

Minutes of Track & Field Committee Meeting
Wednesday 6th April 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

2. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No declarations of conflict of interest.

3. WELSH ATHLETICS UPDATES

a. Facilities update (HP)

HP reported on the following:

- Issues surrounding the cage are still ongoing at Newport
- The pole vault bed in Aberdare is back in action.
- The cage at Brecon is scheduled to be repaired.
- Sport Wales have provided funding to improve lighting at the stadium in Cardiff.
- Funding has been secured from Sport Wales to upgrade and resurface the facility at Deeside and Welsh Athletics have been working with Coleg Cambria to facilitate this.

JT shared a message from Hedydd Davies that the facility at Haverford West will be out of action for the rest of the season.

CM thanked Dave Jessop for his work over the last few months for his work in moving these facilities forward in terms of health checks and repairs etc.

b. Competition Update (RLP)

- The home nations and Ireland are keen for the Under 20 International to go ahead this year and RLP is currently in discussions with the other nations to secure a date. It will be challenging to fit this into a weekend date this year, but this will be made a priority next year.
- RLP is in discussion with the British Milers Club to bring a BMC to Wales.
- RLP has had some meetings with clubs who are keen to host their own competitions, such as sprints opens and will be supporting them to be competition providers and go through the track mark process with them.
- The hope was that there would be four different Welsh leagues – North, East, South and West, but only two clubs in North Wales, Menai and Colwyn Bay

are keen to take part this year. RLP is working with these two clubs to see if something can be set up for these two clubs.

SH asked if the date that was set for the junior international was still in place and RLP confirmed that the date was no longer viable and they were currently looking for a new date.

c. Welsh Junior Development League (JT):

JT reported that she has been asked by Welsh Athletics to co-ordinate the new Welsh Junior League this year. JT stressed that this is a re-vamping of the league, not the establishment of a new league that will compromise any other leagues. The following information was shared with the committee:

- Carmarthen Harriers were scheduled to meet and will host in September if they're in.
- Neath will host on 28th May
- Swansea will host on 17th July
- Awaiting decision from Rhymney Valley – meeting imminent
- Rhondda offered to host on 20th August
- Brecon will host in September if the cage is repaired
- All clubs in East Wales have committed, with Newport willing to host in Aberdare on 16th July if their own facility is not ready.
- Hereford will host on 21st August
- Cardiff Archers will host on 11th September
- Cardiff Athletics have been requested to host in May.
- Only two clubs in North Wales want to be part of it – Menai and Colwyn Bay
- Oswestry and Maldwyn said that they don't have the athletes or officials.
- Wrexham and Deeside said that they didn't want to be part of it.

CB responded on behalf of Wrexham and Deeside and said that this was because they had already committed to the Cheshire League this year and this commitment had been made in October, before the Welsh League had been organised.

SH asked if it was likely that there would be three meetings on one day.

JT said that they had tried to avoid this, although there could be two meetings over a weekend.

JT said that there was to be no photo finish at any of these meetings and that the host clubs were to be responsible for providing volunteer officials for the meetings. CB said that Menai and Colwyn Bay planned on holding some events themselves.

d. Commonwealth Games (AP)

AP shared the following information:

- Athletes close to the standards were to be supported to train and compete and various camps overseas.
- Sport Wales are still communicating that it will be a small team, with less than twenty athletes being selected.
- The selected athletes will go to a holding camp at the Vale Hotel just prior to the Commonwealth Games.

JT asked why the team is to be so small.

AP replied that it was basically down to space at Birmingham and the number of accreditations that have been issued.

The committee expressed their disappointment in this decision, where a Commonwealth Games being held in one of the home nations cannot send a whole team, including relay teams.

JT asked if there was anything that this committee to do to express their disappointment at this decision.

AP said that the CEOs from the home nations have written directly to UK Sport to highlight their disappointment.

4. DISCUSSION/ ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

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

AP said that expressions of interest for Loughborough and the Under 20 International would be advertised.

b. Medallists at T & F Championships (JT)

JT spoke to Andy Day at England Athletics to discuss how medals are distributed at England Championships.

JT asked RLP if it was more cost effective to have different medals if three non-Welsh athletes crossed the line first.

RLP confirmed that this would be more cost-effective.

5. REPORTS:

a. Regional Issues

Regional Championships (JT)

CB confirmed Sunday 15th May for the North region.

JT confirmed the South and East joint championship on Saturday 14th May at Aberdare and West on Sunday 15th May at Neath.

Inter-Regional Championships (JT)

JT said that East Wales will be hosting the Inter-Regional Championships in Swansea on 10th July. However, the pavilion will not be available until 12:30pm. JT is awaiting a reply from Barrie Owen on this matter.

b. Officials Committee (SH)

SH said that availability form had started to come in for the forthcoming season.

SH asked where the reports that chiefs fill in are kept. SH said that they used to be on Trinity. RLP confirmed that they are still kept on Trinity but not all officials would have access to them, just the chiefs.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

LB asked on behalf of Swansea Harriers why the Welsh Championships was placed in Newport, knowing that there are difficulties with the stadium and that there are other tracks in Wales that are in good condition and have updated.

RLP said that Welsh Athletics had an agreement with Newport because they had invested in the facility at Newport.

Action: Alan Currie to be invited to the next meeting to present new records to be ratified.

AP said that he would be keen to find out what the general club perspective is on technical events in Wales and the condition of facilities for technical events e.g. throws areas and jumping pits etc and do the clubs have any ideas about how these facilities could be improved.

Action: To be further discussed at the next meeting.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 8th June 2022

8. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Wednesday 3rd August 2022

Wednesday 12th October 2022

Wednesday 7th December 2022