

## Athletic Networks Bid

I must first apologise for my lack of contact regarding the networks, but I am now equipped with detail to provide information to you all and to move forward in whatever way you see most appropriate.

As you are all aware, the Cheshire submission was unsuccessful; however the bid had a number of strong areas - these being within the event development work. This area was considered by the panel as one of the strongest elements of all submissions.

The application process has now been amended and issued with criteria (please see attached) which means we now have the basis to build from the previous plan.

I believe we are now in a strong position both in terms of a resubmission and developing areas of the plan that were both viewed positively and negatively and if necessary, introduce new elements based upon clubs individual needs.

I have met with Bob Lynch as one of the main drivers behind the previous plan to discuss the unsuccessful submission and potential ways to move forwards with the activity and plan.

We now believe that a new bid has to be clubs wanting to work together; it has to be written and administered by a non EA person, and be ready for submission by early October. It should be a 1 year plan but looking ahead to the next three years, involving a range of disciplines and partners.

The projects that were considered favourably by the panel from the original bid were/are-

- 1 Improve performance and technique of Hammer and Discus, for both athletes and coaches. Include talent ID in schools.
- 2 Develop PV within the county by training more coaches, all year round training, and improving and adding to the athlete base.
- 3 Teach and enhance athletes strength across a range of disciplines (include road, fell and XC). Utilise gymnastics, core stability, circuit training, and movement skills.
- 4 Set up forums for coaches and clubs to share knowledge, good practice, and aim to overcome barriers to compete and improve.
- 5 Provide more local competitions for younger athletes.

Areas within the plan that we cannot apply for network funding are EDM equipment, the RR handicap scheme and bursaries. However some of this activity may still be able to proceed with alternative funding from my own newly acquired budget, and by identifying alternative funding streams.

If we subsequently decide to resubmit a bid, then I suggest we then look at organising a meeting separate to the county group for those clubs, local authorities and other representatives e.g. coaching coordinators who wish to be part of a resubmission.

**I now need to know which clubs want to be part of a Cheshire network and resubmission. Please e mail me with your intentions ASAP in order to organise a meeting separate to the county group for those clubs, local**

**authorities and other representatives to discuss the plan and any other business.**

**The deadline for submissions is 3pm on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2009. Therefore it's important that we meet as soon as possible and get a plan underway.**

**If you are unsure of what the network can offer you or what the network is please get in touch.**

Regards

Sarah

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