

Minutes of General Council Meeting 7 January 2026

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, WSAA
Christine Vorrés (CV)
Chris Pratt – South (CP)
Bernie Jones (BJ)
Arwel Lewis (AL)
Steve Hames (SH) – Now representing West Wales.
Graham Finlayson
James Williams
Lynette Harries

1. Apologies for absence

Fred Malkin, Dai Williams, Rob Campion.

2. Declaration of Interest

No declarations of interest declared.

3 & 4 Actions from previous meeting

James Williams provided the members with a presentation covering issues picked up at previous meeting, and also updates of changes at WA.

Staff Changes

James is keen for queries to be directed to the correct member of staff moving forward.

He outlined the role of new member Chris Anthony – and also the role of Zoe Holloway as Club Development Officer. Approach to be more centred on what clubs can do, as opposed to what they cannot do. Compliance has been a major part of the role under Chris Moss, but now that compliance is solid the thinking is to concentrate further on club development and developing the sport.

Competition – Ieuan Coney is moving on to UK Athletics, adverts are imminently going out for 2 new event delivery staff, leaving Alex Donald to concentrate on a more strategic role. Intention on new structure is for Alex to work with competition providers, building relationships, and identifying new providers, he will also support event licencing. Hopefully this will enable more competition for athletes.

Selection process for Loughborough 2025

The performance team selected the athletes, but this was a one-off. Currently the process is a one-size-fits-all approach, but different metrics are required for different events. There is a need to look at selection to ensure that it is fit for purpose. Over next few months the process will be examined and tweaked, if necessary, by staff and relevant panels. JT stated that the main objection to the selection of the Loughborough team was that it was not communicated. She also objected to the suggestion that members of the panel were breaching confidentiality. James replied that although he took this comment on board, unfortunately there have been breaches. James reiterated that new thinking was needed to meet the needs of the athletes, team managers and selection panel members, maybe attracting former athletes to come on board too. This is an ongoing process. James stressed that Loughborough was a one off, and generally the bye laws have been adhered to.

Regional Funding:

James ran through the current funding available for regions, and what events WA cover the costs for. Funding is a challenge for everyone.

***AP. Lynne discuss with Chris Anthony what level of funding regions can apply for and feed back to members.**

Club Modernisation £20,000 fund to support clubs across Wales.

James outlined what was available, and what the grants would cover for clubs and regions. Be Active Wales covers coaching courses etc. He also updated the members on the projects that WA have completed recently. JT asked why Regions may only apply for £1,000 – (clubs may apply for up to £2,000) – James suggested discussing this with Chris Anthony, but stressed it must be used to develop the sport.

The members discussed various ways to raise funding, and WA affiliation.

Breakdown of Income and Expenditure:

Finance breakdown was provided at AGM. James talked through some of the costs and changes to WA funding. No activities have been stopped; despite rising costs WA still host events and support international teams. Costs are transparent.

JT – asked when Zoe will be ready to present the results of her survey of facility hire costs? James responded he is not aware but is confident that it will be done and Zoe will update everyone as soon as.

Current WA Strategy expires soon, and a consultation will begin to determine a new one. As part of this, James wants to examine the current Committee structure and what is really needed for the sport. Clarity of purpose and roles and responsibilities to be revisited, along with the right people in the roles. This may be an opportunity to tweak things. What else is needed to ensure the right challenges? This work will be done over the next 12 months.

Moving forward – how do we get to a point where we have the right level of engagement between the WA team and the council. James and Lynne suggested members of WA staff attend meetings at relevant times.

Athletix (Project 2030)

10,000 new junior members to the sport. James outlined what is involved and how the project is likely to look/work. New portal, new coaching courses and packs to facilitate new junior clubs. Keen to have clubs sign up. 10 early adopters in place for launch in April. Non track and field clubs are also applying to host these new clubs which is positive news. Some members stated that whilst supportive of the idea, clubs struggle to find additional facilities and coaches. James confirmed that coaching courses has been developed specifically to draw in new volunteers. James does not want costs to be a barrier – a way will be found to gift clubs what is needed.

JT asked for help to recruit a secretary for the Track and Field Committee. Role to produce minutes only at the 4 meetings held annually.

***AP – Assist the T & F Committee to find a secretary**

Governance calendar available is anyone wants a copy.

James finished by informing the members of upcoming events. He also congratulated Steve Perks on achieving his MBE. Lynne thanked James for his presentation – it was very useful.

5. Regional submitted to GC for discussion

No regional matters submitted.

6. Reports:

Sharon Leech submitted a very positive report on recent events. Lynne offered congratulations to Natasha Wilson on her achievement at Valencia. Sharon also advised the members that the full details of her report are on the WA website.

Bernie advised you may also find a full report regarding Masters events and achievements on the WA website.

7. AOB – none

8. Next meeting:

4 March

Dates of future meetings:

4th March

6th May

2nd September

4th November

The meeting closed at 7.15pm.

Minutes written by Christine Vorrés

Reports:

From the Road/ Cross Committee: Sharon Lynch

Congratulations to Natasha Wilson on her Welsh marathon record at Valencia (2:24:21). Also congratulations to Cari Hughes and Ava Lloyd on representing GB at Euro XC Portugal in December.

A successful Inter Regional XC Championships was held at Newtown in November, senior winners Lucy Williamson and Noa Vaughan.

Welsh teams competed at Valencia Marathon (Natasha as above first Welsh female and Dan Nash first Welsh male) and also at Telford 10K (Adam Barber and Rhiannon Paton first of the Welsh teams), with Welsh athletes Melissa Courtney Bryant first female and Daf Jones 8th male, both running a personal best.

The next Championship event will be the Welsh XC Championships at Llandaff Fields in Cardiff on 24th January.