

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

### Held on Thursday 7th November 2019

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

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<i>Present:</i>	Graham Webb	(GW)	Vice Chair of General Council.
	Joyce Tomala	(JT)	Regional Representative – East Wales.
	Jeff Marsden	(JM)	Officials Committee.
	Lynette Harries	(LH)	President – Welsh Athletics.
	Gerald Davies	(GD)	Welsh Schools Representative
	Lynne Brier	(LB)	Regional Representative – West Wales.
	James Williams	(JW)	Head of Operations - Welsh Athletics.
	Tony Clements	(TC)	Regional Representative – West Wales.
	Lucy Archer	(LA)	Regional Representative – South Wales.
	Jamie Clode	(JC)	Regional Representative – South Wales.
	Chris Jones	(CJ)	Head Coach – Welsh Athletics.
	Hannah Pretty	(HP)	Club Manager South Wales – Welsh Athletics.
	Adrian Palmer	(AP)	Programme Manager – Welsh Athletics.
	Chris Moss	(CM)	Head of Development and Participation – Welsh Athletics.

*Papers circulated in advance:*

Head of Operations Update November 2019	Item 5
Board Report September 2019	Item 5
Final Minutes General Council September 2019	Item 10
GC Secretary Role Description	

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### 1. Apologies for Absence

John Hatton (Regional Representative - North Wales), Sue Alvey (Chair of General Council), Richard Sheehy (Regional Representative - East Wales) Sharon Leech (Road and Cross Country Committee), Dic Evans (Mountain and Fell Committee), Dai Williams (Welsh Schools).

### 2. Declarations of Interest

None declared

### 3. Junior Athlete Voice (HP)

JW: Gave an introduction to the background and rationale surrounding the creation of the 'Junior Athlete Voice' (JAV).

HP: Circulated a paper and gave a comprehensive overview and explanation of the JAV activities to date and plans moving forward.

JW: Identified that there was a desire to establish a Senior Athlete Voice and the equivalent with Masters aged athletes in order to get input and the views and opinions of athletes of all ages across Wales.

LH: Asked about the spread of representatives across Wales. HP confirmed that there was equal representation from junior athletes from all regions of Wales.

TC: Warned that the way that the established governance structure engage with this group is important.

JT: Asked how the regions could engage and how best to invite / engage with the JAV representative from a regional perspective.

JC: Asked if there were any plans to increase the social media identity of JAV representatives. HP responded that this was not an immediate priority however where appropriate this would be achieved in line with the ambitions and values that the group have agreed.

### 4. Performance Update (CJ & AP)

CJ: Identified the Athlete Support Programme and how this is being operationalised. Identifying the Regional Development Programme (RDP), National Development Programme (NDP) Commonwealth Games / British Athletics Futures Programmes, Commonwealth Games Potential Athletes, Commonwealth Games Programme Athletes as well as the British Athletics World Class Potential and World Class Performance programmes.

JT: Asked about the engagement with the wider Endurance and Off-Track community and what the offer would be. CJ highlighted that early specialisation is to be avoided and the RDP and NDP programmes were a vehicle for the development of the entire event group.

TC: Highlighted the need to engage with coaches at all levels and try to communicate the philosophy.

JT: Asked for details of the Regional Coordinators across the event groups for the East Region.

<b>Action:</b> AP to circulate all Regional Coordinator contact details to all Regional Council Secretaries
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LH: Questioned if there was a plan to engage with the education sector. CJ/JW responded with the need for all areas of the sport to be aligned with this thinking and philosophy and appropriate changes may need to be made to ensure that this is the case.

JC: questioned if there is a plan to engage with parents. CJ confirmed that this has already started through some targeted work across the programmes. CM highlighted that Welsh Athletics are working in collaboration with other sports to roll out parent engagement sessions available for all levels.

AP identified that there is perhaps also a need for Welsh Athletics to help the clubs support the parents and provide some resource in this area.

GD: Asked about the philosophy and longevity of this strategy. CJ responded highlighting that the ambition of the programmes are all about creating engagement and sustainability in the long term.

