

WELSH ATHLETICS ROAD/CROSS COUNTRY COMMITTEE 2025/2026 SEASON

MINUTES TEAMS MEETING WED 29th APRIL 2026 5.15PM

ATTENDEES: -

Graham Finlayson GF, Nikki Haines NH, Steve Jones SJ, Sharon Leech SL, Marcus Meyrick MM, Steve Mitchell SM, Kevin Tobin KT

APOLOGIES : Alaw Evans AE, Martin Green MG, Aled Jones-Davies AJD

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None

ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING (18th MARCH 2026)

- *Marcus Meyrick to attend his first meeting*
Warm welcome given
- *Welsh XC Championships venue 2027 onwards. Any update on a more permanent venue for the Welsh Cross from 2027 onwards?*
AJD and SL did a site visit of Carmarthen Showground, it was deemed unsuitable, due to a lack of sufficient area for a course
MM has asked to consider Pembrey again. There's another possibility near Abergavenny, at Castle Meadows, near the Museum. NH stated that Castle Meadows is flat, it has cattle grazing on the fields and also a huge number of dog walkers. NH wasn't particularly keen on it as being suitable, as it's not big or varied enough. It's also a flood plain. MM took advice on board
St Fagan's is another option, GF offered to meet MM
KT queried whether JW preferred Cardiff
SL suggested that going to North Wales once every four years could be an option. Faenol Estate was an ideal location, with accommodation options
MM suggested 2027 would be held in the South, with 2028 in the North
SJ stated that an early decision is needed on the venue to ensure good numbers for next year
This year's event was held in January, earlier than usual, which also may have affected numbers
Welsh Schools XC is likely to be 17th February, so the Welsh XC 2027 is more likely to be at the end of February, probably

27th February

MM to check with JW as to whether we could use Pembrey or St Fagan's next year, will update Committee

- *Welsh Athletics Senior Road Relays and SIAB Trial, 28th March 2026: any feedback on event?*

KT stated that the course wasn't ideal, with so many people around. All agreed. The Road Relays could be held at Pembrey, however due to the road closure required, the cost is higher. MM has a meeting at Builth Showground next week, to see whether their tarmac area can be used for the Road Relays. MM will meet with Derek Price at the venue. NH agreed that logistically Builth meets requirements and lessens the journey for North Wales athletes

GF also suggested the race circuit (not cycle track) at Pembrey, as there would be no need to close the road. MM stated he'd investigate

With regard to the mini marathon selection trial held within the senior Road Relays at Parc Bryn Bach, SM stated that it had been a success, despite the course not being ideal. It would be beneficial to continue to hold a trial race within the Senior Relays, however having a location which would be a little more central than Pembrey (South West) would suit better. SM also queried whether the trials should also host the Junior Road Running Championships. SJ agreed and suggested that a team event be held within it. Distance is 2.6km

MM stated that the Junior Road Relays are likely to return to Pembrey this year on Sat 12th September 2026

- *Is the Caerphilly 5K signed off to host the Welsh 5K Champs?*
GF had a few things to finalise at last meeting

GF confirmed that the race will go ahead, incorporating the Welsh 5K Champs. GF to meet with traffic management over the next couple of weeks

- *Any update on the Sportshoes 5K in Cardiff?*

Dates continue to prove complicated, September 26th proposed date, but another event in Park at the same time. Council has not yet confirmed whether both events can happen on same date, otherwise a different date will have to be offered, or WA would hold their own 5K, without Sportshoes' involvement. MM awaiting an update from Cardiff Council

Committee raised concerns that race shouldn't be on 15th August, as this would only be a week after the Welsh 5K Championships at Caerphilly

- *Recent representative fixture results:*
Mini Marathon 25th April 2026: much success from the young athletes, congratulations to all
Welsh Marathon Championships Newport April 19th: Jacob Tasker and Emily Fell 2026 Welsh Marathon Champions, congratulations to both

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- *Mick McGeogh sent GF a history of the Welsh Road Relays, with a query as to reverting to a 6 stage (instead of 4 stage)*

KT suggested that perhaps it's easier for teams to put 4 runners in, instead of 6. Otherwise, it's geared more towards the larger clubs and the smaller clubs lose out. This has been a discussion previously, as well as the fact that having more runners in a team increases the length of the programme, particularly with Seniors and Veterans being split as two races

All agreed that having 4 runners makes the event more competitive as more teams can take part

MM to relay decision to MMcG

DISCUSSIONS

- SM confirmed that the selection meeting for the Antrim Half will be the week after the Swansea Half Marathon (w/c 8th June). SM asked two people from the Committee put themselves forward for the selection meeting, along with Team Managers. Race is on 23rd August. Committee to contact SM this week with their interest in either being on selection panel and/or being a Team Manager. KT and SJ both happy to be on Selection Panel on Wednesday 10th June, unless someone else wishes to attend. TM position yet to be filled
- MM has created a Welsh Championships page on the WA website, covering all disciplines [Welsh Championship Events 2026](#). Committee agreed a useful addition to the website
- KT asked SM about the English Cross Country Relays 2026. These usually take place in Mansfield, in November of each year. SM to check with England Athletics on eligibility as previously reported that Welsh Teams at Senior and U20 age groups (Male and female) could take part as part of a British Championship. SM to confirm at next meeting and if so to suggest a mechanism for the selection of club teams that might take part

FIXTURES

DOMESTIC

- Welsh 5K Champs 2026 Caerphilly 9th August
- Welsh HM Champs Cardiff 4th October 2026
- Welsh 10K Champs Richard Burton 1st November 2026
- Welsh Inter Regional XC Championships 28th November 2026
- Welsh XC Championships 27th February 2027 (tbc)

REPRESENTATIVE

- Antrim HM 23rd August 2026
- Sportshoes 5K (tbc)
- Telford or Leeds 10K (tbc)

SCHOOLS

- Welsh Inter Schools XC October 21st
- Welsh Schools XC February 17th 2026 (tbc)

PERFORMANCE

- SM stated that Leeds 10K may be used instead of Telford for a representative opportunity. Awaiting confirmation from EA. This would also provide opportunity for para athletes to compete as course better suited than Telford
- The XC representative fixture will be a HCI/ Celtics, but it's not yet been confirmed where and when. The event needs to be improved on previous years. The Inter Regional XC may be used as a trial race if the HCI is to be in January
- SM congratulated the Mini Marathon athletes

SCHOOLS

- N/A

AOB

- N/A

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

- Proposal: Wednesday 19th August 5.15pm. Microsoft Teams invite will be sent from SM to members for a virtual meeting, minutes will be available on WA website (emailed to eleonor.cartlidge@welshathletics.org and media@welshathletics.org) and emailed to members

