

Welsh Athletics General Council Meeting Minutes Held on the Wednesday 10 January 2024

Meeting held remotely via video link

Present: Lynne 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
Lee Hayward	South Wales
Zoe Holloway	Welsh Athletics

Papers circulated in advance: Agenda

Actions from meeting

Item Number	ACTIONS	Person responsible
4- 2	Ask WA (James Williams) to meet with regional chairs and secretaries to discuss maps/boundaries/residency rules and the Affiliation process for 2024	Lynne
5i	Ask James Williams to meet to discuss regional funding.	Lynne

1. Apologies for Absence – Sue Hooper, Dai Williams, Gerald Davies, Fred Malkin, Kyle Perry

2. Declaration of Interest – None declared

3. Volunteer Development Update – Zoe Holloway

Re concerns that due to lack of more experienced Officials, specifically level 4, the progression for newer officials was very slow and there is a lot of paperwork to be completed. Kay suggested Level 2's complete paperwork themselves meaning the Level 4's only had to read and sign it off, lessening the workload.

Zoe – level 1-3 are now moved to the responsibility of the home counties. All home counties are experiencing the same problem, and one solution may be that level 3's with at least two years of experience will be able to sign off paperwork.

Lynette asked Zoe if the mentoring programme was still being used? Support from Mentors is beneficial, either informal or a formal. Zoe confirmed that the survey that was carried out asked specifically who wanted to progress and they will use this to pair up officials where possible.

Zoe then talked the members through a new Education Pathway Level 1 – 3 presentation that WA are working on currently, that they hope will go live in April. Health and Safety training is also being reviewed. The members discussed various points within the presentation – Zoe will take points raised on board moving forward. Some proposed changes were met with positivity.

Lynne thanked Zoe for attending the meeting and for the update.

4. Actions from Previous Meeting

i. Zoe invited to meeting

ii. Ask for definitive regional boundaries – no progress – no map seems to exist. Joyce asked if GC can ask WA to meet and discuss the issue. Members agreed that eligibility and boundaries is a long standing problem and clarity is needed. There was a suggestion brought to the meeting from Steve Jones that for regional championships eligibility is linked to the athletes club. Following further discussions about this suggestion, maps, residency and club membership it was agreed that this needs to be a discussion with WA. Sharon shared information found in the By-laws regarding boundaries, but Joyce pointed out that in Powys alone there are anomalies – the by-laws may be outdated. John stated that the fundamentals of athletics in Wales seem to be missing.

iii. Joyce to feedback to East Wales Team Captains discussion regarding the time lapse between male and female cross-country races

iv. Costs of hiring equipment - Lynne has produced a report that has been sent to WA for discussion at next meeting.

v. Regions invited to submit reports of issues/successes/updates – not compulsory.

vi. Lynne advised all minutes to be submitted to Eleanor Cartlidge at WA and they will be uploaded to WA website promptly.

vii. WA to talk to meeting in March re affiliation. James will be asked to attend next meeting, so ask him to comment on affiliation.

5. Items for Discussion

i. Lee Hayward

Regional Funding – Will funding continue? The South has had no response from WA re regional funding. Lee has had no response from WA regarding funding for the South. Kay and Christine stated that £2,000 was awarded per region for 2023 – as stated by Hannah Pretty.

Lee – email sent out today by Alex Donald mentioned providing each region with £750 to source their own regional medals instead of WA buying all the medals.

The group discussed funding and frustration regarding attempting to contact WA Staff. Also, the extra work put on Volunteers if they now have to source their own medals. Joyce commented that medals may be cheaper if purchased elsewhere. Finance is a worry to all regions.

6. Reports Submitted

None received prior to the meeting.

Sharon –Road/Cross Country Committee.

European Cross Country – one athlete – Molly Lions selected to represent GB in U20 age group. 2 representative events coming up, home countries international cross country in Jan – team selected for that, and the Armagh 5km for men, 3km for women. Selection meeting held for that, but selection appears to be predominately decided by the Performance Team. This may be due to their development plans for their supported athletes. Arwel has also experienced this in relation to Mountain/Trail events.

The members discussed the selection processes, background etc. Joyce stated that although she sits on the T & F selection committee, the final decision tends to be led by the performance team.

Lynette proposed that GC asked for an urgent review of Selection Committees and procedures to ensure the selection process remains democratic. *To be reviewed.

Lynne - Congratulations to Molly from the General Council

Kay – Interregional 10k?

Sharon - Road Committee meeting next Wednesday to discuss welsh champs, and the welsh 10k series. Sharon will mention an event for the inter-regional event.

Kay – Can Arwel’s report be updated with dates/venues for events? Arwel – Yes.

Joyce – no report from East as the last meeting was cancelled.

AOB

Lynne thanked the members for attending – all 4 regions represented.

6. Dates of Future Meetings

Minutes Written by

Christine Vorrés
Secretary.

13/01/224

Dates for future meetings:

06-03-2024

08-05-2024

10-07-2024

11-09-2024

06-11-2024