

BAC Conference 2005

The BAC Athletes Conference took place on the 17th September at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff. The day was a great success, with everyone going away far better informed about the issues affecting them as athletes.

The main issues covered were:

- The review of Athlete Personal Awards and the decision athletes will be asked to make regarding the final allocation of the pot of money. (see APA review below)
- Athlete Agreements and how these are likely to affect you as athletes
- UK Sports Anti-Doping Policy, in particular the reasoning behind the implementation of the athlete whereabouts policy
- The Sports Disputes Resolution Panel, and how it fits in with your sports dispute resolution pathway
- Athlete Visits to Schools, a new initiative being spearheaded by the BAC which will bring more athletes into contact with local schools (see below)

Comments received on our feedback forms included:

“Very professional, well presented and well organised”

“Informative and interesting, brought together many opinions and raised many issues that were relevant to many sports”

“Very informative, good to meet athletes from other sports who are experiencing similar problems to me”

“Information gained was exceptionally relevant for all athletes and involved current issues”

The conference finished with a talk from David Thomas, an ex fireman who became a Grand Master of Memory and held world records for the most consecutive numbers of pi recited from memory(22,500),

When circulating prior to giving his talk, Dave was approached by one of the athletes (who shall remain nameless) who said “you know, I am sure I’ve met you somewhere before, I just can’t remember where”!!



The evening was also a great success, with the delegates being treated to hospitality courtesy of Wales Rally GB, and watching World Rally Cars spin and slide around a temporary track on the floor of the Millennium Stadium. Two athletes found themselves lining up with the rally cars in the basement of the stadium as they were leaving, but despite their pleading, were not allowed to do their own circuit of the track.

Goodie bags were once again provided with the generous support of adidas, the BOA and team GB sponsors.

It is intended that next year the conference will be expanded over two days to fill the demand for information and include time and facilities for athletes to be able to train whilst at the conference.