

## **Minutes of a meeting of the Board of Directors Held on 26 November 2018 at the Sport Wales National Centre**

**Present:** Carol Anthony (CA) (Chair), Matt Newman (MN) (CEO), David Roberts (DR), Sue Alvey (SA), Bernie Plain (BP), Nicky Lewis (NL), Ron Odunaiya (RO) (by phone), James Williams (JW), Neil Emberton (NE)\* (\*for part of the meeting) & Alan Currie (minutes).

### **1. Welcome and Apologies.**

Apologies were received on behalf of Christian Malcolm

Welcoming those present, the Chair proposed that Sport Wales matters be brought forward to the beginning of the meeting to allow NE to leave after making his presentation. This was agreed.

### **2. Sport Wales Matters**

NE reported that

- SW is to undertake a review of its centres in the spring of 2019. This will include the Sport Wales National Centre in Sophia Gardens.
- Peter Curran will be leaving SW before Christmas. The process for recruiting his replacement is in progress.
- A 'Playing our Part' session was held recently led by Martyn Phillips, CEO of the WRU. Welsh Athletics was represented by Chris Moss (Development Manager). The purpose of the session was to consider the contribution made by various sports regarding the general health of the Nation.
- Regarding the Community Sports Activity programme in North Wales, there were 3 expressions of interest in the NW Sport Collaborative partnership of whom two did not meet the necessary criteria. The partnership involves local authorities, public health bodies and many other parties. It meets on 6 December to draw up a draft strategy.

- SW is devising a support package on diversity.
- The annual self-assurance process is being updated.  
It was questioned whether the process would affect funding. It was stated this would only occur in extreme cases where a governing body was clearly not meeting certain minimum criteria.
- Reviews are being carried in coaching development and lottery and community chest requirements.
- Welsh Athletics is well represented in Sport Wales roadshows.

NE then left the meeting.

It was pointed out that the Sport Wales review of its centres is likely to have a disruptive effect on Welsh Athletics' central office..

**3. Declarations of Interest**

None were declared.

**4. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting (24 September 2018) were accepted as an accurate record.

**5. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising that would not be covered within the agenda.

The meeting then concentrated on a number of key issues.

**6 Athletics in the UK**

A paper was included in the Board pack.

The Chair updated the Board on the current situation and the outcome of the UK Members Council meeting 14 September which centred around the statement issued by the Chairs of the four Home Countries, which was supported by their respective Boards.

A mediation meeting, facilitated by UK Sport, took place in Edinburgh 13 November.

A draft list of nine points emanated from the meeting

It was noted that the proposed creation of TopCo to manage the affairs of UKA has been withdrawn by UKA.

Eight of the points were agreed by UKA and Home Countries but the ninth point which referred to the role of the Chair of UKA was referred for further discussion

The Board accepted the points contained in the mediation paper.

A meeting of the UKA Members' Council will be held on 14 December to discuss this matter

The Chair thanked MN and RO for their support afforded to her in dealing with this serious issue.

Further issues of voting eligibility at the UKMC meeting and UKA's proposed changes to the Governance structure to immediately create a Vice Chair post were discussed.

## **7 Scottish Athletics Independence.**

Scottish Athletics has approached the IAAF expressing the wish to compete in future European events as a separate nation, rather than as part of a UK team. There is no proposal to extend this aim to global events such as the Olympic Games or World Championships, or to break away from UKA.

The first objective would be the European Cross- Country Championships. It was pointed out that all 4 home nations once competed in the IAAF World CC Championships, which could be seen as a precedent.

It was agreed a discussion paper to consider any implications for Wales of the Scottish proposal be prepared for the WA Board meeting of 28 January 2019.



## 8 Governance Sub Group

The GSG presented a paper proposing the recruitment process for an independent Chair of the Board. The process used by some other sports had been considered.

It was emphasised that the role is a voluntary one and that this should be made clear to any potential applicants.

