

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

Held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021

*Microsoft Teams Meeting*

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<i>Present:</i>	Joyce Tomala	(JT)	Regional Representative – East Wales.
	Lynette Harries	(LH)	President – Welsh Athletics.
	Chris Moss	(CM)	Head of Development and Participation – Welsh Athletics.
	Rob Sage	(RS)	Head of Corporate Services – Welsh Athletics
	Sue Alvey	(SA)	Chair of General Council
	Dai Williams	(DW)	Regional Representative – South Wales
	Rhiannon L-P	(RLP)	Head of Competition – Welsh Athletics
	Adrian Palmer	(AP)	Performance Programme Manager – Welsh Athletics
	Arwel Lewis	(AL)	Mountain and Trail Committee
	Gerald Davies	(GD)	Welsh Schools Representative.
	Dai Williams	(DWill)	Welsh Schools Representative.
	Robert Campion	(RC)	Regional Representative – West Wales
	James Williams	(JW)	Chief Executive Officer – Welsh Athletics
	Steve Paskell	(SP)	Regional Representative – South Wales

*Papers circulated in advance:*

None

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### 1. Apologies for Absence 6:30pm

Dic Evans, John & Kay Hatton, Jamie Clode , Lynne Brier,

### 2. Declarations of Interest 6:32pm

None declared.

### 3. Succession planning for Chair of GC

James Williams proposed a course of action in relation to succession planning for the role of Chair of General Council which is due to become vacant in 2022 when the current chair's term comes to an end. Recruitment process for a Vice-Chair to begin immediately this person to then shadow the present Chair of GC [SA] for 12 months before taking over the role of Chair in October 2022. JW to draft a role description and circulate to GC after the AGM.

JW also update the group on the new appointments to the Board – Lorna Kerr, Head of People at Principality Bank, as NED for HR & Legal and Jonathan Ford, former Chief Executive of FAW, as NED for Commercial. Further recruitment for a Marketing & Comms NED and a Performance NED is ongoing.

### 4. Club & Facilities Update (CM) 6:35pm

We are working with a company called Just Solutions on the development of a new facilities strategy for the sport and it is anticipated that this will be available by the end of the year.

**Facility Update:** The facility at Oakdale school is now open (partial) and being used by the main club locally (Rhymney Valley AC) as well as other users. The upgrade and development works at the facility in Treborth (Bangor University) has now been completed as has the work on the external throwing area at Cardiff International Sports Campus Work on the facility in Colwyn Bay has been delayed at this point. There are a number of ongoing facility challenges which are being addressed through working with facility operators, providers as well as key representatives from UK Athletics.

The need for regular facility inspections was raised and discussed, and will continue to be worked on to ensure that all equipment and facilities are as they should be for competition.

**Club Membership:** As of 6th September 2021, club membership stands at 9729, of the membership 50% are male, 50% are female, 72% are senior and 28% are juniors. Currently tracking at 72% of pre-COVID membership rates. We have also been working with software development Digital Morphosis on an upgrade to the Secretaries Portal which will be available and released over the next few weeks.

**Development and Participation Sub Group:** Interviews have been held and the first meeting of the new board sub-group will meet on Monday 20th September.

**Awards:** Welsh Athletics Service Awards for 2021 are still open for nomination (closing date for nominations is Wednesday 22nd September). Nominations can be submitted using the following form: <https://forms.gle/xWTZ44WWGrdbXog59>

As is usual process, all nominations will be considered by the Welsh Athletics Service Awards Panel and these will be presented at the Welsh Athletics AGM at the end of October.

**Starting Blocs:** Across the summer, Welsh Athletics hosted a number of Summer Camps and activity days utilizing the new Welsh Athletics Starting Blocs physical literacy programme. We have sold a

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number of licences to providers and will look to roll this programme out fully over the coming weeks and months. Further information can be found here:

<https://www.startingblocs.co.uk/>

**Funding:** Sport Wales has partnered with Crowdfunder to support community clubs and activities to raise money for facility improvements. Potentially a great opportunity for clubs to look to raise funds for projects and activities that may not be eligible for funding through the traditional grant schemes. Further details can be found here: <https://www.sport.wales/grants-and-funding/crowdfunder/crowdfunder-comms-toolkit/>

