

# WELSH ATHLETICS LTD

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



WELSH ATHLETICS  
ATHLETAU CYMRU

Annual General Meeting held at the Metropole Hotel, Llandrindod Wells  
on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2013.

### Present:

#### Members of Welsh Athletics Ltd.

John Penny	President
Sue Sayer	President Elect
John Collins	Life Member
Alan Currie	Life Member/ Neath Harriers
Hedydd Davies	Life Member/Carmarthen & District Harriers
Lynette Harries	Life Member, Chair of General Council, Director
Carol Anthony	Chair of Board of Directors
Sally Jones-Evans	Director
Matt Newman	Chief Executive Officer/ Director
Gwyn Williams	Director/Coaching Task Group
Joyce Tomala	East Wales Regional Council
Anthony Currie	Aberdare Valley
Fred Malkin	Barry & Vale Harriers
Gareth Protheroe	Brecon AC
Debbie Bull	Cardiff AC
Denise Harris	Deeside AC
Hilary Googder	Newport Harriers
Marian Williams	Swansea Harriers
Dave Edwards	Wrexham AC

#### Also Present:

Derek Crowder	Official's Secretary
Kay James	Cardiff AC
Paul Darney	Cardiff AC
Rory McKerlick	Cardiff AC
Bernard Harris	Deeside AC
Brenda Currie	Neath Harriers
Ken Goodger	Newport Harriers
Jessica Huddleston	Pembrokeshire Harriers
Dilwyn Davies	Welsh Schools Athletics Association
Pete Morris	Welsh Athletics Ltd. Governance Sub Group
Sarah Williams	Welsh Athletics Ltd.

#### Proxy Votes received from:

South Wales Regional Athletics Council	[1vote]
Hilary McCathy	Cardigan R.C. [2votes]

Carol Anthony Chair of Board of Directors outlined the format for the AGM

## **1. Presidents Welcome:**

- 1.1. The President welcomed delegates to the company's seventh AGM.
- 1.2. JP reported that the last twelve months had been another exciting time for athletics in Wales with numerous events which included the British Championships, the National Coaching Conference and the Golden Jubilee of the Gwent League. The season had culminated in the hugely successful Lloyds Bank Half Marathon organised by Run 4 Wales, which included.
- 1.3. It is pleasing to report that there has been an improvement in the number of Welsh Athletes who gained selection for the Great Britain and Northern Ireland teams, a trend which it is hoped will continue.
- 1.4. JP congratulated everyone including athletes, event organisers, officials, coaches, volunteers and company staff for playing their part in delivering successful competition and development programmes.
- 1.5. JP reflected on the impact of the 2012 Olympic Games in particular the effect on clubs in terms of new membership. Travelling around Wales during the last twelve months JP reported that he had witnessed growth in the number of new members joining clubs however he warned against complacency as a number of clubs now have waiting lists for new members wishing to join. Growth in membership numbers has the potential to place added strains on many clubs, no matter what size they are. This will therefore be one of the biggest challenges to be met during the next twelve months- a period which will be key in meeting the Welsh Athletics Ltd. ambitious target of doubling membership by 2020.
- 1.6. 2014 is a Commonwealth Games year with Glasgow hosting the event in July. The Games will play an important part in the thinking of many – athletes, coaches, team managers and potential spectators. The success of Welsh athletes on that stage may well have an impact at some point on future funding from Sport Wales. It is therefore hoped that our athletes perform even better than in Delhi in 2010.
- 1.7. JP reported that the delayed Welsh Athletics Competition Review had commenced and that he was delighted to have been asked to be a member of the steering group. It is hoped that within the next twelve months WA will have a clear set of recommendations to help move the sport forward in both Track and Field and Endurance events.
- 1.8. At the 2012 AGM JP had given notice that he would not seek re-election at this year's AGM. His two terms as President had been a hugely enjoyable experience. JP congratulated Sue Sayer on becoming the new President of WA.

- 1.9. The highlights of JP's time as President included presenting awards to talented athletes, encouraging them and having the opportunity to talk to many of them.
- 1.10. A minute's silence was held to show respect to individuals associated with Welsh Athletics who had passed away since last year's AGM.
- 1.10.1. Graham Spencer, Chris Hallam, John Loney, Colin Daley, Julie Crayford, Alun Jones, Irene Jenkins, Leonard Wallace
- 1.11. JP thanked all members present.

