



East Wales Regional Athletic Council

Minutes Annual General Meeting of East Wales Regional Athletic Council, 13th June 2018, 6:30pm Newport Stadium.

Present:

Hilary Goodger (Vice Chair); Peter Hitchings (Newport Harriers); Mike Adams (Newport Harriers); Chris Vorres (Chair); Paul Day (Lliswerry); Joyce Tomala (Secretary); Robert Gale (Parc Bryn Bach); Bethan Akanbi-Mortimer (RVAC); Lyn Cushing (T& F Officials); Lou Summers; Andrew Summers; Dick Finch (Chepstow)

Apologies: Ryan Spencer-Jones (RSJ); Satu Haikala (SH); Lynette Harries (LH); Jeanette Jenkins (JJ); Martin Jenkins (MJ); Keith Matthews (KM); Peter Sowerby (PS); Richard Sheehy (RS); Gerry Ashton (GA); Ruth Powell (RP)

1. Minutes of 2017 AGM:

- a. The Minutes of the 2017 AGM were approved unanimously. [proposed KG, seconded LC].

2. Matters Arising:

- a. No matters arising

3. Chairman's Report:

- a. My first year in this role has been a journey for me as I tried to familiarise myself with the names, faces and working practices of the region and its established members. The main thing I recognised was the massive input from the team of volunteers — running the committees, hosting events, organising teams. Their commitment is humbling, and I would personally like to thank everyone who helps keep the region thriving. Other regions look to the East as an example of team work and good practices.
- b. This year we launched the Club Road Running Championships — a league specifically set up to encourage mass team participation. The aim of this league is to encourage and motivate those who might not normally score for their clubs — the tenth man home is as important as the first. Congratulations to Parc Bryn Bach for winning the Men's A and B Team categories and also the Female B team and C Team prizes. Very well done to Fairwater Runners for their domination of the Female A team league. The Mixed A team prize also went to Fairwater, with Parc Bryn Bach picking up first prize for the Rand C teams. Thank you to Martyn Jenkins for his time and energy working out the results for us.
- c. Competition between clubs and regions keep athletes keen and are great for building team spirit.
- d. Changes are necessary to keep the region vibrant and encourage more engagement, and over this last year we have started to see new developments coming from

Welsh Athletics — the new club portal will be a useful tool for clubs. It will take some time to become embedded in club culture, but with the introduction of the new data protection directives the portal will be a safer way to manage and hold data. Plans are also underway to build a new East Wales Athletics website.

- e. Welsh Athletics are in the process of developing their strategic plans for the next 5 years — and we were all given the opportunity to engage in the consultation process. I hope the clubs gave their input — as this is the best way to influence and guide future changes for our region.
- f. This year we sadly said goodbye to John Chidlow. He was a highly dependable volunteer, and will be missed by the region. I remember him standing for 4 hours plus in the freezing cold in Blaenafon — stop watch in hand.. and he actually volunteered to do it. A true gent.
- g. - Which brings me back to my opening comments about the value of our volunteers. I would like to make a special mention of thanks to Joyce for her hard work — its not been an easy year for her. To all the committee members who have made my year as Chair an enjoyable and easy one, thank you very much, it's been a pleasure.

4. Treasurer's Report {KM}

- a. The end of year accounts had been distributed prior to the meeting.
- b. The region has a healthy working balance going forward into the next financial year.
- c. Financial report approved unanimously. [proposed JT, seconded HG Seconded].
- d. JT reported on Km's behalf that the annual fee for the website has not been paid as the region is currently looking at setting up new website.
- e. KM was thanked for his hard work during the year and in producing the comprehensive financial report.

5. Secretary's Report {JT}

- a. This has been a successful year for the East Region in terms of progress made in leading the way for other regions to follow, highlighted by several people outside of the region who have attended East meetings. We have been proactive in introducing a new format for our general meetings and sharing good practice both within the region and beyond. Long may this continue.
- b. Other successes include:
 - 1. The pilot 'Regional Road Championships' series, my thanks to the members of the group for their contribution in moving this initiative forward, particularly Martin and Jeanette Jenkins.
 - 2. Regional Championships across all disciplines were very successful.
- c. Inter-regional competitions have been supported by East Wales, however this is an area where we need to explore how further improvements can be made.
- d. I am standing down as General Secretary at this AGM, however I will continue in my other roles and wish the new secretary all the best.
- e. May I offer my thanks to all officers, committee representatives and team managers for work done during the past twelve months. Special thanks must go to Keith Matthews who has done a sterling job in producing budgets and managing the regions accounts for several years. Keith will be a hard act to follow.
- f. May I suggest that the region now needs to focus on developing teams to lead on Track & Field and Endurance championships- including Inter-regional Championships.

3. Notices of Motion:

- a. no notices of motions were received

4. Election of Officers:

- a. **Chairman:** Chair: Christine Vorres [proposed DF seconded JT, unanimously agreed.]
- b. **Vice-Chair:** Hilary Goodger [proposed JT seconded CV, unanimously agreed.]
- c. **Secretary:** Bethan Akanbi-Mortimer [proposed JT seconded LC, unanimously agreed.]
- d. **Treasurer:** *to serve until October 2018* Keith Matthews [proposed JT seconded HG, unanimously agreed.]
- e. **WA Member:** Joyce Tomala [proposed DF seconded HG, unanimously agreed.]
- f. **Regional Welfare Officer:** Joyce Tomala [proposed HG seconded LC, unanimously agreed.]
- g. HG agreed to continue as minute's secretary.

5. Election of Committee Representatives:

- a. **Welsh Athletics Council.** [2 representatives] - Joyce Tomala, Christine Vorres [proposed HG seconded DF, unanimously agreed]
- b. **Track & Field Committee:** Joyce Tomala – [proposed HG seconded LC, unanimously agreed.]
- c. **Road & Cross Country Committee:** Peter Sowerby [proposed JT seconded DF, unanimously agreed.]
- d. **Mountain & Fell & Trail Committee:** tbc
- e. **Officials Committee**
 - i. **Track & Field:** Lyn Cushing [proposed JT seconded HG, unanimously agreed.]
 - ii. **Officials & Licencing Officer- Endurance** – Gerry Ashton [proposed JT seconded DF, unanimously agreed.]
- f. **Sportshall:** Gareth Oldham [proposed JT seconded HG, unanimously agreed.]
- g. **Webmaster:** No nominations were received.
 - i. It was agreed that this matter would be tabled at the next general meeting.

6. Meeting closed at 19:05

Members were thanked for their attendance.