

Welsh Athletics General Council Meeting Minutes

Held on the Wednesday 8th May 2024

Meeting held remotely via video link

Present:

Lynne Brier (Acting Secretary)
Joyce Tomala (Acting Chairperson / East Wales)
Lynette Harries (East Wales)
Rob Campion (West Wales)
Sharon Leech (Road / Cross Country)
Kay Hatton (Chair – North Wales)
John Hatton (North Wales)
Chris Pratt (South Wales)
Fred Malkin (South Wales)

1. Apologies

Arwel Lewis (Mountain/Trail/Fell)
Christine Vorres (Secretary)
Sue Hooper (Officials Committee)
Jozie Postles (Welsh Athletics)
Euan Coney (Welsh Athletics)

2. Declaration of interest

None declared.

3. Actions from previous meeting

4.1 - Sponsorship

JW has replied via email that it would be down to the regions to agree any deal to do with any company or persons who scope for sponsorship. JW suggested that the most successful way forward would be for the regions to send emails to existing team members, requesting support. The value of a regional assets would probably be too small for a commercial agency (also a problem at NGB as well).

4.2 - Trail and Mountain Licencing

JW stated that that Welsh Athletics is the only recognised NGB for the sport and they would not accept any licence from a separate body. JW would have concerns about any alternative licence being considered and stated that WA have significant concerns about the WFRA regarding governance, safeguarding, health and safety and previous disciplinary matter. JW will be writing to the regions on this matter.

4.3 - Regional Eligibility

JW replied that there is nothing in the byelaws relating to the need to have club membership (See Byelaws 2023). Any changes to the byelaws would need to be proposed at AGM for consideration.

4.4 - Regional boundaries on a map

JW has instructed Chris Moss to meet with JT and KH to discuss this further. Thank you to KH who has found an up-to-date map that can be purchased in paper form and a laminated version.

5.1 - Invite Euan Coney to discuss adding regional pages to WA website

Euan has been invited but has now changed his role. Josie Postle will be able to attend a future meeting and requires more clarity about the topic of discussion so that she can prepare.

4. Items for Discussion

East Wales Matters for General Council (JT)

Welsh Athletics Officials Expenses

Officials' welfare – there was concern that official mileage allowance remained low and the quality of lunches for officials. Joyce informed the meeting that there had been a suggestion that officials could supply their own refreshments and an allowance of £5.00 could be made on production of a receipt. The production of a receipt was not seen as practical for a variety of reasons. It was reported that packed lunches would be available for the forthcoming Track and Field Championships.

There was a detailed discussion of Welsh Athletics led competitions and devolved responsibilities, with concern that volunteers were now required to take on more responsibilities for the organisation and delivery of events.

Action: The current roles and responsibilities of the competition staff team be sought and clearly communicated to the membership.

UKA Rule Change for Field Officials

Rule changes relating to the qualification criteria for Level 1 officials: Council members expressed concerns about the implications of such rule changes especially in relation to health and safety issues. Nobody from the regions has been made aware of this rule.

Action: Seek further information from Welsh Athletics as to why Welsh clubs had not been informed of these changes.

North Wales Matters for General Council (KH)

Affiliating with Stripe:

KH and JH stated that there was some ambiguity relating to individual and club membership.

FM said that he had been told by Jacqueline Brace that all affiliation would have to go through Stripe.

KH said that the extra work and forms for clubs to affiliate have become too complicated and lengthy process.

FM said that there were seven standards that the club had to meet in order to be able to affiliate.

LH expressed concern that we would lose yet more volunteers in Wales if the workload continued to increase.

KH didn't feel that it was right that the choice had been taken away from clubs.

RC said that from next year, it would be down to athletes to affiliate themselves.

Action: Clarification required from Jaqueline Brace at Welsh Athletics.

LB to contact Jacqueline Brace to request clear guidelines on club affiliation process.

Regional Medals

- All four regions agreed to use existing stock medals for this year and to make their own arrangements for 2025.
- Regions will now be responsible for the organisation and delivery of Regional 10K Championships.
- JT stated that CV had secured a good deal for the purchase of medals and suggested that regions might wish to obtain contact details of the supplier from CV.

Road / Cross Country Committee (SL)

Welsh Athletics Proposal – Combining Age Groups

SL stated that there was a proposal to combine the Middle and Senior age groups at the Welsh Schools Cross Country Championships and some had expressed concern at the implications of this.

SL reported that the combining of middle and senior age groups was to be discussed at their next meeting. The combination of age groups would mean that fifteen-year-olds would be in the same race as athletes up to twenty years of age. It would also mean that more elite, older athletes would be in the same race as younger athletes representing their schools. This would be more of a problem with boys than girls because of physicality.

Inter-Regional 10K Race

Alex Donald has informed SL that Welsh Athletics will not be choosing a race to be used as the inter-regional 10k race. It is up to the regions to choose which race will be used as an inter-regional race and organise this themselves with the race organisers.

KH pointed out that this race is not always well supported in North Wales and asked which races tends to be popular in South Wales.

RC suggested that one of the less popular, local races would be better than the larger races, such as Cardiff and Swansea 10K.

Several members of the committee suggested that the Richard Burton 10k would be a good race to use as the inter-regional 10k championships.

Action: Regions to discuss this at their next meetings.

5. Reports Submitted

None Submitted

6. Dates of Future Meetings

10.07.24 (joint meeting with the board)

11.09.24

06.11.24

7. AOB

FM asked that the Welsh Athletics board members are more transparent on the website. It was brought up in the South Wales regional meeting that people need to know who the board are, what they do and what they bring to the sport. It was suggested that photographs of the board would also be beneficial.

Action: LB to communicate this to James Williams.

The meeting ended at 7:45pm.