

# Cheshire Athletic Network Meeting

11/11/09

## **Present:**

Andy Garnett (Spectrum Striders RC), Bob Lynch (Macclesfield Harriers), Mike Cutler & Martin Stirna (South Cheshire Harriers), Alan Parsons & Dave Copsey (Vale Royal AC)

## **Apologies:**

Dennis Wall (West Cheshire), Steve Matthews (Crewe & Nantwich), Sarah Friday (England Athletics)

Each section of the Cheshire Network bid, as submitted on the 30<sup>th</sup> October, was discussed. This is a summary:

- Purpose of the Cheshire Network – To bring together Cheshire Clubs with similar issues and common problems for immediate and ongoing benefit, in a convenient and engaging way.
- Engaged Athletic Clubs – Currently the six listed above. After discussion it was agreed that the network should not be limited to those that had been involved with the submission. The Cheshire athletic community can only benefit from as many of the 30+ Cheshire clubs contributing as possible. It was therefore agreed that every opportunity should be used to promote the network.
- Nine Project Areas:
  1. Developing Club Structures - Providing incentives and opportunities for Clubs to get together and share knowledge and experience. This promoted intensive discussion with many ideas – coaching structures, disabled athlete policy, volunteer experiences and more. This is the number 1 priority, to get the network established. The bid is based on organising attractive seminars and workshops. A major kick-off event was seen as important. This could be at Sports City in Manchester, possibly with a headlining major athlete, coach or athletic celebrity.
  2. Hammer and Discus -Increasing Participation and Performance – individual clubs' experience and participation strategies discussed. Ideas for coaching.
  3. General Coach Development – Alternative structures in clubs. Managing coach development and CPD, succession planning, sponsoring coaches.
  4. Pole vault – similar issues to item 2
  5. Endurance – Sharing road running club experience, general fitness, alternative training, introducing competition to 'social' participants, race preparation.
  6. Volunteer utilization – different perspectives. Engaging the community, successful strategies, and experience. Volunteers from other, linked organisation, volunteer development.
  7. Networking with schools – common experiences and different needs for different types of club. Benefits of local engagement. Recognising needs of schools and what clubs can offer.
  8. Marketing and Promotion – Communication ideas – appropriate to athletic discipline, club, network, county. Importance of promoting the network to get wide club involvement.
  9. Network coordinator – largest financial benefit from network bid. Allows for the appointment of a part time, paid-for professional, dedicated to helping us and putting our ideas into action.

It was agreed that the network should be maintained – irrespective of whether the bid is successful or not.

The group is to be called the 'Cheshire Network Action Group'.

The minutes are to be distributed to all Cheshire Athletic Clubs. A note is to be included in the next Cheshire Newsletter.

Next meeting to be 7.00pm Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December at the Lion Pub, Moulton, Northwich.

*Andy Garnett (Volunteer Network Coordinator) 15/11/09*