

**East Wales Regional Athletics Council Committee Meeting
Wednesday 8 October 6.30pm via Teams**

Present:

Joyce Tomala, (JT) Christine Vorrés (CV), Lynette Harries (LH), Lorraine Clark (LC), Deb Quirk (DQ), Bethan Logan (BL), Elinor Cole (EC), Shane Matthews (SM), Phil Cummings (PC), Clare Roberts (CR), Becky Bell (BB), Sandra Chipper (SC), Zoe Holloway (ZH).

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Points
1.Apologies:	Peter Hitchings, Tom Meredith, Keiron Hearne, Keith Matthews	
2. Conflict of Interest	None stated	
3. Actions from Previous Meeting	JT-Safeguarding Report forwarded to all members prior to meeting JT-Lack of qualified coaches: Liz will try and organise extra courses if needed. CV- Registering Clubs for Junior competition: Following a request for information, details of how to register a Junior section within the club has been emailed.	
4.	Club Modernisation and Facilities – ZH	
	<p>Zoe introduced herself and advised of her new role as Club Modernisation Officer.</p> <p>She is investigating the costs of facilities for Track & Field Meetings. JT confirmed costs are over £1,000 for some venues. (Aberdare and Yate are the cheapest), JT wants members to be aware of the climbing costs the region are facing – Blaina Gwent are paying £500 a month for venue for training.</p> <p>Suggestions were included contacting local councillors, local authorities and the companies running the facilities. (Halo, Freedom Leisure etc) LH advised trying as many approaches as possible. Newport Harriers are trying to find solutions and have approached Newport Live with suggestions for events that could be hosted if costs were reduced.</p> <p>ZH will do a club visit and do a comparison of venue costs across Wales.</p> <p>ZH – Club Modernisation Fund – Zoe will forward details to all clubs. The question was raised how would it effect clubs that are linked to schools and the schools own the facilities? Could a club still obtain a grant for facilities improvements?</p> <p>JT – Schools did apply for grants last year, but not all of them. WA are keen to engage all schools, and it has been difficult to contact them. This matter has been taken to General Council for clarification.</p> <p>Be Active Fund is also another avenue of funding, but regions can't apply for Be Active. Regions have a limit of £1000 for modernisation grant.</p> <p>Various funding avenues were discussed – schools should go through their LA.</p> <p>All Be Active applications - speak with Zoe first.</p>	<p>ZH create a comparison chart of facility costs</p> <p>ZH – Circulate details of funding to clubs and schools.</p>
5.	<p>Discussion:</p> <p>a) JT – how do we engage with more clubs and encourage them to be active in the region? Especially off track clubs. CT stated that the region needs to consider what is the offer for endurance clubs? They have little need for help to find funding. The members discussed engagement with members in general.</p>	<p>AP: Committee Officers meet to discuss the way forward</p>

