

## Minutes of the meeting of the General Council (GC)

Held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2021

*Microsoft Teams Meeting*

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<i>Present:</i>	Joyce Tomala	(JT)	Regional Representative – East Wales.
	Lynette Harries	(LH)	President – Welsh Athletics.
	Chris Moss	(CM)	Head of Development and Participation – Welsh Athletics.
	Rob Sage	(RS)	Head of Corporate Services – Welsh Athletics
	Sue Alvey	(SA)	Chair of General Council
	Dai Williams	(DW)	Regional Representative – South Wales
	Rhiannon L-P	(RLP)	Head of Competition – Welsh Athletics
	Adrian Palmer	(AP)	Performance Programme Manager – Welsh Athletics
	Arwel Lewis	(AL)	Mountain and Trail Committee
	Gerald Davies	(GD)	Welsh Schools Representative.
	Dai Williams	(DWill)	Welsh Schools Representative.
	Robert Champion	(RC)	Regional Representative – West Wales
	James Williams	(JW)	Chief Executive Officer – Welsh Athletics
	Steve Paskell	(SP)	Regional Representative – South Wales
	Dic Evans	(DE)	Regional Representative – West Wales
	Sharon Leech	(SL)	Road and Cross-Country Committee
	John Hatton	(JH)	Regional Representative – North Wales
	Kay Hatton	(KH)	Regional Representative – North Wales

*Papers circulated in advance:*

None

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## Meeting of the Welsh Athletics General Council; Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2021

### 1. Apologies for Absence 6:30pm

Rob Campion, Sue Hooper

### 2. Declarations of Interest 6:32pm

None declared.

### 3. Club and facilities update (CM) 6.35pm

Club Membership: As of 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2021 club membership stands at 10, 702 of the membership 50% are male, 50% are female, 71% are senior and 29% are juniors. Tracking at 78.7% of pre COVID membership (up from 72% as reported at the last meeting) so there is a positive trend there.

As mentioned last time we have also been working with Digital Morphosis (software provider) on an upgrade to the Secretaries Portal which has now been released to us for testing and we will be onboarding a number of clubs throughout the test phase in the coming weeks.

Reminder: All clubs need to have a we are in the process of carrying out a full audit of Club Welfare Officers and their DBS and training status.

Facilities: as mentioned at the last meeting, we are currently working with a company called Just Solutions on the development of a new facilities strategy for the sport and we are still working on a and it is anticipated that this will be available by the end of the year.

Development and Participation Sub Group: The first meeting was held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September and the second meeting is scheduled for Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

Starting Blocs: continues to be rolled out across Wales with a number of licenses sold across Wales. Further information can be found here: <https://www.startingbloccs.co.uk/>

Funding: Be Active Wales Fund: A note on another source of funding available for clubs and has been accessed with good levels of success. The fund has already helped many clubs and organisations across Wales face the challenges caused by the Coronavirus pandemic. It will continue to provide funding to help clubs tackle these challenges, and to ensure sustainability for years to come. Further information can be found here: [Be Active Wales Fund - Funding for community sport clubs and organisations | Sport Wales | Sport Wales](#)

Funding: Club Modernisation and Development Fund: I would like to propose that we open applications before the end of the year, allow time for clubs to consider their application before submitting early in the New Year. This will allow for a less pressurized turnaround of applications...

Funding: Regional Athletics Council Grants (2021): These are open for application and each of the RAC's has been written to explain the new process (aligned to the strategy). The Development Team are obviously available to help and assist with these applications as and if necessary.

Save the Date: Welsh Athletics Clubs Conference Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Guide Running Workshop: as updated at the last meeting, we have developed a new Welsh Athletics Guide Running Workshop with more dates published as ever, via the Coach Education calendar which can be found here: <https://www.welshathletics.org/en/events/coaching-courses>

JT - Emailed you on 26th October about development plan.

CM - Will revisit, review, and respond

**4. Competition Update (RLP) 6.50pm**

Indoors – beginning on 7<sup>th</sup> November; Championships in January/February; hoping for a full programme; working closely with Cardiff Met, who have placed additional restrictions on activity at their facility over & above Welsh Government restrictions.

