

Minutes of the meeting of the General Council (GC)

Held on Tuesday 8th January 2019

Sport Wales National Centre, Cardiff, video linked to Plas Menai National Outdoor Centre, Caernarfon*

<i>Present:</i>	Graham Webb	(GW)	Vice Chair of General Council
	Lynette Harries	(LH)	President of Welsh Athletics Ltd.
	Joyce Tomala	(JT)	Regional Representative – East Wales
	Tony Clements	(TC)	Regional Representative – West Wales
	Gerald Davies	(GD)	Welsh Schools Athletic Association
	Dai Williams	(DWSc)	Welsh Schools Athletic Association
	James Williams	(JW)	Head of Operations, Welsh Athletics
	Chris Moss	(CM)	Club Network Manager, Welsh Athletics (minutes)
	Chris Jones	(CJ)	National Performance Coach

Papers circulated in advance:

Head of Operations Update January 2019	Item 4
November Management Reports	Item 4
Final Minutes General Council 6 th November 2018	Item 8

GW started the meeting by having a moment of silence in remembrance of Brian Alvey.

1. Apologies for Absence

Received from; Sue Alvey, Judith Gooding, Sue Hooper, Jeff Marsden and Sharon Leech

2. Performance Update (CJ)

CJ gave an overview of the current status and progress of the Performance Team and Performance department within Welsh Athletics. CJ identified that at the moment the Performance Team are in an interim period, after which a longer-term strategy will be implemented, and the next 6 months will be used to build the structure required to move the sport forward. CJ also highlighted the recognised requirement for there to be a much closer link between Performance activity and Development activities.

TC asked about the long-term athlete philosophy and how it links to long term athlete development within a club setting. CJ confirmed that it was aligned to current thinking and philosophy.

DWSc asked about Virgin London Marathon selection processes and criteria which was explained by CJ in detail.

JT asked a question about consistency of delivery across event groups and potential opportunities for coaches and coach development. CJ acknowledged the comments and will take them forward.

3. Masters Athletics and Young Athletes (JW)

JW gave an update and rationale for Welsh Athletics working more closely to address the needs of masters athletes (note: over 60% of Welsh Athletics registered members are masters athletes) – especially aligned to competition and competition provision across the various different disciplines across the sport.

JW suggested potentially looking to establish a Masters competition body/group to look at the requirements and need for a consistent competition programme for each discipline group

ACTION: JW to contact Welsh Masters Athletics Association to progress discussions and report back at the next meeting.

Young athletes; JW posed a question; 'How do we capture the thoughts of our young athletes?' This is to fundamentally to truly capture the views and thoughts of the younger athletes involved in the sport. JW suggested potentially establishing a Young Athletes Advisory Group.

ACTION: JW to explore the Young Athletes Advisory Group and report back at the next meeting.

4. Head of Operations Report and Update (JW)

JW gave a verbal update on the report circulated prior to the meeting. Including; Performance, Organisational / Structure, Staffing – with reference to the new roles that have recently been appointed (including the Programme Manager) and the Coach Development Manager which is currently being advertised.

An advert for a new Chair of the organisation is currently live. There are also 2 other non-executive director roles currently advertised (Finance and Performance).

Congratulations were extended to Welsh Athletics Board member Christian Malcolm on his recent appointment with Australian Athletics.

JW also mentioned the successful European Cross Country Championships held in December and the excellent Welsh representation at this event as well as the successful Welsh Athletics Clubs Conference held in November.

5. Regional Matters

East: JT reported: Andrew Dickins will be the new EWRAC Mountain and Trail Running representative for the region. The new RAC Website is currently under construction and will be live shortly.

West: TC asked the position of the Regional Development Plan requests. JW gave a response relating to the current position of each region.

JT suggested that a template or further guidance in relation to the Development Plan may help give support regional councils in pulling this together.

ACTION: JW/CM to draft a Development Plan template that could be utilised by regions and support them in the planning process.

Schools: GD gave a verbal update particularly in relation to the recent AGM change of key officers.

6. Athletics Committees and Task Group Issues

JW has received correspondence from the Track & Field committee and Road & Cross-Country committee.

ACTION: JW to circulate these updates after the meeting.

7. Correspondence

No correspondence received prior to the meeting.

8. Minutes of the 6th November & matters arising

CM gave an update to the revised criteria and changes made to the 'Grants for Grassroots Athletics' scheme. A verbal update of changes was presented to the meeting that were agreed.

ACTION: CM to publish and open the fund for applications immediately prior to the meeting.

JW confirmed that a letter had been sent to the West Wales Regional Council, no response to date.

9. AOB

JW reminded the meeting of funeral arrangements for Brian Alvey.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 7th March 2019

Meeting concluded at 8.26pm.