The appointment would be confirmed by the Appointments Panel consisting of two Board members plus one independent person, yet to be appointed. Independent in this case would preferably be someone from outside athletics and the Board would make this appointment.

The closing date for applications would be mid-January 2019.

The meeting agreed that the CEO should clarify the requirements of the role and that the outgoing Chair should meet applicants.

It is anticipated that interviews would take place during week commencing 28 January 2019.

With a few minor alterations the proposals were agreed.

There is also a requirement for the Appointments Panel to interview and appoint two new Non-Executive Directors.

The AGM agreed to an increase in the maximum number of directors and additional members should be sought. There is a requirement for a broad skill base among directors; coaching and finance being two areas where suitable expertise is needed. Consideration will be given to factors such as gender equality and Welsh language knowledge, but these will not be the sole criteria.

The composition of WA Sub Groups was discussed and it was agreed that there should be two Non-Executive Directors on each group. There would also be three individual members, appointed for a period of up to 4 years.

The Board accepted the paper, with thanks to the Governance Sub Group.

## 9. Updates and Reports

All Reports had been circulated in the Board pack.

### 9.1 Operations

JW had submitted his report but commented on a few points. There is concern over the number of people who attend tutorials but then do not go on to become officials.



A staff survey is in progress.

The changes to the WA website are progressing well.

Competition levels continue to increase and over 400 licences were issued this year.

UKA has directed that all throwing cages in the UK must now comply with IAAF specification. Previously, UKA had devised its own specifications, but a recent accident involving an official has caused them to reconsider. Of the tracks affected, six are in Wales. The cost of making the necessary alterations can be considerable and with the current restrictions on their budgets, local authorities are likely to be unwilling (or unable) to comply. A deadline of 1 April 2019 for completion of the required adjustments is unrealistic, and UKA has been asked to look at the situation again.

## 9.2 **General Council**

The main focus recently has been on the role of the regions. Three of the four regions are making good progress, the other one seems to be stagnating. There is often a poor region/club link. In an otherwise excellent clubs conference there was a noticeable absence of the major track and field clubs.

## 9.3 **Finance**

Three reports were provided and key activities outlines. Accounts show a deficit of £34k at present but it is anticipated that this will be corrected at year end. It is important that the budget is in place when required. The submission to Sport Wales is due in June 2019.

The Board accepted the Finance report

## 9.4 **Run 4 Wales Trustees**

A meeting of trustees will be arranged shortly. The events portfolio is growing with the addition of a few 10k and other races. The Velathon was not profitable and will not be held in future.

The 2019 events calendar is being finalised.

## 9.5 **Welsh Schools AA**

It was reiterated that the use of the Run 4 Wales surplus to fund school activities will not be repeated. From 1 April 2019, Welsh Schools will be officially part of Welsh Athletics. WSAA's charity status will be retained. WSAA should focus its attention on the Schools Districts. A meeting of the trustees is due soon.



9.6 **UKA (UKMC)**

Reported under item 6

9.7 **Welfare and Safeguarding**

The Welfare and Safeguarding policy has been updated. All clubs are required to appoint two Welfare Officers and the possibility of sanctions against clubs who do not comply is under consideration.

JW confirmed that in the future all coaches will be required to attend safeguarding modules as part of their qualification process. The same will also apply to officials. Courses will be arranged and individuals will be given every opportunity to attend suitable courses.

One Welsh official is currently under suspension pending inquiry into allegations of abuse. Concern was expressed that there have been cases of false accusations being made.

9.8 **Governance Review**

Report as item 8.

The Board accepted the reports.

10 **Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

11. **Any Other Business**

The Board will offer its condolences to Christian Malcolm on the recent loss of his father.

12. **Date of Next Meeting.**

Dates of Board meetings for 2019 were agreed.

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Monday, 28 January 2019.

Future meetings will be held on 25 March, 20 May, 23 September, 25 November.

The meeting on 25 March will be held as an away day.

The joint Board/General Council meeting will take place on 11 July

The Annual General Meeting will be on 26 October.