

**WEST WALES REGIONAL ATHLETICS COUNCIL**

**Hon Sec: Nathan Jones**

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Chairman: Dr DH Davies, MBE

Treasurer: Louisa Davies

**Meeting of the West Wales Regional Athletics Council  
Held at Carmarthen Leisure Centre, Wednesday 21st February 2018.**

**PRESENT:** Hedydd Davies, Nathan Jones, Louisa Davies, Donald Melrose, Andrew Jenkins, Andrew Lloyd-Hughes, Wynford Leyshon, Colin Davies, Dic Evans, Les Cuthbert, Lesley Stowe

**Four clubs were represented.**

**01. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received on behalf of Sue Alvey, Kevin Tobin, Tony Clements, Jane Thomas

**02. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting of 6th December 2017 were checked for accuracy. After checking, the minutes were accepted as a true record.

**03. MATTERS ARISING**

3.1 No latest update on the photo finish installation at the track in Swansea. A photo finish course has been arranged with Welsh Athletics for the 7th and 8th of April, the latter being part of the open meeting fixture.

3.2 The Grassroots grants closed on 16th of February. West Wales, Carmarthen and Swansea clubs were some of those who applied.

3.3 A series of consultation forum evenings have been arranged by Welsh Athletics across Wales. It was noted that those who attended felt that it was poorly attended and advertised. Approximate numbers suggested that there were 10 in Swansea and 6 in Carmarthen at the West Wales based evenings. There will be an update on the consultation at next General Council meeting on 8th March.

3.4 Distance events for indoors: it would be possible to put in distance indoor events at Cardiff, only if someone was able to volunteer on the day by presentation recognising the region's athletes. This felt as a way in the right direction for example, giving athletes the chance to run 800m or 1500m indoors and qualify for medals.

3.5 Pembrokeshire County Council have been low on cash in order to repair the cage at Haverfordwest. In the next financial year, they along with Pembrokeshire Harriers and Welsh Athletics will contribute to get it back up and running.

3.6 The UK Inter Counties takes place at Loughborough on Saturday 10th March. Due to the fixture congestion only a few have responded with all athletes attending receiving £25 towards their travel costs afterwards.

**04 CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence from Neath Harriers over the steeplechase equipment ahead of the West Wales Athletics Championships in Neath this May. Despite efforts to get it all working, unfortunately the steeplechase barrier is out of use, resulting in the event not being able to be held. Welsh Athletics have agreed to include the West Wales steeplechase event within the South and East Wales Championships. It was proposed to keep all the walks age groups in the West Wales championships.

**05 TREASURER'S REPORT**

5.1 Louisa Davies circulated the latest Treasurer's report up to the 21st of February. At the end of that period, the balance in the current account was £6,749.35 and the saver account at £15,405.31. A big expenditure cost came from the hire of buses to events, but less of this is due to be used as there is no bus for the UK Inter Counties. The region currently has a healthy balance and making a profit.

It was proposed to start paying electronically instead of cheque writing. The committee agreed to pay online up to £1,000 towards electronic payment.

**06 REPORTS****6.1 a) General Council**

Wynford reported on the latest General Council committee. Some of the topics included the cancellation of the Welsh Inter Regional Championships and grassroots bid. Future meetings' themes will include constitution, governance review, schools, strategic plan plus Commonwealth games and other topics.

**6.2 b) Track and Field Committee**

No report was available.

**6.3 c) Officials Committee**

The Louise Arthur League have met to receive confirmation of availability of the summer season and to ensure that there are enough qualified officials in place.

**6.4 d) Road Running Committee**

No report was available. However, discussion took place around a Welsh Road Running Championship which had Swansea Bay 10K mentioned. Clubs are requested to contact if they are interested in taking charge in incorporating into a fixture. It was proposed that the Road Running Championships takes place within the Ammanford 10K Road Race. Further update to follow.

**6.5 e) Cross Country Committee**

No report was available. The Welsh Cross Country Championships goes to Singleton Park, Swansea on Saturday 24th February.

**6.6 f) Fell & Mountain Running Committee**

Dic reported on the latest Fell & Mountain events. The West Wales Championships have continued to be incorporated into the Red Kite challenge and the committee was happy to do so again this year on Bank Holiday weekend May 5th. Entries are now open.

**6.7 g) Welfare Officer**

Sue sent an e-mail stating as clubs now have to have two welfare officers there will be many who have not received the safeguarding training. Courses being run in the area are now being notified (these are open to all coaches and welfare officers) and there is an agreement that club welfare officers many reclaim the cost from Welsh Athletics.

**07 CLUB NETWORK OFFICER**

7.1 Andrew Lloyd-Hughes reported on his latest visits and future plans, starting with a project and campaign to get more volunteers in the West Wales Officials Recruitment Pilot. Also it is identifying different groups to see what can be done to recruit more helpers. A project brief was circulated.

He also reminded everyone about the data protection and changes in information to be included on membership forms.

7.2 Andrew Jenkins also reported on his latest visits and future plans. He has visited the Paul Popham club in Swansea which has 160 members. Also he's been part of the England Athletics volunteering conference and been part of the Afan Nedd Tawe Schools Cross Country Championships.

Coming up will be a series of West Glamorgan Primary Schools Indoor Athletics, Welsh Cross Country Championships, Photofinish course in Swansea, Assistant coaching course which is sold out, Startrack during the Easter holidays and is part of the Swansea v Cardiff Varsity Match in April (the Welsh Athletics throws and jumps open will need to be re-arranged)

**08 REGIONAL MATTERS**

8.1 Neath Harriers have confirmed that the facility will be in use for the West Wales Athletics Championships on May 13th (excluding steeplechase)

8.2 It was agreed that the West Wales Cross Country Championships should be hosted and selected in the region (it was in Cardiff back in October going forward to the Inter Regionals). Carmarthen Harriers will bid again for a fixture at Pembrey Country Park next year, but likely to be December. The club will put forward November or December in the Annual General Meeting.

**09 INTER REGIONAL MATTERS**

No Inter Regional Matters reported.

**10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Congratulations to the athletes selected to represent Team Wales at the upcoming Gold Coast Commonwealth Games at Australia in April. They include Heather Lewis, David Omoregie, Dewi Griffiths, Caryl Jones, Ellie Kirk, Josh Griffiths and Caryl Granville. The next general council meeting will look at the representation and eligibility from Welsh championships.

Lesley Stowe circulated information and the minutes distributed on the latest endurance officials committee. Some points to note include:

1. Mentoring for endurance officials was discussed with Lynette Harries. Welsh Athletics wish to introduce mentoring in a formal way into endurance training. See minutes.
2. Risk awareness is mandatory for all endurance officials (Risk Assessment is still viable if you have it already)
3. Referee / adjudicators recruitment was discussed and we require more graded officials to become referee / adjudicators.
4. Regional Licensing Coordinators are now in place and are receiving all referee reports as from the 1st of January 2018.
5. There is a change in the cross-country licensing standards in the pipe line. Contact John Chidlow or Lesley for discussion.
6. Trinity clean up – if removed and want to return contact Tom Marley at Welsh Athletics.
7. Number swapping issue and its punishments has been agreed and sent to Head of Operations with the recommendation for implementation. The next meeting is on 17th of April.

**11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting (Annual General Meeting) will be held on Monday 18th June 2018 at Carmarthen Leisure Centre at 7.00pm.

**Nathan Jones**  
**Hon Secretary**