 2016. A letter of thanks was sent to Ivor for his contribution as a coach in the last six years. Ivor came back to attend the Dinner on 4 November 2016

The future of Carmarthen Harriers

Carmarthen Harriers was formed in 1948 and since then has only had two chairmen since its formation. Ron Evans was chairman from 1948 until 1981 and Hedydd Davies has been its chairman for the last 35 years

Times have changed since 1948 when there were few events in athletics. Now it is almost an all year activity with the Club and its members taking part almost every weekend in athletics, cross country, road running or indoor sportshall athletics.

Many school events are now organised by Carmarthen Harriers and girls now have the opportunity not only of taking part in athletics but also in many other sports

- The Carmarthen Harriers chairman Hedydd Davies in November 2008 presented to the Carmarthen Harriers Committee then (copy attached) a copy of the list of responsibilities he wished to hand over to other members of the Club (also with Dyfed Schools AA and West Wales RAC)

A Committee consisting of Hedydd, Joan Goldsmith, Ivor Hopkins and Bob Dowdeswell (secretary at the time) met on three occasions to discuss the matter

The original paper was again presented at the Harriers Committee meeting on Wednesday 30 November 2016

- **It will be a serious problem in the near future as we have relied so much for so long on a few key individuals to maintain the Club in competition with many other sports and the pressure of external examinations**

The future of athletics in West Wales (Carmarthen Harriers/Dyfed Schools AA/West Wales RAC/Louise Arthur League)

Carmarthen Harriers, Dyfed schools and West Wales teams have been very successful in the last 20 years in Welsh competitions

How long will this continue?

Carmarthen Harriers

- Carmarthen Harriers has organised for the last 25 or so years 12-18 events every year.
- 50 major events (Welsh championships or international events) in road running, track and cross country have been organised by Carmarthen Harriers in Carmarthen in the last 30 years
- Every event held in Carmarthen in the last 30 years has been sponsored

Dyfed schools

Dyfed schools have an outstanding record in Welsh schools championships

- At cross country winner of the Welsh inter district team title every year since 1991
- In athletics won the Welsh inter district overall team title 21 times in the last 26 years
- In the last 20 years Hedydd Davies the honorary Dyfed schools secretary has been responsible for the organisation of all the Dyfed championships (indoor sportshall athletics, cross country and athletics) at both primary and secondary level
- Dyfed (in fact Carmarthenshire) indoor sportshall athletics teams on many occasions in the last 25 years have won the Welsh championship and gone on to compete in the UK finals in Birmingham

Dyfed school PE teachers generally do a good job on the whole with their own school and area athletics competitions and give excellent support to the Dyfed schools athletics and cross country championships organised by Carmarthen Harriers

- However only 2-3 active Dyfed PE school teachers attend the annual Dyfed schools AA AGM every year which is a sad state of affairs.
- Very few Dyfed schools teachers attend Welsh schools championships even to support their own school athletes
- Every year for last 15 years Hedydd Davies has had to ask Dyfed club officers to help out with the managerial duties on the day of Welsh schools championships

West Wales Regional Athletic Council

The Council was established in 1997 when the 8 Districts in Wales became 4 regions.

- Pretty well all the original members on the Council in 1997 are still on the Council.
- All the Council members are getting on in age and quite a few will be standing down in 2017

We are finding it very difficult to recruit new members and in the future it will be difficult to get volunteers to organise West Wales championships and more so enter and manage West Wales teams in Welsh inter regional championships

- Dyfed and West Wales have been fortunate to have one person since 1981 organise and co-ordinate the work involved in entering teams for the Welsh and UK inter county championships

Athletics in Carmarthen and in Dyfed in 5 years time

- Will there be Carmarthen and District Harriers Athletics Club, Dyfed Schools AA, West Wales Regional Athletics Region and Louise Arthur League in existence in 2022?
- Will there be big primary schools cross country events on the Showground in the future?
- Will there be local, national and international events at the Carmarthen Athletics Track in the future?
- Who will be there to obtain grants and sponsorship for Carmarthen Harriers?
- Who will be there to plan and organise all the events held at present at the Showground and at the Carmarthen Athletics Track

These are a few of the serious questions that need to be considered and addressed immediately