

Minutes of General Council Meeting 20 May 2026

Present:

Lynne Brier (LB)
Joyce Tomala (JT) – Vice Chairperson / East Wales
Kay Hatton (KH) – Chairperson North Wales
John Hatton (JH)
Sharon Leech (SL) – Road / Cross Country, WSAA
Christine Vorrés (CV)
Lynette Harries
Arwel Lewis (AL)
Chris Pratt (CP)
Chris Anthony (CA)
Steve Hames (SH) – Now representing West Wales.

1. Apologies for absence

Fred Malkin, Rob Champion, Bernie Jones, Graham Finlayson

2. Declaration of Interest

No declarations of interest declared.

3 Actions from previous meeting

Discussion regarding insurance for affiliated runners and situation regarding social runners. JW confirmed social runners do not have insurance cover through Welsh Athletics. Details of cover are stated on the Marsh Insurance Schedule of cover on WA website.

First Aid cover for Fell Running first aid – the cost is decided by the provider – not Welsh Athletics. Members discussed alternative providers to St John’s Ambulance. AL stated that fell running first aid needs to be an outdoor category C course, other courses are easily accessed online.

AP – Members share details of providers used – AL will investigate UKA England Courses.

SH – shared details to add to minutes: Life Support Training and Safety is the provider.

Run by Dave Nicholas out of Gowerton, Swansea.

07824811736

admin@lifesupporttrainingandsafety.com

Chris Anthony thanked the members for the invitation to speak at the meeting. He introduced himself to the members and discussed his role at Welsh Athletics. He also thanked all the volunteers. Changes to staff at WA are ongoing – but JW has committed to arrange updates to go out and to update the WA website.

Amy Edwards (north Wales) is joining the development team and a slight tweak to her role will see her more involved in club development.

A new appointment for a Club and Volunteer development Officer has been made, starting this August. Communication is not as good as it should be so the aim is to improve and target it. CA informed the members that they are aiming for consistency across recruitment, support and development, and also seeking to improve induction processes.

CA outlined several initiatives that they are going to implement over the next year.

4. Regional submitted to GC for discussion

JT B.Active Grants

Some people who have applied for B Active grants have been told in the first instance to look for crowdfunding. JT asked what exactly are the B Active grants for?

AP – LB ask Andrew Jenkins if this is normal and what are the grants intended to support?

JT-Reinstatement of Fixtures Calendar and Meetings.

Despite booking the inter-regional championships many months ago, there is now another event organised by James Thie, and a trail inter-regional event all on the same day. It is a drain on Officials and dilutes each competition. We do need to do something to try and avoid clashes - across all disciplines.

AP – LB Take to WA Board

SL- Welsh 5km Champs – To be held within the new events hosted by Richard Rees on 9th August in August.

Inter-Regional Road Championships are no longer being organised - volunteers are needed to undertake identifying events and sorting results.

Reports:

Board Updates – Report from LB and JW attached. Next board meeting is next week.

Track & Field Report from JT attached. JT has been contacted via a concerned individual that the Under 10's ran 400m at a recent meeting – JT was concerned that this was too young for this distance. It was agreed that this distance is not a development exercise. It is understood that this has been reported to UKA.

AOB

1. Darran Williams has contacted West Athletics Region suggesting the JDL event be run as an open meeting over 2 days. It was suggested to contact Darran for clarification of his ideas – **AP JT add to T & F Meeting Agenda for Darren to discuss.**
2. POT – the members discussed the frustrations experienced following the 'revamp' of the POT site and the inaccessibility of results.

3. Lack of Officials at meetings. The members shared their experiences of the ongoing issue of shortage of volunteers at meetings.

Dates for future meetings: 2 September, 4 November.

The meeting ended at 8pm.

Minutes written by Christine Vorrés 6 June 2026.

