

**Minutes of Track & Field Committee**  
**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2024**



WELSH ATHLETICS  
ATHLETAU CYMRU

**1. Apologies:**

Lee Hayward, Sue Hooper, Alex Donald, Chris Type

**In Attendance** – Lynne Brier (LB), Joyce Tomala (JT), Darran Williams (DW), Lynette Harries (LH), Crispin Backshall (CB), Dai Williams (DaiW), Lisa Champion (LC)

**2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

Not Applicable – None declared.

**3. Actions from Previous Minutes**

- a. JT not yet heard from CM regarding the position of both Aberdare and Deeside this year. However, JT has been in touch with Aberdare who have confirmed that they now have their full certificate and are ready for their Upper YDL match on 27<sup>th</sup> April. However, there is still a problem with the water jump. They are waiting for it to be re-sealed.  
CB confirmed that Deeside will be ready to host meetings and have received their full certificate. CB confirmed that the regionals for North Wales are to be held in Deeside, with pole vault being held indoors if necessary, and the inter-regional to be held in Wrexham.
- b. Review Meeting – AD has requested that JT and DH liaise regarding a date for the review meeting (to be arranged after this meeting).
- c. Training in the use of Opentrack - DW and Nathan Jones will be meeting to work out who the host clubs are, with a view to organising training in the use of Opentrack, so that it doesn't all fall on Nathan Jones. DT confirmed that training had already been arranged with Cardiff, ready for the first junior league match.
- d. Welsh Schools input into U20 International – There are currently no updates.  
DaiW asked if there was a selection criteria and JT replied that she had not yet heard anything.  
DaiW expressed concerns about numbers at Welsh Schools Under 20 level, if there is no incentive for them compete.  
DaiW suggested that it was added to the selection criteria that athletes must compete in the championships to be considered.  
**Action** – LB to contact Chris Type with clarification on selection criteria for under 20 international and who is hosting the international.
- e. AC to amend Triple Jumps records, AD to update WA website  
DW confirmed that all records have been amended, including triple jump records. DW will share the records with the committee and update the records on the website.
- f. AD to share a document on the proposed UKA Age Group Rule changes with the committee  
JT attended the webinar and confirmed that the changes will go through in 2026.  
JT said that England Athletics will hold forums for clubs in the runup to the changes.  
JT asked if Welsh Athletics will also hold webinars for clubs.

JT concerned that people in Wales are not fully aware of the changes and the implications.

**Action** – DW to find out from James Williams about how information is to be shared in Wales.

4. **WA Updates:**

a. **Competition Update (AD)**

i. **Outdoor updates 2024**

1. **Welsh Senior Championships**

15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> June in Cardiff

2. **Welsh Junior Championships**

10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> August in Swansea

3. **Regional Championships – confirmation of dates and venues**

11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> May at various venues.

ii. **Inter-Regional T & F Championships 2024**

The date and venue is confirmed for 8<sup>th</sup> June at Wrexham, with North Wales being the host region.

JT shared timetables and venues for the next three years.

JT expressed concerns that there was also a lack of officials in East and South regions, with so much on this year.

JT said that the intention was to send out reminders.

CB said that he would also be concentrating on having enough officials in place.

CB said that his main concern was that there was a lot on in Wrexham for that week, but confirmed that the event would be going ahead.

iii. **Event Specific Meetings**

Run With The Wind and Throws and Under 15 triple - 1<sup>st</sup> May in Cardiff

Run With The Wind and Throws - 5<sup>th</sup> June in Cardiff

North Wales Endurance Open - 24<sup>th</sup> May in Deeside

Event Specific and 2k and 3k Championships - 22<sup>nd</sup> June in Newport

BMC and hopefully 2k walk – 16<sup>th</sup> July in Deeside

BMC and 2k walk - 23<sup>rd</sup> July in Aberdare

Also several open meetings but not published until clubs have confirmed.

iv. **Welsh Junior Competitions (LH/AD)**

Most first matches have been arranged for 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> April.

May 4<sup>th</sup> in Neath (West) and Aberdare (South and East)

2<sup>nd</sup> June in Brecon (South and East)

13<sup>th</sup> July in Deeside (North)

14<sup>th</sup> July in Carmarthen (West)

14<sup>th</sup> July in Aberdare (South and West)

DaiW confirmed the following on behalf of Welsh Schools:

Welsh Schools – Cardiff on July 6<sup>th</sup>

SIAB – Carmarthen on July 20<sup>th</sup>

Cup and Plate - Brecon on July 10<sup>th</sup> (date rearranged from the original 17<sup>th</sup> July)

DW said that he needed to know if photo finish is required and start training people in the use of opentrack, which requires wifi.

