

WEST WALES REGIONAL ATHLETICS COUNCIL



Minutes – West Wales Regional Athletics Council Annual General Meeting Wednesday 15th June 2022

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Present:	Rob Champion (RC)	Chairman
	Nathan Jones (NJ)	Secretary
	Andrew Jenkins (AJ)	West Wales Club Manager
	John Elward (JE)	Officials Secretary
	Steve Hames (SH)	Welfare Officer
	Dic Evans (DE)	Trail, Mountain & Fell Running Committee Representative
	Jennifer Boyce (JB)	Pembrokeshire Harriers

Chairman Rob Champion welcomed those present to the region's 26th Annual General Meeting.

1. **Apologies** Les Cuthbert, Kevin Tobin

2. **Minutes of previous AGM (9 June 2021)**

The minutes of the AGM of 9 June 2021 were checked for accuracy and accepted as a true record.

3. **Matters arising from previous meeting**

None

4. **Chairman's Report**

RC - These last few years have been an extremely difficult time for our sport, so I would like to give a massive thank you to all the coaches, committees and volunteers from all our on and off-track clubs. Their huge effort and commitment in keeping our athletes motivated and maintaining numbers (and in a lot of cases growing the number of club registered athletes) has been outstanding.

Our athletes have continued to shine not just within West Wales but against other Welsh, British and International athletes, again this is down to athlete and coach dedication. Many athletes have produced impressive performances this season with a number of athletes in the top 10 of UK Rankings.

As with all regions within Wales we continue to have gaps with qualified officials, but John Elward our Officials Secretary is making big steps in increasing official numbers within the region. He was responsible for organising the successful officials taster day at this Seasons Swansea Open. John has also overseen the purchase of a new starting system which has seen us as a region become more self-sufficient and also as trend setters as other regions have subsequently followed suit. Thank you John!

On a personal note, I would like to thank ALL the committee members for the unwavering support they have shown to me as West Wales Chair. A special mention must go to Andrew Jenkins for the support and guidance he has given me during my first proper year as in the role. Any questions or uncertainty I have had, he has always been there to steer me in the right direction.

A final thanks goes to all volunteers within the region for their hard work and dedication to our sport and contribution to the success we continue to have in West Wales.

West Is Best

Diolch yn Fawr

5. Hon Treasurer's Report

LC - The current account balance is £1,840.00 and £12,481.00 in the savings account. The full report/accounts were circulated with the minutes.

West Wales has sponsored four T&F competitions and one XC event at Pembrey as part of the Gwent League meetings since August last year. It is surprising that invoices have still to be received for all bar one of the T&F events. As such, in the event of subsequent receipt of these invoices it is likely that all of these meetings will make a loss.

W2RAC's main income stream for the past year have been Competition entry fees and the sale of West Wales vests. No grants have been received from Welsh Athletics over the period.

During the year a major purchase (£2,370.00) was made in the form of an electronic starter system. Feedback from both starters and athletes has been favourable. This equipment also has the potential to raise additional income if used by other Regions and Clubs outside West Wales.

There were no other major purchases in year.

6. Officials' Secretary Report

JE - reported on the regions activities recently involving officials and new starting equipment. The full report was circulated with the minutes. The West Wales development day was held at Swansea on April 3rd. Thirteen volunteers joined various teams of officials on the day. Since then, one has qualified as a Level 1 Track Judge, and two more are booked on level 1 courses and in the meantime are gaining experiences working with experienced Senior officials.

The under 15 Welsh Junior Development League had to be postponed in May because of the lack of qualified officials available. Having two other matches in the South and East as well as a YDL event in Swansea the following day did not help.

The West division were not alone in being unable to provide a full range of disciplines of officials. Cardiff had Officials from across the border and two Cardiff Officials were at Aberdare, plus a timekeeper from the Midlands.

This begs the question of how can a clubs recruit officials from outside their own club or even from across the border when they do not have access to Trinity? JE has discussed the issue with Welsh Athletics.

The Basic Entry Level Electronic Starting System (BELT)

The West Wales Region were one of the first Regions to purchase this system which was manufactured in response to starters requests for a more portable and manageable system. The system is being used throughout the Region, at various club and schools' meetings within the region plus regional championships. Welsh Athletics will use the equipment at event specific meetings soon.

