**Minutes – West Wales Regional Athletics Council Annual General Meeting**

**Wednesday 9th June 2021**

*Microsoft Teams Meeting*

**Present:** Rob Campion Chairman

Nathan Jones Secretary

Andrew Jenkins West Wales Club Manager

Steve Hames Officials Committee Representative – Endurance

Dic Evans Trail, Mountain & Fell Running Committee Representative Kevin Tobin Road Running & Cross-Country Committee Representative

Sally Wilson Llanelli AAC

Jennifer Boyce Pembrokeshire Harriers

Geraint Jenkins Amman Valley Harriers

Bernard Henderson Port Talbot Harriers

1. Chairman Rob Campion welcomed those present to the region’s 25th Annual General Meeting and thanked Dr Hedydd Davies, previous West Wales Chair for his work over 40+ years for the region and Welsh Athletics.
2. **Apologies**  Sue Alvey, Les Cuthbert, Jake Morgan
3. **Minutes of previous AGM (25 November 2020)**

The minutes of the AGM of 25 November 2020 were checked for accuracy and accepted as a true record.

1. **Matters arising from previous meeting – November 2020**

None

1. **Chairman’s Report**

I would love nothing more than to have pages and pages of reports about our athletes and events involving West Wales, unfortunately the second lockdown hit us in December until March and restrictions since have meant little athletics activities in Wales.

Athletes have searched for events travelling to England with great success and flying the flag for our West Wales clubs.

We have recently however started to see small glimmers of hope moving forward with Welsh Athletics beginning to host small events and training sessions. Again, West Wales has been at the forefront of this with the newly refurbished Carmarthen Harriers track hosting the regional development day for Endurance, sprints, jumps and throws. We have also seen Pembrey country Park hosting the Welsh Athletics 5k series and proving a great success with the 2nd in the series due in July.

We have seen successful open meetings in endurance and sprints held at Carmarthen and Swansea and we must thank everyone involved in setting up all these events.

Finally, it has been great to see the West Wales vest out on the track and competing at the recent Upper age YDL at Aberdare. Huge thank you goes to athletes, coaches and officials for helping West Wales get a team together with very short notice. Swansea recently hosted the Lower Age YDL with teams from Swansea and Neath competing. Seeing these events take place and with the most recent relaxation to restrictions gives great heart moving forward and the hope that more meetings and opportunities arise for our athletes and the prospect of some form of West Wales meeting is within reach.

Volunteers and officials play a huge part in athletics and without them our athletes would not be able to compete, I would love during my time as Chair to build our team of field officials, track judges and timekeepers along with off track race volunteers and officials within West Wales to make us as a region self-sufficient and be able to host meetings of solely West Wales officials. I do understand how difficult a challenge this is, many parents and guardians understandably wish to see their son/daughter compete but the larger the pool of officials to call on, the less we need to ask of individuals. Hopefully together we can get West Wales to be a leading force in officiating within Welsh Athletics and provide our athletes with competitions of the highest standards.

Rob Campion

West Wales RAC Chair

1. **Hon Treasurer’s Report**

With events suspended and little activity in 2020 and beginning of 2021, there has been no transactions in or out of the current/community account since April 2020.

The current account balance is £15,479.75 and there’s currently £507.16 in the savings account.

1. **Officials’ Secretary Report**

Not available

1. **Club Network Officer’s Report**

Andrew Jenkins reported on the activities held in the region prior to Coronavirus and since November 2020. The report was circulated by email to those present.

These include the UK Athletics Coaching courses, Officials’ courses, Leading Athletics, Star Track, Schools, Primary & Secondary Teachers Run Jump Throw Certificate, ADC Weekly sessions, West Wales Coaching Workshops / Regional Development Days, Schools to Club Grassroots coaching days, DBS, Sport Wales and Welsh Athletics Funding/Grants and Support for clubs.

There were 19 fully affiliated clubs in the West Region with over 3000 individual affiliated athletes by 1st April 2020.

The growth is reflected by primarily the dedication and hard work of the club volunteers, creating so many opportunities for everyone to be a part of the sport.

