

WELSH ATHLETICS ROAD/CROSS COUNTRY COMMITTEE 2025/2026 SEASON

MINUTES TEAMS MEETING WED 14th JANUARY 2026 5.15PM

ATTENDEES: -

Alaw Evans AE, Graham Finlayson GF, Martin Green MG, Steve Jones SJ, Sharon Leech SL, Steve Mitchell SM, Kevin Tobin KT

APOLOGIES : Alex Donald AD, Nikki Haines NH

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None

ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING (29th OCTOBER 2025)

- *Bath Half Marathon Sun 15th March: this will be replaced with Antrim HM (see correspondence)*
- *Masters Championship races: AD and Masters Committee to decide on races. Since last meeting, Masters Marathon Champs confirmed as being held within Manchester Marathon April 2026*
- *Welsh XC Championships venue. Llandaff Fields Cardiff confirmed for 2026, however another venue needs to be found for 2027 onwards*
- *Welsh Athletics Senior Road Relays and SIAB Trial, 28th March 2026: due to issues re. safeguarding and athlete/public interface at the Junior Road Relays in September, decision to be made as to whether to re-locate for the Senior Relays and SIAB trial (AD/SM to advise). Also noted that there was a move to limit numbers in the SIAB (Mini Marathon) trial with pre-qualification. SM to advise further (SM).*
SM to speak with AD as no decision made as yet. KT queried whether it's now a bit late to change venue, is there a way to make the course better? GF suggested changing the location of the change-over area to further along the path, as it was too congested in its original location. SJ stated that the safeguarding can be addressed by having more marshals to ensure athletes are in sight. SIAB trials would be run as 2.6km, may need different start/ finish point. For discussion with AD
- *Recent representative fixture results:*
Welsh Inter Regional XC (Nov'25): Lucy Williamson 1st SW/ Noa Vaughan 1st SM
Valencia Marathon (Dec'25): Natasha Wilson new Welsh

record 2:24:21/ Dan Nash first Welsh male 2:14:01
Telford 10K (Dec'25): Melissa Courtney Bryant 1st 31:31/ Daf Jones 8th 29:03 (both personal best times). Adam Barber/
Rhianon Paton first home of Welsh teams

- Congratulations to Cari Hughes and Ava Lloyd who represented GB at the Euro XC Portugal at the long race/ mixed relay respectively. Also to Clara Evans who broke the Welsh 10K record (31:18) at Valencia 10K Jan'26

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- KT received an email from Andrew Jenkins, who had had a request from a coach at Trots Club, asking to join the Committee. There are three from the West region currently on the Committee (Chair KT, Secretary SL and WSAA rep SJ), an additional member would mean four from the West. Committee to discuss. Discussion followed and 1) as the Committee can co-opt members and 2) it's not often that volunteers come forward, consensus is that he will be invited join the Committee. KT to inform Andrew Jenkins. Email address needed so that SL can include him in communications
- SL attended GC meeting 12th November 2025, minutes shared with Committee. SL also attended GC meeting on 7th January 2026, minutes of that meeting not yet received
- SM emailed Committee regarding late notification of European Clubs XC Championships on 8th February 2026. This clashes with the Celtics/ Home Nations XC in London and, given the short notice, it's deemed unsuitable to commit to this for 2026
- SM emailed Committee regarding Antrim Half Marathon as an option as a representative match. Most were in agreement. Race is August 23rd 2026
- Email received from Marcel Mace to inform that the Cardiff 5K will not be held in 2026, it will return in 2027
- Paul Adams no longer East Wales representative, need to check if NH now a representative, if not the East region need to suggest another member to replace Paul

DISCUSSIONS

- Welsh 5K Championships. GF confirmed that the Cardiff 5K will be held in 2027, with some changes made to the start area. There will be strict time restrictions. However, as the race won't take place this year, an alternative venue is needed.
Committee asked to think of ideas, as there are not many options. Many races are mid-week or on a Friday evening. The alternative would be that WA organise their own event.

AE suggested creating a race in North Wales, however MG and SM stated that as the Mid-Cheshire 5K is so popular, it would be difficult to attract enough athletes.

GF also raised the point that there's too long a delay between a Championship race and WA distributing the medals.

SJ suggested holding the Welsh 5K Champs at the same time as the Junior Relays in September for 2026 – in 2027 the 5K Champs can return to the Cardiff 5K. WA to decide

- Future Welsh XC venue needs to be discussed when AD is present
- SM queried whether the venues for the 10K Road Series have been decided. AD to confirm

FIXTURES

DOMESTIC

- Welsh XC Championships Llandaff Fields, Cardiff 24th January 2026
- WA Senior Road Relays 28th March 2026 Parc Bryn Bach, to include junior races which will serve as mini marathon trials. Venue to be confirmed
- Welsh Marathon Champs ABP Newport 19th April 2026
- Welsh HM Champs Cardiff 4th October 2026
- Welsh 10K Champs Richard Burton 1st November 2026
- Welsh 5K Champs 2026 to be confirmed

REPRESENTATIVE

- HCI XC Parliament Hill London 7th February 2026 (selection meeting following Welsh XC SM, SJ, AE)
- Armagh 3/5K 12th February 2026 (selection meeting 14th Jan SM, SJ, KT, SL)
- Mini Marathon 25th April 2026 (selection meeting after Junior Relays SM, SJ, SL)
- Antrim HM 23rd August 2026 (selection meeting to be arranged)

SCHOOLS

- Welsh Schools XC 25th February 2026 Brecon
- SIAB XC: Wales to host, 21st March 2026 Faenol Estate, North Wales

PERFORMANCE

- SM has tweaked the recent selection policies following suggestions from the Committee. Selection panels chosen for the forthcoming representative fixtures

SCHOOLS

- Dates set for the forthcoming competitions, including T&F in the summer

AOB

- KT congratulated Shaun Tobin on his MBE. He has raised thousands of pounds for charities through his Richard Burton 10K race. Congrats from the Committee as a whole

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

- Proposal: 18th March 5.15pm. Microsoft Teams invite will be sent from SM 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