

WELSH ATHLETICS LTD

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Annual General Meeting held at the Metropole Hotel,
Llandrindod Wells on Saturday 30 October 2010.

Present:

John Penny	President
Lynette Harries	Chair, Board of Directors
Matt Newman	Chief Executive Officer/Board of Directors
Carol Anthony	Board of Directors
Clive Williams	Board of Directors
John Dagata	Head of Coaching
Alan Currie	Chair of General Council/Neath Harriers
Brenda Currie	Secretary of General Council/Minutes Secretary
Karlijn Asveld	Welsh Athletics Head of Administration
Jim McCulloch	Penarth & Dinas Runners
Tony Curry	Aberdare Valley AAC
John Collins	Life Member
Peter Lane	South Wales Regional Athletics Council
Dilwyn Davies	Welsh Schools AA/North Wales Regional Athletics Council
Dennis Nugent	Aberdare Valley AAC
John Lister	Cardiff AAC
Mary Lister	Cardiff AAC
Steve Leach	Newport Harriers
Jason Clifton	Cwmbran Harriers
Hedydd Davies	Carmarthen Harriers
Fred Malkin	Barry & Vale Harriers
Kay James	Cardiff AAC
Sue Sayer	North Wales Regional Athletics Council
David Alun Williams	Wrexham AAC/Life Member
Dave Edwards	Wrexham AAC
Pete Morris	General Council Member
Ed Thompson	Chair, Welsh Pole Vault Association
Sue Maughan	Sport Wales
Richard Marks	Sarn Helen
Syd Wheeler	Chepstow Harriers
Phil Jones Snr	Colwyn Bay AC
Phil Jones Jnr	Colwyn Bay AC
Debbie Bull	Cardiff AAC
Gwyn Williams	
Dic Evans	Cardiff AAC
Jan Nugent	Rhondda AC

Apologies:

Andrew Taylor	Caerleon Running Club
Ann Crimmings	Aberdare Valley AAC
Gwilym Williams	Welsh Schools Athletic Association
Barrie Owen	Swansea Harriers
Gwilym Evans	Swansea Harriers
Ken Bennett	Swansea Harriers

Marian Williams	Swansea Harriers
Bob Frost	Wrexham AAC
Brian Hancock	Newport Harriers
Steve Perks	Carmarthen Harriers
Mark Allen	
Graham Webb	South Wales Regional Athletics Council
Arwel Lewis	Secretary, Mountain & Fell Running
Roger Davis	Porthcawl Runners Life

1 PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

- 1.1 Following a short promotional video on the activities of Welsh Athletics, the President welcomed delegates to the company's fourth AGM.
- 1.2 The successes of our athletes at the Commonwealth Games were highlighted – both the five medals won and the overall team performance.
- 1.3 Delegates were informed that the Review of Welsh Athletics had begun.
- 1.4 Delegates were asked to observe a minute's silence in respect of those members who had passed away since the last AGM – Sam Freeth, Daniel Evans, Paddy Wallace, John Flook, Dave Lewis, Teresa Hanrahan, Viv Blackwell, Peter Goodson and Peter Gunn.

2 APOLOGIES

- 2.1 The names, as listed above, were read out.

3 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM 2008 AGM

- 3.1 Following the non acceptance of the 2008 AGM minutes at last year's AGM, the revised minutes were submitted for approval.
- 3.2 With the addition of 'Byelaws' after (8) (Athletics Sub Committees) in 5.1, the minutes were accepted as an accurate record and there were no matters arising.

4 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM 2009 AGM

- 4.1 With the addition of the word 'county' after 'regional' in item 12.4, the minutes were accepted as an accurate record.
- 4.2 Matters arising: item 13 – The North Wales Regional Athletics Council has now decided to discuss the hosting of future Inter Regional Cross Country Championships at regional level before liaising with Steve Brace and reporting to the Inter Regional Forum. As a result item 20 on the 2010 agenda was not discussed.

5 REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- 5.1 The Chair thanked the President for his opening remarks and for the excellent work he has undertaken for the company, travelling to events all over Wales. Thanks were also given to the professional members of staff and to the vast army of volunteers, who are working tirelessly for the benefit of all athletes. There are major challenges to be faced in the next year and the company must develop its financial and manpower resources. The current review of Welsh Athletics will give all members the chance to have their say in the future direction of the company.
- 5.2 The Annual Report was presented to the meeting by the CEO. He thanked all those who had contributed to an excellent document. He highlighted key issues from the annual report.