1. **Election of Officers**

No individual may hold more than two positions at any one time, nor hold any one post for longer than six one-year terms.

*The following were elected for the year 2021/22*

1) Chairman: Rob Campion

2) Hon Secretary: Nathan Jones

3) Hon Treasurer: Les Cuthbert

1. **Other Elections:**
2. Officials’ Secretary: To be confirmed
3. Welfare Officer: Steve Hames (female welfare officer to be confirmed)
4. West Wales Track and Field Competition Coordinator: Andrew Jenkins, Nathan Jones plus other help
5. West Wales Cross Country and Road Running Competition Coordinator: Rob Campion plus other help
6. West Wales Mountain and Trail Running Competition Coordinator: Dic Evans
7. **Delegates to Welsh Athletics Committees**

1) General Council: Rob Campion, Dic Evans

2) Officials Committee (Endurance): Steve Hames

3) Track & Field Committee: Jake Morgan

4) Road Running & Cross-Country Committee: Kevin Tobin

5) Trail, Mountain & Fell Running Committee: Dic Evans

1. **Notice of Motion**

None

1. **Any Other Business**

1) Welsh Athletics have launched a new initiative for Regional Volunteer Awards. Club Volunteer Coordinators will be encouraged to nominate 1 club volunteer for the Regional Volunteer Award. Clubs are to submit nominations on the Regional Volunteer Award nomination form by the 5th July 2021 before the regional council decides on the recipient. [Regional Volunteer Award nomination form](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=1-RDfO1nXUekdsPXx6hqNs33N6lZp6NHu8Dhzaey27ZUNjRBQ0NQTFA3Q1VDSkY0U1NDUTBHQk5LQi4u) The four winners of the Regional Volunteer Award (one from each region) will be included in the annual National Awards in the Volunteer category.

Nominations based on one or more of the following factors (this list is not exhaustive):

* Recipient has contributed to club and regional activity within the selection timeframe.
* Recipient has shown commitment to own development through qualifications and training relevant to their role e.g. Welfare, Coaching, Officiating etc. and has used their knowledge and skills to positive effect in club/regional environments.
* Recipient has promoted athletics opportunities in the region e.g. schools, community groups.

2) The Welsh Athletics Regional Throws Development Open Event for West Wales will be held at two locations in Carmarthen (Javelin/Discus) and Neath (Shot/Hammer) on Saturday 26th June for under 15 and under 17. Registration has opened.

3) The Welsh Junior Mountain Running Championships for under 15, under 17 and under 20 age groups will be held at Devils Bridge Aberystwyth on Saturday 26th June. The event is being organised by Dic Evans and is a trial for the Junior Home Countries International Youth Cup and The British & Irish Junior Mountain Running Championships in September 2021.

4) The Region’s clubs need to play a collective role in encouraging more volunteers and parents to attend officials’ courses arranged by Welsh Athletics in order for events to take place and provide opportunities to athletes.

5) Meeting organisers for track and off-track events are finding paperwork and roles/responsibility growing every year. Home Countries and Governing bodies need to consider simplifying the processes to retain events.

1. The Welsh Athletics Inter Regional Athletics Championships is due to be held in West Wales on the weekend of August 28th. All four regions agreed in a previous IR meeting that the IR should not be held in 2021 and should concentrate on smaller, local events before moving back to the championship programme in 2022.

With restrictions easing in Wales, the regional representatives felt that there isn’t enough resource available in 2021 to plan and host a normal championship event of this magnitude as the timescale is too short notice with the event only 2 months away, as well as a lack of current active and qualified officials to attend. The region does not yet have an official’s secretary in place to arrange and ensure that there are enough officials available. If the competitions department at Welsh Athletics are able to organise any planned championship in 2021, the region will endeavour to support them on the day.

1. **Date of Next Meeting**

**Regional Track and Field, Cross Country, Trail, Mountain and Fell Running Competition Planning:** Wednesday 14th July at 7:00pm (Teams)

**West Wales Regional Athletics Council:** Wednesday 11th August at 7:00pm (Teams)