



Welsh Athletics Track and Field Committee

Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 13th October 2021 via Teams Conference Call.

PRESENT

Rhiannon Linington-Payne (RLP), Crispin Backsall (CB), Joyce Tomala (JT), Lynette Harries (LH), Alan Currie (AC), Lynne Brier (LB), Darran Williams (DW), Jake Morgan (JM), Adrian Palmer (AP), Sue Hooper, Chris Moss

1. APOLOGIES

Bethan Akanbi-Mortimer (BAM), Kath Elias (KE)

2. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None received.

3. COMMONWEALTH GAMES UPDATE

AP shared his powerpoint presentation with the committee and pointed out the following facts:

- We are currently 288 days away from the start of the games;
- 16 athletes currently have the nomination profile across all the events groups;
- 39 athletes are within 2% of the nomination profile;
- Athletes need to achieve the standard by 8th May 2022. This date has been signed off by Welsh Athletics Board of Directors and Team Wales;
- The only right of appeal for athletes is if their achieved standard has been missed by Welsh Athletics;
- Welsh Athletics will make their nominations to Sport Wales on 16th May;
- 23rd May - Team Wales will go through all nominations from all sports and select the team. Following this, they will then go through appeals process;
- The team will be announced on 8th and 9th June;
- The official kit for Team Wales will be supplied by Nike;
- The official athletics kit suppliers will Joma with a bespoke vest for the Commonwealth Games being negotiated, as in previous Commonwealth games
- Welsh Athletics still intend to take the athletes to a preparation camp at X-Bionics, Slovakia;
- The team will travel to the camp in two waves, with the marathon runners arriving earlier than the main team;
- The athletics team will be based at University of Birmingham. AP and CJ plan a site visit on 2nd and 3rd November.

AP then invited questions from the committee.

JT asked if numbers were restricted in individual events, with specific reference to the marathon, where a number of athletes had already achieved the standard.

AP confirmed that the numbers were restricted to three males and three females per event.

JM asked about if there was any progress with regard to relay team nominations.

AP replied that the home nations had written to the Commonwealth Games Federation and were still awaiting an update on this.

LH asked whether there would be any problems anticipated with European Championships being held around the same time.

AP said that there was also the World Championships to consider this year and all three committees have worked closely together to eradicate any difficulties with timetables and possible restrictions around travelling in and out of villages.

LB asked who would be representing and supporting the sprinters in their preparation for the Commonwealth Games and in general, following the resignation of Matt Elias. LB expressed concern that sprinters were being under-represented in comparison to the endurance athletes, throwers, jumpers etc.

AP confirmed that they had gone through recruitment process, and it was now going to be discussed at board level, with answers hopefully by end of the week. In the meantime, AP and CJ would be supporting the athletes and AP provided assurance that they would not be under-represented.

JT followed on by expressing concern that a lot of information was not reaching coaches and athletes as to what is currently happening with sprints in Wales. Excellent reports and information are being disseminated in other disciplines, but sprinters and sprint coaches are not being kept informed at the moment.

JM said that he was heartened by a lot of changes being made, but as a coach to a group of sprinters, he felt that standards for the National Development Programme was very difficult to achieve in comparison to endurance athletes, especially for young female sprinters. JM provided an example where a sprinter who is in top 20 in GB rankings cannot get onto the development programme, whereas endurance athletes who are ranked much lower are able to get onto the programme. JM expressed his concern that young sprinters cannot see a clear pathway, whereas endurance athletes feel as if they are part of something if they are on the programme. JM concluded that he was encouraged by some of the plans that are in place for young athletes and hoped for news about who the sprints lead is going to be.

AP acknowledged the points made about sprinting in Wales.

CB said that North Wales is also not made aware of what is going on with sprints workshops and sprints in general and nobody had spoken to the sprints leads in North Wales about a development weekend that should have taken place.

JT thanked AP for his Commonwealth Games update report and hoped that more information about sprints would follow soon.

4. FACILITIES UPDATE AND STRATEGY

CM shared the following points:

- The track mark process is to be extended to March 2023. CM has been working with Ed Hunt and Richie Jenkins to re-introduce some facility inspections to ensure compliance and readiness for competition in Wales. They have been discussing who can carry out these assessments with a blended approach to allow facilities to carry out some self-assessments, alongside independent, external inspections. Welsh Athletics have allocated some facilities budget to support this process. In the meantime, competition providers are encouraged to always check with facilities ahead of competition and to produce facility reports post-competition.
- Welsh Athletics are working with a company called Just Solutions who work with Welsh Water and Sport Wales and they are looking at a draft proposal to attract future investment and develop facilities in parts of Wales that currently have no facilities, in order to increase provision for athletics in Wales.

