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**WELSH ATHLETICS**  
ATHLETAU CYMRU

**WELSH ATHLETICS MOUNTAIN, TRAIL & ULTRA RUNNING COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**7:45pm THURSDAY 19<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024 VIA TEAMS**

- 1. MEMBERS PRESENT:** Alex Donald (AD) Dic Evans (DE) Neal Hockley (NH) Sharon Jones (SJ) Arwel Lewis (AL) Steve Livett (SL) Tom Meredith (TM) Steve Mitchell (SM – WA Representative) Peter Ryder (PR) Owain Schiavone (OS)
- 2. APOLOGIES:** Mike Blake. Matthew Roberts.
- 3. ACTIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING/KEY POINTS: (TM)** The British & Irish Junior International (B&I) trial race and the event itself have concluded as has the Snowdon race. To be discussed, next year's B&I event and RDP days. (AD) after discussions within Welsh Athletics, a proposal to recognise Welsh Fell Runners Association (WFRA) race licences and to hand the licencing of all mountain/fell races in Wales to the WFRA. Welsh Athletics queried if the WFRA would part-fund Welsh international teams? As well as looking at other funding possibilities. (NH) WFRA race licences are free to all event organisers who are members of the WFRA. All members pay a yearly fee of £10 to join. (NH) to liaise with the WFRA committee members with the race licensing proposal. (PR) in conjunction with the rest of the committee agreed that it would be a positive step forward, most fell and mountain races in Wales are licenced by the WFRA and will assist in ensuring suitable regional championships, dual licensing has been an issue to date with some event organisers unwilling to apply for Welsh Athletics race licences, preferring the WFRA alternative.
- 4. INTERNATIONAL/REGIONAL EVENT REPORTS:** (AL) There was a good turnout for the B&I trial race/Welsh Junior Championships from all over Wales at Y Fron, Nr Caernarfon from which, the B&I teams were selected. (At least the weather was kind to the athletes and event staff on the day compared to last years washout) which made for some excellent racing. The following week, our senior teams competed in the Snowdon Race in wet but warm conditions. Tom Wood was the first Welshman to finish in 8<sup>th</sup> position overall in a time of 70:58. Eden O'Dea was the first Welsh woman to finish and 8<sup>th</sup> female overall in a time of 1:26:39 though, not selected for the Welsh team, Eden, a former B&I U/17 winner is making a very good transition into the senior ranks. Having lost Katrina Entwistle due to injury, it was left to Lucy Williamson 1:29:24 to lead the Welsh Women's team home. The Cilcain Inter-Regional race proved to be very popular with a record turnout of competitors on the August Bank Holiday Monday which led to a 15-minute delayed start because of the traffic congestion. Rhys Jones 31:27 and Eden O'Dea 37:44 were the respective male and female race winners as they led North Wales to the team titles. The leading group of 5 were deducted 20 seconds from their finishing times due to them all taking an involuntary shortcut that has been used frequently in the past! That still did not prevent Rhys from breaking the course record by one second! 261 finishers, 2 DNF's and over 300 entries in total. Our junior athletes ran well in the B&I International event in Ireland recently against strong English and Scottish athletes and with Ireland being on "Home" ground, one individual silver and three team bronze medals was a very good return for our athletes with Noa Vaughan almost matching his Father Alun who won the inaugural events U/19 race in 1996 by taking silver in the U/20 race, missing out on Gold by 7 seconds while there was bronze team medals for our U/17 girls and boys and the U/20 male team. A well organised event in Ireland where everyone received a warm welcome from our Irish hosts.

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5. **MAX DISTANCES FOR OFF-TRACK RACES:** (AD) shared a document outlining the outcome of the meeting to decide closely aligning the distances across all off-track disciplines from 2026. (NH) queried what date in the calendar year would an athlete age category be classed at. (AD) same as what we currently have. Age at 31<sup>st</sup> December of the year of competition.
6. **PEDOL PERIS UPDATE:** Mike Blake has been mega busy arranging all the logistics for the British/Welsh (Long) Championships race. At the last count, there are 36 event volunteers listed to assist with the event. (AD) has sent the W/A medals to (AL)
7. **2025 WALES EVENT HOSTS: B&I:** (SM) has already contacted Aberystwyth University regarding accommodation for the event with a proposed date of Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2025. (DE) The proposed venue of Devils Bridge may not be available on the said date due to another event booked for the campsite on that date and proposed The National Trust owned Hafod Estate as an alternative venue which is the same distance away from Aberystwyth as Devils Bridge. (OS) To send details of the Hafod venue to the committee having raced there in the recent past. (A two lap 5-mile race of which (DE) had been organising for several years) Car Parking/Toilet/Changing facilities etc. (OS) to contact the Hafod Estate with the proposed date for the trial race of 12<sup>th</sup> July and the event date 13<sup>th</sup> September. (AL) to arrange to meet (DE and OS) to look at possible race routes at Hafod in the near future. (SL) Proposed Gazebos for each country if there are not enough undercover facilities at Hafod and with transport required from Aberystwyth University to the event venue. It is perceived that most countries will have that avenue covered themselves with their own means of transport and we (Wales) would require some form of transporting our athletes to the event venue. (DE) has already contacted possible coach companies in the area. Once (AL, DE, and OS) have confirmed the venue. (AL) has organised the previous three B&I events held in North Wales, 2011, 2015 & 2019) with the event proposed to be held in Mid-Wales and (DE) unwell, Welsh Athletics are to lead on organising the event. British Hill Running Relays: (AL) Ian Hartman, the FRA relays coordinator has been liaising with the Meirionnydd Running Club regarding hosting the event next year. (AL) to contact Ian for further information about the event.
8. **2025 CALENDAR:** (AL) has circulated a calendar of confirmed events for next year. (SJ) the date of the International U18 Cup may be an issue for some of our selected athletes for the event because of A-Level examinations taking place during that period. Devils Bridge to host the trial race for the event on the Saturday of the first May Day Bank Holiday weekend. Cilcain to host the senior (Short Race) Welsh Championships (AL) to contact the event organiser. Llanbedr-Blaenafon to host the senior (Long Race) (PR) to contact the event organiser. The Cader Idris race to once again be the trial race for the Snowdon International. Devils Bridge Half Marathon to be the senior Welsh (Short) Trail Running Championships. Committee to seek alternatives for the senior (Long) championships with a poor attendance at this years Coed-y-Brenin Marathon event and doubts about the venue's future. RDP Dates: Either the last weekend in March or the first weekend in April? (TM and NH) to confirm with (SM) (DE) questioned our development programme. (NH – SM) The RDP's and the WFRA licencing should make a difference with the WFRA Junior championships well attended. (PR) queried our involvement in the future at the Trofeo Vanoni Relays event especially with the event being well attended by international teams this year and England not only sending a senior team to compete at the event but also a development team. (SM) With all disciplines limited to two senior international events this, and possibly next year? Our poor performances and attendance

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at the Home International could be questioned especially with the date of the Home International not being a fixed date in the calendar and usually incorporated into GB Trial races whichever date they are during the year to fit in with either the World or European Championships. The Snowdon Race is always well attended with a fixed date in the yearly calendar. Should that event not be the permanent Home International? Next year's Senior Home International is scheduled for Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> August at Whinlatter Forest. The Snowdon Race is to be Welsh trial race event. (AL) Next year, The Snowdon Race will be celebrating 50 years since its inaugural race on 19<sup>th</sup> July 1976 with the possibility of starting the race from its original starting point, on the High Street by the former Petes Eats Cafe.

9. **Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2024 at 7:45pm.**