

Minutes of the joint meeting of the General Council (GC) and the Board of Directors (BoD) of Welsh Athletics

Held on Thursday 11th July 2019

Sport Wales National Centre, Cardiff, video linked to Plas Menai National Outdoor Centre, Caernarfon*

<i>Present:</i>	Sue Alvey	(SA)	Chair of General Council.
	Steve Perks	(SP)	Chair of Welsh Athletics.
	Joyce Tomala	(JT)	Regional Representative – East Wales.
	Richard Sheehy	(RS)	Regional Representative – East Wales.
	Graham Webb	(GW)	Vice Chair of General Council.
	Arwel Lewis*	(AL)	Trail & Mountain Committee.
	Dick Evans*	(DE)	Trail & Mountain Committee.
	Jeff Marsden	(JM)	Officials Committee.
	Tony Clements	(TC)	Regional Representative – West Wales
	Sharon Leech	(SL)	Road and Cross-Country Committee.
	Bernie Plain	(BP)	Welsh Athletics Board of Directors.
	Dai Williams	(DWSch)	Welsh Schools Representative.
	Gerald Davies	(GD)	Welsh Schools Representative.
	Lucy Archer	(LA)	Regional Representative – South Wales.
	Nicky Lewis	(NL)	Welsh Athletics Board of Directors.
	Lynette Harries	(LH)	President of Welsh Athletics.
	Chris Jones	(CJ)	National Coach, Welsh Athletics.
	James Williams	(JW)	Head of Operations, Welsh Athletics.
	Matt Newman	(MN)	Chief Executive Officer, Welsh Athletics.
	Chris Moss	(CM)	Club Network Manager, Welsh Athletics (minutes).

Papers circulated in advance:

May Management Reports

Minutes of General Council held on 7th May 2019

Prior to the meeting being started formally, Steve Perks (Chair of Welsh Athletics) presented the Welsh Athletics Meritorious Award to Gerald Davies recognising his significant contribution to the sport over an extended period.

Apologies for Absence

Received from;

Nick Everitt
Adrian Thomas
Ron Odunaiya
Lynn Brier
Sue Hooper
John Hatton

1. Welsh Athletics Strategy 2019-2026

MN presented an overview of the political landscape in Wales and the new strategies for Sport Wales and UK Athletics.

JW presented an overview of the new Welsh Athletics strategy from 2019-2026. JW outlined an initial roadshow timetable in order to present the new strategy to the membership.

GW: query with regard to retention of athletes within the sport. Response from CJ on research undertaken within the female endurance community over the past 12 years that demonstrates the significant drop out of performance level athletes. NL commented on the experience of her daughter within the sport. DW mentioned similar discussions are underway across a number of sports.

TC: query about the strategy, is it a strategy for Welsh Athletics Ltd, JW commented that it was a strategy from the sport, as the strategy is a response to the concerns raised by the membership via the consultation.

SP: summarised picking up points surrounding physical literacy, athlete retention and competition programmes. Focus on athlete welfare and enjoyment.

Physical Literacy discussion, MN outlined the unique position that athletics can play in relation to physical literacy and that running/jumping and throwing are the basic fundamentals of all sport. SL supported this comment and gave examples of her work within the education sector previously. DW mentioned that this is an area that affects all sport.

CJ contributed referencing the role that performance plays in the development of young athletes, and how the culture in Wales needs to change to support the long term development of athletes due to the small talent pool available.

JM commented on the need for more focus on officials recruitment and development.

2. Introduction to the new Board of Directors

SP gave an overview of the new Board of Directors summarising key appointments and responsibilities moving forward.

5. Date of Next General Council Meeting

3rd September 2019, 6.30pm.

Meeting concluded at 8.05pm.