



NORTH WALES REGIONAL ATHLETICS COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 9th JUNE 2022.

This meeting was held as a video conference via Microsoft Teams.

Present: P. Brooks (P.B.), K. Hatton (K.H.), E. Brewer (E.B), J. Hatton (J.H.), C. Backshall (C.B.), R. Mackey (R.M.), S. Gunn (S.G.) and R. Eccles (R.E.)

Apologies for absence: D. Davies, M. Blake, A. Lewis, P. Povey and B. Edwards.

Declaration Of Interest: none.

1.0: K.H., in her capacity as current Vice Chair, agreed to act as Chair for this meeting.

2.0: Election of Officers: P.B. reported that despite an original email sending ballot papers, and a second, reminder email two weeks before the meeting, only one had been returned. It was therefore agreed by unanimous decision of those present that the following be elected: Paul Brooks (Secretary); Kay Hatton (Vice-Chair); Officials' Secretary (endurance) Paul Brooks. The post of Chair remains unfilled but K.H. agreed to continue as Chair until a volunteer can be found to accept the role. The following were also re-elected unopposed as representatives to W.A.: Track and field: Crispin Backshall; Road running/cross country: Martin Green; Fell/Mountain: Mike Blake; Trail: Arwel Lewis. John Hatton will be the Region's representative on the W.A. General Council; one place is still unfilled. Officials' Secretary for track and field: Crispin Backshall and Eva Brewer will jointly fill this role. Athletes Welfare Officer: Paul Povey. Dilwyn Davies has stepped down as Treasurer, having been in-post since the formation of this Body in 1997. It was agreed unanimously that he be invited to the next general meeting and inducted into the North Wales Hall of Fame. K.H. will arrange with Dilwyn for the transfer of the associated paperwork and authority to Richard Eccles, who has agreed to take on the role of Treasurer and the latter was thanked by those present. P.B. also stated that he will step down from the role of Secretary next year and it was agreed to actively seek a replacement before next year's A.G.M.

3.0: Decisions:

3.1: It was agreed that in future all banking will be done on-line, to facilitate faster handling of income and expenditure.

3.2: Proposals and Nominations to the W.A. A.G.M.: The following proposal was agreed: “That Welsh Athletics (W.A.) include in the Licencing Scheme, an additional scaled fee for all endurance events. This will be paid to the race referee or adjudicator, as recompense for time, travelling expenses and food and drink for the day. This fee is to be paid direct to the official concerned within seven days of the event taking place”. P.B. will send to the Cardiff office for inclusion in the agenda for the A.G.M.

4.0 Discussion:

4.1: Recruitment and retention of volunteers: C.B. and E.B. felt that track and field had a major problem with a shortage of officials: this has resulted in reduced programmes of events and some cancellations. The planned development day had been cancelled due to a lack of interest; however Menai t&f are planning a meeting that will allow potential volunteers to act as officials. There are also plans to hold development days within Club training nights in July.

4.2: Minutes of the last A.G.M.: agreed with no matters arising.

5.0: Treasurer’s report:

K.H. explained the annual accounts that Dilwyn had sent. (i) No income had yet been received from Open Track for either the Regional indoor or outdoor championships (ii) It was agreed that the Secretary’s and the Chair’s expenses should be increased to £250 p.a. (iii) details of the £1855 W.A. budget application, including the amount requested for each discipline were given, and K.H. will forward the document to the office in Cardiff (iv) C.B. will be seeking funds from the Legacy Fund for new track and field equipment for the Region (v) It was agreed to continue to fund the shortfall of income from the coach to the Inter Counties cross country championships (vi) Following DVT’s decision to disband as a Club, they have donated their funds to NWRAC, with the proviso that 50% of this money go to the Sherion a/c for road running development.

7.0: Secretary’s Report: P.B. had nothing further to report.

8.0 Officials Secretaries’ Reports:

8.1 Endurance: P.B. reported that that the next meeting is set for 13th June.

8.2 Track and Field: Nothing further.

9.0: Welsh Athletics Reps and Regional Reports:

9.1 Road running: No report.

9.2 Trail: Arwel Lewis had sent a report which has been circulated.

9.3 Fell/Mountain: This discipline was also included in Arwel Lewis’ report.

9.4: Cross Country: Bernie Jones had sent a report which has been circulated.

9.5: Schools: No report.

9.6 Track and Field: (i) K.H. and P.B, had attended the recent meeting of the sub-committee to discuss both the Regional indoor and outdoor championships: (a) The issue of a disparity of the medals awarded at Coleg Cambria and Sport City had been resolved (b) It was agreed that in future Masters will be allowed to use their own age-specific equipment in throwing events, will have to enter as senior athletes, and medals will be awarded in 10-year categories (c) age categories will be from under 13 to senior for both men and women; efforts will be made to hold a championship for under 11's at a separate meeting (d) it was agreed that the issue of Masters using reduced-height hurdles as per age-categories, will be discussed at the next general meeting.

10.0: Development Officers:

10.1: E.B. had drafted a pack to explain the different roles and responsibilities of the NWRAC officers, which has been adapted from Club volunteer roles. K.H. and P.B. will liaise with E.B. and the final document will be circulated and uploaded to our website in due course.

10.2: Barry Edwards had had a traffic accident but sent a brief report on: (a) All aspects for schools athletics, sportshall athletics, cross country, club activity and membership areas have gone extremely well again this year with excellent links with LA's and some additional projects and initiatives which have proved to be a huge success. Key areas of work now are to strengthen our competitions program and build on our volunteers / officials network which we have already started on.

11.0: Safeguarding:

Paul Povey had sent a written report covering: (a) Welsh Athletics are continuing to push Safeguarding and will be doing spot checks on affiliated clubs to ensure they have the required Safeguarding officers (b) WA have found a provider to run Safeguarding courses and will be starting hopefully in July 2022 (c) Clubs are being encouraged to ensure that they have a Code of Conduct Policy and any member signs up to the Policy. This will then enable clubs to deal with any low level Safeguarding issues themselves as if a member is rude or abusive towards other members they are not adhering to the club code of conduct they can be asked to leave (d) WA are also looking into a database of Run leader/Coaches etc to ensure that when the qualification is due to renew that they also renew the DBS.

11.0 General Council: J.H. and K.H. had attended meetings during the year. J.H. reported that Carl Williams had given a recent presentation at the last meeting on safeguarding and welfare officers duties.

12.0: Date and Venue of the next A.G.M.: Thursday 15th June 2023. The next General meeting is on Thursday 11th August at 18.30 p.m. and will be held both online and face-to-face at a venue to be confirmed.

