

# Welsh Athletics Ltd

## Annual General Meeting

**Annual General Meeting held at the Holiday Inn Hotel, Cardiff and online via Zoom at 10am on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2023**

**Present:**

**Company Members of Welsh Athletics Ltd**

Steve Perks	Board Member (Chair)
Chris Gough	Board Member (Director)
Lynne Brier	Board Member (Director)
Helen Adams	Board Member (Director)
Tom Overton	Board Member (Director)
James Williams	Chief Executive/ Company Secretary
Kay Hatton	RAC – North
Christine Vorres	RAC – East
Rob Champion	RAC – West
Graham Finlayson	Honorary President
Joyce Tomala	Life Member
Lynette Harries	Life Member
Ian Griffiths	Life Member
Gareth Oldham	WSAA
Fred Malkin	Barry & Vale Harriers
Charles Barton	Buckley Runners
Gordon Harold	Cardiff Athletics
Rhiain Davies	CDF Runners
Graham Taylor	Chepstow Harriers
Iwan Dowie	Cornelly Striders
Mike Davies	Heath Massive Run Club
Sprio Pezaros	Heath Massive Run Club
Nelia Roberts	Llanelli AC
Lisa Champion	Llanelli AC
Andy Weetman	Menai Track & Field
Steve Hames	Neath Harriers
Chris Pratt	Ogmore Phoenix Runners
Nigel Adams	Penarth & Dinas Runners
Colin Caesar	Penarth & Dinas Runners
Steve Burrell	Pontyclun Road Runners
Nicola Brunnock	Pont-y-Pwl & District Runners
Richard John Mark	Sarn Helen
Angharad Davies	Sospan Road Runners
Peter Morris	Volunteer

Haydn O'Reilly	Builth & District
Steve Brace	Bridgend AC
Sue Alvey	Official
Bryan Meredith	

### **Also present**

Elle Cartlidge	Staff, AGM Scrutineer
Andrew Thomas	Staff
Lowri Jacob	Staff, AGM Scrutineer
Chris Moss	Staff, AGM Scrutineer, Presenter
Chris Type	Staff, Presenter
Jozie Postles	Staff, Presenter

### **I. President's welcome**

The President welcomed everyone to the AGM of Welsh Athletics Ltd.

### **II. Apologies for Absence**

Nick Everitt [Director], Dan Clements [Director], John Penny [Life Member], Jonathan Ford [Director], Lorna Kerr [Director], Hedydd Davies [Life Member], Ivor Adams [Life Member], Alex Donald [Staff], Barrie Owen [Life Member], Clive Williams [Life Member], Bernie Plain [Cardiff Athletics], Tony Clement [Swansea Harriers], Lorraine Price [Cardiff Athletics], Lee Heyward [RAC- South]

### **III. Minute Silence**

As part of the welcome the Chair [SP] asked the room to respect a minute's silence to remember those members who have passed away over the past 12 months;

David Holliday, Jeanette Jenkins, Peter Norman, John Lister, Shaun Pickering, Maria Wallpott, Jean Whitehead, Anthony Hughes, Owen Edwards, John Lewis

### **IV. Minutes of the 2022 AGM**

Errors were highlighted which have been changed making the minutes from 2022 accepted as accurate.

### **V. Matters Arising**

There was a query regarding the meritorious award which was acknowledged by the Chair and amended on the minutes.

## **ITEMS OF ORDINARY BUSINESS**

### **1 Appointment of Scrutineers**

- 1.1 Chris Moss, Lowri Jacob and Eleanor Cartlidge [online], all non-vote holders, were appointed scrutineers

## **2 Report of the Board of Directors**

- 2.1 The Chair invited James Williams, CEO, to present his report on behalf of the Board.
- 2.2 James Williams presented on behalf of Alex Donald [Head of Competition], Chris Type [Head of Performance], Jozie Postles [Head of Marketing & communication] & Chris Moss [Head of Development] presented updates on their areas of work as part of this report.
- 2.3 There were some questions from the floor:
  - 2.3.1 For Jozie Postles - what we are doing to correct fundamental issues before investing in digital comms. JW acknowledged that this is being worked on.
  - 2.3.2 For Chris Moss –CM and JW highlight investment and rolling program from Sport Wales to improve facilities. JW explained that t&f reports depend on the level of the competition and what WA licence. A final question for CM on why unaffiliated athletes only pay £2 more to enter events which CM highlights would have to be a UKA rule change.

