

WELSH ATHLETICS LTD

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Annual General Meeting held at the Metropole Hotel, Llandrindod Wells on Saturday 26 October 2019.

Present:

Company Members of Welsh Athletics Ltd

Steve Perks	Board Member (Chair)
Bernie Plain	Board Member
Nick Everitt	Board Member
Adrian Thomas	Board Member
Ron Odunaiya	Board Member
Sue Alvey	Board Member – Chair General Council
Lynette Harries	Honorary President
Graham Finlayson	Honorary Vice President
Ian Griffiths	Honorary Vice President
John Penny	Life Member of Company
Joyce Tomala	Regional Athletics Council – East
Steve Jones	Welsh Schools

Mark Gold	Cardiff AAC
Steve Hames	Neath Harriers
Elizabeth Rowland	Pembrokeshire Harriers
Ruth Powell	Rhymney Valley AC
Tony Clements	Swansea Harriers
Dave Edwards	Wrexham AAC
Jamie Clode	Bridgend AC
Paul Davies	Aberdare Valley AC
Geraint Jenkins	Amman Valley
Fred Malkin	Barry & Vale Harriers
Peter Sowerby	Brecon Athletic Club
Melanie Westlake	Heath Massive Run Club
Simon Williamson	Penarth & Dinas Runners
Derek Price	Rhayader
Richard Marks	Sarn Helen

Also present

Matt Newman	Chief Executive / Company Secretary
James Williams	Head of Operations / Minutes Secretary
Jacqueline Brace	Welsh Athletics
Lyn Cushing	Rhymney Valley AC
Lynn Brier	Swansea Harriers
Peter Morris	Official
Richard Gardiner	Aberdare Valley AC
Dic Evans	
Nigel Rowland	Pembrokeshire Harriers

i President's welcome

The President (LH) welcomed everyone to the AGM of Welsh Athletics Ltd. As part of her welcome, the President highlighted the new strategy, and for the sport to embrace the changes outlined within it. The strategy is ambitious, exciting and inclusive, it is however important that clubs, regions, committees and staff work together to effect progress.

The President stated that committees and regions need to pull together to support the development of the sport. LH also reiterated the need to improve communication across all elements of the sport, stating that everyone has a responsibility to feed in information to help the sport evolve.

LH took the opportunity to welcome SP as the new Chair for Welsh Athletics, as well as the new Directors present, and stressed the need for the membership to support the Board, General Council and its committees in the implementation of the strategy.

LH asked the room to respect a minutes silence to remember those who have passed away over the past 12 months – Brian Alvey, Jock Anderson, Tony Clemo, Jackie Daley (nee Barnett), Gaynor Hourihan and Nicholas Beckley who recently passed away following the Cardiff Half Marathon.

ii Apologies for absence

Arwel Lewis, Dr Nicky Lewis, Charlotte Waite, Paul Brooks, John Messum, David Alun Williams, Graham Webb, Barrie Owen, Jan Nugent, Hedydd Davies, Clive Williams, Alun Currie, Brenda Currie, Denise Harries, Bernie Harries, Ivor Adams

iii Minutes of the 2018 AGM

2.5 PM questioned whether this should state that the full list of award winners should be listed on the annual report.

- 12 PM questioned whether the date of the AGM should move to avoid a clash with the Snowdon Marathon. SP stated that it would be almost impossible to avoid a clash with some form of athletics event. SP also wished every competitor the best of luck at the Snowdon Marathon. DE suggested a Sunday date to minimise clashes with events.

ACTION – PM requested that draft versions of the AGM minutes can be circulated to all members and published on the website.

With the above amendments, the minutes were unanimously accepted as an accurate record.

iv Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

ITEMS OF ORDINARY BUSINESS

1 Appointment of Scrutineers

- 1.1 Jacqueline Brace and Lyn Cushing, both non vote holders, were appointed scrutineers

2 Report of the Board of Directors

- 2.1 The Chair stated his thanks to the previous Chair Carol Anthony for her work over the past 10 years.
- 2.2 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a brief overview of the new strategy and the desire to modernise the sport.
- 2.3 SP stated the good work that have been undertaken across the sport in relation to equality, diversity and governance. SP stressed the need for balance of representation across the club sector also and encouraged members to embrace the opportunities within their clubs.
- 2.4 SP highlighted the governance changes within Welsh Athletics over the past 12 months, and reiterated the desire for clubs to promote Board vacancies going forward. SP also mentioned that the Board will undertake a further skills audit to identify areas for future recruitment for the Board.
- 2.5 SP gave a detailed overview of the annual report and highlighted the good work that has been undertaken across the sport over the past 12 months.