JT asked about the status of Aberdare, Newport and Brecon.

CM said that there was no recent update on Aberdare with the pole vault situation.

JT asked if there is anything else that can be done about this to make sure that this is up and running by next Summer.

JT asked about Newport and the ROSPA investigation on the cage.

CM said that he takes part in weekly calls with Newport and this is an ongoing concern. Modifications will hopefully be signed off by World Athletics and ROSPA.

AC asked about steeplechase barriers and the new adjustments.

CM said that Welsh Athletics will support facilities and competition providers with this.

LH and JT both emphasised the importance of working on these facilities throughout the winter and eradicating all problems by next Summer.

CM pointed out that there are online courses for facility providers and clubs on how to look after facilities. Clubs and facilitators need to be encouraged to attend these courses.

5. OFFICIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

SH shared the following information:

- shared the sad news about Donald Melrose who has recently passed away.
- SH and Zoe Holloway have been working through a list of active officials and those who are inactive and have not submitted any paperwork. They are working on encouraging officials to submit paperwork and become active officials.
- Positive feedback was received on championship events with officials having enjoyed being back out there and looking forward to the indoor events. Just over 100 officials have already volunteered for the indoor season.

- One negative feedback was expenses not being paid promptly enough and this has now been sorted out.
- The officials conferences set for 6th March and officials will be invited to submit their ideas on what they'd like to be included.

6. COMPETITION UPDATES

a. Indoor Championships

RLP confirmed the following competition dates:

- Sun 7th November – indoor combined events to act as the selection trial for the schools SIAB international in Glasgow on December 1st.
- Sunday 9th January – Junior open meeting
- Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th January – Under 15 and Senior Championships
- Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th February – Under 13, Under 17 and Under 20 Championships

JT asked about open meetings and East and South Wales regional championships. When will entries be open and will there be a limit on entries?

RLP said that Cardiff Met was placing restrictions on numbers within the facility. The limit is currently 500 people, but RLP is negotiating this. It is currently likely that only one parent per athlete will be permitted into the indoor arena. More updates will follow on this.

b. Outdoor Dates

Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th August – Under 13, Under 17 and Under 20 Championships

Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th June – Under 15 and Senior Championships

c. Regional Championships

Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th May with South and East to combine as usual.

JT said it was normal for South and East Championships to be held on Saturday with West Wales Championships on Sunday.

Action: JT asked JM to confirm with West Wales that they are happy with this arrangement.

d. Inter-Regional Championships

JT said that 5th June was a date suggested by James Williams. However, this is the long Jubilee weekend. JT asked RLP if it would be possible to look at Saturday 9th or Sunday 10th July because this gives teams more time to organise themselves. JT also said that there didn't appear to be any clashes on this weekend with the current UK fixtures calendar.

RLP thought that English Schools could be on this weekend, although this shouldn't impact greatly on competition in Wales.

JT added that she thought that English schools is usually on the Friday and Saturday, rather than Saturday and Sunday. If so, the Sunday would be free to hold inter-regionals. JT requested that this date be put forward – **Sunday 10th July**. The venue is to be confirmed.

e. Welsh International

RLP confirmed that the international was to be held on Saturday 30th July. The decision was made to hold it on the weekend so that all events can be accommodated for, hence improving the quality and raising the status of the event.

JT pointed out that there was a Grand Prix mid-week before the Under 20 international.

RLP replied that the Grand Prix was predominantly to allow Commonwealth Games athletes a final chance to compete before going to the games.

f. Junior Leagues

JT asked what the plan was for junior leagues next summer.

RLP confirmed that no meetings had taken place with clubs yet. DW and RLP are currently working on new timetables and new formats to be presented to the clubs. Once new timetables and dates are confirmed, avoiding clashes with the national league dates, meetings with the clubs could then be arranged and new arrangements could be presented.

JT asked for clarification as to whether they will be mid-week meetings as she had received several queries about this.

RLP confirmed that they will not be mid-week fixtures.

JT asked if they will be similar to current dates and structures to current junior leagues i.e. Louise Arthur and South Wales League matches falling on the same weekend.

RLP confirmed that they would essentially follow the same structure with a more multi-disciplinary approach, where athletes will be encouraged to compete in three events e.g. two track and one field or two field and one track. RLP was also hopeful that some of the North Wales clubs could be included.

