

Minutes of General Council Meeting 12 November 2025

Present:

Lynne Brier (LB) – Chairperson
Joyce Tomala (JT) – Vice Chairperson / East Wales
Kay Hatton (KH) – Chairperson North Wales
John Hatton (JH)
Sharon Leech (SL) – Road / Cross Country
Christine Vorrés (CV)
Rob Campion (RC)
Chris Pratt – South (CP)
Bernie Jones (BJ)
Arwel Lewis (AL)
Steve Hames (SH) – Now representing West Wales.

*Paul Brookes not needed to represent the North so could be removed from the mailing list.

1. Apologies for absence

Fred Malkin, Lynnette Harries

2. Declaration of Interest

No declarations of interest declared.

3. Actions from previous meeting

LB – Board meeting hasn't happened yet to raise the spread of events across the regions, but JT advised the matter was discussed at the Track and Field meeting. The Junior Champs will be in Deeside, and the Inter-regional is to be hosted by the East at Aberdare. LB – Run with the Wind events will be held in the North, and some other events. KH – stated that it has been given consideration and brought on board - events are starting to happen in the North. Momentum needs to be kept up.

LB has emailed for clarification but hasn't received a response. The members discussed the grant process for Schools, the number of schools applying and the funding available – They also had a longer discussion about the low number of schools attending Athletics events. Many reasons for this were put forward, including the increased workload of many teachers. KH said that Amy (WA) has a new remit to visit schools and encourage participation

***AP – Regional Representatives to feed back to clubs information when the school's events are taking place.**

LB – There is nothing really that the Council can do in respect of low numbers of Schools sending Athletes to events. Young athletes have to go through their school to enter – if clubs are aware of the events and let them know, young athletes could approach their teachers directly for permission to enter – but the members conceded that the target segment for these events tend to be those who have never run before – those who are not engaged with clubs and athletics.

It was also agreed that the recent Schools Cross Country Championship event was a great success, attended by approximately 1500 children, the majority of whom were not affiliated club runners.

4. Regional submitted to GC for discussion

JT – (EAST) Funding for Regions

Regions may only access modernisation grant – limited to £1,000, and WA award £750 to cover the cost of medals. Prices continue to rise, in particular for hiring facilities. East Athletes not charged for events, but do not receive support for transport costs. LB asked what is the rational behind clubs can access Be Active funding but not regions? KH –Hannah Baulch is meeting with the NW Regional committee n December to talk about possible funding options for the region.

***AP – Ask Hannah to attend next GC meeting to discuss Regional Funding. (After she has attended the North Regional Meeting.)**

The general regional grant (used to be £4,000) is now £1,500. Other income sources are T&F Regional Championships and events hosted by Amy.

SH – also stated that events supplement their income.

JT – AGM Finance report did not provide a breakdown of costs, where the income is going.

***AP – LB ask WA for breakdown of spending for last year.**

JT – Regions need to be aware that accounts may prove difficult to access if the signatories etc have changed over time, this is something to be mindful of especially in respect of historical account. Andrew Thomas of Welsh Athletics (Finance) was extremely helpful in sorting out problem East had with Santander.

Bye-Laws in respect of Selection Process.

WA stated decision was made in respect of the Loughborough International meeting that due to time constraints and personal circumstances of some of the athletes the performance team would select the athletes to represent Wales. It is unclear if this is in respect of this year only, or for future events as well. The members discussed possible scenarios regarding team selection.

***AP – JT find out if WA will be selecting athletes for the Loughborough fixture every year or was this year a one off.**

5. Reports Submitted

SL – Road / Cross Country Committee

The Cardiff X was a big success on Saturday.

Upcoming fixtures are the Inter Regional XC at the end of the month - if Regions can push this to ensure full teams.

Representative fixtures in December are the Valencia Marathon and Telford 10K. The Welsh XC Champs are on 24th January, again Regions/ Clubs need to push this. The decision on the venue will be made asap. (likely to be in Cardiff).

The members discussed possible venues but failed to identify anywhere suitable.

6. AOB

LB – Formally congratulated Arwel on winning an award for ‘Services to Athletics’ at the recent awards ceremony. All members agreed that this was well deserved and a popular news item.

Governance Calendar not yet received –

***AP – RC to ask for Calendar to be forwarded.**

RC – Official’s Courses. Courses arranged recently have had to be cancelled due to lack of numbers. Help needed to push courses.

The members discussed possible reasons for lack of take-up and what may be done to encourage people to attend, including inviting English Athletes. Also discussed was how the regional committees can help.

7. Dates of future meetings:

Jan 7th 6pm

The meeting closed at 7.30pm.

Minutes written by Christine Vorrés