Policy for the Use and Cost Charges for BELT Electronic Starting System

In summary:

- Only starters approved by the West Wales Region can use the equipment
- Any club or school within the region that wants the use of the equipment can so free of charge on the condition that they pay traveling for an approved starter at 40p per mile
- Any other organisation outside the region pays £20 plus what would have been the cost of starters ammunition, to the Regional Treasurer, plus the starters traveling expenses at 40p per mile
- If Welsh Athletics want to use the equipment, then there is a flat charge of £75 or the cost of a photo finish technician is waived. If it is a Welsh Athletics meeting, they will reimburse the starters traveling expenses and if Welsh Athletics decided to use their own starting equipment, then they will reimburse the starters traveling. In the event of starters using a conventional gun, Welsh Athletics will also pay the cost of ammunition.

7. Club Network Officer's Report

AJ - reported on the activities held in the region post Coronavirus and between 1st June 2021 – 1st June 2022. The full report was circulated with the minutes.

These include the UK Athletics Coaching courses, Officials' courses, Leading Athletics, Star Track, Schools cross country and track and field fixtures, Primary & Secondary Teachers Run Jump Throw Certificate, West Wales Coaching Workshops / Regional Development Days, Schools to Club Grassroots coaching days, DBS, Sport Wales and Welsh Athletics Funding/Grants and Support for clubs.

There were 19 fully affiliated clubs in the West Region with over 3000 individual affiliated athletes by 1st April 2020.

The growth is reflected by primarily the dedication and hard work of the club volunteers, creating so many opportunities for everyone to be a part of the sport. Coronavirus temporarily stalled the growth of club athlete affiliation approx. 75%+ year on year. It was pleasing to see all affiliated clubs retain their affiliation with Welsh Athletics in 2022. On 1st April 2020 pre C19 there were 3,092 registered athletes, 10 weeks into this affiliation year is stands at 2,212 registered athletes.

8. Election of Officers

The following were elected for the year 2022/23

- 1) Chairman: Rob Campion
- 2) Hon Secretary: Nathan Jones
- 3) Hon Treasurer: Les Cuthbert

9. Other Elections:

- 1) Officials' Secretary: John Elward
- 2) Welfare Officer: Steve Hames
- 3) West Wales Track and Field Competition Coordinator: Nathan Jones, Rob Campion, John Elward plus other help from clubs
- 4) West Wales Cross Country and Road Running Competition Coordinator: Rob Campion, Steve Hames plus other help from clubs
- 5) West Wales Mountain and Trail Running Competition Coordinator: Dic Evans

10. Delegates to Welsh Athletics Committees

- 1) General Council: Dic Evans, +1
- 2) Officials Committee (Endurance): Rob Campion
- 3) Officials Committee (Track & Field): John Elward
- 4) Track & Field Committee: Jake Morgan
- 5) Road Running & Cross-Country Committee: Kevin Tobin
- 6) Trail, Mountain & Fell Running Committee: Dic Evans

11. Notice of Motion

- 1) LC put forward suggestions to be discussed: 1. The mileage rate for UKA qualified Technical Officials attending West Wales sponsored meetings be increased from 30ppm to 35ppm. Passenger rate to be increases from 5ppm to 10ppm. To take effect from the forthcoming Inter-Regions T&F Championships at Aberdare for West Wales officials. 2. Travel and Subsistence rate for those selected athletes attending the next Inter-Counties XC meeting at Loughborough to be increased from 20ppm to 25ppm. 3. No travel costs are currently given to volunteers attending West Wales fixtures. As such thought be given to the purchase and supply of t-shirts, baseball caps etc for those who volunteer at events. Subject to reasonable costs or a fixed budget.

AGREED: Points 1, 2, 3 and agreed by committee. Supplier to be looked at to purchase cotton t shirt / hoodie (red/black?) for region volunteers. Agreed it was a good idea and to be moved forward, criteria needs to confirmed; when can volunteers qualify for this?

- 2) Discuss the possibility of purchasing an EDM for use by West Wales Clubs.

COMMENTS: EDM can be hired by Welsh Athletics for events. Not too many officials in the region can run the EDM system at present but hopefully new officials might train up in the future. The question to be asked by JE to Phil Gooding at Swansea Harriers for further guidance and to find out the prices. What graded officials would need to be present to use it? <https://www.welshathletics.org/en/page/competition-equipment-hire>

- 3) A discussion on the future of the Louise Arthur League within West Wales.

COMMENTS: Louise Arthur League has been re-launched as the Junior Development League this year post-covid. West Division provisional dates: Swansea (17th July), Neath (21st

August), Carmarthen (11th September). Three less clubs than the Louise Arthur League division and more of a multi-event league with less events on each day. It was felt that having three different leagues within South Wales wasn't sustainable and difficult to find enough qualified officials. Further discussions to take place.

12) Date of Next Meeting

West Wales Regional Athletics Council: Wednesday 24th August at 7:00pm