

Minutes of Track & Field Committee Meeting
Wednesday 22nd June 2022 via Teams Conference Call



WELSH ATHLETICS
ATHLETAU CYMRU

Present

Joyce Tomala (JT), Lynne Brier (LB), Lynette Harries (LH), Darran Williams (DH), Crispin Backsall (CB), Sue Hooper (SH), Adrian Palmer (AP), Rhiannon Linington-Payne (RLP), Alan Currie (AC), Chris Moss (CM), Hannah Pretty (HP).

1. APOLOGIES

Jen Stone, Darran Williams, Sue Hooper, Crispin Backsall

2. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No declarations of conflict of interest.

3. WELSH ATHLETICS UPDATES

a. Competition Update (RLP)

Senior Championships and Under 15 Championships

RLP shared the numbers of entries across the events for the Senior and Under 15 championships with a 21% growth on last year's entries.

JT pointed out that the numbers that competed were lower than actual entries.

RLP said that some athletes had chosen to go to the BMC competition.

JM said that some Under 18 athletes had opted to go elsewhere because they were looking for selection for Under 18 GB selection.

Junior Championships (Under 13, Under 17 and Under 20)

RLP confirmed that the Junior Championships are to be held on 13th and 14th August and that the issues with the cage at Newport have been rectified. A competition organisation meeting for these championships has been arranged for 1st August. However, the committee pointed out that many members of this committee, along with some officials would be at the Commonwealth Games. RLP agreed to revisit this date.

Welsh International

RLP said that it was confirmed for 17th August in Swansea. This is a Wednesday evening this year on the same date that the Manchester International was to be held. Next year it will be a weekend fixture. The teams confirmed are Wales Under 20, Welsh Schools Under 20, England Regions and Scotland Under 20. Northern Ireland Under 20 have confirmed but possibly will not send a full team. Awaiting reply from Ireland. Selection policies have already been sent out. It will not be a full programme of events.

Commonwealth Games Update (AP)

Adrian Palmer shared the following information:

- A team of 23 athletes have been selected, including para-athletes;
- Kit have been allocated;
- The holding camp continues to be in the Vale Hotel;

- Daily testing for Covid will take place with a PCR test 72 hours before entering the athletes village in Birmingham;
- Team managers are Adrian Palmer and Chris Jones.

JT wished AP and the team all the best on behalf of the committee.

c. Event Specific Competitions in Wales

JM pointed out that there had been a lack of quality endurance races in Wales, with a number of athletes having to travel to England throughout the season to seek out quality competition, often at BMC matches. He suggested that Welsh Athletics link up with BMC to plan and organise some quality events in Wales. This would assist Welsh athletes who were attempting to achieve qualification standards, as well as those who could not afford to travel further afield to compete. JM felt that many athletes, particularly younger athletes chasing GB junior standards were currently at a disadvantage. The committee agreed with this point. JM said that he would be happy to be involved in piloting some events in Wales next year with the support of BMC.

Action: to be placed on the agenda for discussion in more detail at the next meeting.

JT asked RLP why an events specific jumps competition had been organised for the day before the Inter-Regional competition. RLP said that the date had already been arranged on the calendar before the date of the Inter-Regional match. JT requested that this didn't happen again next year.

d. Welsh Junior Development League (JT):

JT reported that she was to meet with James Williams, Rhiannon Linington-Payne and Darran Williams to discuss the Welsh Junior League. The concerns surround the lack of officials and the fact that clubs don't feel that it is their responsibility to organise officials for these competitions. JT pointed out that clubs are asking what Welsh Athletics role is in this league and expecting Welsh Athletics to provide officials.

AC asked why there were three divisions on the same day as this put pressure on officials.

JT said that it had been arranged like this because clubs themselves had requested that they didn't have to travel very far for these matches.

JM questioned whether we need a Welsh League or should we stick to Junior YDL. He questioned whether we have the capacity to make two leagues work.

LH felt that YDL doesn't reach every team in Wales and therefore a wider discussion needs to take place at club level to develop grassroots. This could mean a change of rules and clubs demanding more commitment from parents for these Welsh league matches are to succeed alongside YDL matches.

JT suggested that clubs are contacted to ask them if they want the Welsh junior Development League to continue.

