



Welsh Athletics - Athletau Cymru

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West Wales Regional Newsletter 2007 – Edition 7

I received this e-mail newsletter a few days ago. I hope it is of interest to you all and that you agree with the content. One hopes that they receive the support to extend it further as they suggest.

European Athletics News

Date: 01.03.2007

Statement by European Athletics President Hansjörg Wirz

European Athletics has always held a very strong line against doping in sport.

It is our opinion, however, that the regulations as they currently stand, that is, a maximum ban of two years for a clear doping offence, are not tough enough.

As an International Sporting Federation, our rules are subjected to International law and the Court of Arbitration for Sport concerning freedom of movement and restraint of trade.

Naturally, we fully respect these institutions, but feel that we need to do more to care for the vast majority of honest, clean athletes who compete in our competitions.

Following this we have proposed a significant rule change to the IAAF Congress in Osaka in August.

Quite simply, we are proposing that no athlete convicted of a doping offence and given a two-year suspension may take part, after the punishment concludes, in any World and/or Area Championship for a period of two years, which includes at least the next Championships.

If this proposal receives the support we are anticipating, we are hoping to increase this period even further.

It is our firm belief that the fight against doping in sport is swinging towards to International Federations and the majority of honest, clean athletes and we are confident that this major championship eligibility rule change will provide a significant change in the mindset of the very small percentage of athletes, coaches and managers who continue to cheat in sport.

Thank you for your time!
Source: European Athletics

Flora London Marathon 2008

The 2008 London Marathon will take place on Sunday 13th April.

Affiliated clubs can claim a number of guaranteed entry places based on their membership.

1 – 50 members = 1place, 51 – 100 = 2places,
101 – 200 = 3places, 201 – 300 = 4places,
300plus = 5places

Information will appear in Athletics Weekly in September 2007 – Club Reps keep your eyes open for details of where to apply.

Guaranteed London places.

Many charities are guaranteed places in London each year and give these to athletes / runners prepared to raise funds on behalf of the Charity.

You do not therefore have to go through the lottery of applying directly to London and failing to get a place because of the sheer volume of entry applications. Some also offer places in other races and events around the world

Athletics Weekly and Runners World carry several pages of Charity adverts offering places in each of their issues. Why not take a browse? You will in return be doing a good turn for someone less fortunate than yourself.

Gwent League

This year's League fixtures came to a damp end on Newbridge Fields, Bridgend on 4th March. Having arrived through wet and windy conditions over the previous 24hours competitors were faced with a surprisingly firm course topped with plenty of surface water which gradually churned the route into a somewhat muddy track once proceedings got under way.

Having had the Carmarthen date cancelled because of the sudden snow in February this winters programme featured just 4 races with numbers at this final date down no doubt because of the weather conditions in the build up to the start.

Many thanks to all the workers, officials and first aid on the day and for the entire season. Without the willing volunteers our sport would be much the poorer. Please recognize their efforts especially when we encounter the conditions we had last weekend.

Welsh Schools Cross Country

Brecon will be the next big gathering on the Country and this year the Schools moves to a Sunday. One hopes that the fact that it is Mothers Day will not have too much of an effect on numbers participating.

Best wishes to all those from the West who travel to Powys. We wish them well with those near the front of the fields in the Junior and Middle age groups likely to be in with a shout of representative honours as a result of their endeavours.

Llanelli Primary Schools Sportshall Championships

14 schools attended the Championships on the 7th March at the Leisure Centre. Nearly 200 pupils enjoyed an excellent morning with some impressive performances.

St Michaels retained the overall trophy in a close team competition.