LH requested that when these meetings with clubs take place, there is a slot in discussions relating to officials and requirements from clubs on the number of officials that clubs need to provide. LH pointed out that some clubs bring their full complement of officials, whereas others don't bother.

DW pointed out that there is a junior league constitution that was compiled a few years ago in Llandrindod Wells, but some clubs have unfortunately wavered from this.

JT said that we must make people aware that unless the standard requirement of officials is in place at competitions, the results will not go on Power of 10. Power of 10 has become a lot stricter on this. JT quoted some events in West Wales, where results did not go on Power of 10 because the correct number and combination of qualified officials were not present. This message must be made clear via the officials committee, websites and other means of communication.

JM suggested that people were informed beforehand what is needed per event for results to go on Power of 10.

JT said that the UKA criteria for licenced meetings has changed and has been updated on the Welsh Athletics website. One of the rules that have changed is the number of qualified timekeepers required.

JT requested that RLP and DW keep her in the loop about junior league matches.

DW confirmed that he would be co-ordinating and discussing junior league matches with Lesley Bennett for South East Wales, Jo Wood for Louise Arthur and Crispin Backshall for North Wales.

7. DISCUSSIONS

a. Validation of Records

AC presented the following performances to be ratified by the committee:

Men

Name	Age Group	Event	Meeting / Date	Performance
Ziko Jones (Shaftesbury)	Under 15	300m	English Schools Championships in Manchester - 11.07.21	35.29
Jake Heyward (Cardiff)	Under 23	1500m	Irvine, USA - 15.05.21	3.36.24
Jake Heyward (Cardiff)	National Senior Record	1500m	Portland, Oregon -29.05.21 Tokyo Olympics – 05.08.21	3.33.99 3.32.82
Jake Heyward (Cardiff)	Under 23 and National Senior Record	One Mile	Diamond League in Gateshead - 13.07.21 Prefontaine Classic, Eugene - 21.08.21	3.52.50 3.52.15
Osian Perry (Menai)	Under 20	5000m	BMC Grand Prix, Watford – 12.06.21	13.53.03
Dafydd Pawlett (Pembrokeshire)	Under 20	Shot Put	Cardiff Throws, Aberdare – 22.06.21 Manchester International – 18.08.21	17.70m 17.76m
Lewie Jones (Swansea Harriers)	Under 15	Javelin	YDL League, Newport – 04.09.21	56.98
Men's 4 x 100m relay	All Comers	4 x 100m	Welsh Championships, Cardiff – 15.08.21	?

Women

Name	Age Group	Event	Meeting / Date	Performance
Nell Desir (Cardiff Archers)	Under 15	100m	SIAB, Derby – 25.09.21	12.00
Libby Hale (Swansea Harriers)	Under 13	1500m	Welsh Under 23 Championships, Newport – 31.07.21	4.44.35
Kate Seary (Cardiff)	National Senior Record	3000m Steeplechase	British Championships, Manchester – 26.06.21	10.11.06
Natasha Cockram	National Senior Record	Marathon	Olympic Trials, Kew Gardens	2.30.03
Holly Bradshaw	All Comers	Pole Vault	Welsh Senior Championships, Cardiff – 15.08.21	4.60m
Isabel Thomas (Cardiff)	Under 18	Pole Vault	Manchester International – 18.08.21	3.72
Olivia Scrimshaw (Deeside)	Under 13	Long Jump	YDL, Wrexham – 05.06.21	4.99m
Amber Simpson (Deeside)	Under 23	Hammer	War Eagle Invitational, Auburn – 16.04.21	64.65m
Grace Griffiths (Pembrokeshire)	Under 17	3000m Walk	SIAB, Derby – 25.09.21	14.49.27
Bethan Davies (Cardiff)	National Senior Record	10000m Walk	Welsh Senior Championships, Cardiff – 15.08.21	45.21.70
Nia Powell (Cardiff Archers)	Under 15	Hexathlon	Welsh Championships (incorporated in English Championships), Manchester – 29.09.21	3326 points

AC pointed out that Olivia Scrimshaw had, in fact jumped further in two separate YDL meetings, but there were no wind readings. Therefore, neither performances could be ratified.

All records listed above were accepted and ratified by the committee.

JT asked that any queries or concerns about YDL go back to herself or Marian Williams. JT said that it was probably the case that the wind gauge batteries had not been charged and this was not fair to athletes. JT emphasised the need for feedback to facility providers about the importance of wind gauges and keeping wind gauges in good condition.

DW pointed out that Welsh Athletics had two new wind gauges for people to hire when they put an application request in for photo finish and technicians. They have very good batteries on them that shouldn't run down.

