

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

### Held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2019

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

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<i>Present:</i>	Sue Alvey	(SA)	Chair of General Council
	Lynn Brier	(LB)	Track and Field.
	Joyce Tomala	(JT)	Regional Representative – East Wales.
	Richard Sheehy	(RS)	Regional Representative – East Wales.
	Lucy Kerry	(LK)	Regional Representative – South Wales.
	Arwel Lewis*	(AL)	Trail & Mountain Committee
	Jeff Marsden	(JM)	Officials Committee.
	Sharon Leech	(SL)	Road and Cross Country Committee.
	James Williams	(JW)	Head of Operations, Welsh Athletics.
	Chris Moss	(CM)	Club Network Manager, Welsh Athletics (minutes).
	Tom Marley	(TM)	Competitions and Events Manager.

*Papers circulated in advance:*

Head of Operations Update March 2019	Item 4
January Management Reports	Item 4
Final Minutes General Council 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2019	Item 8

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## 1. Apologies for Absence

Received from; Lynette Harries (President), Tony Clements (West), Dai Williams (Schools), Gerald Davies (Schools), Dai Williams (South), John Hatton (North), Graham Webb (Vice Chair).

## 2. Competition Update (TM)

TM gave an overview (presentation attached) of the competition programme. Focused on key areas such as; Modernisation, Competition Pathway, Competition For All, Signature Events and Officials.

SL: Expressed a concern from the Road and Cross-Country committee that the Cardiff Half Marathon and Cardiff Cross Country are so close in the calendar. This was acknowledged.

JM: Expressed his concern about the situation on new officials, in particular photo-finish, JW & CM highlighted that they have been lobbying UKA to ease the qualification process for new officials in an attempt to improve the conversion rate of official competing the education process.

## 3. Club Modernisation Update (CM)

CM gave an update surrounding the progress of the key elements of the club modernisation programme including; Club Officers, Club Projects and the Welsh Athletics Clubs Portal.

An overview of the existing club affiliation process (via the Clubs Portal) was provided and included a period of 1 month for clubs to formally affiliate (1<sup>st</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> April) as well as clubs being required to provide mandatory information prior to being allowed to affiliate/re-affiliate.

Rationale and proposals for a new process for 'new clubs looking to affiliate to Welsh Athletics' were discussed and agreed unanimously by the meeting.

**ACTION:** JW to confirm with the Welsh Athletics Board that this new process could be adopted.

Club Modernisation and Development Grants: the panel had met prior to the meeting and correspondence will be sent out to all applicants and regions / clubs / school districts over the next 7 days.

**ACTION:** CM to administer the Club Modernisation and Development Grant scheme.

## 4. Head of Operations Report and Update (JW)

JW gave a verbal update on the report circulated prior to the meeting **and staffing changes;**

Liz Davies has been appointed as the National Development Coordinator – Endurance.

Zoe Brown has been successful in securing the role of Coach Development Coordinator and will start at the end of the month.

Mike McKensie (Finance Administrator) has started with Welsh Athletics and will support both finance and office administration functions.

JT: mentioned that Jacqueline Brace does an excellent job in supporting membership queries

JW outlined the Sport Wales funding position (5% reduction)

JM: Asked about the position or RLP and changes. JW explained and provided rationale.

## **5. Regional Matters**

**East and South: JT reported:** There is a joint Track & Field Championships which will take place on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May and the age groups will be; U13, U15 and U17 (the championships will not include U20 or Senior events).

**South: Lucy Kerry:** asked the position of the Regional Grant application process and payment of the £4000 grant. JW gave a response relating to the current position of each region and the requirement to align the grant to a Regional development plan. LK also enquired about the regional medal allocations. JW confirmed that the position was unchanged from previous years.

**South: Lucy Kerry:** questions were raised as to the eligibility criteria for competitions – how can we make it clearer for athletes to recognise where they are from / who they can represent? Various options and solutions were presented however it is up the regions to do selections and communications with athletes.

**South: Lucy Kerry:** Query relating to Wild Card entries at Inter-Regional Cross Country Champs – JW confirmed that the Regions have total control over selection of Regional teams, however given that the event is a trial race for Celtic Cross Country Champs, athletes are permitted to enter as wild cards so as to still be eligible for International selection. Important to ensure athletes have the opportunity to compete and promote retention within the Sport.

## **6. Athletics Committees and Task Group Issues**

JM highlighted some of the challenges that have been experienced by the officials committee in relation to communication during the Indoor Season. TM agreed to

AL: Highlighted the challenges and changes to the race referee report and highlighted that perhaps this needs to be addressed.

ACTION: TM – to look at the licencing process for trail running races. ACTION COMPLETE
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## **7. Correspondence**

No correspondence received prior to the meeting.

## **8. Minutes of the 8<sup>th</sup> January 2019 & matters arising**

JW has had numerous correspondence with the Welsh Masters Athletics Association and is exploring a future meeting date.

JW gave an update on the Youth Advisory Group – internal expressions of interest have been sorted and staff members; Hannah Pretty and Liz Davies will formulate a group moving forward.

## **9. AOB**

**Meeting of the Welsh Athletics General Council; Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2019, Dydd Iau 7 Mawrth 2019**

JW requested that any councils or committees that have set dates for future meetings, please can these be sent in advance in order for them to be included on the new Welsh Athletics website.

**10. Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

Meeting concluded at 8.14pm.

