

**WELSH ATHLETICS ROAD/CROSS COUNTRY COMMITTEE
2023/2024 SEASON**

MINUTES TEAMS MEETING WED 15th NOVEMBER 2023 5.15PM

ATTENDEES: -

Alaw Evans, Sharon Leech, Steve Mitchell, Kevin Tobin, Alex Donald

APOLOGIES : - Nikki Haines Jones, Steve Jones, Derek Osborne

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None

ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING (27th SEPTEMBER 2023)

- *New performance structures, supported athlete lists and representative opportunities and selection policies to be on website. Selection policies published, SM emailed the Committee prior to publishing. Athletes to be informed in the coming days who has been selected for the funded programme*
- *Welsh Schools XC Championships – SJ to confirm whether the date of 28th February has now been agreed by WSAA. AD confirmed date*
- *5K and 10K expressions of interest for hosting the Welsh Championships. AD to update and website updated. AD to put expressions of interest on website for the 10K Welsh Champs (2 year contract) and the 10K series (1 year contract), however the 5K will remain within the Whitchurch 5K*
- *AD to update regarding need to have a UK passport to represent Wales. AD believes that to be eligible to run for GB a UK passport is needed, however it's unclear as yet whether one is needed to run for one of the Home Countries*
- *Welsh HM Champs Cardiff: congratulations to Adam Bowden and Beth Kidger*
- *World HM Champs Riga: congratulations to Clara Evans 1:10:53 SB (bronze team medal)*
- *IAU 50km Champs India: congratulations to Anna Bracegirdle (gold team medal) and Andy Davies (bronze team medal)*
- *Cardiff X Challenge: this is the only Gold label world cross country in the UK, WA pleased with the event*

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- *Some discussion regarding the selection policies, with emails from AB, SL, SJ and SM. Committee in receipt of the emails*

- GF emailed to confirm that the 2024 Cardiff 5K will be an Inter-area match. In 2023 there was no Welsh Inter-Area team, just a North Wales team, who competed against North of England, Midlands, South of England, Combined Forces and U20 England team

DISCUSSIONS

- KT mentioned that English Athletics have a restricted number of fixtures this year, a similar scenario to that proposed by WA. As with WA, England Athletics are also concerned about the number of athletes who are unable to compete, despite being selected

FIXTURES

DOMESTIC

- Welsh Inter Regional & Inter Schools XC 18th November 2023 (Dolerw, Newtown)
- *Liverpool Cross Challenge 25th November*
- *European Cross Country Championships 10th December Brussels Belgium*
- Welsh Cross Country Championships Brecon Sat 17th February 2024
- Welsh Schools Cross Country Championships Brecon, Wednesday 28th February 2024
- UK CAU Champs and Cross Challenge Final XC Prestwold Hall Loughborough
- *ERRA National 12 & 6 Stage Road Relay Championships Sutton Park Birmingham*
- London Marathon (inc Welsh Marathon Championships) 21st April London

REPRESENTATIVE

- Home Countries International 20th January 2024 Parliament Hill London (inc World Trials) (Senior and U20, also U17 – but not an international at U17 age group, part of X Challenge)
- Armagh 5K/ 3K Thursday February 8th 2024 (Senior)
- *European Clubs Cross Country 25th February 2024 Albufeira, Portugal (possibility of Welsh teams attending)*
- Trafford 10K 3rd March 2024 development team (one M & F U23/ U20 team)
- Walks event March 2024
- Valencia Marathon Dec 2024

SCHOOLS

- IR Schools and Colleges Cross Country 18th November, Newtown
- SIAB Santry Dublin, 23rd March 2024
- WSAA Mini Marathon London April 2024

PERFORMANCE

- SM updated on Euro Club Cross – the date has changed to 25th February 2024, which clashes with English and Scottish National XC Championships. England and Scotland have therefore decided not to allow English and Scottish teams to be considered for selection for the ECCC. Wales have been invited to send a team instead. JW has sent an email to ask if the Welsh team would be seen as the GB representative team, awaiting a reply. As a result, Liverpool will not be the selection race for the 2024 event. Should Wales decide to send a team, it would be the two winning teams from the Welsh XC Championships in February 2023, hence Swansea men and Les Croupiers women. The event is in Albufeira, Portugal
- Teams for the Home Countries will be selected before Christmas (selection meeting 20th December), for Armagh in January. Dates in selection policy. SM confirmed that he would prefer an in person meeting to discuss the selections, rather than by correspondence

AOB

- AE queried whether any action has been taken against the athlete who cheated at the Cardiff HM. Any action taken would serve as a deterrent to others in future. AD was unsure what the latest update is, however confirmed that the athlete involved had resigned from his WA affiliated club

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

- Wednesday 17th January 2024, however there will be a selection meeting on Wednesday 20th December 2023 5.15pm, all invited to attend. Microsoft Teams invite will be sent to members for a virtual meeting, minutes will be available on WA website (emailed to media@welshathletics.org) and emailed to members