

Minutes of Track & Field Committee Meeting
Wednesday 8th February 2023 via Teams Conference Call



WELSH ATHLETICS
ATHLETAU CYMRU

Present

Lynne Brier, Joyce Tomala, Lynette Harries, Crispin Backsall, Lee Hayward, Rhiannon Hawker, Dai Williams, John Elward, Neil Taylor

1. Apologies

Sue Hooper, Darran Williams

2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest:

No declarations of conflict of interest.

3. Welsh Athletics Updates

a. Competition Update (RH)

Welsh Outdoor Championships

RH shared the following information:

The Welsh Senior and Under 15 Championships will be held on 24th and 25th June in Cardiff.

The Welsh Junior Championships (Under 13, Under 17, Under 20) will be held on 12th and 13th August in Newport.

RH confirmed that Welsh Athletics were working with these two facilities to ensure that they are both ready to host Level 2 competitions.

Regional Championships 2023

JT confirmed the following date:

South and East Wales – 13th May (Aberdare)

JE confirmed the following:

West Wales – 14th May (Swansea)

CB confirmed the following:

North Wales – 14th May (Wrexham)

Inter-Regional Championships 2023

JT confirmed that the Inter-Regional Championships will be held on 16th July in Aberdare.

This is the same weekend as SIAB and RH stated that she didn't envisage much of a clash for athletes, as the two competitions catered for athletes who are on different pathways. However, there could be a clash with officials.

CB confirmed that North Wales would be competing this year.

Welsh Junior Competitions 2023

RH said this would be their focus moving forward, now that the championship events had been organised. They would be soon contacting clubs to request host venues for this league.

RH confirmed that there would still be some flexibility around the dates for North Wales, who also compete in the Cheshire League matches.

Indoor 2022 / 2023 Review Dates

RH confirmed that these would probably take place at the end of February, once they had collated the athlete feedback from both championships.

b. Facilities Update

Hannah Pretty sent a report that highlights prioritising support for Newport and Cardiff to get their facilities ready for hosting Level 2 outdoor championships.

RH said that Welsh Athletics are also in the process of supporting other facilities to make sure that they can continue to host Level 1 competitions. This is to be on a phased, rolling programme, with those facilities hosting Level 2 competitions being prioritised. LH asked if any funding would be coming from Welsh Athletics to support upgrading facilities.

RH said that this was not her remit, but believed that there was a certain amount of funding to assist with repairs and upgrades to facilities, but could not elaborate on amounts. However, there had to be a level of ownership from facilities themselves, as well as councils, to keep on top of repairs and maintenance of facilities.

LH asked how long the track at Brecon was likely to be out of action.

RH was unsure about this but would share all updates with the committee as soon as possible.

c. Track and Field Competition Licence Update

JT expressed concern about the amount of events and competitions requiring a Level 2 licence.

d. Safeguarding

LB reminded the committee that safeguarding should be a regular agenda item on every club committee meeting and requested that regional representatives reminded clubs of this in their regional meetings and also signpost their coaches, team managers etc to the codes of conduct on the Welsh Athletics website.

There were discussions around the who pays for safeguarding, health and safety and first aid training from one club to another.

Action: LB to speak to Carl Williams about safeguarding training and which groups of individuals and volunteers within the sport need to attend safeguarding training.

4. Discussion

a. Inclusion of Para Athletics in Track and Field Championships

Neil Taylor was invited to the meeting to discuss his role in integrating para athletes into athletics. He spoke about the following:

60m ambulant race in Welsh Indoor Championships

Seated shot at Welsh Indoor Championships

Integrated ambulant long jump at Welsh Indoor Championships

Run with the Wind

Under 20 para athlete events

UK School Games

The committee all agreed that this was all very promising with several more integrated events being planned for the summer season.

NT said that he has been working with Newport Harriers and Carmarthen Harriers to plan upgrades, such as anchor points, to their facilities to accommodate para athletes at these venues.

NT said that for the first time, para events, such as long jump, 60m and throws are to be included in the Youth Commonwealth Games in Trinidad and Tobago. Some Welsh athletes have been nominated and Disability Wales are waiting to find out if their nominations have been successful.

LH congratulated everyone involved in integrating para athletes into the Welsh Indoor Championships.

b. Welsh Athletics International Selection Policy

Rhys Williams shared the policy for Welsh Athletics selection policy and Welsh Schools selection policy. JT asked the committee to read and accept the policies.

Action: JT to request the selection policy for the Senior Loughborough International from Rhys Williams.

c. Actions from Previous Meeting – not already covered

Athlete representation on the committee - RH is still working on this.

RH reported that athlete feedback from recent indoor championships was very positive on the whole.

5. Reports

a. Regional Issues

CB highlighted facility issues in North Wales with only Bangor and Wrexham in use at the moment. CB also raised concerns about lack of officials. The indoor competition was successful this year and several new officials were recruited.

CB thanked Darran and Zoe for being in North Wales on the day to support the competition.

Nothing from South Wales region.

JT said that East Wales were hoping to putting on a development day for officials and were currently looking for a date.

JE said that West Wales were planning two development days being bolted on to competitions.

b. Officials Committee

LB read out a report from Sue Hooper on behalf of the officials committee. The report included the following:

- Outdoor Availability has been placed on the Welsh Athletics website and officials have been emailed the link along with the link on the official's Facebook page. To date 66 officials have filled in the availability form.

- The following officials have been selected for UKA events:

British Championships Indoor:

Competition Director: Sue Maughan

Field Judges: Amy Price & Sue Alvey

World Indoor Tour Indoor:

Field Judges: Becky Gibbs & Dave Jessett

Starter Assistant: Sue Hooper

Outdoor UKA events:

British Championships Outdoor:

Field Judge: Becky Gibbs

Track Judge: Rory McKerlich

Call room: Sue Maughan

Diamond League Outdoors:

Competition Director: Sue Maughan

Jury Appeal Chair: Dave Jessett

Clerk of Course: Amy Price

Field Judges: Chris Price & Gareth Jones

Starter Assistant: Sue Hooper

Chief Time Keeper: Geoff Wickens

- The Officials Committee are in the process of organising the Officials Conference that will take place virtually on the 11th March 2023.

RH added that official availability was phased at this point to make sure that we had officials for the bigger, Level 2 competitions.

JE said that official progression was now more difficult with UKA now requesting two reports rather than one when officials were moving from Level 2 to Level 3.

6. Any Other Business

No other business

a. Date of Next Meeting

b. Dates of Future Meetings

Wednesday April 5th 2023

Wednesday August 9th 2023 (June meeting cancelled)

Wednesday October 11th 2023

Wednesday December 6th 2023

All meetings will commence at 6pm.

The meeting ended at 7:25pm.