**Minutes of the meeting of the General Council (GC)**

**Held on Tuesday 5th March 2020**

*Sport Wales National Centre, Cardiff, video linked\* to Plas Menai National Outdoor Centre, Caernarfon*

*Present*: Graham Webb (GW) Vice Chair of General Council.

 Joyce Tomala (JT) Regional Representative – East Wales.

Lynette Harries (LH) President – Welsh Athletics.

 Gerald Davies (GD) Welsh Schools Representative.

 Lynne Brier (LB) Secretary of Track and Field Committee.

 Jamie Clode (JC) Secretary of General Council.

 Chris Moss (CM) Head of Development and Participation – Welsh Athletics.

 Rob Sage (RB) Head of Corporate Services – Welsh Athletics

 Sue Alvey (SA) Chair of General Council

 Arwel Evans (AE) Mountain and Trail Committee

 Sharon Leech (SL) Road and Cross-Country Committee

 Lucy Archer (LA) Regional Representative – South Wales

 Sue Hooper (SH) Representing Officials Committee

*Papers circulated in advance:*

 None

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Tony Clements (Regional Representative – West Wales), John Hatton (Regional Representative – North Wales), Richard Sheehy (Regional Representative – East Wales)

1. **Declarations of Interest**

None declared

1. **Delivering the Welsh Athletics Strategy - Unite (RS)**

RS: Talked though the strategy, talked through some of the highlights of the report as an overview and discussed UNITE In more detail. There are 6 pillars, UNITE is one of those. Everything that is happening in Wales to these. How does the work of the regions link in? Everyone in room has seen the strategy.

SA: Advised that without a visual of the strategy it can be difficult to talk through. It will be difficult to feed messages back evenly when all areas are not represented. Suggested a few points of the strategy be worked through at the next meeting.

JT & LH highlighted that there have been a number of presentations made recently and these haven’t been shared post meeting. That can make it difficult to share message.

JT: Advised still awaiting information on junior Athlete Voice representatives. Region would like to support them and invite them to meetings

JC: When the regions are producing their development plan, they could align items to the pillars on the strategy. This would help to drive alignment in dev plan and WA strategy.

**Action:** JC to chase up presentations Competition, Staffing and Junior Athlete Voice

**4. Club Modernisation Update**

CM: Currently looking at how retention is improved for U17/U20, this will be a prime objective for the next year.

club affiliation process has been updated to meet all legislation. Will be looking to ensure clubs are achieving right number of officers and governance. The club’s portal has been updated with a number of new and updated documents. We now have Full time regional development officers and 2/3 more clubs getting support for officers. The Regional development plan will be reviewed ready for next year applications. Investing in facilities continues, Newport, Cardiff AC, Carmarthen, Wrexham and also Rhondda, RCT and Caerphilly. Facilities are a challenge daily.

**5. Regional Matters**

South Wales Regional Athletics Council (LA)

1. **Would it be possible to set up a Regional Forum?**

JT advised that meeting to be held will be the start of the forum.

East Wales Regional Athletics Council (JT)

1. **Why do athletes have to pay Welsh Masters and Welsh Athletics fees?**

SL: Welsh Masters are a separate entity. WMA are happy to remain separate.

RS: WA masters categories are full and not limited to members only like WMA.

1. **Could we see a clarification on the regional boundaries?**

Have been contacted by a club who is the boundary West, East & north and would be useful to have a clear definition.

RS: Practically, regional meeting needs to be closer.
All agreed that this club should be recognised as north.

**Action:** CM to follow up on how a map may be produced to show clarity on boundaries.

1. **Mountain and Trail representative is not getting information on Mountain meetings.**

AE: No meetings have been held since last year but have recently reached out regarding championship races.

1. **UKA has issued guidance on the Steeplechase changes**

**Action:** JT to provide detail to JC to distribute with the minutes

1. **Trackmark, there has been a new statement issued to say that cages will need to be compliant.**
2. **All Clubs within East region have been asked to feed back on views of no longer issuing plastic membership cards.**

RS: All new joiners to get an email. Working with UKA to ensure when printing card from MyAthletics portal, it is clear is current year. Unanimous that no longer have plastic card.

**6. Athletic Committees issues**

SL: Talked through her update that been provided in advance. Logistics issues being discussed, new role for WA to help improve this. Several athletes are withdrawing late and doing other competitions. Maybe an athlete agreement may help to tidy this up.

AE: Code of conduct should cover this. Mountain are looking to do this.

LH: Saw a report from one TM, contents should be analysed. Communication is vital and all arrangements need to be on point. Poor logistics can put people off too.

JT: T&F used to use a Code of conduct.

GW: Rules should be stuck to, when selection states you run in event and get selected, it should be followed.

RS: Will pick up point around code of conduct, to be included in selection information with welfare form.

SA: to take above to the board.

LS: Often welfare forms are sent out, and completed but have not been shared with TM's

JC: maybe a challenge to reclaim funds, may be easier to limit selection

SA: process worked in schools

LA: maybe a few strikes and not just cut out on the first offence

**Action:** SA to take item to next board meeting for review

LB: T&F Report - Interregional forum meeting to be done March 15th.

Steeplechase was discussed and clarification has been shared since

No jump offs in championship events.

Concerns were raised about raised pole vault and will be brought up at officials meeting.

Dates and TM's confirmed for future events

All regions reported back

Jake Morgan had advised Carmarthen may be out of use for throws until June.

Proposed changes to senior and U20 competitions were discussed

North wales have concerns about tracks. Deeside and Colwyn bay not allowed to use the infield at any time of year. Need support from WA and Sports Wales, limiting T&F and becoming running clubs.

CM: James has been following up on this, looking to arrange meetings to see what can be taken forward.

JT: From debrief - Can committees submit motions to the AGM as members may not be members of Welsh Athletics. Can clarification be sought.

CM: Needs to be confirmed by governance subgroup.

SA: Asked if no jump off across both senior and junior.

JT: Advised, yes this applies to all championships

**7. Correspondence**

None received

**8. Minutes of and matters arising**

JW has not shared competition proposals

JT has coordinated meeting regarding Inter Regional championships

JW has not shared Junior Athlete Voice details

JW has not shared contact details for lead coaches for regions in all disciplines. Endurance already been shared

**9. AOB**

SA: Shared items discussed at board.

The sad news about Ron and how much of a contribution he provided.

Sport wales are undergoing a re-org

Approval has been given for 2 new directors at Welsh Athletics

Focus is now starting to look at commonwealth games procedures

LH – Asked if there were there any headlines for Sport Wales re-org

SA - Plans still ongoing, no specifics to be shared at this point

**10. Date of Next Meeting**

Meeting to be held May 5th.