Questions emanating from the report were then taken.

LH mentioned the need for the report to be sent out further in advance of the general meeting in future. The view was shared by other members. It was seen as a positive move to have the report e-mailed out to members.

PM expressed disappointment that the mini-marathon is not covered within the annual report. PM also expressed his disappointment about the selection policy for the mini-marathon.

PM also expressed his feelings about the Opentrack results system, and his feeling that the downloaded version is not up to standard.

DE mentioned that certain Championship events were missing from the Trail report.

LC highlighted that the officials development day was delivered by the East Wales region, and supported by Welsh Athletics not delivered by Welsh Athletics.

2.6 The report of the Board of Directors was accepted unanimously.

3 Financial Report, Accounts and Audit Findings

The CEO gave an overview of the annual accounts.

- 3.1 The annual accounts to March 2019 and a full audit report had been distributed ahead of the AGM. As had been agreed previously a full annual audit had been conducted.
- 3.2 The CEO mentioned that this was the end of the 4 year funding cycle from Sport Wales and as a result there had been an increased element of scrutiny from various stakeholders including Sport Wales.
- 3.3 The CEO stated the reserve levels were strong, and the previous four years had seen the most stable financial position for Welsh Athletics.
- 3.4 It was stressed that the future is uncertain in relation to Sport Wales and UK Athletics funding, with pressures on central funding expected over the coming 4 years.
- 3.5 PS enquired as to what the increases in the 'other income' stream related to, it was confirmed as an increase in commercial income as a result of the DW Sports partnership.

3.2 The financial report and accounts were accepted

4 General Council Report

4.1 The report was included in the Annual Report. SA stated her concern that not all Regional Councils are present at GC meetings, and that this is impacting on communication of information out to the sport. SA also asked the clubs to support the work of the Regional Councils, she also praised the work being done by the East Wales region to embrace new ways of working and supporting new clubs in that region.

4.2 **The General Council Report was accepted.**

5 Appointment of Accountants

5.1 It was agreed to continue with O'Brien and Partners.

6 Appointment of Patrons

6.1 Lynn Davies CBE was re-appointed as Patron of the company.

7 To appoint the following positions

7.1 LH was re-elected for a further two years

7.2 Graham Finlayson & Ian Griffiths were re-elected for a further two years

7.3.1 No nominations were received for the post of Secretary to the General Council. With no nomination it was stated that members of the Executive Staff team will continue to fulfil this role until such time as the post is filled.

LH suggested that recruitment should be undertaken to encourage someone to take on this important role.

IG suggested that the role should be remunerated

JC stated that software options should be looked at to reduce the admin pressures for all committee secretaries

7.3.2 Lynn Brier was elected to the role of secretary to the Track and Field committee on a two years term

7.3.3 Sharon Leech was re-elected to the role of secretary to the Road Running and Cross Country committee for a two year term

- 7.3.4 Matt Ward / Arwel Lewis – DE stated that the merger of the two committees maybe hasn't happened as quickly as the Road/XC committee and as a result both current committee secretaries should continue to post for a two year term. This was accepted by the membership.
- 7.3.5 Sue Hooper was elected to the role of secretary to the Track and Field Officials Committee on a two year term
- 7.3.6 No nominations were received for the Secretary of the Endurance Officials Committee. In the interim, members of the Executive Staff team will fulfil this role.