## **3 Financial Report, Accounts and Audit Findings**

- 3.1 Chris Gough, Non-Executive Director – Finance, introduced himself and gave an overview of the annual accounts.
- 3.2 The annual accounts to March 2023 and a full audit report had been distributed ahead of the AGM. CG has confidence in the numbers presented and auditors passed accounts with confidence.
- 3.3 Question from the floor:
  - 3.3.1 If WA taking over the licencing events, does this mean a new income stream? JW says they are looking at models for positive impacts.
  - 3.3.2 How long the open track contract is and how much do WA pay? JW explains it is a 3-year contract with a set price.
- 3.1. The financial report was accepted, and the accounts were approved.

## **4 General Council Report**

- 4.1 SP explains that the Chair of the General Council had to resign due to commitments.

- 4.2 SP presents the General Council Report from the annual report.
- 4.3 Lynette acknowledges the support from individuals within WA for the General Council, acknowledges operations haven't been as smooth as they have in the past but remains optimistic that it will thrive going forward

## 5 Appointment of Accountants

- 5.1 It was agreed to appoint O'Brien and Partners as accountants, and HSJ Audit Ltd. as our financial auditors for the ensuing year and authorise the Board to fix their remuneration.

## 6 Appointment of Patrons

- 6.1. Lynn Davies CBE was re-appointed as Patron of the company.
- 6.2. Colin Jackson CBE was re-appointed as Patron of the company.

**There were no objections.**

## 7 To appoint the following positions

- 7.1 The appointment of Lynne Brier as the Chair of the General Council.
- 7.2 The appointment of Christine Vorres as the Secretary of the General Council.
- 7.3
  - 7.3.1 The Secretary to the Track & Field committee - approved *Lynn Brier (re-election)*
  - 7.3.2 The Secretary to the Road Running and Cross-Country Committee - approved *Sharon Leech (re-election)*
  - 7.3.3 The Secretary to the Mountain & Trail running Committee - approved *Arwel Lewis (re-election)*
  - 7.3.4 The Secretary to the Track & Field Officials Committee - approved *Sue Hooper (re-election)*
  - 7.3.5 The Secretary to the Endurance Officials Committee - approved *Christine Vorres (re-election)*

**No objections**

## 8 Appointment of Delegates to organisations on which the Company is entitled to be represented

- 8.1 Delegate to the Commonwealth Games Council for Wales Executive Committee – *James Williams*

8.2 Delegates (3) to the Commonwealth Games Council - *Steve Perks, James Williams, Chris Type*

8.3 Delegate to the Welsh Sports Association – *James Williams*

### **No objections**

## **9 Determination of Annual Registration and Affiliation Fees (2023/2024)**

**9.1** JW presented the updated Club affiliation fee following a webinar. The amended proposal includes increasing by £50 to a total of £150 with the creation of a working group to explore a proportionate look at club affiliation.

**9.1.1** The club affiliation proposal was unanimously accepted.

**9.2** JW presented the proposal to increase Athlete registration fees as follows: Senior- currently £19.50 24/25 = £21, 25/26 = £23, 26/27 = £25. Junior - currently £12, 24/25 = £13, 25/26 = £14, 26/27 = £15

**9.2.1** There were three objections from company members; two online and one via proxy

**9.2.2** The athlete affiliation proposal was accepted

## **10 Consideration of the Report of the Service Awards Panel**

**10.1** To receive and accept the recommendations for the Appointment of Life Members. The following were externally nominated and/or recommended by members of the Panel:

**Steve Brace [Bridgend AC]**

**10.2** To receive and accept the recommendations for the Award Of Honour. The following were externally nominated and/or recommended by members of the Panel:

**Dafydd Ellis [Eryri Harriers], David Peters [Maldwyn Harriers].**

**10.3** To receive and accept the recommendations for the Meritorious Award. The following were externally nominated and/or recommended by members of the Panel:

**Barry John Edwards [Menai Track & Field], John Davies [Port Talbot Harriers], Michael Heare [Islwyn Running Club]**

**10.4** To receive and accept the recommendations for the Athlete Achievement Award. The following were externally nominated and/or recommended by members of the Panel:



**Andrew Davies [Stockport Harriers AC] Gillian Regan\* [Cardiff AAC]**

*\*posthumous award*

**No objections**



## Items of Special Business

---

### 11 Notices of Motion

#### 11.1 Amendments to the Articles of Association

**11.1.1 Article 1.24** Registered Athletes – any individual who joins a club and is registered with Welsh Athletics during the affiliation year. Article 1.25 Registered Volunteers – any individual who is a licensed coach, a licensed official (level 1 – 3) or a registered club volunteer.