- 5.211 Commonwealth Games – a good team effort all round with thanks to John Dagata and Mike Delaney for their contributions. Welsh Athletics has received excellent comments from UK Athletics, Commonwealth Games Council for Wales and Sport Wales on the behaviour, team spirit and performances of the Welsh team.
 - 5.212 Sport Wales – changes in the working relationship between Welsh Athletics and Sport Wales were highlighted. It was pleasing to report that Athletics is now one of the five sports to be given category A status under Sport Wales' Elite Sport Strategy.
 - 5.213 Grassroots – Chris Moss is working to improve the club structure and develop the Run, Jump, Throw initiative.
 - 5.214 Coach Education – the new structure is now in place and the first of a series of workshops for coaches has been held.
 - 5.215 Volunteer Strategy – Chris Moss is developing a volunteer strategy. Welsh Athletics has 75 clubs, 500 coaches, 400 officials and for the first time the number of registered athletes has exceeded 6000.
 - 5.216 Club Mark – development officers are working with focus clubs.
 - 5.217 Run Wales – major initiative to develop endurance running and to foster idea of improving health of the nation via mass participation events, which is a key part of the Welsh Assembly Government's strategy 'Creating an active Wales'.
 - 5.218 Major Events Framework – in conjunction with the Welsh Assembly Government. Aim is to promote and improve quality of off track events.
 - 5.219 Commonwealth Mountain Running and Ultra Running Festival 2011 – working with the three unitary authorities in North Wales and the Welsh Assembly Government.
 - 5.220 Website – the new website is now up and running and in the period June to August had 24,000 hits and 815 Facebook friends. The ENews was sent to 5000 persons.
 - 5.221 Media Coverage – good contacts established with Media Wales and the number of column inches in the national papers had increased. The new policy of regular formal press conferences and press releases is paying dividends.
 - 5.222 Trinity Registration Scheme – 52 clubs are now using the online system.
 - 5.223 Operational Plan 2011-2012 – this will be influenced by Sport Wales, Welsh Assembly Government and UKA who all have their own strategic objectives. Our own 'Fit for Purpose' review will also have an impact.
 - 5.224 Sport Wales 'New Vision' document defining its vision for the next four years, focussing on a nation of champions and getting every child hooked on sport.
- 5.3 Questions from the floor:
- 5.31 Dennis Nugent: Concerns re lack of official support for the T6 Throws Club. There is a need to reinstate the Coaching Committee which would be able to focus on supporting and developing different initiatives.
 - 5.32 Jan Nugent: Recommendations from Track and Field Competition Review not being implemented.
 - 5.33 Kay James: Expressing the view that the volunteers feel that they are not fully appreciated for their work, expertise and experience. Examples were given of office not responding to requests from

volunteers and of information going missing. It was noted that Chris Moss is developing a volunteer strategy.

- 5.34 David Alun Williams: Questioning how clubs will benefit from the Run Wales project. It was noted that this project is fully supported by the Welsh Assembly Government. The profile of off track events will be enhanced.
 - 5.35 Gwyn Williams: Expressing delight at the improved performances at this year's Commonwealth Games, compared with Melbourne 2006. It was noticeable how well the athletes conducted themselves and it was particularly pleasing to note their excellent interviewing skills.
 - 5.36 Syd Wheeler: Commenting that the major road events are very expensive to enter and most athletes compete in the smaller races. It was noted that Welsh Athletics will support smaller events but the first aim will be to give higher profile to the Championship events.
 - 5.37 Jan Nugent: Re the number of clubs present. It was noted that 18 clubs were present. Concern was also expressed that some members of the professional staff were not present. The meeting felt that they should be in attendance to enable members to have the opportunity to question them on various issues. It was also noted with some concern, that the League Facilitator had called a meeting of League Clubs prior to the AGM but was not present. It was noted that Steve Brace, James Thie and Jacqueline Brace were attending a key meeting on fixtures organised by UKA.
- 5.4 The Annual Report was accepted.

6 FINANCIAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

- 6.1 Thanks were expressed to the Finance Sub Group and Karlijn Asveld for their work and expertise, as scrutiny and control of the accounts is very important.
- 6.2 It was noted that there was an operating surplus of £3248, a reduction in Sport Wales funding and an increase in UKA funding.
- 6.3 It was noted that the accounts are not formally audited but they are scrutinised by Donald Owen & Company.
- 6.4 Questions from the floor:
 - 6.411 From Ed Thompson requesting a breakdown on income and expenditure for coaching. To be sent to members.
 - 6.412 From Dilwyn Davies seeking clarification that items relating to Welsh Schools AA includes the AVIVA sponsorship.
 - 6.413 From Hedydd Davies expressing concerns on the over reliance on grants from Sport Wales and UKA, with little increase in other monies and high expenditure on staff salaries. In response the CEO listed all our sponsors but agreed that at the moment there is no headline sponsor. He has recently contacted one hundred companies but it is important to be realistic in the current economic times.
 - 6.414 From Jan Nugent querying remuneration for the directors. This figure includes the CEO's salary.
 - 6.415 From Jan Nugent commenting on the high percentage of funding being allocated to salaries but smaller amount available for competition. It was noted that there had been warm weather training, the Celtic Games and athletes had gone to Sweden, though it was noted only 8 athletes had the qualifying standard and of these only 4 wanted to go. It was also noted that there is good competition available at the England Championships, but that relatively few athletes compete. It

was noted that discussions have been held with Welsh Schools AA about competition provision for the U20 age group.

