

WEST WALES REGIONAL ATHLETICS COUNCIL

Hon Sec: Nathan Jones

Chairman: Dr DH Davies, MBE

Treasurer: Louisa Davies

Annual General Meeting of the West Wales Regional Athletics Council Held at Carmarthen Leisure Centre on Wednesday 26th June 2019

PRESENT: Hedydd Davies, Nathan Jones, Louisa Davies, Andrew Jenkins, Dic Evans

Chairman Hedydd Davies welcomed those present to the region's 23rd Annual General Meeting.

01. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received on behalf of Les Cuthbert, Rob Campion, Sue Alvey, Tony Clements, Jake Morgan, Liz Rowland, Colin Davies, Donald Melrose

02. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The minutes of the AGM of 18 June 2018 were checked for accuracy and accepted as a true record.

03. MATTERS ARISING

Adam Beer (Under 17, Llanelli AAC) was presented with the Region's Gerry Batty Memorial Award at the West Wales Athletics Championships in Swansea back in May in front of those in attendance.

04. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Hedydd Davies spoke on some of the points raised in his report (attached.) He had commented that the region has again been very active over the year with many events organised and numerous West Wales individual and team achievements in cross country and track and field. These included the West Wales Regional Championships, Road Running Championships and Inter Regional Championships.

There's been a number of achievements including Dewi Griffiths in the 2019 London Marathon and selection to compete for GB in the World Championships in Doha, James Tomlinson in 2018 competed for GB in the European U20 Championships and Ben Thomas in the U18 Championships as well as Heather Lewis representing GB in the walk.

05. TREASURER'S REPORT

Louisa Davies circulated a financial report for the year ending 31st May. She mentioned a number of the income and expenditure items used over the past year.

The current balance within the region totals to £20,128.88. It was clear that the money needs to be used sensibly to ensure the region continues moving on. The grants received by three projects have not yet been awarded. The accounts had been audited prior to the meeting and were accepted by the meeting. Louisa was thanked for her hard work as treasurer for the past two years and will be replaced by Les Cuthbert in September.

06. OFFICIALS SECRETARY'S REPORT

Donald Melrose has done a great job as Officials Secretary this year and the meeting thanked him for his ongoing support. The West Wales Indoor Championships were successfully held in January. The number of entries were down on last year. The use of the online registration system ensured Andrew was not overwhelmed with last minute entries. Photofinish was supplied by from an external supplier who provided an excellent service at a reasonable rate. Officials present its usual challenges but the event being held over two days meant that the commitment was not too onerous, and we were able to cope with Volunteers assisting. There is particular pressure in Track and Time Keeping officials as Volunteers are not expected to fulfil this duty.

The West Wales Championships were held in May. Getting officials for this meeting was particularly difficult as a result of a BAL meeting on the following day and the South East Wales Competition being held on the same day. Fortunately, the meeting was held in Swansea and therefore Andrew Jenkins was able to co-opt as many Parents to assist with field officiating. The number of entries were down. Visitors were allowed to compete in the Senior Categories as they had been excluded from the South and East Championships resulting in good competition in the long throws in particular. This did not extend the day as the field were generally small. 1 week prior to the event the WA appointed Field Referee concerned about the number of officials withdrew his services.

Fortunately, Carina Jones stepped into the breach creating a duty sheet that ensure the events were covered by the Officials and Volunteers sourced last minute.

More consideration needs to be given to the timing of events to ensure clashes and double header weekends are kept to a minimum as the strain it places on the officials is to great and puts people off from volunteering and training to become an official.

Each year it is getting increasingly difficult to secure officials for this meeting, had this meeting been held in a smaller club with less parents available to assist then some events would need to have been dropped from the programme for health and safety reasons.

Following the West Wales Champs the next Officials Assistant course was well attended by those who have volunteered on the day and whilst there was a spread of clubs in attendance more needs to be done in the clubs to provide a stream of Volunteers to be training as officials especially track and timing.

The number of Starters has improved significantly in South Wales through the co-ordination of Sue Hooper. It has ensured the development of a number of Starters across south wales. Donald Melrose is now a Level 2 Starter. Peter Freeman of Pembrokeshire Harriers is a Trainee Starter working on his experience. We have had an expression of interest from a firearms officer in Pembrokeshire who is interested in becoming a Starter who will go into training in the next few weeks.

I flagged to WA that the Database was not showing Trainee officials and some Welsh Officials were not allocated to West. This prevents me from seeing them and therefore inviting them to Volunteer in competitions. The information has been improved by Zoe so this should make it easier in future.

There are concerns about new starting system TESS in the Starters Community. At the Welsh Junior Championships in Wrexham TESS was used for Sprint starts. Longer echelon starts were started using traditional pistols and transducers. The volume of TESS is insufficient outdoors for long staggered starts. The audience were unaware of the starts in the stands as it could not be heard.

The passing of Brian Alvey at the end of December came as a shock to the West Wales Athletics Community, his experience, knowledge and dry sense of humour has been greatly missed.

As June 2019 there are:

- 10 Active Timekeepers
- 9 Active Track Judges some of which are also Timekeepers
- 33 Field officials some of which are Track and Time Keepers
- 3 Qualified Starters, 1 Active, 1 Trainee

07 CLUB NETWORK OFFICER'S REPORT

West Wales' Club Network Officer Andrew Jenkins reported on the activities in the region between 1st April 2018 and 1st April 2019. The main points discussed included the UK Athletics Coaching Courses, Officials' Courses, Leading Athletics, Star Track, 30 40 50 club, Schools Cross Country, Schools Track & Field, Sportshall, Primary Teachers Run Jump Throw Certificate, ADC Weekly Sessions, West Wales Coaching Workshops, Schools to Grassroots Coaching Days, DBS, Funding WA Development Grants, Funding Community Chest, West Wales Indoor Athletics Championships and WA/UKA Registered Club Members, with thanks to Andrew for his continued hard work.

08 ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DELEGATES

The following were elected to serve for the year 2019/20

Chairman : Hedydd Davies

Hon Secretary: Nathan Jones

Hon Treasurer: Les Cuthbert (from September 2019)

Officials Secretary: Donald Melrose

Welfare Officer: Sue Alvey

Delegates to Welsh Athletics Committees

General Council: Tony Clements & Dic Evans

T&F Officials Committee: Donald Melrose

Endurance Officials Committee: Les Cuthbert

Track & Field Committee: Jake Morgan (Skype)

CC/Road Running Committee: Kevin Tobin

FMR/Trail Running Committee: Dic Evans

09 ANY OTHER BUSINESS / REGIONAL MATTERS

Delegates felt that removing the under 20 and senior age groups from the Welsh Inter Regional Championships this year is a backward step as this competition should be there to keep the older athletes in the sport. It has been replaced by under 13's who have enough competitions as it is now.

The Youth Development League Upper Age Group Composite Team have seen low numbers compete in the first two matches at Swansea and Exeter. Clubs need to be responsible and encourage all their athletes to support the team and league.

The West Wales Cross Country Championships is likely to be held again with the second Gwent League match at Pembrey Country Park, set for Saturday 9th November.

10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at the Ivy Bush Royal Hotel, Spillman Street, Carmarthen on Monday 7th October 2019 at 7.00. An agenda is enclosed with these minutes.

Nathan Jones

Hon Secretary