

## **Welsh Athletics Board & General Council Meeting Minutes** **10<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

*Meeting held remotely via video link and in person in Sport Wales.*

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**Present:** James Williams [JW], Chris Moss [CM], Graham Finlayson [GF], Joyce Tomala [JT], Lynne Brier [LB], Chris Pratt [CP], Steve Perks [SP], Tom Overton [TO], Christine Vorres [CV], Helen Adams [HA], Chris Gough [CG], Jonathan Ford [JF], Sharon Leech [SL], Kay Hatton [KH], John Hatton [JH], Rob Campion [RC] Lynette Harries [LH]

**Apologies:** Arwel Lewis, Fred Malkin, Ian Griffiths, Peter Ryder, Lorna Kerr, Bernie Plain, Dan Clements

### **1. Declaration of Interest**

- None declared

### **2. Welcome & Introductions**

- The Board and General Council members introduced who they are and their responsibilities within Welsh Athletics.

### **3. Updates / Reports / Information for circulation**

#### **a. Board Overview**

SP presents the need for a new WA strategy following financial changes. The updated strategy will be available on the WA website in the coming weeks.

#### **b. UKA update**

SP presents an update on UK Athletics including finances and budgets regarding the next Olympic cycle. Joint ventures are presented between London Marathon and the Great North Run towards UKA.

The potential suggestions for the financing of international teams was presented.

SP and JW answered questions from the room.

SP presented updates from the UK members on the use of starting guns. The similarities between the HCAF discussion points taken to Board were highlighted.

#### **c. Welsh Athletics Update**

JW provided the room with context on where Welsh Athletics stands post-pandemic. This includes the reduction in funding from multiple investors alongside increasing costs. The need to self-generate income and develop commercial partnerships was presented.

Positive trends were presented – with membership growth at the highest it has ever been, coaching and officiating courses seeing a higher delivery level and safeguarding training numbers at a high.

JW presented the changes to officials and coach education.

CM updated on facilities including a new lead from Welsh Athletics – Emyr Jones, TrackMark progress as well as upgrades to facilities such as Brecon, Brynmawr and Deeside. A new facility in Amman Valley was noted as well as funding agreed to resurface the track at Neath and applies for for Haverfordwest.

CM presented ongoing challenges and need for support.

JW and CM answered questions from the room.

JW updated on staffing changes due to funding, The concern over capacity challenges and burnout was presented. Departmental structures were presented.

Competition successes were updated on including growth in entries, full integration of para, BMC partnerships, Junior League in North Wales, a new licencing portal as well as the growth in number of events being licenced.

JW spoke on the age group changes being formally accepted by the Board of UKA with a task group established as part of the transition process.

#### 4. Questions

Member questions that had been sent in were presented and answered:

- Why are England safeguarding courses free and not in Wales?
  - o England have decided to cover Official courses, In Wales it is possible for clubs to cover costs through the Be Active fund.
- Can we use a licence from a body other than WA – WFRA for example?
  - o Yes – f licencing standards are at a certain level. For now Welsh Athletics licence is the only recognised in Wales for safety reasons.
- Does a LiRF qualification count towards the number of coaches that a club needs to have to be compliant?
  - o The only requirement for clubs in terms of coaches is safeguarding
- Have the regions received their medal grants?
  - o Yes
- Previous GC minutes

#### 5. AOB

- HA to step down from the Board officially from today.
- No other business

#### 6. Date of Next Meeting

*Note – minutes from previous meetings should be circulated and agreed electronically.*