AC also presented the following Championship records:

Joseph Berry – Under 15 100m and 200m at Welsh Junior Championships, Newport

Osian Jones – Senior Hammer at Welsh Senior Championships, Cardiff

Libby Hale – Under 13 1500m at Welsh Junior Championships, Newport

Olivia Scrimshaw – Under 13 Long Jump at Welsh Junior Championships, Newport

Nia Powell - Under 15 Hexathlon at Welsh Championships (incorporated in English Championships), Manchester

The championship records listed above were all accepted and ratified.

JT asked about Under 13 athletes and one of the rule change proposals that this age group move from 1200m not 1500m. JT asked if Welsh Athletics keep records on this, as well as records for 75m and 150m records.

AC said that he will look into this.

JT asked if there were any new inter-regional records.

DW said that there were a few records and he would write them up and update them over the next few weeks.

B Review of Track and Field Championships 2012

RLP wants to organise a meeting to review this. The date was set for Friday October 29th with LB to attend.

8. ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

a. Regional Representatives

JT went through the list of current regional representatives on the track and field committee:

- North Wales - CB
- West Wales - JM
- East Wales - JT
- South Wales – MG (this needs to be confirmed)

Action – JT will check up on who will be representing South Wales.

9. REPORTS

a. Regional Issues

North Wales

CB reported on the following:

YDL went well in Wrexham. They managed to get Level 2 track judges so that results could go on Power of 10. There are new officials coming through and hopefully Level 2 track judges coming through.

The first meeting at Menai open meeting and went well.

Refurbishments to Colwyn Bay have been deferred until next year.

There was disappointment that SIAB selection instructions stated that the team would be selected from Years 10 and 11, with the winner of Schools Championships having automatic selection and second athlete being selected from Power of 10 from Years 10 and 11. However, this didn't happen, with some younger members of the team being selected from Power of 10. CB referred to cases where younger athletes were selected, and this was not in the selection guidelines. This resulted in disappointment for Under 17 athletes who will not have another chance to be selected.

DW asked if there were intentions to set up the 110m hurdles on the new home straight in Colwyn Bay because setting up two sets of photo finish equipment for one or two races would be difficult at Colwyn Bay.

CB said that there are no current discussions about this and no further information at present. However, the intention is to set the stadium up as a venue for a professional rugby team. This may mean increasing the stadium spectator stand, causing some issues.

CB went on to say that a greater concern was the throws at this stadium. He has been in talks with the groundkeepers, who say that there is no problem with throwing in competitions, but training and practice cannot take place there.

JT asked CB if Eryri are now registered as a track and field club.

CB was not sure if they intended to register, but didn't think that they have yet, although they currently have quite a lot of young athletes.

CB went on to say that they would possibly be looking at putting Eryri in YDL with the North Wales combined team if so.

JT didn't think that they could this if they were not registered as a track and field team. Including Eryri would also take the composite team over the five clubs that is currently permitted.

CB said that North Wales were also considering bringing Maldwyn into the North Wales composite team for leagues and queried whether it would affect where they are in the Leagues.

JT was not sure about this and advised CB to check with Alan Johnson or Marian Williams. Composite teams to be discussed soon at UKA level.

West Wales

JM reported on the following:

The local council have put money forward to purchase new equipment at Carmarthen. A competition pack of wind gauges, scales, starting blocks etc have been purchased and the pack is worth approximately £10000.

There were some ongoing issues with the Llanelli track being in poor condition. The track is currently being maintained by Scarlets rugby club and is on ongoing concern.

Haverford West still in poor condition.

There is uncertainty about the West Wales Indoor Championships taking place in Swansea this year as it is too enclosed to manage safely. No final decision has been made yet.

JM also referred to SIAB selection and felt that it had not been made clear about selection criteria, leaving several athletes feeling very disappointed. JM said that the mini marathon selection criteria was much clearer in comparison.

East Wales

Nothing to report. The next meeting will take place next week.

b. Officials Committee (already discussed earlier in the meeting (see point 5))

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

JT updated the committee on the following:

Llanelli have joined the YDL lower age group.

Rhymney are back in the YDL league this year, having pulled out last year because of Covid.

Blaenau Gwent and Cwmbran have formed a composite team for the YDL lower age group.

11. NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 8th December at 6pm

JT thanked the committee for their attendance and contributions.

JM requested that an invite to the next meeting be sent out within the next few days so that it can go into the diary early.

The meeting ended at 7:35pm.

