

Cheshire Network Action Group Meeting

02/12/09

Present:

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

Apologies:

Eddie Gore & Dennis Wall (West Cheshire), Steve Matthews (Crewe & Nantwich),

As agreed, the notes of our 11/11/09 meeting have been distributed to all Cheshire Athletic Clubs and a short article was included in the December issue of the Cheshire Newsletter.

Sarah gave us the excellent news that our bid has been successful – to a point. She passed us a copy of a letter due to be sent from Alex Copeland, the National Club Development Officer, saying the bid is being supported and has been given ‘develop’ status. The money has been ‘ring-fenced’ but we must resubmit and provide more information of our plans in four areas:

1. Focus in more detail on what the plan is trying to achieve and the long term benefit to the clubs.
2. More justification for the role of a Network Coordinator – or whether a Lead coach and Mentor or Coaching Coordinator may be more suited to our plan,
3. A greater focus on broader participation (such as Run in England).
4. A SWOT analysis to identify delivery priorities

Each of these was discussed and immediate actions agreed to address some of the requests.

1. Alan agreed to review our bid, write a piece about the long term benefits and circulate it.
2. The need and form of professional help to the network was discussed. Sarah will still be available within her CCSO role to help with some coordinating issues and the Network Coordinator/ Lead Coach/ Coach and Administrator must be complementary. This led to the development of the following essential requirements for the role, whatever it is called:
 - Must have extensive experience in sport, as an athlete, coach, official or event organiser – or all four.
 - Must understand the needs of clubs
 - Must be a good communicator at all levels – and have a network of useful contacts at Club level and within the organising structure.
 - Must be capable of acting as a facilitator/ administrator as well as directly delivering in at least one particular skill area.
3. We need to find more about the ‘Run in England’ initiative. This is a development of the Women’s Running Network. Alyson Lysons is the representative. Andy agreed to contact her and invite her to the next meeting. We also need to try and link with other initiatives – the Parkland Runs and Run Delamere, for example.

It was recognised that we do not have much knowledge of some of the other initiatives that are listed in the Network Application pro-forma which we must endeavour to support under the ‘Conditions of Funding’. Sarah undertook to find out about these and provide us with more details.

Some of the Cheshire Road Running initiatives have been very successful, e.g. the Cheshire Grand Prix and Handicap. Mike Cutler is to contact John Driscoll and Adrian Thiemicke and produce a summary of the benefits and participation figures.

4. Bob agreed to do the SWOT analysis for the network. Some ideas were exchanged and recorded. He agreed to develop these and release them for discussion.

Next meeting to be 7.00pm Wednesday 13th January at the Lion Pub, Moulton, Northwich.

Andy Garnett (Volunteer Network Coordinator) 5/12/09