

WELSH ATHLETICS OFFICIALS COMMITTEE

TRACK AND FIELD

Minutes of meeting held on 22 March 2018 at Brecon Carreg Room, CISS

1. PRESENT

Sue Hooper (Secretary & Starter/Marksman Rep), Olive Dobson (Walking Rep), Joyce Tomala (T&F Committee), Jeff Marsden (Photofinish Rep), Dave Jessett (Field Rep), Linda Cushing (General Council Rep), Lynette Harries (co-opted), Tom Marley (WA) and Alan Currie (Track Rep)

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received on behalf of Donald Melrose, John Elward & Denise Harris

3 MINUTES

3.1 The minutes of the previous meeting (15 February 2018) had been circulated by email. There was a typing error in para. 10 (AOB) which should read 'direct contact', not 'conduct'. With this adjustment the minutes were accepted.

4 MATTERS ARISING

4.1 Paragraph 3: There has been no contact so far with Linda Turner (UKA) regarding the feeling that a properly conducted TRNG is essential.

4.2 Paragraph 8: A list of proposed changes to UKA rules has been circulated by email. It was noted that among the changes was one giving referees the authority to remove from the arena any person considered to be acting in an unacceptable manner. The IAAF rulebook is now available from WA Office. The UKA version is not yet available and will be distributed **later to all officials.**

4.3 Paragraph 9: The Midland Counties have withdrawn their document relating to the reporting of abuse of officials as there are some issues over confidentiality. A suitable method of reporting such incidents needs to be devised. On behalf of Welsh Athletics, Steve Jones is to make a presentation on this subject.

5 VACANT CHAIR POSITION

John Elward has stood down as chairman of this committee and a successor is required. The chair is selected by the committee from among the members; it is not an additional place. The view of James Williams of WA is that the role is solely to chair meetings of the committee and does not imply any activities beyond that. The chair may or may not be the committee's representative on General Council. Lynette Harris stressed the importance of the chair and secretary of the committee being fully involved in the committee's activities and working in tandem.

Sue Hooper agreed to chair future meetings. She will also be the committees' General Council representative with the proviso that a substitute can be appointed when she is not able to make GC meetings. The next meeting of GC is on 8 May. Due to Sue Hooper's non availability, Jeff Marsden will represent the committee. John Elward will continue to sit on this committee as the South Region's representative.

6 EDUCATION MATTERS

6.1 The committee congratulated Tom Marley on his recent promotion. His new designation is National Events and Competition Manager, effective from 1 April 2018.

6.2 A track judging course was recently held in Bangor. Proposals for the near future include Health & Safety at Carmarthen, Photo Finish at Swansea, Field Events in Cardiff (in two stages) plus Field and Track at Carmarthen.

6.3 Recent upgradings include 5 to Level 1, one to Level 2 and one to Level 3. The L3 is for Jen Stone in Photo Finish. Comments were made on the UKA proposal to require a written report on officials wishing to be upgraded to L2. This is particularly important on the field, bearing in mind the UKA stipulation that officials cannot lead a field event until they achieve L2. It was felt that officials reaching that level needed to show that they were competent to lead an event. It was noted that many officials do not wish to progress beyond L1.

7 OFFICIALS' DATABASE

7.1 The database shows something in excess of 700 graded officials in Wales. Although this includes endurance officials there is no doubt that the figure is unrealistic and that the actual number of currently active officials is considerably smaller. Jeff Marsden confirmed that 96 officials have replied to availability requests for 2018 (including many non-Welsh).

7.2 There is a concern that some officials may be operating without having an up to date DBS. Tom Marley said that officials are sent two emails in advance of their renewal date and one reminder afterwards. Sue Hooper has contacted some officials on this point and a significant number have agreed that their DBS needs updating. Of the 96 confirmed availabilities, 5 are currently without DBS cover, one of whom is under 16, so not yet eligible for such cover. The limited use made of officials' annual record of experience was discussed, but Dave Jessett confirmed that this is a UKA requirement and that WA does not have the option of withdrawing it. There are a number of cases where its use is very important.

8 SELECTIONS UPDATE

The World Cup event to be held in London clashes directly with the Welsh Senior Championships. This has led to many of our senior officials being unavailable, causing problems in some areas, particularly in the managerial roles. James Williams raised the issue at a recent visit to UKA. Paula Gowing will look into this matter. The need for non-technical posts to be filled was stressed.

9 TRACK AND FIELD COMMITTEE

Joyce Tomala confirmed that she is the representative of the Track and Field Committee on this committee. There have been instances of referees declining requests from members of their team to be excused from certain events. There was also a reluctance to accept officials who can be available only for a limited part of the day. She felt that a degree of flexibility is needed, particularly in view of the severe shortage of officials.

The track at Aberdare is unlikely to be available for use this summer so that the Welsh Inter Regional Championships will now be relocated to Brecon. The age group format for this meeting is unchanged. The Cardiff track is to be updated and will be out of circulation after the staging of the Welsh Senior Championships.

Welsh Athletics is proposing to charge meeting organisers £5/meeting for the provision of meeting licences. While this does not affect officials directly there was some concern that officials could inadvertently make themselves available for an unlicensed meeting. WA also stressed the need to appoint Meeting Managers at Welsh League meetings, and would cover the expense involved.

Committee representatives were required for the following meetings:

Indoor season debrief at CISS on 5 April. Sue Hooper will attend

Track and Field Committee on 21 May. Alan Currie will attend

10 MENTORING UPDATE

Lynette Harris and Tom Marley have met for discussion on this topic. Officials are asked to indicate whether or not they require mentoring and if so every effort should be made to meet that requirement. On the question of mentor training, it was suggested that this could be carried out at regional level. The possibility of an on-line mentoring system should be considered.

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The following points were made:

UKA had initiated a scheme to recognise officials with 40 years' service or more. Its implementation has been patchy with some officials receiving the award and others not. Alan Currie agreed to provide a list of officials who meet the 40 year criterion and present it to a future meeting for discussion.

Welsh Athletics has been requested to withdraw the photograph of the late Bob Ivory from the section on the website relating to officials, and has agreed to do so.

12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of this committee will be on Thursday, 27 September 2018.