## 2. Apologies for absence:

Keith Mathews	Life Member/South Regional Athletics Council
Steve Perks	Director
Lesley Stowe	West Wales Regional Council
Gareth Hughes	Prestatyn RC
Mary Jones	Cwmbran Harriers
Arwel Lewis	Eryri Harriers
Hilary McCathy	Cardigan R.C.
Scott Simpson	National Performance Coach Welsh Athletics Ltd.
David Alun Williams	North Wales Cross Country Association
Gwilym Williams	Welsh Schools Athletics Association

## 3. Minutes of AGM 2012:

The following Amendments were made to the minutes

Present: *Lynette Harries*

Presidents Welcome

point 1.2 change were to was

6.4.4. Run for Wales

6.5 Athletics Networks Report

point 6.5.6 (Swansea Harriers)

point 6.7.13 The rationale

point 6.7.14 It is currently unclear how many Team

point 6.7.21 Concern was expressed

7 Financial Report and Accounts:

Point 7.2.3 actually came from Aviva

8 General Council Report:

8.4 received funding totalling £20 000.

9 Appointment of Accountants

9.1 that the role of accountants should be put

### 17.3.3 Awards Panel

Date and Venue of AGM 2013

Point 18.1 The Seventh AGM of Welsh Athletics Limited

Please Note

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

Proposed acceptance of 2012 Minutes Fred Malkin (Barry & Vale), seconded John Collins (Life Member), unanimously accepted

#### **4. Matters Arising:**

No matters arising

### **ITEMS OF ORDINARY BUSINESS**

#### **5. Appointment of Scrutineers:**

5.1. Brenda Currie and Bernard Harris were appointed as scrutineers for the duration of the meeting.

#### **6. Report of the Board of Directors: Chair of Board Carol Anthony**

6.1. CA reported that she was proud to be able to highlight so many successes in so many different facets of the sport.

6.2. Thanks were expressed to all members of the volunteer workforce and staff team for their contributions.

6.3. The diverse nature of athletics means there will always be new challenges. Everyone has a collective responsibility in maintaining the standards that have been built up in athletics over many years as well as being willing to adapt to new ideas and methods to take the sport forward.

6.4. The Annual Report offers detailed information on all aspects of the sport. WA Ltd is determined to ensure complete transparency in all processes, reporting systems and actions taken.

6.5. Peter Morris queried if the 'Annual Report' had been discussed by the Board. There appears to be a section missing regarding those who have achieved Awards of Honour and Meritorious Awards. It was agreed that there had indeed been an omission in this year's Annual Report.

**ACTION:** With effect from next year this section will be included in the Welsh Athletics Annual Report.

6.6. Proposed acceptance of report Hedydd Davies (Carmarthen & District Harriers), seconded Debbie Bull (Cardiff AC) unanimously accepted.

## **7. Financial Report and Accounts: CEO- Matt Newman**

- 7.1. The Annual Report reflects the general health of athletics in Wales. There was a small surplus on the back of last year's accounts. During 2011/2012 a significant amount of investment was carried forward as ring fenced for 2014 Commonwealth Games. There has been significant preparation for the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games.
- 7.2. MN reported that a full audit of accounts has been completed.
- 7.3. Investment by Sport Wales our major source of funding has doubled over the past three years. The submission to Sport Wales of the 2013-2017 WA Strategic Plan has resulted in an increase of 25% in funding for this period, thus allowing the full implementation of the Club Development Plan.
- 7.4. MN suggested that WA is now able to manage financial risk from major investors. Sport Wales have indicated that sports should prepare for cuts in funding. Activities such as Run 4 Wales, will help to manage the risk of reduced funding.
- 7.5. PD asked if there is a difference between Run Wales and Run for Wales. Run Wales is an umbrella for Endurance events, whilst "Run 4 Wales" is a new company.
- 7.6. Proposed acceptance of report Hilary Goodger (Newport Harriers) seconded Debbie Bull (Cardiff AC). Unanimously accepted.

## **8. General Council Report: Lynette Harries, MBE**

- 8.1. The General Council of Welsh Athletics Ltd. is anxious to build on the success of previous administration which was led by Alan and Brenda Currie of.
- 8.2. The focus this year has been on operational issues such as competition and improving channels of communication. Strengthening communication and operational networks remain a priority
- 8.3. No member should feel that they do not have access to the work of the General Council. As all minutes now posted on the WA website and any issues can be referred to the relevant committee or task group.
- 8.4. There is still a need to strengthen some channels of communication. LH is anxious to stress the need for GC members cascade information to members and to bring back issues from the membership to GC.
- 8.5. In looking forward to next year the focus of GC agendas will be on the implementation of the WA Strategic Plan.  
Proposed acceptance of report Marian Williams (Swansea Harriers), seconded Alan Currie (Neath Harriers), unanimously accepted

