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

**Held on Tuesday 3rd November 2020**

*Microsoft Teams Meeting*

*Present*: Joyce Tomala (JT) Regional Representative – East Wales.

Lynette Harries (LH) President – Welsh Athletics.

Gerald Davies (GD) Welsh Schools Representative.

Jamie Clode (JC) Secretary of General Council.

Chris Moss (CM) Head of Development and Participation – Welsh Athletics.

Rob Sage (RB) 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) Programme Manager – Welsh Athletics.

Arwel Lewis (AL) Mountain and Trail Committee

Graham Webb (GW) Vice Chair of General Council

Kay Hatton (KH) Regional Representative – North Wales

Lucy Archer (LA) Regional Representative – South Wales

Sharon Leech (SL) Road and Cross-Country Committee

Tony Clements (TC) Regional Representative – West Wales

Dai Williams (DaW) Welsh Schools Representative

*Papers circulated in advance:*

None

SAOpened the meeting expressing condolences for JW and family and that JW will attend next meeting

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Sue Hooper (Representing Officials Committee)

1. **Declarations of Interest**

None declared

1. **Welsh Athletics Update including AGM & UK Athletics Member Council Update 6.35pm**

As JW was unable to attend, the WA Update will be provided at the next meeting. A summary had been provided to SA to read out regarding UKAMC. TC was present and is a member so gave an overview

Sue Streets recommendation was that a radical change be made to UKMC.

Finally plans are still to be sorted and before mid December AGM. 1 element is to work with strategy launched yesterday, this will be distributed with these minutes.

Chair of board attends the AGM, but members do not attend AGM. For the next 2 years, may not be called UKMC but will be known as members of UKA. Changes are expected to be approved for constitution at AGM and will monitor progress of the working groups. Still to be worked through and a fluid situation.

Until AGM has happened, no changes are in effect.

JT - Why is this confidential, why is there no update? Has been no update on the UKA website. We should have regular updates. Our council is for us to take back updates to our clubs.   
TC - Confidentiality is around opposing views being discussed, but status is as described above, driven by the Sue Street report and no changes take effect until/if passed AGM. Until something is agreed, nothing has been agreed, best to wait until its finalised, to share more info definitively.

SA - TC can provide an update at next meeting as this will have been agreed?

TC - Yes, will be having one more meeting before AGM to ensure resolved before going to AGM.

**Action:** TC to provide an update at next meeting

1. **Return to training update (CM) 6.50pm**

CM - Since last General Council meeting things have gone through a bit of a process, was going well, most facilities opening and running clubs back and getting into a routine. Then 23rd October sport on hold based on Welsh Government update for Firebreak period. Fully expecting from recent announcements to return to pretty much as were before Firebreak with some less restrictions than before. There is a meeting tomorrow for the Welsh Sports and Welsh Government and expect a further update from there. All indications imply return to return as was, with less local restrictions. Have received clarity that multiple groups can operate in zones in groups of 30. Working closely with facility providers in a controlled way based on risk assessment. We know that 15 can meet indoors, Indoor athletic centres will reopen based on risk assessments. No cross border travel and expect to return to normal levels. Hope to return to some form of coach education with more localised delivery. Looking to review and update all guidance documents this week in readiness for Monday.   
  
KH - Was under the impression that 30 can meet outdoors already?

CM - Yes, that has been announced, looking at how this can be agreed.

KH - Is this on the website?

CM - Not directly, still within the guidance documents.

RS - The WG announcement of 15/30 is only when organised activity with a responsible adult in place, within governing body guidelines. Need to maintain all elements as per the guidance as to who is the responsible person.

1. **Competition Update (RLP) 7.00pm**

RLP - Like facilities update from CM. Firebreak has slowed progress. We have launched a virtual sports hall initiative for schools to take place throughout November, recommended that each pupil gets two goes and have a database sheet to manage this. Also looking at 1k loop for cross country and this will have a coordinated result capture, and this should be going out to schools in the next 10 days.

