

## Welsh Schools Athletic Association Management Committee Meeting – Virtual

Thursday 5th May 2022 and a 4pm Start.

### 1. **Present:**

Gerald Davies (GD), Dai Williams (DaiW), Jo Warner (JoW), Andrew Jenkins (AJ), Zane Maynard (ZM), Gareth Oldham (GO), Alex Donald (AD), Liz Davies (LD), Rhiannon Liddington-Payne (RLP), Bethan Davies (BD)

### 2. **Apologies:**

Gwilym Williams, Hannah Pretty.

### 3. **Matters arising from minutes from last meeting Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2022.**

3.1 The role of WSAA representative on WA Track & Field committee is still outstanding; we hope this will be actioned at the next WSAA Executive meeting. RLP confirmed this can be a shared role, if preferred and it is important that WSAA are represented at these meetings.

3.2 JW – the “streamlining” of the number of committees and meetings needs to be actioned in the medium term as part of WSAA governance structure

### 4. **SIAB Track & Field @ Belfast 16<sup>th</sup> July.**

4.1 A selection policy was approved with only Year 9 and above being considered for selection, though after much discussion, JoW suggested that the words “at the discretion of the selectors” should be included in the programme and, following a request from ZM, on the website.

It was stated that the UKA fixture calendar states ‘SIAB on 23<sup>rd</sup> July not the 16<sup>th</sup>’. GD will confirm as a matter of urgency with other SIAB Secretary, Kay Cherrie in Scotland. Once confirmed, we will request Jozie Postles of WA to post the correct date on the WA website on ‘fixture page’, other pics of Award winners competing for Welsh Schools and a news article about the WSAA championships. GD will provide an article (suggested by AD) and the parent pics of the Award winners to Jozie.

4.2 RLP said that the logistics lead for travel arrangements will be Bethan Davies assisted by Liz Davies. LD, using a chart projected to all at the meeting, gave an overview of work behind the scenes to date on estimated costings, bus and ferry options with quotes of circa:

#### **Coach Option with Ffoshelig Coaches**

**Coach:** 2 coaches at £2,600 = **£5200**; **Ferry:** Stena Line; **Travel plan:** Outbound 15th July 10.40 or 1445 hrs Holyhead to Dublin with a return on Sunday, 17th July on the 1445 Dublin to Holyhead ferry.

This is based on 2 coaches with 40 passengers per coach = **£4220.00**. One coach would go “west” and then north through mid-Wales to Holyhead while the other one would go “east” (along the M4 corridor) and then north to and through north-east Wales to Holyhead. We appreciate that we won’t know the ‘geographical’ mix or composition of the team until after the National Champs on the 2nd of July.

A long discussion followed on best ferry departure times for athletes' performance with the majority opting for an earlier departure time to generate a better Friday night outcome. If the 14:45 ferry is the one we choose, we are likely to get to Belfast at around 8 pm and that is every goes well! DaiW mentioned how the SSAA travelled ‘overnight’ on the Thursday ahead of the recent SIAB XC at Pembrey, and reported that it seemed to work well for them. So, a very early pick up of athletes along the routes, even those in the early hours of Friday morning may serve us better.

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BD will look at two options. JoW volunteered to assist in 'staffing' the east coach as it gets to north-east Wales from her family base in Oswestry.

With 13 additional passengers, Team Managers, Delegates, etc., the cost will be @£52.75 per passenger = **£685.75**. (A Deposit of £200.00 per coach is required to secure the booking, and the balance 2 weeks in advance of travel). The transport total would be **£10,105.75**

We are awaiting accommodation costs and packed lunch costs from Anthony White of Irish schools to add to these costs, we estimate an additional £8,000, making a grand total of circa **£18,500**.

As the total WA budget for the SIAB T&F, Combined Events in December, and the SIAB XC next Spring is around £25, 000, LD & BD proposed that a contribution of £50 per athlete should be requested. JoW suggested that the emphasis should be of schools paying the 'extra' rather than individual athlete's families. DaiW suggested most schools would have budgets (so called "discretionary payments") for scenarios like these. BD, JoW and GD clarified this is not unprecedented for other sports international fixtures.

4.3 WSAA SIAB lead team Manager: Zane Maynard was appointed.

4.4 Appointment of Assistant team managers/coaches (8) & SIAB delegates (3):

Boys: Kevin Williams, Matthew Edwards, Phil Warwicker & Matthew Collins;

Girls: Joan Goldsmith, Lisa Waddon, Ffion Price & Naomi Davies;

Zane Maynard Team Lead & Andrew Jenkins WSAA Support officer.

