

**Minutes of Track & Field Committee Meeting**  
**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2022 via Teams Conference Call**



WELSH ATHLETICS  
ATHLETAU CYMRU

**Present**

Lynne Brier, Joyce Tomala, Crispin Backsall, Rhiannon Hawker, Alan Currie, Ryan Spencer Jones, Darran Williams, Rhys Williams, Adrian Palmer, Lynette Harries, Zoe Brown.

**1. Apologies**

Sue Hooper, Lee Hayward

**2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest:**

No declarations of conflict of interest.

**3. Welsh Athletics Updates**

**a. Competition Update (RH)**

RH shared entry statistics for Under 13, Under 17 and Under 20 Welsh Championships this year, compared with entry statistics for 2021. The statistics showed that although there was an increase in total athlete entries this year, there was a substantial decrease in actual participation. There was a high level of drop out across all age groups and events, with Under 13 girls having the highest level of drop-out. Possible reasons for such a high level of drop-out ranged from the extremely hot weather, time of year – holidays etc, a fixture clash with the Midland League. Also, athletes had entered multiple events, which allowed them choices on the day.

CB asked about statistics for Under 15 athletes and RLP said that these statistics were part of a different presentation because they had been part of the Senior Championships.

RH went on to share information from the debriefing meeting for the Under 13, Under 17 and Under 20 Championships. The matters raised by officials were as follows:

- Pressure on chiefs involved in major domestic meetings
- Too many different versions of the timetable
- Bespoke courses needed in Wales for certain disciplines in order to upskill officials and fill gaps
- Consensus needed on the number of officials needed for meetings

RH reported that athlete feedback was positive overall. Athletes brought up the following points:

- Cost of spectator tickets. Athletes felt that family or weekend tickets should be introduced.
- There was some negative feedback about the weather being too hot, although they were happy with the provision made on the day to accommodate this e.g. water stations, shaded areas etc.

RH shared the following fixture dates with the committee:

**Indoor Championship Dates:**

Welsh Senior / Under 15 Championships - 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> January

Welsh Under 13 / Under 17 and Under 20 Championships - 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> February

British Championships – 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> February – Birmingham

### **Proposed Outdoor Championship Dates:**

Welsh Senior / Under 15 Championships - 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> June

Welsh Under 13 / Under 17 and Under 20 Championships - 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> August

Welsh Schools Championships – Saturday July 1<sup>st</sup>

Regional Championships Weekend – 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> May

Inter Regionals – to be confirmed

British Championships – 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> July – Venue to be confirmed

CB confirmed that North Wales will be competing in the Inter-Regional Championships next year.

JT pointed out that one of the Upper Age Group YDL matches clashed with the Welsh Schools Championships. They are looking to change the date of this YDL match.

### **b. National Talent Development Coordinators**

#### **Sprints and Hurdles (RW)**

RW shared updates on the speed strategy and the vision for sprints events moving forward. This included the following:

- increasing Welsh participation at British Championships throughout the age groups and coaching development throughout Wales
- Developing the coaching infrastructure throughout Wales
- Increased engagement in athlete development programmes, including short, long sprints, hurdles and relay
- Increased opportunities for competition

RW confirmed that all plans were geared towards preparing athletes for the next Commonwealth Games.

RW also shared a flow chart that demonstrated opportunities for athletes to represent Wales at different levels.

JT said that the regions need to know who their regional co-ordinators are for sprints throughout Wales.

**Action** – RW to share his presentation with committee members.

**Action** – RW to be invited to the next meeting for further discussion.

#### **Throws (RSJ)**

RSJ shared information on throws development in Wales. The key points discussed were:

- Regional and national development programmes
- Coach development
- Event specific events and relevant dates
- Talent ID
- Regional event hubs
- Long term vision for coaching, number of athletes competing at UK age group championships, increased number of athletes competing in all throws disciplines at Welsh Senior Championships, increased number of throwers progressing to GB teams.

JT asked why there were restrictions on numbers at the Cardiff throws meeting.

RSJ said that restrictions were mainly based on time restrictions and numbers of officials.

JT said that venues were challenging, especially finding a venue that can accommodate all throws events, particularly hammer.

RSJ said that there was a need to go down the route of event specific competitions, instead of the current structure of long days and weekends that include all events.

LH thanked both RW and RSJ for their comprehensive presentations and their attention to inclusion, athlete and coach progression and grassroots athletics. LH felt that both presentations were ambitious and positive.

#### **4. Discussion**

##### **a. Track and Field Terms of Reference**

JT pointed out that according to the terms of reference, the track and field committee should be agreeing fixture lists for championships and representation matches, as well as liaising with UKA and other bodies. Therefore, the committee need to receive the terms of reference far earlier than current arrangements so that fixtures can be discussed.

LH felt that there was a need for some adjustments to the by-laws and terms of reference.

AC felt that the committee had been given an opportunity to discuss the fixtures tonight, but perhaps the dates should have been held back from being publicised until this committee had been given an opportunity to contribute.

JT felt that this committee could appoint a working party to have more input into the event specific competitions, with a view to easing pressures on officials and engage athletes and parents.

RH pointed out that the season has been so busy that there has probably been a lapse of communication and groups have not met as regularly as a result of this.

