

Welsh Athletics Board Meeting Minutes

26th January 2026.

Meeting held in remotely via video link.

Present: Steve Perks [SP], James Williams [JW], Nigel Walker [NW], Chris Anthony [CA], Catherine Lewis [CL], Laura Mason [LM], Jonathan Ford [JF], Phil Draper [PD], Lynne Brier [LB], Eleanor Cartlidge [EC]

Apologies: Tom Overton, Chris Gough, Dan Clemets, Lorna Kerr

Circulated papers:

- **January 2026 Agenda.pdf**
- **DRAFT WA Board Minutes – Nov 2025.docx**
- **2025-10 WA Board Jan 2025 – draft for FSG.pdf**
- **CEO update January 26.docx**
- **Safeguarding Report Jan 26.doc**
- **SW board paper Jan 26.pdf**

1. Welcome

SP welcomes the Board to the meeting.

2. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

N/A

3. Previous Minutes and actions

JW updated on intentions for Trinity / database going forward. EA are stepping away. WA have a few options.

The SWGLF was accepted by the Board in a separate meeting on 16th December 2025 following the previous Board meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

For information

4. Development Department Update – Chris Anthony

CA started with a brief introduction to the Board before presenting his initial reflections. These reflections included the passion of the workforce, the agility, the remit and the in-built political opportunities. CA also presented the challenges he has found since starting.

Since being at WA Chris has put a lot of energy into staff including evaluating JDs, team away days and more formal 1-1s.

CA then updated on direction including Project 2030/Athletix, club development frameworks & proactive engagement, workforce development plans and a diversity & inclusion action plan.

Lynne and Catherine praised Chris and the work that he has done so far.

NW asked Chris what he thinks membership could look like in the short-term future. CA answered that he believes with a developed workforce alongside Athletix could get us near those tens of thousands of junior members by 2030. In terms of social running with the right pull for social members WA could better reflect the hundreds of thousands of people running across Wales.

JF asks about retention and why CA believes people leave athletics – different for every person but the workforce/volunteer offer (increasing coaches/making training more easily accessible). Athletics is still perceived as an ‘elite’ sport, which WA need to tackle.

Board Sub-Group Updates

5. CEO update

JW gave an update on various aspects of the business including the organisational structure and some upcoming changes, funding routes (capital grants, Sport Wales etc), performance development and stakeholder relationships.

JW updates on an offer from Cardiff Met University to help with a joint role between Cardiff Met and Welsh Athletics following the Commonwealth Games.

Welsh Athletics had another opportunity to speak to members of the Senedd recently with talks of Plaid Cymru introducing the Daily Mile to their manifesto.

The challenge of clashing events was presented. This includes races around Snowdon.

UKAD – WA are continuously looking at ensuring full compliance with the UK Anti-Doping framework.

Safeguarding report -

6. Finance

WA have been approached to assist with some financial services with other similar governing bodies. This would include bookkeeping and financial reporting.

PD supported the idea considering correct structures are maintained including separating of liabilities. PD suggests a review of software licence agreements. WA are planning on utilising the NGB’s platforms.

ACTION – JW to circulate drafted agreement.

JF asks about what discussions have been had with all partners to ensure relationships are maintained. JF also made a note that WA need to ensure the time is managed in a way that protects everyone.

CL shows supports for the idea and suggests timesheets etc to manage workload and providing it does not destabilise the core.

LM asks for clarification on whether there is a possibility of it extending past finance and if that could impact BAU. JW answers that that is always a possibility, but this is the first time WA have taken up the idea with staff having the capacity etc.

JW presented on behalf of Chris Gough and the finance sub group. This included current revenue and expense positions, cash flow, staffing costs, membership costs and commercial updates. Key updates were informing of a £447k Capital Grant.

There was a concern from LM around the partnership with Bute Energy and the reputational risk through association.

7. Development & participation

See 4.

8. General Council

LB presented on behalf of the General Council. There was a request from WA for clubs, committees etc to direct queries to particular staff members within WA. JW presented to GC in detail who is responsible for what within WA. There has been dissatisfaction from the T&F committee with the selection for Loughborough International with no presence from T&F committee then. This was due to some instances of breaking confidentiality surrounding selections.

The next meeting is the 4th March 2026.

9. UK Members Report

N/A

10. Performance

N/A

11. Sport Wales

SP & JW informed the Board on the Sport Wales report. JW updated that Sport Wales are reviewing their performance sport offering.

12. AOB

JW invites the board to the senior indoor championships.

13. Date of next meeting

30TH March 2026