	<p>JT – what do these club members want? That is what we need to ascertain. Phil Cummings: Maybe a generic survey asking clubs what issues they are facing, what support guidance would they appreciate? Bethan – communication/contact is needed to raise the profile of the region and emphasise that it is not purely T&F. CT – suggested introducing development days/ professional talks again. The pros and cons of this idea was discussed. (budgets/date etc) JT – Maybe one of the clubs could apply for a grant for a development day? Regions no longer have access to the same funding.</p>	and build a questionnaire.
6.	Reports:	
i.	Safeguarding: Regular accessible courses are now being hosted online by WA.	
ii.	Finance – A report from Keith was received and will be sent out to the members. JT – Lots of costs this year as our turn to host events. Take to GC – if they keep cutting funding, how do we keep providing competitions?	CV – send out Finance Report JT – ask at GC how we continue to host competitions without funding?
iii.	General Council - LH. Referring to report sent with Agenda: Controversial and important issues discussed at the last meeting regarding team selection The complexity of age group changes Communication between clubs/regions and GC Contacts for Schools, already discussed.	
iv.	Track and Field (JT) JT – Age Group Changes – effects all disciplines. JT advised dates of changes. WA presentation on website has details. Any queries contact Joyce. Changes happen from April 2026. CT – advised Endurance clubs need to check distances that the new age groups may run. Regional Champs Indoors will not be new age groups. Same events as last year, but entries may be limited- JT asked clubs to check entry details so that they don't miss out. Provisional date for outdoor is 9th May, Tbc as soon as possible. Regional indoor champs day 1 Dec 7th day 2 Jan 11th. Entries are via WA website. Inter-Regional – no date yet, calendar is full. Feedback requested on hosting just U14, U16, U18, only. No seniors. Not enough athletes in the adult categories. Maybe put into other events to make it more competitive for them. East Wales to host. Welsh indoor champs details on WA website.	
v.	Cross Country/Road – Could Under 11's be included in Regional Champs? Members present were unsure - Stef Rhodes and Amy Evans are taking over from Darryn. Gwent Leisure Centre League is no longer allowed to host junior races due to insurance cover. Hosting club may hold a junior race but not open to other athletes. JT – Correspondence received stating selection for senior races was not transparent. SC confirmed correspondence is always sent out to ensure selection races are made public, and suggestions for inclusion are always welcome. The team managers try hard to be totally inclusive.	CR – Ask Darryn if U11's can be included and feed back to committee.
vi.	Trail and Mountain (TM) BL – Next year keen to put out information about selection races as early as possible to keep it as fair as possible and ensure athletes know how to get involved.	

vii	East Wales Road Race Champs – JT. Need to find a volunteer to keep this league going as Paul Adams has stepped away. All members asked to go back to their clubs and ask if anyone is willing to get involved. 5km races were hardest to find in the region.	CV - Email/contact all clubs to ask for volunteers.
viii.	Officials – BB Availability form for all indoor meets is out. Endurance Officials. CV Availability forms out – Rob Campion has taken over from Zoe and is arranging courses for Officials, and is looking at rewards schemes. One complaint received regarding selection of Officials for major events.	
ix.	Website – CV No Report.	
5.	AOB ZH – Advised the members of a new project to attract 10,000 new junior athletes and will share details of online Roadshows. Womens’ running safely campaign launched. Details sent to clubs. Awards dinner 1 st November. Future meetings 3 rd December 2025	

Minutes written by Christine Vorrés 13 October 2025

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Report of the General Council meeting held on September 3RD 2025.

- 1, * The Board was to be asked to spread events across all regions of Wales. It was also decided to refer this matter to the Track & Field Committee.
 - LB was requested to seek clarification on the means by which schools could access/ receive grants.
 - There was considerable concern about team selection for international and representative matches. Bye laws were not being adhered to. This matter will be added to the agenda for the next Council meeting.
2. Age group changes. It was suggested that the webinar provided by James William was most informative and the details on the Welsh Athletics website should be disseminated to all clubs. There is no agreement across the Home Countries relating to the implementation of the proposed changes.
3. Communication with clubs. It was felt that it was imperative that the Council communicate with the clubs via their regional representatives, that this information is documented in the minutes and the minutes are uploaded onto the Welsh Athletics website.
- 4, KH questioned whether too many meetings were held in South Wales. The discussion that followed led to the points cited in point of this report.
5. Modernisation grant. This has now been extended to include schools. It was reported that a number of schools did not apply; it was suggested that they be reminded that this grant is available to them and that they be encouraged to apply.
6. Issues relating to the current Bye Laws was raised by JT who felt that they had been ignored by the performance team. This matter has been referred to the next meeting of the General Council
7. Cross Country. The Home Counties International is likely to be held in London next year and the Cardiff Cross will host the challenge for the short race in the European Cross Country.
8. JT sought information relating to current contact/s for Welsh Schools. It was suggested that Andrew Jenkins and Steve Jones might be able to supply this information.

Lynette Harries MBE