

WELSH ATHLETICS ROAD/CROSS COUNTRY COMMITTEE 2026/2027 SEASON

MINUTES TEAMS MEETING WED 26th AUGUST 2026 5.15PM

ATTENDEES: -

Aled Jones-Davies AJD, Alaw Evans AE, Graham Finlayson GF, Martin Green MG, Nikki Haines NH, Steve Jones SJ, Sharon Leech SL, Steve Mitchell SM, Kevin Tobin KT

APOLOGIES : Marcus Meyrick MM

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None

ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING (29th APRIL 2026)

- *Welsh XC Championships venue 2027 onwards. Any update on a more permanent venue for the Welsh Cross from 2027 onwards? MM was to look at Pembrey and St Fagan's.*
In MM's absence, GF confirmed that Pembrey had been selected to host the XC Champs
- *Welsh Athletics Senior Road Relays and SIAB Trial for 2027, any update on venue? MM was to meet Derek Price at Builth, alternative was Pembrey.*
In MM's absence, it's believed that MM has confirmed a new course at Builth Showground. Details of the course has not been shared as yet, Committee keen to be updated re course and confirmation needed that date is 27th March
- *Welsh 5K Championships at Caerphilly: Owen Roberts (Meirionnydd)/ Kayley Price (Newport) Welsh 5K Champions*
- *Update on the Sportsshoes 5K in Cardiff?*
Date agreed, team selected, race also host to the British 5K Championships, same course as previously used (see also 'Correspondence')
- *Update on whether Leeds or Telford will be used as a 10K Representative opportunity? Also HCI/Celtic XC, is there a decision yet on date/location? SM to feedback*
SM confirmed that Telford will be the 10K opportunity. With regard to the HCI/Celtic XC, SM stated that there's a proposal by Scotland that they will host the HCI and Celtic in January, possibly within a X Challenge. Following the age

group changes which now apply across the four nations, age groups will obviously be different at this year's competition. SM asking whether there will be a need for an U18 team within the HCI/Celtics (as well as U23/Senior). SJ added that Scottish Schools have changed to IAAF, England and Wales will use U18 (end Aug), so perhaps U20 age group will work best. U18 also have a representative opportunity at the SIAB XC. IR XC could be used as trials for the teams

- *SM to update about the English Cross Country Relays 2026, regarding eligibility for Welsh Teams (Senior and U20) to participate in British Championship*
*see correspondence

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- *(*from 'actions' re English Cross Country Relays 2026) SM emailed Committee 5th May to update that he has heard back from Eamonn Martin regarding England Cross Relays, which are traditionally held on first weekend in November, one week before Cardiff Cross. He confirmed that Welsh teams in the senior and U20 age groups are welcome at event. Also, if 2026 a success, then may look to grow in future years. He confirmed three Welsh teams per race, although a fourth team could be added. SM suggested discussing at next meeting as to how best to select teams attending.*

SM confirmed that nothing has changed on this, SM added that JW is happy for Welsh Clubs to participate, despite it being one week out from Cardiff X. Leg distances are 3K and 4K (female/male).

Committee feels that given we've been invited, it's important we do attend. Moving forward, it will be MM who will confirm regarding selection process, as SM is leaving. MM and JW need to have a discussion soon on how they will select teams to compete, however the Committee suggest using the results of the 2026 Road Relays to choose this year's attendees. With regard to a U20 team, SM suggested contacting Clubs to see if they have an U20 team which is interested in competing and go from there, as not all Clubs will be able to field a team. At the Welsh Road Relays earlier this year, the U20s ran within the senior teams. SM will get in touch with Clubs to start the process and will then hand over to MM/JW

- *Further to 'actions', SM emailed to confirm that the Sportshoes Home Nations 5K in Bute Park will be on Sunday*

27th September. SM suggested that in 2027 the date be moved earlier, as it doesn't suit athletes to do a 5K in September, as they prepare for XC, HM and Marathon season

- *SJ emailed to inform of new fencing at Brecon High School. The fencing goes around the perimeter of the playing fields, cutting off the areas to the side which are used for cross country events. Expectation is that Brecon is no longer a viable option to host cross country events. Alternative venue needed, as two events set to be held there.*

SJ updated the Committee that he's had assurance from the School and the LC that there will be a number of gates installed to access the course and that the course will therefore be usable for XC events, as previously. Course due to be used for the Welsh Inter Schools on 21st October

- *SM emailed the proposed Telford 10K selection policy to Committee for approval*
- *GF confirmed that the Caerphilly 5K will host the Welsh Masters 5K Championships for the next 2 years (2027 and 2028), following request from Bernie Jones of Welsh Masters.*

Discussion ensued regarding the Caerphilly 5K. GF confirmed that the Welsh Senior 5K Champs will also be held within Caerphilly 5K next year. Some discussion regarding the downhill start/ finish at Caerphilly and whether there was a possibility of the course being run in the inverse direction, to perhaps avoid this. GF stated that course was difficult to alter and had taken a lot of time to plan. Those who had attended agreed that the event was very well organised with a great race atmosphere

DISCUSSIONS

- European marathon Championships: Congratulations to Natasha Wilson who finished 5th in the race and Clara Evans who finished as 5th member of the GB team, both receiving a Gold team medal earlier this month
- Antrim HM: male and female teams both finished 5th overall, a few personal bests among the athletes. MG queried whether a last minute replacement could be contacted in future, if there are last minute drop outs for a team, even if reserves have been used (as the case at Antrim). SM stated that this is something that can be discussed at a selection

meeting. SL added that travel arrangements needed to be as convenient for athletes as possible

FIXTURES

DOMESTIC

- Welsh Junior Road Relays 12th September 2026 Pembrey
- Welsh HM Champs Cardiff 4th October 2026
- Welsh 10K Champs Richard Burton 1st November 2026
- Cardiff X Challenge **Sunday** 8th November 2026
- Welsh Inter Regional XC Championships 28th November 2026
- Welsh XC Championships 27th February 2027 Pembrey (tbc)
- Welsh Senior & Master Road Relays 27th March 2027 Builth (tbc)

REPRESENTATIVE

- Sportsshoes 5K Home Nations Bute Park Cardiff 27th September 2026
- English XC Relays Sat 31st October Mansfield (tbc)
- Telford 10K 14th December 2026

SCHOOLS

- Welsh Inter Schools XC October 21st Brecon
- Welsh Schools XC February 17th 2027 (tbc)

PERFORMANCE

This is Steve Mitchell's final meeting in his role as National Talent Development Coordinator for Endurance within WA's Performance Team. He is leaving his role with WA in a week's time.

KT gave a farewell speech and thanked Steve with a heartfelt message. SJ added his thanks on behalf of Welsh Schools. The Committee thanked SM for all his hard work over the last few years, his time and dedication much appreciated. There is no confirmation, as yet, as to who will follow in the role after he leaves, or indeed if the role will continue to exist in the same way

SCHOOLS

- Entries to open soon for the Welsh Inter Schools XC in October

AOB

- N/A

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

- Proposal: **Wednesday 28th October 5.15pm**. Microsoft Teams invite will be sent from **MM** to members for a virtual meeting, minutes will be available on WA website (emailed to eleanor.cartlidge@welshathletics.org and media@welshathletics.org) and emailed to members