Have had several talks with regional coaches to see how regionalised cross country can take place. Traditional format is not an option, several clubs are keen to facilitate a cross country opportunity, maybe running in training groups. Could consider inviting clubs to take part at other clubs and looking to achieve localised and engaging activities. Waiting for guidance from Welsh Government so to ensure all is captured in guidance. Indoors, very much an unknown, in discussions with NIAC, they are still unclear as to use of facility from January. Have planned an initial indoor calendar, bit of a guessing game of what may take place and planning some smaller popup events, transporting shot put equipment to allow for a small competition in sports hall with Ryan Spencer Jones. Looking at whether indoor activities can be achieved outdoor if no indoor allowed, maybe endurance events for example 3k on track. Welsh Government have had some pilot events for larger events but have put on hold at present and Welsh Athletics have expressed interest in hosting an event.

KH - We have put on some regional events, what may be happening with medals? When can we be advised?

RLP - Medal budget needs to be confirmed, RLP is reaching out to regions to understand requirements.

KH - Will it be the full quota?

RLP - Can be but needs to be possible for the regions to store as required. Want a collective order, not individual region orders.

DaW - what sort of response has been had for the sportshall initiative?

RLP - Steve has been managing but has seen lots of positive media on this. PE teachers are finding it as useful platform to allow for participation.

SL - Cross Countries for Schools, how will that work if changing rooms not allowed?

RLP - A good point, to be reviewed. Will discuss with schools to see how feasible.

1. **Engagement with Athlete Voice/Advisory groups (RS) 7.10pm**

RS - update following AGM, notice of motion was put forward to add advisory groups in the byelaws which was passed at AGM. Terms of reference (TOR) for groups is that they will all report in to General Council. No requirement to attend all but can provide input/reports. Thoughts on how council will interact. TOR are to advise on how WA will engage in athletes of those age groups. Meeting was asked to make suggestions on communication both ways?

JT - Asked who were Junior Athlete Voice (JAV) some time ago, still not been updated. Communication this has not been as timely as needed. East were lucky that were already aware.

RS - When JAV started, it was more of a panel to liaise with, no requirement to have regional representation, tried to keep things light, to encourage engagement on views within in sport. More formal TOR will be adopted. Group has changed, aged, and had limited interaction through this year due to current conditions. When finalised, more details will be shared to everyone.

SA - Will probably change again when we have senior and masters, and they may prefer a more formal approach.

JT - Reason for asking, East as a region, wants to provide support to the athlete, so keen to understand who.

1. **Meeting dates for 2021 7.30pm**

RS - shared screen to show in progress governance calendar, more groups have now been added.

Room asked to confirm if GC still needed on Tues/Thurs, start of month

SA - Stick to current principle

JT - Agree to stick to as is, joint T&F and Officials have gone to 6 weekly and would increase as needed.

Next General Council would be Tuesday 12th of Jan, Board meeting same week, Regional week commencing 8th Feb.

SA - While meeting virtual should not be as much of an issue, maybe only if in person.

TC - Can this be shared now?

RS - Will get this updated and circulated ASAP.

GD - For WSAA, neither myself or Dai can give you dates until after 21st November.

RS - Hoping to see if it coincides. To help flow of information.

**Action:** RS to circulate finalised governance calendar

1. **AOB – notified in advance 7.35pm**

SA - One note passed from James Williams. We have been talking about how regions has not been meeting as regular. Hedydd Davies has stepped down from West and Welsh Athletics are looking to support the region in rebuilding and have an AGM planned for 25th. Trial run has been done of using an online platform.

CM – Provided via the meeting chat.

Apologies, I know it has not been submitted in advance, however, just to highlight.

Membership: The membership continues to move in the right direction (currently on 72.3% Year on Year).

Engagement: The MAD (Mile a Day) Firebreak Challenge continues throughout the week (so plenty of time to get involved!). Further info:<https://www.sport.wales/beactivewalesfund/progress-grant-be-active-wales-fund/>

Funding: The latest phase of the Sport Wales Be Active Wales Fund is now live, further details here:<https://www.sport.wales/beactivewalesfund/progress-grant-be-active-wales-fund/>

Facilities: the facility upgrade / development at Newport is now almost complete. The new facility in Caerphilly (Oakdale) continues to progress well. The new / developed facility at Carmarthen is set to open/launch on 12thNovember (virtually!).

1. **Date of next Meeting 7.45pm**

12th January 2021 at 6:30pm