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

**Held on Tuesday 3rd September 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

*Papers circulated in advance:*

 None

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Tony Clements (Regional Representative – West Wales), John Hatton (Regional Representative – North Wales), Sue Hooper (Representing Officials Committee), Graham Webb (Vice Chair of General Council), Sharon Leech (Road and Cross-Country Committee), Lucy Archer (Regional Representative – South Wales), Lynne Brier (Secretary of Track and Field Committee)

1. **Declarations of Interest**

None declared

1. **Return to training update (CM) 6.35pm**

Update - will distribute after the meeting.

Membership and total registrations just up to 8000 members 70% YOY. Seeing an increase in membership. Junior membership is increasing. More females registered than males.
Club development - had the support your club campaign. Went very well. Just finished the second series of 3. All on the WA YouTube channel. At the end of July had had over 1000 attendee's.
As return has increased, numbers have reduced to on line attendance. Started to do a feature Friday.
The next Ask Us series, Tuesday 22nd September. Chris Jones, Adrian are looking if able to host an athlete ask us session.
Facility update - Posted about 10 days ago. Most are back up and running to a mixed degree. Update the news item on the website as these evolve. Clubs have been very proactive. Different approaches are being taken, but has highlighted the need for club and facility provider to be closer. Not many open access facilities in Wales, most are opening in a piecemeal basis.
Newport - reopened following refurb, new surface and cage inside, next week external throws facility starting.
Oakdale Track development has just begun in Caerphilly.

Carmarthen Track redevelopment are moving forward.
Return to athletics documents all have been updated on 18th August, headline update was around jumps in line with the rest of the UK. All on the dedicated page on the website.

7/8 applications to the BeActive Fund. They are currently at the protect and prepare applications. All clubs should be looking to utilise these to support them.
COVID awareness training going well, all clubs have been encouraged to have a COVID Officer.
Blended courses being delivered, WA will be first home country to deliver a F2F on Sept 13th.

Tom Marley has returned from furlough and is progressing Coach Education on venues and calendar.

Currently sit on many working groups in wales and are using these to push the messages around what is required to enable WA to unlock the sport further. The 30 number is a challenge to a number of sports. James, Chris and Adam are attending these.
Service Awards, went up on Website. Nominations are closing 16th September

RS - Governance meeting, previously raised that the nominations are diverse.

LH - Be good to push all awards and will help to get a good number put forward.
CM - will do more a push as closing date nears.

Participation update - RunWales - Good return to club activity. Have another new 8 running groups. Has run a series of webinars targeting social runners. Have featured Lowri/Chris Jones/Charlotte Arter. Second big social run took place over the bank holiday weekend, in association with Pride also. Great online presence. Club run wales launched in July.

JC - how will club feed into team managers’ report for selections and Governance?
CM - will look at how this will work and feedback.

1. **Cashless Clubs follow up 6.50pm**

SA - given the new normal, how has uptake been since the webinar
CM - COVID has been a good push to help clubs look to when and how they can automate and manage online payments. Timing of lockdown helped and created challenges.
Cheques to be no longer used from next financial year as a target. One club reluctant previously, they have now set up a contactless terminal and are using online banking.

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

Women's and men's 5k race in Bute park . Invitational and will be sub 18mins for women's and sub 15 for men's
Cross Country - Finalising guidance and with James W for sign off. Cardiff X Challenge had to be cancelled as not possible to have the event in line with COVID guidelines
looking at the 5th October for Cross country licences to be requested, must have relevant risk assessments. Provisionally hope to have XC competition from 26th if guidelines fall in line.
RLP and Alex will look to pilots, similar formats for the road.
T&F - Had many very successful pilot events, all very good feedback from the officials. A number of events up until 20th September, unable to increase numbers due to restrictions.
Hoping to increase numbers from 3 to 4. In line with changes in other sports who are returning to full contact.
Menai and Llanelli are looking to set up some club events
Leave inter regional to JT
Indoors as home countries have been several discussions. Wales are in a good position based on relationship with providers. Provisionally dates at Cardiff Met, waiting for the university to confirm if these dates are possible. Will then look to see how these may look and work. Welcome further guidance from Welsh Government on indoor sports.

JC - have you considered running both directions on the track, this is seen on some American tracks?

RLP - biggest challenge is the 30 limitations, no matter how event looks, that is a limit that is controlling the event.

1. **Training Courses/Webinar Update 7.15pm**

First Home country to offer F2F training. LiRF normally has about 400 per year, blended learning has helped get numbers through and COVID has accelerated online learning.
Current ongoing review of Safe guarding in Athletics by England.
Huge library now of online content and as activities are resuming, attendance is dipping. Have had up to 150 registrations early on.
Getting around 2500 views on YouTube, a lot are accessing post event.

1. **Regional Updates on return to training 7.25pm**

SA - Covered in many early updates

North – None present
East - JT - Newport are happy to be back up and running
South - DW - no update from
West - Meeting on the 16th

1. **Inter-Regional Review update (JT) 7.35pm**

JT read through summary which is distributed alongside the minutes of the meeting.
Very productive and spent some time producing the minutes.

1. **Board Update (SA) 7.45pm**

Board has meeting but less regular. Now back to correct timetable. The safe guarding review will have a big impact there will be recommendations to be reviewed by a Sub Committee.
Looks like there will be an increase in paperwork for clubs to review

1. **AOB – notified in advance 7.55pm**

**AGM – 24th Oct, Member nominations & Motions (RS)**reminder that the 14th of September is the 42-day period. It will be an online meeting. Papers will be electronic only hardcopies via exceptional circumstances. Mostly likely to use the Goto Webinar tool as allows for greater control. May well be teams as has very similar features.

LH - Will annual report be digital only also? All clubs will need to be aware of this if that is the way forward. Great way to move forward
RS - Annual report will be produced and be available in digital format. And announcements will be made in advance

JT - Observation for Rob, if you are already a member, do you need to re-nominate? Is this required?
RS - Not sure if it’s a needed requirement, does help to ensure it’s the correct the person and not out of date information.
CM - Allows for ensuring people know they should be attend, sometimes lack of understanding around what a WA member. Not sure if legal requirement, but does help to know.

**RS - Governance update -** Recommendation that all meetings should be online, good uptake, no issues, better H&S and duty of care, can't really encourage F2F at present. WA AGM will be online only. Lots of positive feedback. Recommendation that all meetings for the remainder of 2020 to be reviewed on 1st January 2021.LH - Speaking to colleagues around service awards, a lot are pushing for a F2F meeting. It would be good if there was a clear mandate from the board to reduce an ambiguity. Official channels addressing this will help and support.
RS - Happy to draft some wording and to issue a statement. A lot of considerations to be made to even hold a F2F meeting.
LH - would help to ensure that everyone is on the same wave length.
SA - Needs to be a timely message as meetings are imminent.
JT - Are all meetings, minuted and on the website?
RLP - We are meeting, not sure if the meetings are being published.
GC recommend all meetings remotely only

JC - Consideration needs to be to offer those may found IT challenging so that they can be helped to be getting online.
RS - Something that brings challenges, but certainly will be considered

JC - What about recording?
RS - Brings GDPR challenges, but something that can be considered but will need to be supplemented with actionable items also.
 **SA - Congratulations to Christian Malcom on appointment for UKA Head Coach**

**Date of next meeting 8.10pm**

November 3rd - so after AGM. Online again.