



## **Welsh Athletics Track and Field Committee.**

### **Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2020.**

#### **Venue:**

#### **PRESENT**

Rhiannon Linington-Payne (RLP), Crispin Backsall (CB), Joyce Tomala (JT), Bethan Akanbi-Mortimer (BAM), Lynette Harries (LH), Tom Marley (TM), Kath Elias (KE), Jamie Clode, Lynne Brier (LB), Jake Morgan (JM), Darran Williams (DW), Sue Hooper (SH)

#### **1. APOLOGIES**

Adrian Palmer, Mark Gold (represented by Jamie Clode)

#### **2. CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

No conflicts of interest were declared.

#### **3. ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

- a. LB confirmed that James William's presentation had been requested, but not received to date and therefore it was uncertain as to how widely the presentation had been shared amongst the regions. The presentation has been shared in several meetings and conferences, such as the Clubs and Fixtures Conference and General Council, but there could still be individuals within the regions who have not seen a copy and the presentations had not been sent out to delegates present at meetings. JM was not aware of any information having reached West Wales.  
**Action** - TM agreed to remind James Williams to share the presentation.
- b. All regions have been contacted about an inter-regional reform and review meeting that was agreed by General Council and confirmed for 16<sup>th</sup> February. JT confirmed that she has sent an email to all regional secretaries about this. JT said that she has received no reply from the South to date. JC said that all those concerned had replied directly to him and offered his apologies that nothing had been passed on to JT. JT was concerned about email discussions that had been taking place regarding inter-regional matters and said that she will not be involving herself in responses via email. All matters will be discussed in a meeting that has been agreed for 16<sup>th</sup> February. JT said that North Wales Region had responded by stating that they had not been provided with enough time to discuss to the matter of inter-regional reform. JT requested that CB fed back to the North Wales Region that they have had more than one opportunity to discuss this and that inter-regional reform has been a topic of discussion for a while. JT confirmed that West Wales had provided three provisional confirmations to attend the meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> February. JM said that the paperwork that accompanied the invitations sent out by JT were very good quality and clearly set out the options for reform. JT was keen to communicate the fact that regional opinions, rather than personal opinions, would be key to a

constructive meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> February. LH will also attend the meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> February, as a representative of the track and field committee.

**Action** – JT to report back initially to General Council and then to the track and field committee in their next meeting.

- c. LB reported back on concerns about a young athlete and official organising a para athletics event in Cardiff. Steve Jones spoke to the young person's father, who reassured Steve Jones that the arrangements were all in hand and plenty of support was being offered by Cardiff AC and various other bodies. Steve Jones shared the response with LB via email. LB read out the response to the committee. LH asked whether not accommodation for athletes and officials had been considered, as accommodation is costly. DW reported that some experienced officials were expressing their concerns and reservations about this event and felt that there would not be enough officials to make this event a success. KE asked if this was to be a full programme of events, as this would increase the amount of specialised equipment necessary. KE felt that athletes would they be disappointed with the level off competition and number of athletes present, should they turn up expecting a large -scale event. TM didn't think that para athletes would expect big numbers of entries anyhow. JT was concerned that a Level 2 licence is unattainable because Cardiff does not currently have Track Mark. DW also confirmed that Level 2 is unattainable unless the organiser can confirm the number of officials to be present for the event. It was agreed that the track and field committee had done all that they could to question the organisation of this event, as well as the level of support that was being offered to the organiser of this event.
- d. Adrian Palmer is currently unavailable due to work commitments elsewhere and sends his apologies to this committee. He will be invited to a future meeting to discuss opportunities for senior athletes.

#### **4. DISCUSSIONS**

##### **a. Update on Review of Inter Regional Championships**

This point was already discussed in point 3b. JT has been communicating with relevant persons in each region and a meeting has been organised for February 16th between all four regions and Welsh Athletics.

##### **b. Debrief meeting for Indoor Competitions**

A meeting was confirmed for Thurs March 5<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. RLP has asked for feedback from athletes. The next General Council meeting is to be held on 5<sup>th</sup> March and this will be an opportunity to report back on indoor competitions. SH, JT, RLP, TM and DW will attend the debrief meeting.

