

## **Welsh Athletics General Council Meeting Minutes Held on the Wednesday 22 November 2023**

*Meeting held remotely via video link*

Present: Lynne Brier Brier (Chair), Christine Vorrés, (Secretary),

|                 |                               |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Lynette Harries | East Wales                    |
| Rob Champion    | West Wales                    |
| Sharon Leech    | Road/ Cross Country Secretary |
| Arwel Lewis     | Mountain/Trail/Fell           |
| Kay Hatton      | Chair - North Wales           |
| Joyce Tomala    | East Wales                    |
| John Hatton     | North Wales                   |

*Papers circulated in advance: Agenda, Report from Sharon Leech, Report from Arwel Lewis.*

### **Actions from meeting**

| <b>Item Number</b> | <b>ACTIONS</b>   | <b>Person responsible</b> |
|--------------------|--|---------------------------|
| 4a                 | Invite Zoe Holloway to the next GC meeting and possibly Liz Taylor   | Lynne/Christine           |
| 4b                 | Ask for definitive boundaries for eligibility to compete for regions   | Lynne                     |
| 4d                 | Time lapse between Snr Male and Female races at inter-regional cross country events – feedback from General Council  | Joyce                     |
| 4e                 | Equipment hire costs to regions – feed back to board that as regions are part of Welsh Athletics they shouldn't be charged for hiring equipment – or at the very least have a discounted price | Lynne                     |
| 5                  | Each region and committee will be invited to submit a report highlighting successes/issues/updates to GC   | Christine                 |
| 5                  | Ask WA to ensure minutes of each committee are uploaded promptly to their website and that it is communicated to all concerned who the minutes need to be sent to                              | Lynne                     |
| 5                  | Ask WA to send a representative to talk through the Affiliation process in the March meeting   | Lynne/Christine           |

**1. Apologies for Absence** – Lee Hayward, Fred Malkin, Gerald Davies, Kyle Perry, Sue Hooper

**2. Declaration of Interest** – None declared

### 3. Actions from Previous Minutes – (No minutes available from previous meeting).

Nomination for role of Vice Chair – Joyce Tomala Nominated by Lynnette Harries, seconded by Rob, unanimously Yes vote.

### 4. Discussion

Lynne welcomed everyone to the meeting – nice to meet everyone, first time for herself and Christine in the roles on General Council

Discussion Items from East Wales Committee:

- a) Coaching and Officials Courses  
Bureaucracy and the length of time it takes to advance with officials courses has been highlighted as problematic, and this is across both Endurance and Track and Field. The members discussed mentoring, attracting and keeping volunteers, and the lack of officials to support progression. In respect of coaching time constraints, and the need to have assessments carried out track side were issues mentioned. Lynnette told the members that she has worked on Mentoring programmes but it needs revisiting and we need to re-engage and coordinate a timetable, maybe quarterly, to be applied across Wales.  
The members agreed to invite Zoe Holloway to a meeting to discuss these issues, and Liz Taylor to another meeting to discuss coach development issues  
Lynne said that she is keen to feed these comments back to GC.
- b) Club Affiliation  
Clubs not happy with the time it takes to affiliate, asking too much of volunteers.
- c) Regional Eligibility  
More an Endurance issue – the vagueness of borders for the East Region for qualification. No map is available to define boundaries. This has been repeatedly requested from Welsh Athletics. Postcodes may not be a way forward due to eligibility of birth. There have been issues where athletes live in one region but belong to clubs in another region. The members agreed that boundaries need to be defined.
- d) Cross Country Time-Tables  
A request from East Wales team managers to reduce the length of time between the senior male and female races. (3 hours). Sharon was at the Inter-Regional in Newtown a few days earlier and advised the members that she thought it worked well having the Ladies run first – pretty much testing out the course – then the juniors ran before the men ran. The men would churn the course up too much for the Juniors. Rob also agreed that it worked well and had had no negative feedback. Joyce will take this back to the East Team Managers.
- e) Equipment Hire costs to Regions:  
Why do regions have to pay Welsh Athletics for hire of equipment when the regions are part of Welsh Athletics? The members discussed diminishing grants, cost of hire and the need to collect the equipment. All regions present felt this issue needs addressing.

Discussion Item from Road/Cross Country Committee:

Sharon talked through the report highlighting the success of athletes in recent events

Discussion re report from Mountain/Trail/Fell Committee

Arwel submitted a comprehensive report with details of future events at every level

## **5. Future topics for discussion**

**Lynne** – James Williams is keen for the General Council to invite staff and other people into the meetings to present.

The members discussed having a consistent format to regional representation on the Welsh Athletics website

Following a discussion initiated by Lynnette, it was agreed that each region/discipline committee will be invited to submit a report to general council highlighting successes/ highlights/updates in advance of each meeting. Joyce asked that WA be asked to ensure minutes of meetings are added to the website promptly.

A representative from WA to be asked to attend the meeting in advance of the Club/Athlete affiliation renewal.

Chris Type be asked to a future meeting.

## **6. Dates of Future Meetings**

The members discussed alternating days for the meetings to try and accommodate all regions/committees but decided to leave the dates as is for the time-being. The members were reminded that they may nominate a substitute for any meetings that they are unable to attend.

Minutes Written by

Christine Vorres  
Secretary.

27-Nov 2023

Dates for future meetings:

10-01-2024

06-03-2024

08-05-2024

10-07-2024

11-09-2024

06-11-2024