## **9. Appointment of Accountants:**

- 9.1. MN reported that changing accountants is in the interest of good governance and that accountants should be changed every four years. Two internal and two external audits have been undertaken. MN suggested that O'Brien be appointed as Auditor.
- 9.2. Proposed acceptance Fred Malkin (Barry & Vale), seconded Debbie Bull (Cardiff AC) unanimously accepted

## **10. Appointment of Patrons:**

- 10.1. Lyn Davies, CBE, John Disley, CBE reappointed as patrons. Rodney Morgan would be invited to become a patron.
- 10.2. Proposed acceptance Marian Williams (Swansea Harriers), seconded Debbie Bull (Cardiff) unanimously agreed.

## **11. Appointment of Directors to the Board, for a period of three years:**

- 11.1. CA reported that the work undertaken by Gwyn Williams has been tremendous and resulted in building bridges between grass roots and the elite side of our sport. He has headed up the Coaching and Performance Task Group. GW was thanked for his work as a Director of the company.
- 11.2. Steve Perks was nominated for a second term of office, proposed Tony Currie (Aberdare), seconded Hilary Goodger (Newport Harriers) unanimously accepted.
- 11.3. **Nomination for Christian Malcolm** – Citation given by Gwyn Williams. Proposed acceptance Tony Curry (Aberdare), seconded Debbie Bull (Cardiff AC), unanimously accepted.

## **12. Election of President and Vice-President:**

- 12.1. Appoint Sue Sayer as President of Welsh Athletics. Proposed acceptance Hilary Goodger (Newport Harriers), seconded Hedydd Davies (Carmarthen and District Harriers), unanimously accepted.
- 12.2. Appointments of Vice President Lynette Harriers MBE John Collins. Proposed acceptance Marian Williams (Swansea Harriers), seconded Fred Malkin (Barry and Vale) unanimously accepted.

## **13. Consideration of the Report of the Awards Panel:**

### **13.1. Meritorious Award:**

- 13.1.1. JP confirmed that the Awards Panel continue to use the two operating principles confirmed in 2008. Fifteen nominations for the Award of Honour were received by the Awards Panel however a further two nominations were

considered that had not been submitted by clubs as the Panel felt that in the spirit of openness and transparency these individuals should be considered. All seventeen nominations were recommended for the Meritorious Award.

**13.1.1.1. Nominations:**

Steve Jones	Nedd Tawe Schools and Neath Harriers
Debbie Bull	Cardiff AC
Helen John	Cwm Rhymni School
Jeremy Evans	Cwm Rhymni School
Caroline Sayer	Deeside AAC
Dave Stokes	Deeside AAC
Phil Banning	East Wales and Coach
Dave Griffin	Llanishen High School
Arwel Jones	Prestatyn RC
Bob Greuter	Rhondda AC
Kim Griffiths	South East Wales Schools and Welsh Schools
Neal Merry	Swansea Harriers
Peter Roberts	Swansea Harriers
Judith Gooding	Swansea Harriers
Phil Gooding	Swansea Harriers
Carol Jones	Carmarthen and District Harriers
John Griffin	Les Croupiers

Proposed acceptance of all nominations Tony Currie (Aberdare), seconded Hedydd Davies (Carmarthen and District Harriers) unanimously accepted.

**13.2. Award of Honour:**

JP reported that four nominations had been received by the Awards Panel for the Award of Honour. Sue Sayer a member of the Awards Panel was unaware that she had been nominated.

Nominations:

Mary Jones	Cwmbran Harriers and East Wales
Tom Jones	Deeside AAC and North Wales
Sue Sayer	Deeside AAC and North Wales
David Alun Williams	Wrexham AAC and North Wales

All four awards were recommended by the Awards Panel. Proposed acceptance Hedydd Davies (Carmarthen and District Harriers), seconded Denise Harris (Deeside AAC) unanimously accepted.

13.3. JP reported that WA has a full complement of ten Life Members.

13.4. The Awards Panel identified a number of long serving coaches, officials and a club team manager who appear to have slipped through the nomination process. As a result the Awards Panel have referred this to the Governance Sub-Group that is the issue of whether the Panel should have the authority to include the names of such individuals in the list of recommendations. All Panel members were thanked for their contributions since the formation of the group in 2007.

