

Minutes of the meeting of the General Council (GC) Held on Thursday 8th March 2018

Sport Wales National Centre, Cardiff, video linked to Plas Menai National Outdoor Centre, Caernarfon*

<i>Present:</i>	Sue Alvey	(SA)	Chair of General Council, Non-Executive Director Welsh Athletics Ltd.
	Lynette Harries	(LH)	President of Welsh Athletics Ltd.
	Judith Gooding	(-)	Secretary of Track & Field Committee
	Sharon Leech	(SL)	Secretary of Cross Country and Road Committee
	Arwel Lewis	(AL)*	Secretary of Mountain Running & Trail Committee
	Jeff Marsden	(JE)	Track & Field Officials Committee
	John Chidlow	(JC)	Secretary of Endurance Officials Committee
	Martin Bell	(MB)	Task Group Coordinator, Coaching & Performance
	Joyce Tomala	(JT)	Regional Athletics Council – East Wales
		(RP)	Regional Athletics Council – East Wales
	Dai Williams	(DW)	Regional Athletics Council – South Wales
	Graham Webb	(GW)	Regional Athletics Council – South Wales
	Wynford Leyshon	(WL)	Regional Athletics Council – West Wales
	Tony Clements	(TC)	Regional Athletics Council – West Wales
	Paul Brooks	(PB)	Regional Athletics Council – North Wales
	Chris Yorke	(CY)	Regional Representative – North Wales
	Gerald Davis	(GD)	Welsh Schools Athletic Association
	Dai Williams	(DWSc)	Welsh Schools Athletic Association
	James Williams	(JW)	Head of Operations, Welsh Athletics
	Chris Moss	(CM)	Club Network Manager, Welsh Athletics (Minutes)

Papers circulated in advance:

Head of Operations Update March 2018	Item 2
Management Reports	Item 2
Conduct Scheme Document	Item 6
Draft Licence Standards for Cross Country	Item 6
Final Minutes GC 9 th January 2018	Item 8

1. Apologies for Absence

Received from Lyn Cushing, Ruth Powell, Scott Simpson and John Elward.

2. Head of Operations Report and Update including Questions and Answers (JW)

Report circulated prior to meeting.

Staffing update; Tom Marley has been appointed in the role of National Competition and Events Manager. JC asked as to the status of Officials Education when Tom Marley moves into his new role. JW confirmed that officiating responsibilities will transfer over with the new role.

WL asked for clarification whether any athletes were invited and paid a fee to compete at the Welsh Indoor Championships and also highlighted that 4 athletes also competed in Vienna on the day of the Welsh Senior Indoor Championships. JW confirmed that no athletes were invited or paid to compete at the Welsh Indoor Championships and also stated that, whilst there is clearly the ambition to have our best athletes compete in national championships, Welsh Athletics has very little control over any athletes' competition schedule. In addition, JW highlighted that he was assured Welsh Athletics did not finance the trip to Vienna and the athletes that competed were not representing Wales.

JW updated that Welsh Athletics membership had exceeded 12,000 members for the first time, and thanked all the staff, volunteers and most importantly clubs that have contributed to this continued growth in membership.

JW invited questions relating to the report and management reports circulated in advance of the meeting.

LH: Officiating figures contained within the Development Report are good however potentially misleading. On occasions certain events struggle to attract new officials. JW suggested a number of ways in which the sport could change and adapt in order to make officiating more attractive to both new and existing officials.

Action: Tom Marley to be asked to establish a working group to look at improvements in Officials recruitment and upgrading

3. Club Modernisation and Consultation Update (CM & JW)

JW updated the Council on the first stage of the consultation, and thanked everyone for their support to date. JW confirmed that a number of staff members attended the various consultation meetings across Wales.

4. Self Evaluation of General Council Update

JW Sport and Recreational Alliance are carrying out a piece of work relating to the governance of the sport with the Welsh Athletics Board of Directors which is being led by external consultant Amanda Bennett. WL commented that, whilst the help is welcomed externally, but the self-evaluation of General Council could be done in addition to the other work being done. JW clarified that there is a wider scope of work being undertaken and that the joint meeting of the Board and General Council in July will be the opportunity the join many of the elements in this space together.

5. Regional Matters

East Wales

Welsh Athletics to consider a reserve date for the Inter-Regional Cross Country Championships. JW responded that this matter had previously been discussed and it was considered not easy to find an alternative date due to fixture congestion.

Road Championships to avoid clashing with the Gwent League in future.