**Action** – DW to contact Steve Jones to discuss the above.

v. Date Indoor Competitions Review - To be confirmed.

**b. WA Performance update (CT)**

**i. Internationals**

LB / JT to request a report from Chris Type.

**ii. RDP sessions**

LB / JT to request a report from Chris Type

**c. Opentrack results program update (DW)**

DW said that he would rather stay with Opentrack because everyone is now trained in use of Opentrack and it will take too long for everyone to familiarise themselves with another provider.

**5. DISCUSSION**

**a. Training for Competition Organisers**

DW confirmed that here is a document on how to organise a competition. JT asked if there was a possibility of face-to-face training for new people to be able to organise athletics matches.

The committee felt that it was unfair that certain individuals were being criticised about the way competitions were being organised, yet the same individuals were not prepared to help out themselves.

It was unanimously agreed that more people needed to step forward and learn how to organise competitions.

**b. First Aid provision and costs**

JT expressed concern that an event organiser had been quoted £500 to cover an athletics event at Cardiff.

DW confirmed that Welsh Athletics regular payment is usually between £140 and £150.

Action – DW to look into this.

**c. U11 registration**

JT said that there had been some confusion about Under 11 registration. DW said that this is in the process of being rectified and should all be sorted out soon.

**d. U11 Events**

JT asked if they are they restricted to the same number of events as Under 13 athletes.

DW said that these restrictions have been lifted and they can compete in any three events in the junior leagues.

DW expressed some concern that some regions run 75m and 150m for Under 11 athletes, whereas others are running 100m and 200m for Under 11 athletes. However, there is a welfare rule in place that they can run any events, as long as they do not run more than 1000m during the competition. This is something that has to be monitored closely, with Welsh Athletics being the only UK nation that caters for Under 11 athletes.

**6. REPORTS:**

**a. Welsh Schools (DaiW)**

DaiW provided the dates for this year's school competitions.

A SIAB meeting took place following the SIAB cross country event in Dublin.

Parents, staff and athletes have been consulted on a new logo. It has been decided to stick with the existing logo for this season.

**b. Regional Issues**

**North Wales**

CB confirmed that Colwyn Bay will be ready for this season and North Wales were also looking forward to going to Deeside for the first time in a while.

CB said that they were struggling with officials and athletes for the first match of the Junior League with many athletes going to the open meeting in Warrington. They also only had four qualified officials registered for the event.

**South and East Wales**

JT confirmed that they were currently focussed organising their regional championships, with LH working on organising the Welsh junior league.

**West Wales**

LC talked about holding a track judging course on 13<sup>th</sup> April to coincide with the first junior league – possibly a two hour course, followed by experience in the match itself. They are currently trying to confirm this.

**c. Officials Committee (SH)**

LB read out the following report prepared by SH:

- All officials for the four main Welsh Athletics events have been contacted regarding selection, with the chiefs, referees and management roles all in place.
- Welsh Junior League matches and YDL events – officials to be organised by the clubs themselves, with Sue Hooper available to help if required.
- Gareth Harris has taken on the role of West Wales officials representative.
- A replacement is needed to step into Alan Currie's role as track representative on the officials committee. Sue Hooper acknowledged that Alan would be a very hard act to follow.
- The officials committee are currently looking for a walks official to sit on the committee.

**7. Any Other Business**

The committee discussed a letter that is circulating about the possible resurrection of the CAU track and field meeting. It was agreed that it should be discussed by the individual regions at their next meetings.

**Action** - LB to share the document with all committee members for them to share with their regional representatives.

JT asked about updates on transfer of athletes between clubs.

DW confirmed that this has now been updated.

DaiW asked if there were any updates on the clarification of borders for selection purposes. JT said that we would hopefully get an answer soon, with it being discussed again in the next General Council meeting.

LH asked for an update on staffing within Welsh Athletics.

**Action** LB to follow up on this.

DW confirmed that licensing rules will be changing for officials to attract more new officials and allow more officials to be upgraded. More information will follow shortly.

- a. **Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday June 4th, 2024.

**b. Dates of Future Meetings:**

**07/08/2024**

**02/10/2024**

**04/12/2024**