

WELSH ATHLETICS OFFICIALS COMMITTEE

TRACK AND FIELD

Minutes of meeting held on 15 February 2018 at Brecon Carreg Room, CISS

1. PRESENT

John Elward (Chairman & South Rep), 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 (GC Rep), Judith Gooding (T&F Committee), Lynette Harries (co-opted) and Alan Currie (Track Rep)

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received on behalf of Donald Melrose, Tom Marley & Denise Harris

3 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the previous meeting (23 November 2017) had been circulated by email. Paragraph 5 (3). Joyce Tomala reported that James Williams has the information relating to the grading of meetings which is also available on the UKA website. Guidelines on the subject will be sent to all regions. Dave Jessett confirmed that the matter had been raised at the UKA Education Subgroup meeting.

AOB (8). The meeting congratulated Sue Hooper on her upgrading to Level 4 Starters Assistant. Rob Hooper was informed that he needed two more reports although it seems to have been assumed that he was being considered as a Starter rather than a Starters Assistant. He has been given a place as assistant at the forthcoming European Clubs meeting and may also be appointed to the BUCS meeting.

Jeff Marsden felt that UKA's current practice of considering seasonal appointments and upgrading of officials all in one day was not effective. A properly conducted TRNG meeting was essential and Jeff felt that we should ask UKA why this was not the case. Linda Turner to be approached on this point.

It is essential that the relevant WA personnel are aware of the criteria for upgrading, in all disciplines, and also that they pass on information regarding upgrade applications to the officials involved as soon as it is known,

4 OUTDOOR SELECTIONS FOR 2018

Sue Hooper circulated an updated file of availabilities for the summer which contained the recommendations for chiefs/referees made by the discipline representatives. A few changes were made and the final list will be circulated later. There is a serious shortage of officials in some instances, particularly on the field, even for the major events. Unless the situation improves it is not inconceivable that some events will not be able to be held.

In some events it had proved impossible to appoint meeting managers, competition directors, etc. Some WA personnel have achieved grading in this discipline and should be available to fill this role.

The questions was raised about payment of walks judges' travel expenses if they are invited to come to meetings from further afield. Officials are usually paid travel expenses at Welsh Athletics League meetings, unless they travel with their clubs.

Concern was expressed over the clash of a major event in London on the weekend of the Welsh Senior Championships. This event has been upgraded very recently and is likely to take some of our senior officials away from the championships.

5 EDUCATION MATTERS

In Tom Marley's absence a report on education matters was circulated to the meeting. It listed 37 upgradings of Welsh officials. This included two officials to L4, one to L3 and five to L2. The remainder were to L1. There seems to be a holdup in the progressing of newly qualified officials. Tom Marley to be contacted on this point. It was disappointing that no-one from WA was present.

A timekeeper course was held in Bangor and a track judge course is imminent at the same location. There are plans to hold courses in Carmarthen.

Alan Currie reported that after frequent attempts to obtain a co-presenter for recent track tutorials had proved fruitless, he had been obliged to hold his most recent tutorial without one. The new training method, for which a tutors' tutorial had been held in Cardiff last year, was used.

6 MENTORING

Lynette Harries reported that a pilot scheme for mentoring will be used in the regions. Tom Marley will contact all those officials who are not currently receiving formal mentoring to determine whether or not they require any.

7 OFFICIALS EXPENSES

James Williams had said that any changes to the current expenses claim form deemed necessary will be determined centrally. The Finance Group will discuss officials' expenses at its next meeting.

8 ROLES OF TRACK AND FIELD REFEREES

In view of some unsavoury incidents at recent meetings, it is important that the role of the track and field referee is clearly understood by everyone, including coaches. The referees are the final authority on all matters relating to the actual athletics events.

Athletes have the right to protest at any decision made by the Referee, who is then obliged to review the incident before making a final decision. Once made, that decision is final and not

subject to any further discussion. Such matters are between the Referee and the complaining athlete and no other parties need to be involved.

9 CONDUCT AGAINST OFFICIALS

Dave Jessett circulated copies of a document used by some regions of England relating to conduct of various people at meetings. Officials have been subjected to verbal abuse and pressure and it is felt that such incidents should be reported and, where deemed necessary, appropriately dealt with. The meeting agreed that a similar scheme should apply in Wales and that the document should be adapted for our specific usage.

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There have been instances of coaches and others making direct contact with the seeders if they consider that they have a query or complaint over seeding. This placed pressure on the seeding officers and hindered them in doing their job. Such queries should be dealt with at a designated Event Information Centre and WA should be encouraged to set up an EIC at all major meetings and ensure that it is staffed.

There was concern over the officials' database not being kept up to date. One meeting organiser had recently addressed availability requests to officials unaware that in some instances the official was deceased.

Dave Jessett informed the meeting that, having passed the European Athletics ITO examination, he has been appointed to the European Athletics ITO Panel. He has also achieved UKA Level 5. He was congratulated by the meeting. This is a major distinction and the result of much dedication and hard work on his part.