SL stated that in North Wales they do not currently follow the suggested league dates. In addition, to date, North Wales have not had a representative on the Road and Cross Country Committee. Chris Yorke was confirmed as the new representative for North Wales for the General Council and was welcomed to the meeting. JW explained the date selection and the fixture allocation process to clarify the situation.

PB highlighted that at the last meeting that JW specifically requested that regions sent teams to the Inter-Regional 10k championships, to which very little support was given by two of the regions.

North Wales

Bilingual signage. AL asked if there was any policy / process in support of signage for race to be provided in both Welsh and English. JW was in support of the idea and suggested that guidance could be added to the licencing standards.

Action: JW to work with JC and the Endurance Officials Committee to consider adding in this guidance to the licencing standards for endurance events.

South Wales

Refurbishment of Welsh Athletics Office. JW had already responded to this query via the SWRAC secretary.

Commonwealth Games athlete selection. GW asked about Commonwealth Games selection standards and the requirement to compete in the national championships. GW highlighted that an athlete that has been selected for the forthcoming Commonwealth Games however has not competed in a Welsh Athletics championships since 2010. JW clarified the situation with a summary of athletes that had been selected by Team Wales and each of the athletes that did not compete in the championships and the reasons that they did not compete in the championships.

Summarised version of the insurance documents. CM confirmed that the documentation already exists, it can be found / located on the UKA website. DW to take back to the region and inform.

6. Athletics Committee and Task Group Issues

Officials Committee

Conduct scheme for inappropriate conduct towards officials. JM: The Officials Committee are of the opinion that many officials are leaving the sport because they are being abused. Could Welsh Athletics consider a conduct scheme similar to the one circulated in the papers circulated in advance. SA gave an update and suggested that UKA will be leading in this area, and that the form previously circulated had been withdrawn by the Midland Region. JW explained that there is a process as most incidents are reported directly via email or to Steve Jones (as Welsh Athletics Compliance Officer) directly.

Action: Officials Committee would like clarification of the process. Steve Jones to provide outline of process along with accompanying flow chart diagram – information to be uploaded to the WA website

Endurance Officials Committee

Number swapping. The Endurance Officials Committee were asked to consider the issue JC gave an update and the Endurance Officials Committee recommends;

Welsh Athletics policy is to enforce UKA Rule 142 S2 (iii) in all Endurance Disciplines Wales wide.

Any athlete who wears the number of another competitor in a race without the specific agreement of the Race Organiser is to be banned from any WA Licenced Event for a period of 12 months together with the athlete who was the donor of the swapped number. Any Appeal against a ban to be made within 14 days for consideration by WA. An Appeals process needs to be established by WA.

In addition, the Endurance Officials Committee would request that the policy be drawn to the attention of all clubs and race organisers and to be generally communicated to all athletes via all communications channels.

JW thanked the Endurance Officials Committee for considering the issue and also stated that there are wider more complex issues relating to this and that Welsh Athletics are awaiting further guidance from UKA. PB stated that he cannot understand why the rules of competition cannot be enforced immediately.

Action: JW to report when this has been considered by UKA and an update is available.

Cross Country Licencing Standards. JC updated on the progress of the Draft 2018 Licence Standards for Cross Country Events which were circulated in advance of the meeting. JW expressed his thanks to both JC and Alex Donald for their work in this area.

Road and Cross Country Committee

A report of recent activity of the Road & Cross Country Committee was not circulate in advance of the meeting in error.

Action: This to be circulated to all council members by JW

Road Running

Inter-Regional 10k Road Running Championships. PB gave an overview of the representation and the disappointment that not enough regions were sending teams to events over the years – highlighting in particular the lack of representation from the South and West regions.

PB also stated that unlike other disciplines, Road Running no longer has an UKCAU Championships.

7. Correspondence

None received.

8. Minutes of 9th January 2018 and Matters Arising

JW apologised that the action from page 3 of the previous minutes (relating to the Governance Action Plan) had not been progressed.

Action: JW to carry this action over and update accordingly to the next meeting.

JT: Updated that the East Wales Regional Athletics Council have had a request by two members of the South Wales Regional Athletics Council to attend their next council meeting. This was felt a positive and progressive move in which examples of good practice can be shared.

9. Feedback from the Board Meeting 29th January 2018 (SA)

Has already been covered in earlier discussions (relating to Governance and the SRA) under item 2.

10. AOB – notified in advance

None.

11. Date of Next Meeting:

Tuesday 8th May 2018.

DRAFT