

**Welsh Schools Athletics Association**  
**Management Committee Meeting**  
**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024**  
**1pm Start @ Sport Wales, CF11 9SW**

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies : Zane Maynard (WSAA International Secretary) Gwilym Williams (WSAA President and Trustee) Chris Moss (WA Head of Development)

Present : Jo Warner (WSAA Chair) Steve Jones (WSAA Vice Chair) Gareth Oldham (Powys) Dai Williams (WSAA Treasurer and Trustee) Alex Donald (Head of Competition, WA) Andrew Jenkins (WA Schools and Young People Engagement Officer) Gerald Davies (WSAA Immediate Past Chair and Trustee)

**2. Minutes of last Meeting and Matters Arising**

Point 2 : File sharing still not up and running but request to Colin Slater (WA IT Consultant) from AJ made, AJ to contact again (ongoing).

New constitution was accepted at the AGM held in November 2023, following the SGM.

Inter-Schools cross country school names still not a priority, going forward this needs to be ironed out. Issues with regions not asking for school names needs to be addressed prior to 2024 event. AD raised the problem around the fact schools are charged and who would pay for the athlete if the school didn't enter them. AD suggested this would be looked at for this year's event

WSAA Championship XC sub-group to meet as soon as practicable. Sub-group membership confirmed as AD, SJ, GO and AJ. AD delegated responsibility for arranging meeting/s.

Provisional information wrt XC on February 28<sup>th</sup> to be sent asap, Middle Boys distance increased to reflect SIAB distance of @ 6k. Agreed that Middle Boys Race would use same course measurement as Seniors.

**3. WSAA Events 2024 (Spring)**

AJ confirmed that School District cross country dates are confirmed (and published) from 7 out of 8 Districts (only SE Wales still to be confirmed).

Sportshall athletics: AJ confirmed that 5 out of 8 School Districts have confirmed participation at the Welsh final in Cwmbran on 10<sup>th</sup> March. AJ- More volunteers and officials are needed for this. AD to confirm with WA situation re

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volunteers. JW to ask Fiona Diffy and Phil Warwicker / Rhiannon Hawker at Cardiff Met if any PGCE students would be available to support/volunteer at the event.

Cross Country (28-02-2024): distance for middle boys to increase to 5790m same as SB. SJ to proof-read info and get it out to districts. Set up from 8am on the morning. Changing rooms and toilets booked.

SIAB Cross Country (23<sup>rd</sup> March 2024) Santry: Athletes fly out from Birmingham. One night stay. 40 athletes 8 team staff. Info on Management Team and SIAB delegates sent to Bethan Davies by ZM already. Reminders to be sent to athletes that they should have photo ID available by this date in order to fly. Suggest early info to parents re flying. GO questioned the kit issue. Hold luggage required for the kit AD to check with BD

**4. SIAB update**

SIAB Carmarthen 2024 (20-07-2024): Venue booked, Accommodation booked at Trinity St David's (150) and Lampeter (50) with additional numbers at local hotels. SJ to forward AD the 2019 Event Plan which details the organisation of the SIAB T&F. Contact/Liaison in Carmarthen is Neil Thomas.

**5. Sponsorship**

JW thanked Nathan Jones (NJ) for all his hard work and professionalism with all the social media platforms. New account on Instagram now launched. Information for the sites is fed to NJ from a variety of sources. Discussed NJ putting appeal out for sponsorship for the XC and the T&F on these platforms. Overall costs for the XC is approx. £2k or even medals at approx. £300. JW to contact NJ to put this out.

Check to be made at trustees over NASUWT funding claim for last year. GO to request continuation for 2024.

**6. Correspondence**

Email from James Williams (WA CEO) which has detailed significant loss of funding from Sport Wales for 2024/5. This will affect capacity at WA to support all WA/WSAA events moving forward. James had suggested some possible solutions to alleviate pressures on the Competition Team. It was AGREED to look at possible outsourcing of the Joint Indoor Combined Events. Request to be made to Rhiannon Hawker at Cardiff Met via AD (meeting on January 15<sup>th</sup>.) following the success of the International Pentathlon held in early December.

Organisation of the WSAA Cup and Plate final to revert to WSAA Officers, SJ to take on board all event organisation as well as acting as Meeting Manager for this year. This situation to be reviewed following the event. SJ requested to have no input into the National T&F Championships the week before, this was AGREED. It was also AGREED (at the request of Cardiff & the Vale) that the date be moved to Wednesday, July 10<sup>th</sup> 2024. Clarification of budget needed asap and it is proposed that the £5k grant (if received) should go into the Trustees account with costs covered from there. Venue to be checked and booked, Brecon first choice if suitable with Aberdare as back-up. GO reported that

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the track refurb at Brecon had been completed along with the repair to the throws cage, however, some remedial work to other parts of the grounds remains unfinished. GO/SJ to arrange site visit before venue confirmed.

Email from Peter Morris (District Secretary – Cardiff & the Vale) - requests to a) adjust the Middle Boys distance at the National XC and b) to move the date of the NASUWT Cup & Plate final covered above.

**7. AOB including Dates of next meetings:**

In line with the new constitution the date for the next **Executive** was set for **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2024 (10:30am)**, and the next **Management Meeting** for **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024 (12:30 to 2:30pm)**.

SJ suggested that reverting to virtual meetings held on-line might be a way forward as well as reducing costs.

Decision deferred to next Management Meeting.

Meeting closed at 2.55pm