**11.1.2 Article 3.16 (1)** - The normal affiliation year shall run from April 1st through to March 31st the following year.

**Article 3.16 (5)** - All registered athletes will be assumed active for the full period of the affiliation year. Any registered member who wishes to terminate their affiliation to Welsh Athletics at any point during the affiliation year must write to the relevant club and Welsh Athletics informing them of the decision. Only at this point will their affiliation be deemed inactive.

**Article 3.16 (6)** - By becoming a member of a club, it will be assumed that all registered athletes and registered volunteers will adhere to the codes of practice of Welsh Athletics. This would include relevant codes of conduct, all UK Anti-Doping requirements and any other code of practice that Welsh Athletics may introduce.

**11.1.3 Article 10.2 (5)** - The Board may appoint Board observers, who may attend a meeting as agreed by the Chair

**Article 10.5 (1)** - The Board shall appoint the Board observer on the recommendation of the Appointments panel

**Article 10.5 (2)** - The Board observer shall be appointed for a period of one year

**11.1.4 Article 26.3** - Through the relevant licensing and registration process all company members, clubs, registered athletes and registered volunteers agree to adhere to the anti-doping rules and regulations as agreed by UK Anti-Doping.

**It was noted that a number of lines within the articles require updating and that the Governance Sub-group will look at this ahead of next year's AGM.**

**All of the above motions were passed with unanimous vote**

#### 11.2 Amendments to the Byelaws of Welsh Athletics;

**11.2.1** accept multiple changes throughout the document where executive job titles have been updated i.e. National Coach to Head of Performance. This ensures

the accuracy of roles and membership across various committees and task groups.

**11.2.2 Byelaw 2.5.2** - Athletes who are members of a Club affiliated to Welsh Athletics Ltd register through the relevant affiliation process.

**Byelaw 2.5.4** - Coaches, officials (both technical and non-technical), team managers and volunteers must register through the relevant licensing scheme in order to ensure that they are covered by the Company's insurance policy.

**Byelaw 2.5.5** - All athletes, licensed coaches, licensed officials (level 1-3), and all other club volunteers must adhere to the relevant codes of conduct, Anti-Doping regulations, and all other codes of practice as part of their registration with the Governing Body (be it direct or via a club).

**11.2.3 Byelaw 16.1** - Introduction of additional byelaw proposing the introduction of eligibility through grandparents – this is proposed through a separate notice of motion

**All of the above motions were passed with unanimous vote**

**11.3** Amendments to eligibility criteria;

**11.3.1** Byelaw 16.1.1 To be eligible, an athlete must have at least ONE of the following qualifications: a) Birth: the athlete having been born in Wales or the mother being domiciled in Wales at the time of the birth. b) Parentage: one or both parents born in Wales. c) Grandparents: one or both grandparents born in Wales. d) Residence: the athlete having resided continuously in Wales for a minimum of three years immediately prior to the event. Any athlete claiming eligibility to compete for Wales under this qualification must supply documentation details to the office at Welsh Athletics Ltd in order to be processed before being accepted.

**It was noted that a number of lines within the articles require updating and that the Governance Sub-group will look at this ahead of next year's AGM.**

**All of the above motions were passed with unanimous vote**

**11.4** Amendments to Awards Panel:

**11.4.1** This notice of motion relates to the merger of the National and Service Awards Panels. Any changes following the outcome of the motion will be represented in byelaw 11.4.

**There was one objection from company member via proxy**

**The above motions were passed**

**12 Date and venue of 2024 General Meeting**





26<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at Sport Wales - provisional date.

**THE ABOVE MINUTES ARE PROVISIONAL AND SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION AT THE NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.**