- 6.416 From Dic Evans re reduction in competition opportunities for cross country athletes. It is noticeable that committees are having their budgets cut but there are no comparable cuts in salary budgets. Questions were raised re effective monitoring of staff.
 - 6.417 From Kay James commenting on the fact that in the past there were fewer members of staff but more competitions.
 - 6.418 From Hedydd Davies stating that if there is not suitable competition for the U20s they will leave the sport.
 - 6.419 From Peter Lane stating that there is no income listed for the Awards Dinner. It was noted that the event lost money this year and its viability must be questioned.
 - 6.420 From Phil Jones requesting information on funding levels for next year. It was noted that no information would be available until January. With the current national economic problems the situation is fluid and it was noted that UKA are under no obligation to fund Welsh Athletics.
 - 6.421 From John Lister questioning the validity of listing the website as an asset as it should be seen as an expense. It was noted that the company had followed the advice of an independent consultant.
 - 6.422 From John Lister expressing concern at the low level of reserves. A company with a turnover of one million pounds should have reserves of more than £50K.
 - 6.423 From Mary Jones re the cost of publications. It was noted that publications include the annual report and programmes. Concern was expressed at the high number of errors in the programmes.
- 6.5 The accounts were formally adopted

7 GENERAL COUNCIL REPORT

- 7.1 The Chair of General Council reported on attendance levels and presentation topics and highlighted the opportunities members had to question to key members of staff.
- 7.2 Discussion had taken place on the role and effectiveness of General Council. It has two roles; one of communication which it fulfils well and one of managing the operational side of the sport which is open to debate. The extent of General Council's authority is not clear as the terms of reference do not adequately state its parameters as a decision making body. The 'Fit for Purpose' review combined with the deliberations of the Governance Group should ensure that the General Council's authority is clarified.

8 APPOINTMENT OF ACCOUNTANTS

- 8.1 D T Owen & Company, Carmarthen appointed but the Finance Group will reassess the situation.

9 APPOINTMENT OF PATRONS

- 9.1 Lynn Davies CBE and John Disley CBE were re-appointed as patrons. It was noted Rhodri Morgan and Steve Jones have been appointed as patrons of Run Wales.

10 APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS TO THE BOARD

- 10.1 Concern was expressed that two of the nominees were not present - they had sent in apologies - and that there was no representative present from Bridgend AC who were nominating one of them.

- 10.2 It was noted that all directors must show commitment and will be given a portfolio.
- 10.3 The CEO spoke in support of Mark Allen, who is a director of Manchester City FC and can offer the company wide expertise from working in the business world.
- 10.4 Hedydd Davies, on behalf of Carmarthen Harriers, spoke in support of Steve Perks. He is a headmaster with extensive managerial skills. He was head coach for the Welsh team at the Commonwealth Games in Victoria, was a coach with the UK Olympic Sprint Relay teams and was chief coach with the relay team which won the gold medal at Olympic Games in 2004. He is currently coaching at grassroots level in the Carmarthen area.
- 10.5 Mary Jones, on behalf of Cwmbran Harriers, spoke in support of Gwyn Williams, emphasising his experience as an international athlete and a coach from grassroots level to the elite. Gwyn Williams then addressed the meeting himself, outlining his employment in the world of education and his experiences as an athlete and coach. He is committed to the sport and wants to contribute to its future development.
- 10.6 All three were appointed as directors for a minimum period of three years. They will be sent a formal letter of appointment, outlining their responsibilities as listed in the Byelaws and which they would have to abide by.

11 REPORT OF THE AWARDS PANEL

11.1 Sue Sayer presented the report of the Awards Panel (Alan Currie, Pete Morris, John Penny, Sue Sayer and Colin Davies). Following a decision made at last year's AGM, an information leaflet and nomination form for awards was distributed with this year's AGM documents. Unfortunately one club's nominations were referred back to the club because of lack of detailed information. The panel works under established operational principles, which includes the stipulation that no member of the panel may be involved in any deliberations on a nominee in which they have a personal interest. The group had considered the submitted nominations for the Award of Honour (5) and for the Meritorious Awards (30) and recommended the following:

11.11 Award of Honour

Brenda Currie (General Council Secretary/Neath Harriers)
Clive Williams (Director/Cardiff AAC)
Colin Davies (Vice President/Swansea Harriers)
Richard Jenkins (Track Official/Newport Harriers)

