

Welsh Athletics Board Meeting Minutes

Held on the 8th April 2020

Meeting held remotely via video link

- Present:*
- Steve Perks (Chair) (SP)
 - Nick Everitt (NE)
 - Adrian Thomas (AT)
 - Sue Alvey (SA)
 - Bernie Plain (BP)
 - James Williams – Interim CEO (JW)
 - Chris Jones (CJ)
 - Adrian Palmer (AP)
 - Chris Moss (CM)
 - Rob Sage (RS)
 - Rhiannon Linington Payne (RLP)

Papers circulated in advance:

Paper – Board discussion paper - furlough

Item linked to

Actions from meeting

Item Number	ACTIONS	Person responsible

1. Apologies for Absence

Nicky Lewis

2. Declaration of Interest

None declared

3. Discussion items

The meeting continued to focus on how the organisation was managing during the coronavirus crisis.

JW gave a general update on how the organisation was managing the current situation, with updates provided on discussions with the other Home Countries, UKA and Sport Wales. He also provided an updated on staff welfare, and some of the actions put in place to support staff during this period.

Finance – NE provided an update, and highlighted the positive financial position considering the challenges. Also updated on the performance of the investment fund which was showing signs of positive return.

JW presented an updated budget based on a scenario of no activity in quarter 1. This is now showing a small surplus, albeit there are still a number of risks to be considered

NE highlighted the need for a solid budget for the year, but stated that it would not be possible to provide this until the forecast for the sport is clarified.

JW provided an update on the R4W grant, due to the requirement for R4W to manage their own cashflow, they have requested to keep the grant within their own funds for the time being. JW & SP will continue dialogue with R4W and will report back if the situation changes.

Furlough proposal – JW presented a paper outlining the potential to furlough staff from certain departments who's ability to deliver a meaningful work programme was restricted due to the limitations on travel. The Board were also made aware that at the time of the meeting, Welsh Athletics were still waiting for guidance as to whether it could furlough staff who are funded through lottery investment.

The financial impact of furloughing staff was presented, with a commitment to ensure that staff received their full salary throughout the period.

Board agreed to the proposal, and would allow the CEO and Chair to agree further furloughing should it be required.

Club Affiliation – CM gave an update on the current membership figures and comparison to previous years. The figures were down as expected compared to 2019, but not as low as had been expected.

Board discussed feedback from clubs as to whether the fees should be reduced. NE highlighted the potential reputation risk if Welsh Athletics are not proactive with support to clubs.

SA asked why would members pay if they cannot access competition?

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AT highlighted the need to consider whether current financial implications would mean members not being able to afford to pay their fees.

Board agreed to continue to review the situation, and for CM to continue to engage the views of clubs.

CM also provided an update on the 'support your club' campaign.

Competition – RLP provided an update on domestic competition. The WSAA have decided to cancel the entire School Track and Field Season. Revised dates for National Championships were outlined

WA have been working with the other HCAF to create a virtual competition offering along with licence and insurance cover.

SA highlighted the potential pressure on officials at the end of the Summer.

Commonwealth Games – CJ & AP provided an update on the 2022 CWG. The Challenges of the 2022 season were highlighted, the Olympics, European and Commonwealth Games will take place over a short period.

CJ provided an update on the overall Team Wales team size – the team will be approx. 15% smaller than in 2018, and will mean a very small athletics team at the Games.

Commonwealth Games Wales have also asked for a final qualifying date of the end of April 2022, which will prove challenging for Athletics.

The impact of the coronavirus on WA finances and the smaller team size may mean a change to the preparation plans previously agreed by the Board, with funds potentially redirect to support athletes achieving qualifying standards and a smaller preparation camp.

The Board questioned whether any Welsh athletes may choose to miss the CWG to focus on either World's or European Championships.

Board agreed to continue discussions on this topic.

Board recruitment – due to the challenges imposed by the coronavirus crisis, it was agreed to delay the decision on Board recruitment by 2 weeks.

5. Updates / Reports / Information for circulation

6. Correspondence

7. AOB

8. Date of Next Meeting