JT also fed back concerns on the following:

- Reports that Open Track is not fit for purpose and there are still no results for 28th May.

- Brecon can no longer host the last meeting of the South Division because their equipment won't be in place for 10th September.
- Code of Conduct – Serious concerns about both parents and team managers abusing officials. In response to this, RLP said that Carl Williams has given a safeguarding presentation around the procedures following reporting breaches of the code of conduct.

Action – Invite Carl Williams to the next meeting in August.

4. DISCUSSION/ ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

a. Appointment of T & F Team Managers (AP/BD)

AP confirmed that it is on the website and some people have expressed an interest.

b. Facilities for Technical Events

There are still grave concerns about some facilities. The issues at Newport are now resolved. However, concerns are still ongoing about the Brecon facility, where their equipment has gone to Newtown and new equipment has not yet arrived.

c. Records

AC presented the following records:

Male

Piers Copeland (Senior National) - 1500m (3.36.12)

Jake Heywood (Senior National) – 1 mile (3.53.25) and 3000m (7.48.83)

Osián Perrin (Under 20) – 3000m (7.54.41)

Lucca Tardivel (Under 13) – 60m (7.88)

Female

Jenny Nesbit (Senior Allcomers) – 3000m (8.44.92). Jenny was the only woman in a mixed race of males and females.

Melissa Courtney-Bryant (Senior National) – 1500m (4.05.63)

Isabel Thomas (Under 20) – Pole Vault (3.81)

Sophie Lisk (Under 17) – 60m Hurdles (8.63)

Jessica Lee (Under 17) – Long Jump (5.79)

Nell Desir (Under 15) – 60m (7.51)

Nell Desir (Under 15) – 200m (24.39)

Libby Hale (Under 15) – 1500m (4.35.94)

Aliyah Afolabi (under 13) – 200m (25.56)

Lois Codling (Under 13) – 800m (2.23.07)

Bryony Boyce (Under 13) – 1500m (4.59.27). This was a mixed race of males and females.

The following were also presented as Indoor Championship best performances:

Male

Lachlan Robbie (Under 13) – Shot (9.55)

Female

Hannah Brier (Senior) – 200m (24.15)

Isabel Thomas (Under 20) – Pole Vault (3.77)
Nell Desir (Under 17) – 60m (7.57)
Jessica Lee (Under 17) – Long Jump (5.67)
Nell Desir (Under 15) – 60m (7.68)
Libby Hale (Under 15) – 1500m (4.39.62)
Matilda Quick (Under 15) – Shot (10.98)
Aliyah Afolabi (Under 13) – 60m (7.93)
Aliyah Afolabi (Under 13) – 200m (26.40)
Bryony Boyce (Under 13) - 1500m (4.59.27)
Aliyah Afolabi (Under 13) – Long Jump (4.71)

All records were agreed and ratified, apart from the two races that were mixed races that included both male and female athletes. These are to be discussed further in the next meeting.

5. **REPORTS:**

a. Regional Issues

Regional Championships (JT)

JT reported that **East Wales and South Wales joint Regional Championships** had gone well. However, there were general concerns that people would only commit for part of the day. This was not the case in West Wales but did occur within other regions. Again, there were grave concerns about lack of officials

Inter-Regional Championships (JT)

North Wales will not be taking part in the Inter-Regional Championships. The event has been moved to Aberdare due to problems with other facilities.

b. Officials Committee (SH)

Apologies from Sue Hooper who is extremely busy with preparations for British Championships.

6. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

RLP – Fyn Corcoran has discussed with RLP about setting up a triple jump advisory group about the run up and number of strides limitation that has been placed on under 15 triple jumpers. Wales is the only home country to have this limit and it is requested that this is removed.

Action: To be further discussed at the next meeting. Invite Fyn Corcoran to the next meeting to discuss and provide evidence.

LB suggested that workshops for parents should be established as there seems to be a pattern of negative and sometimes abusive behaviour towards officials by a very small group of parents.

AP suggested that we invite Zoe Brown to the October meeting to go through the “Perfect Parent” programme that she has been co-ordinating.

7. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 22nd 2022.

8. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Wednesday 12th October 2022

Wednesday 7th December 2022