**Action** - RLP to see if a meeting room is available at the stadium. If not, a room can be arranged at Sophia Gardens.

##### **c. Steeplechase Specifications**

JT shared information about changes to U17 men steeplechase specifications decided by UKA. There are concerns surrounding lack of official notification via UKA about the changes to barrier heights to 84cm, and lack of time for stadia to make changes before the forthcoming season. Hardly any stadia currently have barriers at this height. JT confirmed that she has spoken to three stadia that are either new

venues or have new barriers - Hereford, Aberdare and Newark, who all confirmed that they have received no official notification of these changes. JT said that YDL have asked Donna Frazer to look into this as their YDL committee representative within UKA. DW said that every track will be affected by this. TM has spoken to John Templeton (Domestic Competition Manager for UKA), who confirmed that this information is correct and that notice to stadia is due soon. It was decided by the track and field committee that the barriers should remain as they are for this season's Welsh Championships, unless official notice arrives from UKA in plenty of time, as every barrier will need to be altered, entailing a lowering of every barrier by 4cm and two new holes being drilled in every barrier.

d. **Jump Offs at Championships**

Concerns have been raised about the use of jump offs at the Welsh Junior Championships held at Wrexham last summer. It was proposed that equal medals and no jump offs were to be used in high jump and pole vault at any championship event. The committee were unanimous in their opinion that the use of jump offs at championships should not be used and this proposal was accepted.

**Action** – Meeting Managers / Chief Officials to highlight during all debriefs that there will be no jump offs included in Championship events (to be shared with officials committee).

e. **Correspondence**

Concerns have been raised that chief officials write reports following events but nothing seems to be actioned or done about it. There were concerns raised at senior championships about the health and safety implications of the raised pole vault being a potential hazard to athletes, pole vault officials and track officials in the vicinity of the pole vault area. LH expressed concerns about the runway being narrow and she referred back to rule book, stating that there is no reference to any rule supporting litigation should there be an accident surrounding raised runways. KE asked whether or not this was preferred by athletes and RLP and confirmed that they do prefer the raised runway. RLP said that it would only be endorsed for senior athletes and never junior athletes. LH asked whether or not it was recognised for record purposes. JT asked that this point be raised by officials as a health and safety concern. JT felt that it has been risk assessed, but did not know when the risk assessment had last been reviewed. JC asked how other venues risk assess this and whether or not it was worth asking them for a copy of their risk assessments.

**Action** – Further discussion required by officials committee.

f. **Outdoor Fixtures**

The fixtures conference was held in December, where all venues had been agreed. However, some fixtures have been moved around.

**Action** - TM will email changes to relevant persons and committees.

The following dates were confirmed:

Welsh Junior Championships – Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June and Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June in Newport

Welsh Senior Championships – Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July – Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July in Cardiff

Welsh athletics International – Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July in Cardiff

TM confirmed that one full junior age group would be included in the senior championships, highly likely to be the Under 15 age group. JM requested that this is publicised as soon as possible as families will already be planning their summer holidays.

**Action** – TM has already started putting news articles together and will put this date out as soon as possible. TM will also put the dates on the website as requested by JT.

JT drew attention to the fact that UKA fixtures list still has Welsh athletics League on it. TM confirmed that Donna Frazer has been made aware of this and will amend appropriately.

BAM asked whether or not there was still an issue with the track at Newport and RLP and DW confirmed that the track has been relayed.

DW and RLP also confirmed that the Welsh Schools match would be back in Cardiff on 4<sup>th</sup> July due to an event in Swansea.

JT asked about the throws open in Carmarthen and JM said that the Carmarthen track is likely to remain closed until the end of May. JM also suggested that no events should be booked for Carmarthen in June, just in case inclement weather slowed the work down.

BAM suggested that as there was no throws camp organised for the South/ / East regions, perhaps the throws open could be re-scheduled to be held in the South or East as the West would essentially be out of bounds. TM replied that discussions were already taking place with Ryan Spencer Jones, with Cardiff being a possible venue. However, they would need to be restrictive with numbers and this could be a potential challenge. JT asked whether or not a midweek throws competition in Brecon could be a possibility. Aberdare was also discussed as a possible venue. SH requested that officials are informed in a timely manner of any decisions made about this.

JC asked whether or not the virtual league was going ahead this year and TM replied that it was more or less ready and waiting to be signed off by James Williams.

g. **Appointment of Team Managers for Future Outdoor Internationals**

RLP confirmed that she had met with LB in the summer to shortlist a number of candidates who had expressed an interest in the posts. The following team managers were assigned to duties:

Loughborough International: Chris Jones, Dave Goodger and Debbie Bull.

Under 20 International: Adrian Palmer, Carol Jones, Kirsty Crane, Mark Gold and Neil Thomas.