JT requested that the committee look at the by-laws so that any changes can be proposed at the 2023 AGM.

##### **b. Competing out of Age Group**

Following complaints from parents about athletes competing out of their age group, JT asked what this committee should take back to General Council for approval on athletes competing out of age group.

DW said that athletes have always been permitted to compete one age group above their actual age group. Other members of the committee supported this.

The majority of the committee felt that athletes should be allowed to compete one age group above, as long as they were capable and that there were no other restrictions in place, for example in endurance events or more technical events that younger athletes are not permitted to participate in. There was also extensive discussion around young athletes being over-worked and over-exposure, resulting in higher levels of drop-out.

It was agreed that we would continue to monitor this.

##### **c. Ratification of Records (AC)**

It was agreed that the following records are accepted:

## **Men**

100m Under 17 – Joseph Berry (Newport Harriers) -10.70

100m Under 13 – Reagan McCarthy (Cardiff AC) – 12.04

1500m (Senior National) – Jake Hayward (Cardiff AC) – 3.32.82

One Mile (Senior National) – Jake Hayward (Cardiff AC) – 3.52.15

5000m – (Under 20) – Osian Perrin (Menai AC) – 13.53.03

1500m Steeplechase (Under 17) – Tristan Cumberland (Brecon) – 4.28.68 (old height specification)

1500m Steeplechase (Under 17) – Tristan Cumberland (Brecon) – 4.25.04 (new height specification)

Hammer (Under 15) – Thomas Williams (Wrexham) – 56.18m

Pentathlon (Under 13\_ - Aiden Angilletta (Deeside) – 1814 points

## **Women**

100m (Senior National) – Hannah Brier (Swansea Harriers) – 11.33

100m (Under 15) – Nel Desir (Cardiff Archers) – 11.77

200m (Under 13) – Aliyah Afolabi (Cardiff Archers) – 25.66

3000m Steeplechase – Emily Chaston (Colorado State University) – 10.12.82

400m Hurdles (Under 20) – Ophelia Pye (Marlborough) 58.09

400m Hurdles (Under 18) – Ophelia Pye (Marlborough) 58.09

Triple Jump (Under 15) – Olivia Schrimshaw (Deeside) – 11.49m

10000m Walk (Senior National) – Heather Lewis (Pembrokeshire) – 43.50.86

## **Championship Best Performances 2022**

### **Boys Under 15**

Hammer – Thomas Williams (Wrexham) 55.67m

### **Boys Under 13**

100m – Reagan McCarthy (Cardiff AC) – 12.04

Shot Put – Lucca Tardival (Deeside) 10.68m

### **Women Under 17**

100m – Nel Desir (Cardiff Archers) 11.77

Long Jump – Jessica Lee (Carmarthen Harriers) – 5.82m

### **Girls Under 15**

100m – Nel Desir (Cardiff Archers) – 11.74w

200m - Nel Desir (Cardiff Archers) – 24.30w

3000m – Millie Gold (Cardiff AC) – 10.17.46

Triple Jump – Lucy Jones (Wrexham) – 9.39m

### **Girls Under 13**

100m – Aliyah Afolabi (Cardiff Archers) – 12.43w

The following will be further investigated as there was no wind readings recorded for field events at SIAB:

Long Jump (Under 17) – Jessica Lee (Carmarthen Harriers) – 6.01 / 6.06m

Long Jump (Under 15) – Megan Taylor (Cardiff Archers) – 5.65m

It was also agreed that subject to scrutiny, Welsh Masters records should also be recognised.

There are also some walks records that will need to be shared with the committee.

#### **d. Non-Perfect Parent (ZB)**

ZB presented her Non-Perfect Parent presentation with the committee. The aim of the programme is to help parents to support their young athletes through their sporting journeys.

the programme is committed to the following:

- Valuing the commitment of parents in sport
- Developing parental understanding of long-term athlete development and lifestyle challenges of a developing young athlete
- Providing access to a wider network of parents in sport
- Understanding the challenges of a changing world for young athletes e.g managing social media, balancing other pressures etc

ZB shared the dates and themes for 2022 / 2023

AP thanked ZB for the work that she has done to support parents in athletics via the Non-Perfect Parent Programme.

#### **e. Actions for Previous Meeting – not already covered**

##### **Triple Jump Amendments**

To be moved to the next meeting.

## **5. Reports**

### **a. Officials Comments (SH)**

SH sent a report out to be shared with the draft minutes.

#### **a. Regional Issues**

##### **North Wales**

CB said that the clubs that were involved in the Welsh Junior League had thoroughly enjoyed it. North Wales are now looking at dates to avoid clashes with other leagues. North Wales will support Inter Regionals this year.

**6. Any Other Business**

**a. WA AGM**

JT reminded the committee that the AGM is to be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> October via Zoom or attend in person.

**b. Date of next meeting**

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at 6pm.

**c. Dates of Future Meetings**

To be notified after Welsh Athletics AGM

DW said that dates for the indoor junior open meetings and indoor regional events, including indoor events in North Wales are now on the website

AP thanked ZB, RW and RSJ for their presentations.

JT thanked the committee for their attendance.

DRAFT