

Cheshire Network Action Group Meeting No 4

24/02/10

Present:

Andy Garnett (Spectrum Striders RC), Bob Lynch (Macclesfield Harriers), Mike Cutler (South Cheshire Harriers), Dave Copsey (Vale Royal AC), Eddie Gore (West Cheshire), Alan Parsons (Vale Royal AC), Adrian Timmins (Warrington AC), Dave Spencer (Warrington AC), Sarah Friday (England Athletics), Alex Copeland (England Athletics – National Club Development Officer)

Apologies:

Steve Matthews (Crewe & Nantwich), Dennis Wall (West Cheshire), Martin Stirna (South Cheshire Harriers)

The notes of our 3rd meeting (13.01.10) have been distributed to all Cheshire Athletic Clubs, an article is in the Cheshire Newsletter, and all correspondence is on the Cheshire Website.

The refined submission, addressing the questions in his letter, was issued to Alex Copeland on 7th February 2010.

Today's Agenda:

- Introductions
- Summary of resubmitted bid - to remind ourselves of our plan
- Identify first network events:
- Action Summary
- Next Meeting

It was excellent to have Warrington AC represented – their first network meeting. We reminded ourselves of the components of the submission and this prompted discussions covering many topics, including the importance of volunteers, parent inductions, crèche facilities, links to business, corporate days, buddying and virtual forums.

Alex Copeland said that he had visited many of the 52 networks, 40 of which are now funded and commented positively on the ideas of the network.

The focus of the meeting was the first event and alternatives were discussed from a major headline event to a round robin of events attracting coaches and athletes, covering throws, jumps, conditioning and endurance. Alex added that a large headline event was fine to make an impact – but his experience led him to have concerns about follow up, support and subsequent events. Smaller, club-based events could increase participation without the need for immediate additional infrastructure.

Bob agreed to table a draft proposal for a round robin, based on similar events that Macclesfield had undertaken in the past.

Following a discussion about increasing student participation, attracting volunteers and forming schools and university partnerships, Sarah agreed to provide information about potential partners and will invite them to the next meeting.

Prior to leaving, Alex announced that our bid had been successful and asked us to consider how we would manage the funding. Options include creating a formally constituted body from the Clubs and having a treasurer and AGM etc, or linking with another organisation, e.g. County Sports Partnership, who could manage the funding on our behalf. Alex discussed us advertising the network through other sports and not just athletics. Sarah agreed to provide us with a note on the options and potential linked organisations. She will invite them to attend the next meeting.

We need to ensure that the employed staff member is in post to deliver and not 'push paper', its vital that the network drives the priorities.

Finally, the options for a Road Running/ endurance event for adults were discussed briefly. Mike Cutler suggested a Parlauf Competition and agreed to provide a proposal for consideration.

Next meeting to be 7.00pm Wednesday 31st March 2010 at the Lion Pub, Moulton, Northwich.

Andy Garnett (Volunteer Network Coordinator) 28/02/10