Manchester International: Chris Jones, Barry Edwards and Kay Chapman

The performance team are to select coaching staff for these internationals. All selected managers and coaches are to be notified once RLP has finished putting the selection policies together.

h. **Updates to 2020 Fixtures**

The following updates were provided:

Loughborough International – 17<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Manchester International – 12<sup>th</sup> August 2020

The dates for the following events specific matches were provided:

Belfast International – 27<sup>th</sup> May 2020 (Junior relay teams)

Oordegem, Belgium – 30<sup>th</sup> May 2020 (track events)

Leira – 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> August (Throws International)

5. **REPORTS**

a. **Domestic Competition Update (Indoors)** – This has already been discussed in point 4 (Discussions)

b. **General Council Report**

LB reported back on James William's report on new competition proposals, staff restructuring and updates, as well as discussions around criteria for event licencing. The date of the next meeting of the General Council is confirmed as March 5<sup>th</sup>.

c. **Officials Committee**

SH said that the official's selection meeting for outdoor competitions was to be held on Thursday February 6<sup>th</sup>. The officials conference is provisionally booked for 15<sup>th</sup> March. SH expressed the concerns of officials that two indoor championship competitions back to back had been quite tough for those involved in officiating in both events.

d. **Regional reports**

**North Wales**

CB expressed ongoing concerns from North Wales about the condition of their tracks. Deeside and Colwyn Bay have difficulties with football and rugby events affecting the throws areas and stated that athletes are not allowed to throw on the infield, even outside the football and rugby season. WRU have stated that no throws are to take place infield. CB said that he has written a letter to Marion Jackson, Head of Leisure for Colwyn Bay, stating that the Service Level Agreement has been broken. CB expressed concerns that Colwyn Bay was becoming more of a running club than an all-round athletics club due to the restrictions that had been placed upon them. LH and TM asked who was already aware of this and CB confirmed that North Wales had shared their concerns with James Williams and Chris Moss.

**Action** – LB to contact CEO about this matter, with a view to discussing concerns with Sport Wales as a matter of urgency.

#### **East Wales**

JT shared the date of the development day in Aberdare as 28<sup>th</sup> March and the need for more potential officials to attend.

**Action** – TM to share this date on the Welsh Athletics website.

JT said that East Wales business cards had now been completed.

#### **South Wales**

JC confirmed that emails had been sent out within the region to publicise the development day on March 28<sup>th</sup> and to date and to his knowledge, two people had replied to express their interest.

JT said that there was a joint East / South meeting coming up to discuss holding their joint regional outdoor championships once again.

#### **West Wales**

JM expressed concerns that meetings were not well attended in the West Wales region and that because of this, they did not seem to be a very representative way of holding meetings.

JM said that West Wales had agreed a proposal to purchase their own photo finish equipment, using grant money that was possibly available.

JM confirmed that Carmarthen was to be upgraded to an eight-lane track and that competition lighting would be installed.

### **6. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

JT thanked LB for the quality of the minutes provided for the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

JT advised LB that all future final minutes are sent directly to Rob Sage at Welsh Athletics. To be shared on their website. This was agreed and confirmed by Welsh Athletics staff present in the meeting.

### **7. CORRESPONDANCE**

All correspondence has been shared under other points and issues within the meeting.

### **8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

BAM discussed problems that had arisen for those wanting to enter relay teams online into the Welsh Championships and pay by invoice. BAM was concerned that it was difficult and time consuming to pay for age groups separately and that one transaction would be much simpler for team managers.

**Action** – TM and DW to look into editing the entry process to allow a method for paying by invoice in a single transaction.

The following changes to the Welsh Senior and Under 20 Championships were proposed:

- The competition to revert to being called the Welsh Championships, as opposed to Welsh Open Championships.
- The first three athletes in each competition would be awarded medals, as well as the highest placed Welsh athlete, if not in the first three.
- Any non-Welsh athletes who break the championship best performances should be recognised and awarded this record, but not awarded a Welsh record, should the overall Welsh record be broken. Overall Welsh records to remain exclusive to Welsh athletes.

**Action** - It was agreed by the committee to minute these proposals and discuss as an agenda item for possible inclusion in the next Welsh Athletics annual general meeting.

CB asked if the date had been set for the Inter-Regional Championships as the date clashed with the Cheshire League last year and affected the North Wales clubs in this league. JT said that the date had not yet been set in stone and was on the agenda for the inter-regional meeting on February 16<sup>th</sup>. JT said that there had been a suggestion to move it back to the end of August, but this clashed with Bedford age group championships, affecting all regions. DW said that dates had been set for league fixtures, but there were in fact no dates currently in place for the Cheshire League. TM said that that lengthy discussions had taken place surrounding the date for the Inter-Regional Championships. JT requested that CB feed back to North Wales Regional Committee dates for inter-regionals have to be agreeable to all four regions.

#### **9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as April 8<sup>th</sup> 2020, at 6:30pm at Sport Wales, Sophia Gardens.

#### **10. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

03.06.20  
05.08.20  
07.10.20  
02.12.20

The meeting ended at 8:30pm