Outdoors – championship dates confirmed; remaining dates still a little flexible because of some changes to the UK domestic calendar (national leagues); hope to be able to confirm dates at next T&F then go out to community Expressions of Interest for hosts of Off-Track are now live – closing Monday 8<sup>th</sup> Nov & will then be discussed at relevant discipline committees (have been circulated to all competition providers by Jacqueline).

Cross Country – full programme currently planned for winter season; success of Cardiff Cross Challenge – included in World Athletics Cross Country Tour for the first time – Gold Label status – will work to retain this status in 2022.

Date for outdoor Championships T&F debrief TBC once necessary info has been obtained from UKA – to discuss both the feedback from officials and athletes.

Investments currently being made into OpenTrack as part of our contract with them – to allow an athlete to have both their region and their club displayed in results for regional competitions – also applicable for schools competitions

Save the Date – Officials conference – Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March @ the Vale Hotel; topics currently being discussed in Officials committees

SA - Big thank you to RLP, Covid has made huge challenges and will continue to provide them.

**5. Progression Planning for GC (RS) 7.00pm**

As agreed in last meeting a Vice chair would be appointed and they would shadow SA until term ends, this would include shadowing board meetings. There will be an open advert via social media and email to all relevant channels asking for expressions of interest. Interested parties will face an interview panel to review.

With all this looking to be concluded this side of Christmas so person can shadow from Jan onwards.

AGM will then be used to appoint and elect to role.

WA AGM - took place 23rd October. All motions were passed. £1 a year increase will be resumed for next year. 10 to 15 life members. Eligibility has been changed from 2 to 3 years for Wales.

Draft minutes and report will be on website shortly.

Cobalt will hold a course on how to hold effective meetings. Chairs and secs will be invited (dec 1st).

JT - Succession planning for all committees needs to be considered.

RS - To get more volunteers, need more clubs to be engaged in regional council. Meeting held and looking to review notes from this meeting. Not going to be a quick fix, it's a cultural thing also.

JT - Can we have an update when you have had these discussions. Would be helpful for all key stakeholders to be involved.

RS - Can have a longer discussion at chairs and secs. Less parent engagement these days for example.

**6. Inter-Regional Competition going forward (RS) 7.15pm**

Looking at commitment from the other regions for support for this.

Dai (SWRAC) - We held our meeting 25th October, want inter regional to continue. Sometimes we get notified a late and athletes are already in other races. Would like regions to decide what event is used?

KH - Fully agree, as much notice as possible would really help.

JC - maybe an item for the next regional chairs & secs meeting

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### 7. AOB – notified in advance 7:30pm

JT - East update - Lots of clubs, very engaging meeting with lots of discussion. Great presentations from clubs and were blown away by activities undertaken to engage members.

Had data from UKA about active officials and broke down to endurance and track & Field.

Endurance has issues, Christine is taking forward

T&F – East Wales are at crisis point. Used to have 3 timekeepers, now down to 1. Suggestions came back from members across all disciplines. Could there be a maybe option for availability? Should we be paying officials, even if small monetary amount at end of season. Could be useful for junior engagement?

Could courses be done virtually with ability to access at any time?

Newport Harriers were happy for officials to use training nights for hands on experience. What are Welsh athletics doing to promote courses to regions?

KH - Joyce has brought up my point from previous meeting. WA need to treat referees in a professional manner

DW - Encouraging People, Chris Pratt has suggested doing a video of showcasing the role(s). Works for VLM but could this work for other events.

SA - maybe one to be continued to be discussed at Officials.

KH – We could have meetings with other regions volunteers so they can get to know each other easier.

JT - Its grassroots we need to invest as this is where officials come from.

DE - Question to RLP earlier, what is the criteria to holding events. Can seem unfair for mountain and trail races. Cost is not really feasible for these races.

RLP - Chip timing is where appropriate. WA also have this where they can be provided

JT - Please ensure minutes are distributed in time, previously agreed 2 weeks. Next GC can we have an update on UKA from James or Steve?

### 8. Date of next Meetings: Thursday Jan 6<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March, Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May, July Joint with board (TBC), Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September