

MDC and Athletics Wales: a note from the Chairman

This note is for information for those of you who were not at the club AGM on Saturday 2nd April and who didn't make the club run on Tuesday, and for anyone else who is interested. Doug will be circulating the draft minutes shortly but I thought a short note may be in order. This is my interpretation of what happened at the AGM and I will be happy to be corrected by the minutes.

The major item of debate at the AGM was the future of MDC with regard to Athletics Wales. Most of you know that at the 2004 AGM we decided not to disaffiliate but instead to not have any direct dealings with AW following the unresolved issues at the Waun Fach 2003 race which I hope I need not repeat here. Secretary Doug circulated various items of correspondence received from AW in the past year, which in my view amounted to an ultimatum to either undertake to comply with all their rules re registration, permits etc or for the club to be disaffiliated. We had informed them that the matter would be discussed at the AGM. Also of note is that the WFRA has been set up in the interim and the majority of Welsh races are now insured via that body.

After about an hour's debate, at which it is fair to say the only points of view expressed were whether to formally disaffiliate or to wait until we were thrown out, a motion that we should inform AW that we no longer wished to remain an affiliated club was passed unanimously. The committee was re-elected without change.

Some of the implications of this are:

You will no longer be able to register as an athlete with AW via MDC

If you want to run for Wales or count in AW championships you must be a registered athlete. We think that you cannot do that as an individual and you will have to join an affiliated club – but check this out. We hope you will also retain your membership of MDC.

If you run in AW 'official' races (ie with an AW permit) you may be charged an extra pound.

If like me you run almost exclusively in WFRA races then this change will have no effect on you and you will automatically be counted in WFRA championship races with no extra fee.

I'm quite happy to discuss in more detail individually but not during Sgorio or Doctor Who please.

Welcome to Wales's (Britain's?) largest **independent** fell running club!

Martin Lucas
Chairman, MDC