

## Minutes of General Council Meeting 8 January

### Present:

Lynne Brier (LB) – Chairperson (taking minute in absence of Christine Vorrés)  
 Joyce Tomala (JT) – Vice Chairperson / East Wales  
 Chris Pratt (CP) – South Wales  
 Kay Hatton (KH) – Chairperson North Wales  
 John Hatton (JH) – North Wales  
 Sharon Leech (SL) – Road / Cross Country  
 Arwel Lewis – Mountain and Fell  
 Rob Campion (RC) – West Wales  
 Graham Finlayson (GF) – President Welsh athletics

#### 1. Apologies for absence

Christine Vorrés, Dai Williams, Fred Malkin, Gerald Davies, Lynette Harries

#### 2. Declaration of Interest

No declarations of interest declared.

#### 3. Actions from previous meeting

See below:

Item Number	ACTIONS	Person responsible
9	Dates of future meeting –Confirmation needed re: July meeting, 2 <sup>nd</sup> or 16 <sup>th</sup> as stated on the WA Governance Calendar?  <b>LB confirmed that the joint meeting between General Council and Board is to be held on 16<sup>th</sup> July.</b>	LB
AOB	Update on inviting representatives from the Masters Forum and the Youth Forum to join General Council.  <b>To be carried forward to the next meeting.</b>	LB
AOB	Invite Chris Moss to discuss facilities along with the new member of staff who will also have a remit for facilities as part of their role.  <b>Chris Moss to attend meeting in March.</b>	LB

#### 4. Matters Arising:

None presented.

**5. Regional Matters submitted to General Council for discussion:**

JT communicated a concern from Blaenau Gwent that one of their club welfare officers is unable to sign up to a club safeguarding course because there are no courses available.

**Action:** LB to raise this with the relevant staff within Welsh Athletics.

KH raised concerns about club affiliation, stating that in the North Wales regional meeting, many clubs were still not fully aware of the process.

**Action:** LB to report back to Welsh Athletics, requesting that this is communicated clearly on the Welsh Athletics website and more widespread throughout Wales so that all clubs are made fully aware of the process.

KH also communicated a concern from Wrexham AC that an individual who is affiliated to I Run Wales tried to affiliate to Wrexham and found it very difficult and problematic. This point was supported by other members of General Council, who agreed that the affiliation process needs to be looked at to ensure a smoother and less problematic experience.

**Action:** LB to communicate this back to the relevant staff at Welsh Athletics.

**6. Reports submitted**

There were no reports submitted in advance of the meeting.

JT explained that the December track and field committee meeting had been cancelled due to low numbers.

JT requested that representatives that sit on General Council communicate the main messages of meetings back to their regions and clubs etc, to ensure that everyone receives up-to-date information.

SL informed the committee that the national cross country championships are to be held in Pembrey for this year only on 25<sup>th</sup> January, which is earlier than usual. SL requested that committee members inform their regions and clubs of the date to ensure that that athletes do not miss the entry dates.

**7. Dates of future meetings:**

Confirmed dates are as follows:

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2025 – (joint meeting with Board)

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025

## **8. Any Other Business**

JT has asked James Williams to provide a seminar specifically for Wales, surrounding the age group changes, to alleviate confusion about this. JT felt that there were so many people in attendance at the England Athletics seminars, that it was difficult to get points across and obtain answers to specific questions.

**Action:** JT to speak to James Williams again about this.

A lengthy discussion took place surrounding Welsh Athletics official's mileage, which is currently 30p per mile. This is substantially lower than Cardiff Met mileage, which is 45p per mile and England Athletics, which is also 45p per mile. Several members of the committee pointed out that they were running their cars at a loss when attending Welsh Athletics competitions throughout the year.

**Action:** LB to communicate back to Welsh Athletics.

Several committee members shared concerns that have been communicated to them about meal arrangements for officials at Welsh Athletics events, following recent fixtures. There are no complaints about the allowance, which currently stands at £4. However, many feel that the current process that involves submitting receipts can be complicated and difficult for some. It was pointed out that this process may have been introduced because Cardiff Met will not allow Welsh Athletics to use outside caterers. This is to be confirmed. It was suggested that officials are provided with vouchers that can be used in the Cardiff Met cafeteria. It was also suggested that someone could be appointed to ensure that officials are provided with hot drinks throughout the day, because several were employed at stations that they could not leave, resulting in them becoming cold and thirsty. Several officials were not able to have a break throughout the day.

**Action:** To be referred to the officials committee for discussion at their next meeting. All representatives to report back to their regions and clubs regarding officials meal allowance and mileage.

A discussion also took place surrounding the parent of an athlete who became verbally aggressive towards staff and volunteers towards the end of the day. This highlighted the importance of safeguarding volunteers and protecting their welfare.

**Action:** LB to speak to Carl Williams regarding safeguarding officials.

AL pointed out to that some races had been lost in North Wales, including the North Wales Regional Championships because Natural Resources Wales are not permitting them to use the forestry parts of the courses.

**Action:** To refer these concerns to Welsh Athletics.

LB confirmed that the next meeting will be held on Wednesday March 5<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.

The meeting ended at 6:50pm.