11.12 Meritorious Award

Christian Malcolm (Cardiff AAC)	Helen James (Cardiff AAC)
Matthew Elias (Cardiff AAC)	Tom Meyer (Cardiff AAC)
Eiddwen Davies (Carmarthen H)	Peter Goodson (Carmarthen H) *
Richard Wyer (Carmarthen H)	Eric Bailey (Chepstow H)
Phil Oliver (Colwyn Bay)	Russell Godwin (Colwyn Bay)
Sheelagh Moore (Colwyn Bay)	Glanmor Williams (Cowbridge S)
Dave Lewis (Cwmbran H) *	Teresa Hanrahan (Cwmbran H) *
Mike Blake (Eryri H)	Stuart Hodson (Field Official)
Bob Cypher (Journalist)	Andy Bowyer (NEW Wales Schools)
Huw Morgan (Pembrokeshire H)	Peter Freeman (Pembrokeshire H)
Allan Caughter (Welsh Schools)	David Ball (Welsh Schools)
Gwilym Williams (Welsh Schools)	Mona Hughes (Welsh Schools)
Alison Whitelaw (Wrexham AAC)	Glyn Davies (Wrexham AAC)
Peter Norman (Wrexham AAC)	

* = awarded posthumously

- 11.13 All of the above were approved.
- 11.2 It was noted that there is a full complement of 10 Life Members.
- 11.3 The Panel noted that more information is still awaited for two of the four nominations from the 2008 AGM and the two from this year's AGM.
- 11.4 The Panel's proposal that all recipients of awards should be listed year by year in the Annual Report and that all athletes should be integrated rather than listed separately was accepted.

12 APPOINTMENTS TO GENERAL COUNCIL

- 12.1 Alan Currie was appointed as Chairman, for a period of two years
- 12.2 Brenda Currie was appointed as Secretary, for a period of two years.

13 APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARIES TO THE ATHLETICS COMMITTEES

- 13.1 The following appointments, for a period of two years, were confirmed:
 - 13.11 Cross Country John Collins
 - 13.12 Mountain Running Arwel Lewis
 - 13.13 Officials Derek Crowder
 - 13.14 Road Running Paul Brooks
 - 13.15 Track and Field Sue Sayer
- 13.2 There were no nominations for appointments of secretaries of the coaching and development committees. Discussion took place on the viability of these two committees. It is important not to duplicate the work of the National Coaching team but it is vital that the broader view from the grassroots level is heard. The aim must be to bridge the gap between grassroots and the elite. It was decided that the matter would be discussed at Board level, with a report submitted to General Council.

14 APPOINTMENT OF DELEGATES TO THE ORGANISATIONS ON WHICH THE COMPANY IS ENTITLED TO BE REPRESENTED

- 14.1 Commonwealth Games Council for Wales:
 - 14.11 Executive Committee (1) Mike Delaney - approved
 - 14.12 AGM (3) Mike Delaney, Matt Newman, Steve Brace - approved
- 14.2 Welsh Sports Association (1): Matt Newman - approved

15 ANNUAL REGISTRATION AND AFFILIATION FEES FOR 2011/2012

- 15.1 It was explained that the current registration scheme is just about breaking even. With UK legacy funding now finished, it is vital that funds are generated to support clubs. The matter had been discussed and the proposed new rates approved at General Council.
- 15.2 It was agreed by the meeting to add the following to the proposal: 'All monies raised over £28K are to be ring fenced for grassroots activities'.
- 15.3 The following amendment was proposed and seconded: '£10 for seniors'.
- 15.4 Voting took place on the amended proposal which was defeated.
- 15.5 Voting took place on the following proposal:
 - 15.51 Athlete registration fees: £15 for seniors, £10 for U20/U17, £7.50 for U15/U13/U11
 - 15.52 Club affiliation £50
 - 15.53 All monies raised over £28K are to be ring fenced for grassroots activities.
- 15.6 The proposal was passed.

16 AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

- 16.1 Numerous amendments had been proposed by the Governance Group and circulated with this year's agenda.
- 16.2 The amendments were approved

17 AMENDMENTS TO POWERS OF AWARDS PANEL

- 17.1 There is a question mark over the future of the annual awards dinner. As a result, it was agreed to suspend a decision on this item to a future AGM.

18 ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO AWARDS PANEL

- 18.1 Alan Currie and Pete Morris were elected to serve for a period of 3 years on the Awards Panel.

19 DATE AND VENUE OF 2011 AGM

- 19.1 22 October 2011 in Llandrindod Wells

Meeting started at 1pm and finished at 4.40pm

**PLEASE NOTE
THE ABOVE MINUTES ARE PROVISIONAL AND SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION
AT THE NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.**