Welsh Athletics Board & General Council Meeting Minutes

15th July 2026.

Meeting held in remotely via video link.

Present: James Williams [JW], Bernie Jones [BJ], Chris Anthony [CA], Graham Finlayson [GF], Fay Benningwood [FB], Steve Perks [SP], Joyce Tomala [JT], Kay Hatton [KH], John Hatton [JH], Nigel Walker [NW], Chris Pratt [CP], Sharon Leech [SL], Laura Mason [LM], Philip Draper [PD], Christine Vorres [CV], Arwel Lewis [AL], Chris Gough [CG].

Apologies: Fred Malkin, Dan Clements, Tom Overton, Catherine Lewis, Jonathan Ford

Circulated papers:

- **SW Board Paper Jul 26.pdf**

Welcome
SP welcomed the Board and GC to the meeting.

Financial Climate
JW started the meeting by presenting on the current challenging financial environment. This included the uncertainty surrounding the Sport Wales funding model, the deficit recorded at the end of FY26 and the one-off deficit projected due to the Commonwealth Games. The financial challenges are being managed by reduced staffing levels and the exploration of new income areas and commercial partnerships.

Coach/Officials Education
JW presented on main changes to the Coach/Officials Education process including the launch of the new Learning Management System which will integrate the DBS system and involve new safeguarding training for Coaches and Officials.

Staffing Update
JW updated on changes to staffing involving new competition team members and a marketing and partnerships executive.

Competitions
A summer recap was given including the junior, senior and BUCS track and field championships and their success. WA requested to host European Trials for U20 & U23 in 2027. There are plans to develop more opportunities for U20, senior and masters and jumps as well as support competition providers.

Facilities
A facilities update was given including completed work (multiple track resurfaces, javelin areas and pole vault beds developed as well as the UKA track rater launched), future work (2 more track resurfaces and performance equipment).

Governance
A range of governance roles are due to be recruited for: Chair of Welsh Athletics (recruitment complete), Chair of General Council, UK Members Council Representative and Chair of Welsh Schools.

Performance Update
JW spoke through the Commonwealth Games nomination process highlighting the fact that Team Wales set timelines and selected the teams and that all teams received quotas to work within. Welsh Athletics requested a change in nomination dates in early 2025 and have requested an independent review is carried out post CWG.

Looking Ahead
JW presented on different events coming up: AGM & Hall of Fame Dinner (24th October 2026), Cardiff Cross Challenge (8th November), consultation process for new strategy (Autumn 26), Own the Night campaign (Autumn 26) and the Athletics Ventures bid for the World Championships.

JW thanked the Board and General Council.

JT informed that Trinity is not updated to reflect the new age groups (JW to highlight internally) as well as commenting on the price of facilities and first aid and the issue that is bringing to providers putting on events (JW assured events can be tackled on an event-by-event basis to try to manage this).
It was also asked if Welsh Athletics are planning on issuing guidance for event providers with the current extreme weather (off-track providers were given guidance but on-track will be offered the same following this being raised).

UKA
SP presented that the UKA financial situation is considerably better than it was 18 months ago. The financial benefits of the ticket sales for Diamond League and European Championships were also highlighted. SP also updated on the now closed court case that UKA was involved in. SP also gave an update on the work to Power of 10 which is taking longer than initially thought.

BJ asked if data will be backdated, SP answered that they have endeavoured to go back as far as they are able.

Development Team Updates
CA presented on the development team starting with the structure of the department. An update was then given on the 'Athletix' initiative including bookings, numbers of children and activators and numbers of providers. There is a general positive upward trend. Next steps include evaluating the existing offer, launching phase 2 – expansion, a national showcase at Royal Welsh as well as funding applications to sustain the programme.
The workforce development strategy was then presented on with a plan to create a confident, diverse, skilled and sustainable workforce. This will be done through creating the right environments, providing resources and reward and recognise the workforce. A WCVA strategic grant has been awarded to build new volunteer pathways. The timeline for this will include research in May – December 2026, evaluation & solutions in January - March 2027 and operational delivery March – September 2027.
CA updated on a potential membership restructure following research which showed more than 300 social running groups mapped across Wales that sat outside the formal club structure. Areas to consider were presented such as simplicity of engagement, meaningful benefits and explain why standards are the way that they are. This update included a draft membership structure presented for opinions. A potential member rewards package was then presented.

KH asks how to entice social runners linked to other clubs for public liability cover.

SP thanks the Board and General Council.