

Minutes of Track & Field Committee Meeting Wednesday 5th February 2025



WELSH ATHLETICS
ATHLETAU CYMRU

Present:

Joyce Tomala (JT) – Chairperson
Lynne Brier (LB) – Secretary
Chris Moss (CM) – Welsh Athletics
Darran Williams – Welsh Athletics
Lee Hayward – (LeH) – South Wales
Lynette Harries – (LH) – East Wales
Crispin Backshall – North Wales
Lisa Champion – West Wales
Sue Hooper – Officials Committee

1. Apologies:

Dai Williams (Welsh Schools)
Euan Coney (Welsh Athletics)

2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Not Applicable – None declared.

3. Actions from Previous Minutes:

- a. A group to come together to provide instructions on organising athletics events that can be used by new / less-experienced competition providers throughout Wales.
No new information was provided on this. DW said that he had been busy with the indoor season and forthcoming cross country competitions.
New Action – DW to provide the committee with some suitable dates.
- b. **LB** to contact Chris Moss and James Williams to invite them to either the December or February meeting for further discussion on competition age group changes.
It was confirmed that James Williams has arranged a separate meeting specifically for Wednesday March 12th. CM confirmed that he will also be involved in this meeting.
- c. JT requested that someone from the Officials Committee attends future Track and Field Meetings.
SH was in attendance in this evening's meeting.
- d. Update on minutes taken for Welsh Junior meetings, including full explanation of role of WA and Host Clubs and attending clubs.
JT attended the meeting and said that junior competitions will go ahead in South, East and West Wales. JT was uncertain about North Wales.

4. WA Updates:

- a. **Facilities Update** (CM)
CM updated the committee on facilities at Deeside and Aberdare, confirming that both are Track Mark accredited until 2027. CM informed the committee that Deeside is currently suitable for level 1 competition, but not yet Level 2.

Aberdare is accredited to hold Level 2 competition, with the only area for development being the floodlights.

CM shared information about Track Rater, which is a new and live Track Mark directory that is updated by inspectors as soon as a facility has been inspected. CM expects this facility to be live and ready for use in coming months.

CM updated the committee on developments in Neath and Haverford West, confirming that work will begin on improving Neath in March and finances had been secured to develop the track at Haverford West.

JT asked about Brecon and CM said that he had been informed by the council that they have invested in improving equipment in Brecon.

b. Competition Update (EC/DW)

Outdoor Updates 2025

DW confirmed the following dates and said that all information can be found on the Welsh Athletics website. DW said that they were still awaiting confirmation for some venues, but all dates were fixed and will remain unchanged. DW confirmed that information can be found on the website for all competitions.

i. Senior Championships

JT expressed concern about the lack of Welsh athletes entering Welsh Senior Championships, specifically indoors this year, whereas the non-Welsh participants are on the increase.

DW confirmed that the numbers were lower this year, but with an actual increase in North Wales entries.

CB said that they were pleased with this in North Wales, but also said that more athletes would have participated if it hadn't been for the cost of entering competition in South Wales.

JT asked committee members to discuss this matter with their clubs and regions, with a view to promoting the outdoor championships.

ii. Junior Championships

JT expressed concern about rules being too strict for junior athletes, especially Under 13 athletes. JT referred to young athletes being told that they couldn't run unless they tied their hair back, so that it didn't obstruct their numbers.

DW looked at the rule book, specifically about how athletes should wear their hair. It was unanimously agreed that more leniency was required for younger athletes.

JT also referred to registration, where junior athletes were told that they were not permitted to pull out of events, even though registration was still open for these events. Some athletes had been told that if they had registered and then withdrew, they were not permitted to compete in any other event.

DW confirmed that if registration for an event was still open, the athlete should be permitted to withdraw, without affecting other events.

DW said that he would address these two points so that officials were clear about the regulations before the outdoor championships.

iii. Records and Champion Best Performances (DW)

DW confirmed that he has updated records and championship best performances, and the most updated version can now be found on the Welsh Athletics website.

iv. Regional Championships

JT confirmed that the South and East Wales Championships were to be held in Aberdare on Saturday 10th May.

CB confirmed that the North Wales Championships were to be held in Bangor on Saturday 10th May.

LC confirmed that the West Wales Championships would be held in Swansea on Saturday 10th May.

v. Event Specific Meetings

It was confirmed that Cardiff AC will be responsible for the organisation of the first two 'Run With The Wind' competitions on 21st May and 4th June. These events will be supported by Welsh Athletics and entries will still be via the Welsh Athletics website and will go through Open Track.

DW said that the Tonypany Classic is now to be held on 23rd August and dates and venues are all in place for the endurance events.

vi. Welsh Throws League (LeH)

LeH confirmed that everything was in place for the mid-week throws competitions, but they were struggling with organising a weekend throws league, with few clubs showing an interest.

DW said that there were very few free weekends, with different league matches and championships being held on nearly all weekends.

The mid-week dates are as follows:

3rd June

22nd July

12th August

These are all to be held in Aberdare on the same evenings as the BMC competitions.

vii. Welsh Junior Competitions

It has been confirmed via Nathan Jones that the West Wales League will be going ahead, with Brecon joining West Wales.

LC said that a meeting is imminent in West Wales, where all dates and fixtures will be consolidated.

There are currently no updates on what will be happening in South Wales.

CB confirmed that North Wales competitions will be going ahead, with confirmation of some venues yet to be communicated.

Action: DW to find out what the plans are for South Wales.

viii. WA Performance update

Action: LB to write to Chris Type, requesting an update on performance.

5. DISCUSSION

a. EDM

DW confirmed that there are two fully functioning units in Welsh Athletics, with some clubs in possession of their own units.

b. TF Committee Meeting with JW re Proposed Age Group Changes

JT requested that someone was in attendance to represent all regions. JW will send a link to all track and field committee members.

LC said that she would send someone else in her place as she had work commitments on 12th March.

CB also said that he possibly had other commitments on that evening.

6. REPORTS:

a. Welsh Schools (DaW)

There was no representative from Welsh Schools in attendance.

DW confirmed that Welsh Schools will be held on 5th July (venue to be confirmed). The Cup and Plate match is to be held on 9th July in Brecon.

b. Regional Issues

Most regions are to meet in the coming weeks so more information will be shared by regional representatives in the next meeting.

c. Officials Committee (SH)

SH asked DW about any specific or additional equipment requirements for the Senior and Under 20 Championships, incorporating Under 23 trials for Under 23 European Championships.

DW said that he would keep the official's committee fully informed on specific equipment and potential additional officials required to accommodate these Under 23 trials.

SH asked DW what licence level was required to run championships and 'Run With The Wind' competitions. DW confirmed that all performance related events should be Level 2 competitions.

SH confirmed that the official's committee were discussing mileage and refreshment allowances with the Welsh Athletics finance department.

7. Any Other Business

DW confirmed that there will be no photo finish equipment for West Wales Championships due to a lack of operators to set the equipment up and operate the equipment.

Date of Next Meeting: 6pm Wednesday 2nd April 2025

Dates of Future Meetings: All meetings to be held on Wednesday evenings and will commence at 6pm

Wednesday 11th June (please note the change of date from 4th June)

Wednesday 6th August

Wednesday 1st October

Wednesday 10th December