Welsh Athletics Report to UK Members

- LB reported that funding continues to be the biggest challenge to the organisation with Welsh government issuing a 'standstill' budget until 2028.
- Membership continues to see a small growth; approximately 2.5% on last year which shows a consistent growth across all age groups and demographics. A workforce development plan is being developed which is currently a key focus.
- 'Athletix' has now been launched, which is a junior initiative incorporating fun versions of the sport for younger participants. Ten early adopters across Wales have joined the initiative and will launch the programme from 1 April 2026. The ultimate aim is to encourage 10,000 new junior members into the sport by 2030. A new coaching qualification, Athletics Activators, has been launched to support this rollout which should enable clubs to reduce waiting lists, bringing more volunteers onto the coaching pathway. So far, 30 coaches have been trained. A new membership and CRM system is now in place, and as a result, clubs can now register members as young as four years old. In addition, a new competition offering will be introduced in support of the initiative.
- Capital funding bids are being prepared to continue enhancement of facilities across Wales. There are plans to resurface two facilities, and investment into the high-performance gym at the NIC Cardiff.
- WA was thrilled to see a number of Welsh athletes selected for the World Indoor Championships, World Relays and the European Women's Marathon. Final preparations are being made for the Commonwealth Games nominations.
- The total entries for the Welsh Senior Indoor Championships were 874, which was down by 78 compared to last year. The event also has a 21% drop out rate, which was an increase on the year before. Individual entries were also reduced from 574 to 471. There were 928 entries for the Junior Indoor Championships showing an increase of 84, with 478 individual entries, which was down on the previous year by 46.
- The Welsh Cross Country Championships had 1,123 entries which was an increase from 2025.
- WA delivered their first Winter Throws Championships which proved to be a successful event.
- The Welsh Senior and Under 18 Outdoors will include the trials for the European Under 18 Championships in conjunction with UKA.
- WA has employed two new operational leads for the track and field and endurance competitions. A new role will be advertised to focus on supporting external competition providers and licensing.
- The Daily Mile will be included in the Plaid Cymru manifesto in advance of the forthcoming elections.

- Consultations have started with social running clubs across Wales with feedback being used to reposition the Run Wales social running programme.
- The second Women's Running Conference will be held in Newport in April with Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson being the keynote speaker.
- WA continues to support club welfare officers with Time to Listen and adult safeguarding training across all clubs in Wales.

Topics of discussion between all home nations and other representatives

- The new age groups were implemented in Scotland for the winter indoor season and from April will be used for all event categories.
- Most nations agreed that the timing of Power of 10 hasn't been helpful with many team managers trying to get teams together for the early onset of the track season as a result of the major championships this summer, meaning that preparations for the summer season have been challenging.
- From a league standpoint in England Athletics, there are problems beginning to occur by clubs not being able to have the right number of officials for meetings to go ahead. Key focus areas for the next three months include preparation for the opening of the season, identifying track availability; there are still meetings in England without a home, and working with schools to minimise the difficulties with age changes. Track facilities continue to be a challenge in some parts of England, with at least two under threat, whereas Wales and Scotland are upgrading facilities.
- Road Running (England) is pleased with the mass participation running in road and multiterrain events which is looking very healthy across the HCAFs, with strong growth in events across the country. However, the impact of current worldwide problems regarding travel and increasing fuel prices and how this will affect events through people not being prepared to travel.
- Officials' Representative reported challenges with officials being stretched due to the number of events taking place on the same day; two major international events this summer are being held within a week of each other. The length of track days is also an issue with officials rarely being able to take a break. Discussions have taken place with senior competition staff at EA regarding eight-hour competition days. The biggest challenge will be the number of L4 Officials retiring this year. Key discussions include HCAFs to increase their conversion rates especially from L1 and to encourage, support and mentor those officials who want to progress.

Track and Field Committee report

1. Points for discussion at General Council May 20th

- It was reported that Be Active grants are directing applicants towards alternative funding routes, such as crowdfunding. This has occurred with two separate applicants. JT suggested that JW should be made aware, as this could restrict facility upgrades and the future use of venues for events and training.
- JT requested the reinstatement of a fixtures meeting to support a more coordinated approach to fixture planning and better calendar alignment. General acceptance was received by the group.

2. Records

- DW issued updated records, which represent the final records using the old age-group structure. From the first event of the season, all new records will be aligned to the new age groups: U12s, U14s, U16s, U18s, U20s and Seniors.

3. Championships:

- *Senior Championships - June 27th/28th Cardiff (CISS)*
- *Junior Championships – June 6th & 7th in Deeside*
- *Inter-regional Championships (Aberdare, 13th June)*
- *Event Specific Meetings*

- *Run with the Wind, Cardiff (June 3rd).*

- *Throws meetings (LHa)*

Aberdare events on 16th June, 21st July and 11th August will be shared with British Milers.

Owing to calendar restrictions, LHa is considering Thursday evening South Wales Throws events, dates TBC.

- 4. *Welsh Schools - Cup and Plate age groups U14 & U16, The Welsh Schools Track & Field Championships on Saturday 4 July 2026 in Aberdare*
- 5. DW proposed that, going forward, non-standard events should no longer be recorded as official records in order to standardise the process. Agreement was reached by those present.
- 6. It was noted that Junior Development League events have been published and entries accepted without the correct procedures being followed. All events must apply for and receive the appropriate licence before being published to entrants. Under no circumstances should events proceed without proper licensing.