LISTEN ENGAGE REPRESENT

WELSH ATHLETICS
ATHLETAU CYMRU

Minutes of General Council Meeting 4 November 2026

Present:

Joyce Tomala (JT) – Chairperson /East Wales
Kay Hatton (KH) – North Wales
John Hatton (JH) _ North Wales
Christine Vorrés (CV) _ Secretary
Bernie Jones (BJ)- President WA
Steve Hames (SH) –West Wales.
James Williams - WA
Lynette Harries _ East Wales
Chris Berry (CB) _ West Wales
Arwel Lewis (AL) – Mountain & Fell

Matters Arising

Action	Person Responsible
Email all Regional Chairs and Secretaries to confirm decision regarding Inter-regional 10k Champs	CV
Each region to confirm their representative on General Council to JT	All Regional Secretaries
Finalise the Nov/Dec meeting dates for Governance Calendar with Eleanor and let JT know	JW
Forward calendar of Trail/Mountain events to CV	AL
Arrange a meeting for the Awards and Heritage panel.	JW
Refer issues/concerns regarding Social Running Groups and unlicensed endurance events to the board	

1. Apologies for absence

Fred Malkin, Kyle Perry, Chris Pratt, Sue Hooper, Sharon Leech

2. Declaration of Interest

No declarations of interest declared.

3 Actions from previous meeting

10k Inter-Regional Championships 2027:

CV told the members that Stewart Harding was leading this and it has been suggested that the Caerphilly 10k would once again be the event, but an approach has already been made to Barmouth to ask for places to host the event within their 10k in 2028. It has proven difficult to find a licensed event in mid/north Wales that isn't sold out.

4 WA Matters for Discussion

a. **AGM and Chair of General Council**.

JW began by congratulating BJ on his appointment as President of WA and Joyce on her appointment as Vice President.

No appointment has been made for Chair of General Council. JW stated again that the position has in the past held double responsibilities, but this doesn't have to be the case. Another member could be allocated to represent the Council at Board meetings, thus dividing the workload. JW also stressed the need for succession planning.

LH stated that the relationship between the council and the board is important.

CV asked could it be flipped around and a board member attend the Council? Maybe something to consider?

CB advised he would be happy to explore the idea of standing as Chair of General council and attending meetings with the board on behalf of the GC. JW and CB will have a follow-up meeting to discuss.

b. Commonwealth Games Review Update.

This time around an independent is leading the review of the Commonwealth Games. The review to be presented at the end of November. Lots of survey work has happened and conversations with athletes who are both selected and not, and with coaches. JT asked if Officials were involved in the review – JW answered no.

c. Awards and Heritage Group

JW stated that with the new chair and the new president it's a good opportunity to look at the structure of the group and suggested that a meeting is called over the next month or so – he also stressed that safeguarding the heritage of our sport is important. The members discussed category criteria and social running awards.

d. Invite WA Staff members to present to GC.

JW felt it is more beneficial for a staff member to attend the GC meetings with a specific topic to discuss – for example Communication, Case Studies, low level Disciplinary matters. SH suggested inviting 2 members of staff to present together as that may be less daunting.

e. Trinity

Trinity age groups still haven't been updated making it difficult to identify athletes for events. JW has approached UKA and will chase up. JT advised some athletes are in the wrong region too. JW said that Trinity data only contains information that clubs and/or athletes have put in.

KH said on another note, Power of Ten data is gradually improving. JW – Power of Ten is a private company and in no way connected to WA.

Final updates from JW

*The strategy consultation process is ongoing and support is needed to encourage athletes in all regions to either attend a workshop or email their thoughts. He reminded everyone that it is important to engage as many members as possible.

*This weekend Cardiff is hosting the 2026 Cardiff Cross Challenge The event holds a prestigious Silver Label in the World Athletics Cross Country Tour and will host the first fixture in the UK Cross Challenge Series providing a great opportunity to face the best British athletes ahead of the European Trials at Liverpool three weeks later.

In addition, it will offer an opportunity for local athletes to face some of the best International Cross Country performers as it is also the second fixture in the John H Collins Gwent Cross Country League. Primary School Races will be held in conjunction with the Urdd. James invited everyone to attend.

*WA are approaching the end of the funding cycle and will find out on the 30th of November the funding for the next five years, it is quite a crucial meeting that will inform where WA go as a business.

*At the same time Welsh government are doing a round of consultations to develop a new sport and culture strategy. It's an open consultation so there is a need to actively encourage club members to feed into it to state what they want Welsh government to invest in from a sport and culture perspective.

*It's important to reference the passing of Ed Thompson. Mr 'Poles' in Wales. The family do not want a funeral. WA are now in a situation that new poles are needed and are working on finding funding to pay for these.

*The new DBS process is now in place and working well.

BJ – Power of Ten results unable to upload. CV stated as of this week it is working, there is an email address on their website, and you simply send your results to that.

5. Regional Matters submitted to General Council for Discussion:

i. Confirmation of regional representatives to General Council

JT stated that at the next meeting in January she would really like to see all four regions being represented and asked all regions to find a representative to attend. The members discussed changing the day of the GC meetings, but the majority voted to keep them to a Wednesday. JT asked each region to confirm who will represent them at the GC Meetings.

6. AOB

*Governance Calendar – JT has been working extensively with Eleanor at WA on setting the dates for meetings in 2027. There are still issues around Nov/Dec dates to resolve before it can be issued. JT asked JW to thank Eleanor for all her hard work. JW replied that sadly Eleanor is moving to London and will be leaving WA at the end of the year.

*JT – Indoor T & F dates:

6th Dec is the first regional meeting - 10th Jan is the indoor day 2 meeting.

The indoor championships are the 16th and 17th of January for U14 U16 under 20's including para athletes

The Welsh senior and under 18 and para on the 6th and 7th of February

The fixtures conference on the 28th of October was a very productive meeting – only now awaiting dates from the North region

*An online forum was held to discuss introducing a new competition format for seniors and masters because they felt that there are limited competition opportunities; it was a well-received meeting and with discussions about improving participation. It might be useful for the other disciplines to start discussing what they are experiencing and share any solutions that they may have

Unfortunately, none of our clubs is in a position to organise an actual event just for these categories but what was agreed is to make sure the age categories are included in indoor and outdoor regional championships and also Deeside is very keen to keep their night evening event in the summer and cater for those age groups

*Mountain and Fell Running
AL – Currently working on the calendar of mountain and trail events.

*T & F Officials
SH gave her apologies tonight but just let you know that there is a track official's course on the 6th of December at NIAC prior to the indoor meeting

*KH – Stated that in the North they are overwhelmed with social running groups. The members discussed possible insurance implications of not being affiliated, and also made comparisons of Social Running Groups

and affiliated Clubs. One issue raised was the free LiRF and CiRF courses offered to Social Clubs when a certain number of their members join Run Wales.

The members also discussed the plethora of Welsh endurance races that are not licensed through Welsh Athletics. It was felt that WA should publicise the consequences of non-affiliated events/runs.

7. Dates of Future Meetings

Wednesday 6 January

Wednesday 3 March

Wednesday 5 May

Wednesday 14 July (Provisional joint meeting with the board)

Wednesday 1 September

Wednesday 3 November.

The meeting closed at 7.25pm

Minutes written by Christine Vorrés

12 November 2026