

Carmarthen Harriers Committee Meeting
Ivy Bush Royal hotel
Wednesday 12th June 2013, 7-30pm

Present

Hedydd Davies, Bob Dowdeswell, Jane Batten, Joan Goldsmith, Michelle Phillips.

Apologies for absence

Nathan Jones, Gill Edwards, Ivor Hopkins, Ossie Morgan.

Welcome: Hedydd welcomed Jane to her first meeting.

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

Matters arising from the minutes:

Many thanks to all the hosts for the visit of the Australian Athletes; it proved a successful and enjoyable weekend for all involved.

Kari and Nikita have been selected to represent Wales in the Youth World Mountain running event in France on the 6th July

Track repairs have not yet been completed. Pressure is being applied to Blakedown the company responsible for the repairs to complete the work as quickly as possible.

The portacabin roof suffered damage during a storm and has been repaired temporarily. The Council are to try and claim from insurance as it was storm damage.

The floorboards in the main stand are to be replaced; this work is also taking a long time to complete. The stand remains out of use.

Annual dinner. *Christian Malcolm is proving very difficult to contact.*

Fund raising. *The offer from Tesco for bag packing on the 14th December has been accepted. This day clashes with the Welsh inter regional championships but no alternative date is available as yet.*

Chairman's Report

The club is suffering a steady decline in performance at events. This situation arises from two major problems.

1 The problem of providing enough coaches to enable more gifted athletes to progress, especially in events where technical skill is essential for success.

2 The number of younger athletes attending on Tuesday evening causes problems for the coaches when the majority of the children present are not interested in competing for the club (possibly ever) and are not allowing the keener athletes to be supported to achieve their full potential.

To try to help alleviate the problem Jane will find out if it is possible to have coloured wristbands made for Carmarthen and District Harriers, which should be worn to training sessions. No band, no access. This should help with the problem of non-members attending training sessions. These children are uninsured and should not be allowed to participate.

In summary we need more coaches and to identify and support the best athletes more effectively.

No new members joined as a result of the open evening although other new athletes are steadily joining the club.

A new development officer has been appointed (part time) to work alongside Andrew but with responsibility for West Wales (old Dyfed). Jessica Huddleston will be working from her base in Pembrokeshire and we wish her well in her new role.

Finance

£45,489.83 in bank. Gate receipts (training levies) are very good at present. No invoice has been received for the hire of the track for competitions and £1000 is committed to track maintenance costs.

Dinner

Any suggestions for an alternative guest speaker for the award evening in case Christian Malcolm is unavailable please contact Hedydd.

Fundraising

The refreshments sold from the portacabin and at other local events each year by Hedydd and Eiddwen raise about £5000. The work is however demanding and time consuming but essential. Hedydd and Eiddwen have already informed the committee that they intend to step down from this role in the autumn. Suggestions for how to keep this essential income stream in operation and volunteers to organise it are critical. Contact any committee member with your proposals/offers to help before the September meeting.

Event reports

The Midlands U13 U15 league has very poor support from athletes and is therefore costing the club a great deal of money to attend. The level of competition is good with athletes being able to measure their ability against English athletes. It has been decided to withdraw from the Telford (June 22nd) meeting but to attend Yate on July 13th. Please try to support this event.

Welsh U15 league (Louise Arthur). Numbers of athletes attending is quite respectable (25 boys) but the ability to compete effectively in all events is resulting in a steady decline. Currently the club is holding on to 3rd place overall but Brecon are improving greatly each year and the next event is to be held in Brecon where they will prove even stronger. Under 15 boys are currently very weak despite a few very keen and reliable athletes turning out for the club every time.

2013 Fixtures:

Amendments, the Dyfed Schools Cup Final event 19th June will be held in Carmarthen due to work on the track in Haverfordwest.

The Dyfed primary schools championships are to be held on Monday 24th June.

AOB

The police are concerned at the parking arrangements during large events at the track. Please ensure that you park in an approved parking location or your details will be recorded by the police and provided to the local authority who may choose to issue a fine. Parking inconsiderately on the roads outside the track will result in a police fine.

After the Dyfed secondary schools event thanks go to three Carmarthen Harriers volunteers: Kevin Evans, Steve Heckler and Dai Roberts who manned the gate and collected £840 (15% of which will be allocated the Harriers funds)

A portable printer will be purchased to allow registers to be created at the track for coaches.

It was agreed to purchase 12 small plastic hurdles for use in hurdle training for the very young athletes

Date of next meeting

Wednesday 11th September 2013 at 7.30pm at the Ivy Bush Hotel

The committee meetings are open for all parents/athletes to attend. Please make every effort to join in.