WELSH ATHLETICS ROAD/CROSS COUNTRY COMMITTEE 2026/2027 SEASON

MINUTES TEAMS MEETING WED 4th NOVEMBER 2026 5.15PM

ATTENDEES: -
Alaw Evans AE (co-opted), Graham Finlayson GF (co-opted), Nikki Haines NH (East), Stewart Harding (South), Steve Jones SJ (WSAA), Sharon Leech SL (Secretary), Marcus Meyrick MM (WA), Dan Nash (Performance), Kevin Tobin KT (Chair/West)

APOLOGIES : Aled Jones-Davies AJD (co-opted), Martin Green MG (North)

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None

ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING (26th AUGUST 2026)

- *Welsh XC Championships date confirmation:* MM confirmed by email on 1st September that the Welsh XC is the 27thFebruary at Pembrey

- *Welsh Athletics Senior Road Relays and SIAB Trial for 2027 date and course details.* MM emailed Committee on 1st September to confirm date as April 3rd 2027 and venue Builth Wells. MM confirmed route is a wide road, route will be announced soon

- *Welsh HM Championships Cardiff:* … Welsh HM Champions Lloyd Sheppard Brown and Natasha Wilson

- *Welsh 10K Championships Richard Burton:* … Welsh 10K Champions Jon Butler and Olivia Tsim

- *Feedback on the Sportsshoes 5K in Cardiff*? MM confirmed that the date wasn't ideal, MM has pre booked for next year, 14th August is provisional date to go back to original date. This year saw less runners than last year (by 200). Likely to host British 5K Champs again

- *Welsh Junior Relays, feedback?* KT stated that they went well, however parking was expensive

- *Confirmation of HCI/Celtic XC? Also re selections, will IR be used?* (See correspondence/discussions)

- *English Cross Country Relays 2026, clubs attending?* Swansea U20 women's team was 2nd, Les Croupiers sent a senior women's team, eligibility issues caused some confusion (Cardiff men's team), but sorted on day and team able to compete. Neath decided not to send a team as they were competing at the Welsh 10K Champs. Process has not been straightforward with little correspondence/help

from EA. Competition is a UK Club Championship, there were no medals, which is disappointing. AE added that it was a long journey (accommodation needed), why isn't there a Welsh XC Relay event? KT added clash with 10K not ideal and it is costly to travel there as a team

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- SL circulated information received from Joyce Tomola regarding regional eligibility, which will be of use if using IR XC as trial race for HCI/Celtic XC
- SM emailed that whoever has the responsibility of drafting the selection policies for forthcoming representative races, they will need to factor in that the Mini Marathon deadline is in March (if trial race is to be @the Senior Road Relays as it's in April). An extension to team declarations may therefore be needed from London Marathon Events. DN and MM now aware
- SM emailed Committee with confirmation from Scottish Athletics that they will host the HCI and Celtic XC on 16th Jan 2027 at Alexadria Park Glasgow. The event will not include a UK Cross Challenge competition. SM noted that World Athletics age groups will be used, i.e. from January of that year, not school years as UK age groups. This will have to be factored into the selection policy. DN aware of this and selection policy reflects age groupings
- Confirmation received that UK Cross Challenge series will be Cardiff, Liverpool and Nottingham for 2026/2027 season
- SM emailed the people responsible for certain aspects of his role, as he finishes on 4th September:
  NDP: Rhys Williams: rhys.williams@welshathletics.org
  Competitions(track) :Rob Campion rob.campion@welshathletics
  Comp (off-track):Marcus Meyrick marcus.meyrick@welshathletics.org
  Logistics/endurance:Bethan Davies Bethan.davies@welshathletics.org
  This slightly different now as DN also in post
- Email received from coaches of English based athletes re selection for HCI/Celtic, if IR to be used as trial race. KT liaised with JW, suggestion is that guest athletes be allowed to run in IR, but also current form to be taken into consideration, including results in other XC races, such as Cardiff X, Liverpool and league races.
- Stewart Harding joins the Committee as South rep, Dan Nash joins as WA performance rep, KT welcomed both at start of meeting
- Note IR XC is 21st November not 28th, as in previous minutes
- SL queried with MM about the HCI/Celtic XC selection policy as no longer on website. Possibly needs to be mentioned on IR info as well. May be useful to know which WA staff are responsible for various things, to contact relevant person if queries. MM/DN confirmed that HCI/Celtic selection policy is now on website

DISCUSSIONS

- DN is going to table some options for representative opportunities, which will be shared with the Committee. Once agreed, 2027 opportunities will be advertised on WA website

- SJ stated that MM will try to replicate the distances of the SIAB XC at the Welsh Schools' XC in February. Slight tweaks to the current course will be needed

FIXTURES

DOMESTIC

- Cardiff X Challenge **Sunday** 8th November 2026
- Welsh Inter Regional XC Championships 21st November 2026 Newtown
- Welsh XC Championships 27th February 2027 Pembrey
- Welsh Senior & Master Road Relays 3rd April 2027 Builth

REPRESENTATIVE

- Telford 10K 14th December 2026 (selection 4.11.26 SJ, DN, KT)
- HCI/Celtic XC 16th Jan Alexandria Park Glasgow (selection meeting tbc)

SCHOOLS

- Welsh Schools XC February 17th2027 Brecon
- SIAB XC 20th March Leeds (U16/U18)

PERFORMANCE

- KT welcomed DN to the role. KT asked regarding the review of the Commonwealth Games. Review includes outside agency as well as WA staff. DN confirmed that there is likely to be some restructuring of the performance team. DN currently off-track member of team, advert out for track & field member who will also support Cardiff Met team. Next Commonwealth Games in India

SCHOOLS

- *Welsh Inter Schools XC feedback?* SJ added that it was a successful event, 1700 entries, good number of finishers, up again on last year's record. Wednesday date and shorter distances add to the success, as it's more inclusive. Large numbers did cause some parking issues and big numbers finishing in the first two races at the same time. Further scrutiny before next year's event, where chip timing likely to be used

AOB

- GF asked if Wales will be entering an inter-area team into the Cardiff 5K as it's not host to the Welsh Championships in 2027. Previously this has been a reason why Wales hasn't entered an inter-area team. Marcel doesn't charge for entry into the inter-area competition, therefore this wouldn't result in an additional charge for WA. DN to consider before announcing 2027 opportunities
- SH confirmed that the Inter-Regional 10K will be held within the Caerphilly 10K in 2027 and in 2028 it will be in Barmouth. Good to see this opportunity back on the calendar

- SJ and KT to stay on the call with DN, for the Telford selection meeting

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Proposal: 27th January **5.15pm**. Microsoft Teams invite will be sent from **DN** to members for a virtual meeting, minutes will be available on WA website (emailed to eleanor.cartlidge@welshathletics.org and media@welshathletics.org) and emailed to members