8 Appointment of Delegates to organisations on which the Company is entitled to be represented

- 8.1 Delegate to the Commonwealth Games Council for Wales Executive Committee – Chris Jones
- 8.2 Delegates (3) to the Commonwealth Games Council
Steve Perks, Matt Newman, Chris Jones
- 8.3 Delegate to the Welsh Sports Association – James Williams
- 8.4 Approved en bloc

WITH THE AGREEMENT OF THE MEETING, THE AGENDA ON ITEMS OF ORDINARY BUSINESS WAS SUSPENDED SO THAT ITEMS OF SPECIAL BUSINESS COULD BE DEALT WITH FIRST. DECISIONS MADE UNDER SPECIAL BUSINESS COULD HAVE AN IMPACT ON LATER ITEMS UNDER ORDINARY BUSINESS.

The meeting was paused to consider the notice of motion 11.2 in relation to athlete and club affiliation fees.

- 11.2.1 PM questioned whether the proposal if coming via the Board was within the 42-day notice period.
- 11.2.2 SH questioned whether delaying this proposal would impact on the sport, and that the sport should be put first and not paperwork.
- 11.2.3 The membership voted for the proposal to be allowed to stand at the meeting. **The vote was passed unanimously.**
- 11.2.4 several members stated that the membership benefits should be communicated to members to highlight the value for money.

11.2.5 SH suggested that WA should look at how it provides support to clubs in areas of social deprivation. PD & RG mentioned the need to ensure the sport remain as cheap and as accessible as possible, and the comparison made to every other sport was not a fair one.

11.2.6 MN & SP highlighted the need to manage the financial risk for the organisation. NE stated that the proposal was in line with the forward financial forecasting of the organisation.

11.2.7 JT highlighted the positive elements that Welsh Athletics are funding, in particular facility investment and free officials education.

11.2.8 It was highlighted by several members that the proposal should have been communicated earlier to members to discuss.

The proposal to increase the athlete affiliation fees was passed by a majority vote. For 36, against 7

JC (Bridgend AC) commented that a club fee based on number of members should be considered

The proposal to increase the club affiliation fee was passed by a majority vote, For 43, against zero

9 Determination of Annual Registration and Affiliation Fees (2020/2021)

- 9.1 To continue with the current Club affiliation fee. Approved through point 11.2
- 9.2 To continue with the current Athlete registration fee. Approved through point 11.2

MEETING RETURNED TO ITEMS OF ORDINARY BUSINESS

10 Consideration of the Report of the Service Awards Panel

The Chair of the committee gave an overview of process this year, and suggested a proposal for future notice of motion for Lifetime achievement award winners to be given life membership status.

- 10.1 To receive and accept the recommendations for the Meritorious Award. In the absence of any external nominations to the Panel, the following were recommended by members of the Panel:

Delyth Brown (Carmarthen Harriers)

Kay Chapman (Cardiff Athletics)

- 10.2 To receive and accept the recommendations for the Award of honour.
The following were recommended:

Tony Balmont (official)
David Edwards (Wrexham AAC)
Terry Goodridge (official)
Ken Goodger (Newport Harriers)
Hillary Goodger (Newport Harriers)
Denise Harris (Deeside AC)
Bernie Jones (Wrexham AAC)
Adrian Thomas (Coach)

- 10.3 To receive and accept the recommendations for the Athlete Achievement Award;

Malcolm Edwards
Alison Hourihan
Bernie Plain

- 10.4 All the above were approved.

Items of Special Business

Notices of Motion

- 11.1 It was acknowledged that the changes were largely cosmetic and reflected. PM requested that the numbering should be looked at for accuracy by the governance subgroup.

The motion was passed with unanimous vote

- 11.3 As a point of order, it was noted that due to the member from North Wales RAC not being in attendance, the notice cannot be heard

PM noted that the last set of minutes from the Track and Field committee on the WA website was from January 2019.

PM also noted that there is a feeling amongst the regions that decisions are being made without consultation with the regions. JT noted that the committees have regional representation and that changes are being

proposed within the Track and Field committee, so it is vital that the regions have representatives at each meeting.

- 11.4 The notice from South Wales RAC was removed due to the member not being present.

The Chair noted that the proposals will be discussed by the Governance sub-group over the next 12 months.

12 Date and venue of 2020 General Meeting

24th October 2020 in Llandrindod Wells was the provisional date, but this to be confirmed by the Board with reference to possible clash with fixtures.