## **5. Head of Operations Report and Update (JW)**

The report was circulated in advance of the meeting. JW gave a verbal update and highlighted key areas including; Cardiff University Cardiff Half Marathon, Cardiff Cross Challenge, National Conference and Coaching Conference, Awards Evening, Welsh Athletics AGM, the New Strategy for the Sport. A Welsh Fixtures Conference will be scheduled for early December.

JW also highlighted the increase in athlete fees and club affiliation fees agreed at the AGM at the end of October.

Verbal updates were also given by JW relating to; facility investment and the recent Indoor Combined Events Championships and the Officials Development activities which ran alongside and formed part of this event.

## **6. Regional Matters**

South Wales Regional Athletics Council (JC);

### **1. Cross Country**

**It was highlighted that the gap between the Inter-regional Championships and the UKCAU Champs was very big, would it be better to have the event in December**

JW mentioned that having the event in December was challenging, several events have been cancelled due to bad weather in recent years, and the limited day-light meant that volunteers were setting up and taking down in the dark, proving dangerous from a health and safety perspective.

### **2. The Welsh athletics website; the new website does not archive older results.**

JW highlighted that the Power of 10 (Po10) website holds 12 years worth of results and that Run Britain website is the equivalent for off track disciplines. Would it not be better to use that resource as opposed to spending time re-uploading old results.

### **3. Notices of motion that were not discussed at the AGM – when will these be discussed?**

TC gave an update with what had happened. The Governance Sub Group have met and discussed. It was proposed to establish a small working group containing regional reps and Chair of GC to discuss the bye-laws and to ensure that they are working for GC and the Regions. JW to communicate with Regions to establish group.

JT highlighted that the inter region elements and that this would be addressed. CM has already spoken to the NWRAC re. the notice relating to the guide running workshops.

## **7. Athletics Committees and Task Group Issues**

JM highlighted that the Officials Committee had no representatives from the South Wales Regional Council and North Wales Regional Council.

Report from the Road/Cross Country committee had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting (below)

## **8. Correspondence**

None.

## **9. AOB**

None.

## **10. Minutes of the Last Meeting**

JT asked about the Governance Calendar and if this has been adopted / accepted by the group.

## **11. Date of Next Meeting**

JW to circulate some suggested dates.

Meeting concluded at 7.45pm.

***Please find below a brief report on behalf of the Road/ Cross Country Committee:***

- ***A successful event at the Cardiff Cross Challenge, with Charlotte Arter (SW) and Matt Willis (U20M) winning their races and Mike Ward (SM) third***
- ***Leeds Abbey Dash 10K was an inter-area match, Wales sent a team, as well as the four regions sending full or part teams. Charlotte Arter was first female in a new Welsh record of 31m31 (breaking that held by Angela Tooby), with many of the Welsh/ Regional runners achieving personal bests. It's hoped that next year the Regions will again agree to support teams, but we will hope to discuss standards and monetary contribution at a meeting so that Regional reps can then take a recommendation back to their Regions, to aim for more parity between Regions, in fairness to the athletes***
- ***The next domestic event will be the Inter Schools/ Welsh Colleges and Inter Regional Cross Country Championships at Brecon on 16th November. Whilst it's appreciated that many are disappointed that this is now a joint event and that it also clashes with the Masters International this year, it's hoped that people will understand that due to the large number of fixtures this is one less event for younger athletes, who also have other sporting pressures at school. The decision was made for the welfare of these young athletes who we are trying to keep in the sport. It was unfortunate but impossible to avoid the Masters clash this year, as the Inter Schools date had already been set and schools had factored this into their planning diaries. Next year the Masters international will be taken into consideration when choosing a date for the combined Inter Regional / Inter Schools event***
- ***Athletes have been selected to represent Wales at the Bobby Rea Cross Country in Ireland on 9th November as well as U17 and U20 teams selected for the Liverpool Cross Challenge on 23rd November. Senior athletes will also run individually at this event, in their bid to be selected for European Cross teams***
- ***A further Welsh record (Susan Tooby's) was also broken on 27th October, with Natasha Cockram (MMRC) setting a new Welsh marathon record at Dublin of 2:30:49***