My name is Steve Preece and I am working in conjunction with Athswest and Chris Stansbury to implement and develop what we hope to become a club-based, graded road/ cross-country season to run over the winter months.

We hope to attract a broad base of competitors from the elite levels to the recreational runner in a season which we envisage will cover road and cross-country racing including relay/s.

We want this to provide a competitive series based on the existing clubs, groups and squads which exist in Perth and WA at the moment.  It will provide a high level of competition for more serious athletes as well as an inclusive graded competition to allow all levels of runners to compete for their club, squad or group against other runners of a like standard.  In other words, we want this to not focus on elite and high-level runners but to be just as attractive to all runners regardless of their ability.  It’s not important if you are a sub 15:00 5k runner or a 35:00 5k runner, the aim is to be accessible to all.

Over the next few years we hope to establish such a competition, but it will take some time and some incremental steps to reach that goal.

Ultimately, the aim is to create a competition something like what currently exists in Victoria and many other places around the world.  We believe this will develop the sport in WA and add a competitive but fun environment for people to come out and have a crack whilst at the same time “doing it for their club”.

As a first step we want to do two things.

1)     To gauge interest from representatives of squads, clubs and groups to be involved in helping to plan and build this competition: we aim to hold a meeting of sorts to establish a group of stakeholders who can all be involved in the implementation.  As broad a group as possible will ensure that what is implemented will cater for everyone;

2)     Kick off the move in this direction by having a big turn out at a relay event **on 13 August 2022** at Yellagonga Regional Park:

a.      This event is to be a relay event with 3-4 members per team;

b.      It is envisaged there will be a variety of classifications including male, female, juniors, mixed and masters;

c.      A club, group or Squad can enter as many teams as they wish in each classification;

d.      The distance is likely to be 3-4km per leg.

It would be great if you were able to let other members of your particular group, squad or club know about this event and line up some teams to enter.  It is hoped this will be a fun day of racing that will whet the appetite for what lies ahead.

Please let me know if you are happy to act as a liaison at this point in the lead up to 13 August.  As details are solidified, I will send out further information.

We really believe that such a competition will appeal to a lot of people and that it represents the start of what is sure to be the next chapter in the sport of running in WA.

Thanks for your time and please get in contact with me.

Steve Preece

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