#### **14. Appointment of Awards Panel:**

14.1. Two award panel members are required no nominations have been received so far,

14.2. JP nominated Peter Morris proposed acceptance Lynette Harries (Life Member) seconded John Collins (Life member) LH nominated Alan Currie proposed acceptance Hilary Goodger (Newport Harriers) seconded Hedydd Davies (Carmarthen and District Harriers) unanimously accepted.

14.3. PM suggested co-opting John Penny to the Awards Panel unanimously agreed.

#### **15. Appointment of Delegates to organisations on which the Company is entitled to be represented:**

15.1. Delegate to Commonwealth Games Council for Wales Executive Committee – Scott Simpson

15.2. Three delegates to Commonwealth Games Council

15.2.1. Scott Simpson

15.2.2. Matt Newman

15.2.3. Phil Banning

15.3. Delegate to Welsh Sports Association

- Matt Newman

CA suggested Re- elect on block. Proposed acceptance Alan Currie (Neath Harriers) seconded Dave Edwards unanimously agreed.

## **16. Determination of annual registration and affiliation fees (for 2014/2015)**

- 16.1. MN suggests retaining fees as they are currently
- 16.2. HD was surprised at the amount generated by membership fees. The number of registered athletes had increased. MN emphasized that whilst Grass Roots Grants have been agreed there is a need to ensure the amount reflects operational costs. AC asked if operational costs have been agreed. The amount available for Grass Roots Grants needs to be considered. Total membership just over 6 500. Proposed acceptance Hedydd Davies (Carmarthen and District Harriers) seconded Dave Edwards (Wrexham AC) unanimously accepted.

## **ITEMS OF SPECIAL BUSINESS**

### **17. Notices of Motion to be considered by members at the AGM**

- 17.1. Proposal from South Wales Regional Council. Apologies had been received from Jan Nugent, Keith Matthews and David Williams. Since there was no officials member to speak to the motion PM asks that motion be referred to GC for discussion and decision. It was agreed to refer this matter to GC.
- 17.1.1. The Member was not present to speak to the motion therefore motion falls.
- 17.2. The North Wales member was not present to speak to the motion therefore the motion falls for the second year running.

### **18. To receive and accept the following recommendation from the Governance Group:**

- 18.1. Update of Byelaws has been published and distributed. Attention was drawn to changes relating to the Official's Committee. There will now be two operational strands that will address a) Track and Field and b) Endurance Events. CA thanked Governance group for their work.
- 18.2. East Wales Regional Council asked how Regional Officials' Secretaries will be involved in this proposed committee. It was explained that the present committee is too large operationally. DC suggested that many officials are getting older. WA now a wide ranging sport, There is no resemblance between track and Field and endurance disciplines. Separation means that committees can focus on issues relevant to each discipline. One person will take charge of Track and Field another for Endurance. DC is of the opinion that Regional Secretaries will still retain a role albeit by phone etc.
- 18.3. MW where will Regional Officials Secretaries go? Which committees should they sit on? LH stated that Regional Councils would be consulted. The rationale behind this change was that the needs of the whole of the sport are met. DC

Official's Secretary will assume a management looking to the future DC advised that the Official's Secretary has to be level 3 or above to sit on UKA Official's committee. It's up to Regions to decide where officials sit.

18.4. KG expressed concern that in changing the structure Regional Official's Secretaries that had been specifically recruited may withdraw their services. The work of the Secretary/Chair of Region may increase as a result of any withdrawal. LH stated that the aim to streamline would result in both Track and Field and Endurance strands being well served. LH suggested that people will be invited to join the committees. DC suggests that this is a working document to be revisited at next year's AGM.

Proposed acceptance Tony Curry (Aberdare), seconded Hedydd Davies (Carmarthen and District Harriers)

Vote: For the recommendation 25 against the recommendation 7, recommendation therefore accepted.

#### **19. Date and Venue of AGM 2014:**

**Metropole Hotel, Llandrindod Wells, 1pm on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2014**

After closing the AGM CA congratulated Lynette Harries on being awarded the MBE. CA made a presentation to LH on behalf of Welsh Athletics Limited. LH stated that having received her award earlier in the week this presentation brought a very memorable week to a happy end.

CA also made a presentation to John Penny for his hard work, total dedication and commitment during his two terms of office as President of Welsh Athletics Ltd.

CA also made a presentation to Gwyn Williams as he is stepping down after a three year term of office as a Director of WA. During his term of office Gwyn brought together all areas of coaching and has ensured coaches feel valued. GW is staying on as Chair of Task Group. GW was thanked for his contribution to the Board of Directors and other areas of WA.

#### **Please Note:**

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