**Be Active Wales Fund:** Another source of funding available for clubs. The fund has already helped many clubs and organisations across Wales face the challenges caused by the Coronavirus pandemic. It will continue to provide funding to help clubs tackle these challenges, and to ensure sustainability for years to come. Further information can be found here: [Be Active Wales Fund - Funding for community sport clubs and organisations | Sport Wales | Sport Wales](#)

**Teacher Education:** We have 2 opportunities at the start of the academic year on the following dates:

- Primary Teachers Run, Jump, Throw Teaching Athletics Workshop (13th October 2021): <https://www.welshathletics.org/en/event/primary-teacher-education-workshop-wape21-4>
- Secondary Teachers Run, Jump, Throw Teaching Athletics Workshop (29th September 2021): <https://www.welshathletics.org/en/event/secondary-teacher-education-workshop-wase21-3>
- Guide Running Workshop: We have developed a new Welsh Athletics Guide Running Workshop (in conjunction with DSW and Guide Dogs Cymru) and pilot workshops will be delivered on 16th and 21st September (Cardiff), further information can be found here:
- Guide Running Workshop (16th September 2021): <https://www.welshathletics.org/en/event/welsh-athletics-guide-running-workshop-wagr21-1>
- Guide Running Workshop (21st September 2021): <https://www.welshathletics.org/en/event/welsh-athletics-guide-running-workshop-wagr21-2>

**Coach Education Calendar:** Continues to be developed and added to as we start to get back to a greater sense of normality and full face-to-face provision again. Full details and a calendar outlining of forthcoming coach education dates can be found here:

<https://www.welshathletics.org/en/events/coaching-courses>

### 5. Competition Update (RLP) 6:50pm

Entries for competitions over the summer period have been positive and all COVID-19 based restrictions have now been removed and the guidance taken down. Road guidance is available via Run Britain.

Total entries for Welsh Championships were up to 871 for 2021 [from 763 in 2019, & 622 in 2018.] despite membership tracking at only 72% of 2019.

40 competition opportunities were provided, including Run, Jump, Throw initiatives for younger age groups supporting our shift towards multi-disciplinary approach for them. Work will continue on this ahead of next year's season.

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Road Race licenses are starting to come in – 30 have taken place and 70 are in the calendar. 11 Trail and Mountain licenses have been issued. The Road Relays [11/09/21] and Cardiff Cross Challenge [16/10/21] will go ahead as normal over the autumn.

The return to officiating has been and continues to be a challenge across the UK, targeted recruitment work is ongoing. Inter-regional schools XC will be incorporated into the Inter-regional XC in Brecon on 20<sup>th</sup> November. The positive experience and achievements of young Welsh Athletes at the UK School Games was note

### **6. Strategy Update (RS) 7:00pm**

Equality – work is ongoing following the successful submission for the Intermediate level of the Equality Standard in Sport with an updated action plan being developed in response to the recommendations from the submission report. Integration work with DSW continues to progress well and recruitment for a jointly funded para-athletics pathway role should be completed soon.

Actions to ensure the strategic aims related are on track in the majority of areas and will be reported on in more detail as part of this year's annual report – social media following continues to grow, development of data and insight dashboard is proving useful already, independent review of organizational governance was very complimentary [report and action plan to be published shortly alongside annual report.]. Intention is to increasingly report the impact of Welsh Athletics' activity against the targets set out in the strategy.

Work to align regional development plans to the strategy was discussed and agreed at joint meeting recently.

### **7. IR Competition (JT) 7:10pm**

The need for a clear decision from all Regional Councils as to whether they support Inter-Regional Competition across all disciplines was reiterated. Regional Councils who have not already voted on this to do so prior to the next GC meeting in November and this matter to be discussed at the next meeting of GC. The need for all Regional Councils to have good representation from their largest clubs and to attend GC was again stressed.

### **8. Club Safeguarding Compliance (JT) 7:20pm**

The need for plans to follow up after courses to check what's happening after training for Welfare officers. All clubs must declare a male and female officer, who must have undertaken DBS checks, all recorded via Clubs Portal.

Quinlan review recommendations. Meetings held.

### **9. AOB – notified in advance 7:30pm**

none

**10. Date of next Meeting: Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2021, 7.45pm**