SIAB Delegates for Annual meeting (3 to vote): Gerald Davies, Jo Warner & Dai Williams.

4.5 Budget costs for 2 nights' accommodation, packed lunches and all travel costs;

Were discussed with the items above.

## 5. WSAA U15 U17 & U20 Championships progress (Saturday 2nd July @ Cardiff):

RLP said that the Stadium & First Aid booked, and volunteers & officials are being sought.

It was asked whether there will any issues at the Cardiff Stadium because of 're-seeding' of landing areas inside and outside of the main stadium? Only the Hammer throws are likely to be outside the main stadium area.

DaiW said that the timetable and team managers computerised declaration sheets preparation is in hand with Darran Williams at WA. There will be one competitor per District per event. Additional competitors will only be allowed at the Middles and Seniors age-groups, and those only if they meet the required standards. A 'minimum standard' will be advised in advance.

Senior Age Group has been 2 athletes per event from each District for a number of years with one only to score. More allowed providing all have achieved standard. Idea behind that decision was to boost numbers participating in each event. Numbers still low however

Pole Vault – it will continue to be a developmental event, with a minimum opening height of 1.90m to be included in pre-event correspondence. U15/Junior: 1 athlete per age group and gender, U17 & U20 1 per event; more are permitted if additional entry standard achieved of circa 2.00m for Girls and 2.20m for Boys was proposed, WA jumps lead (Adrian Palmer) to recommend additional entry standards amendments

across all jumps' disciplines. DaiW said those standards are fine, but the competitions should not have them as starting heights. Boys and Girls planned to compete together in age-groups.

PV + Hammer (as Development Events). Districts have been allowed to enter up to 4 competitors in past (but suggest reduction to 3 max) providing they have achieved standards set.

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GD asked if we are likely to upset any "purists" by having them compete together?

In previous years Pole Vault has been JG + JB together, MG + SG together and MB + SB together.

All Development Events have been scoring in the past with highest placed athlete from each District to score.

Triple Jump for U15/Junior will be included as a non-scoring developmental event with limitations on the length of the run up, circa 10m and entry standard of circa 7.50m. RLP is to draw up a statement for distribution to schools District representatives, in a future bulletin and for the match programme in 'Competitors Notes'. This information, and that for Pole Vault and Hammer also to be included.

Passed that Triple Jump run up should be 15m. Long at a pre Covid WSAA meeting.

DaiW asked whether accommodation for North Wales teams for Cardiff University Talybont Halls of residence included in the WSAA budgets? Iola Jones has also requested this information as the Eryri District team manager. AJ sent the request to Andrew Thomas & Jessica Hardy (WA Finance) on 1<sup>st</sup> May, and we are awaiting a response.

RLP confirmed an overall budget of £8,000 has been set for the championships but it was not clear if this included North Wales school Districts (Eryri and NEW) teams' accommodation costs.

Income from programme sales to offset some expenditure.

At 5:48, BD had to leave the meeting to catch a train.)

#### **6. NASUWT U14 & U16 Cup & Plate progress (Wednesday 6th July @ Aberdare)**

RLP said the Aberdare Track booking has been confirmed, with a new entry system on 'Open Track' is being formulated by Darran Williams, WA, and the timetable remains unchanged. A closing date is planned of around 7 days before the event date, although it is noted that the Eryri Cup & Plate is on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June in Treboeth. RLP said that all other items are in hand with Darren Williams & RLP organising first aid, sourcing and appointment of officials. RLP said that WA hope to appoint a "Delivery Assistant" shortly who would very likely help with the organisation of this competition.

GO said that the appointment of a bilingual Announcer is vital, and it was noted that DaiW had performed the role in the past.

RLP asked for the request to NASUWT for their £5,000 sponsorship funds to be activated, and GO said that his contact, Angela Butler, is this year's NASUWT President.

(At 6:05, GD's laptop lost power "removing " him from the meeting!)

DaiW – have medals been ordered for top 3 teams in each age group and gender?

**Motion was agreed at a pre Covid WSAA meeting. Approx 14 medals per team in Gold, Silver and Bronze.**

**7. SIAB U15 & U17 Cross Country review/feedback (Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March @ Pembrey)**

AD said that on the day all went well, with lots of positive feedback, though the lead up was more challenging due to not knowing who to speak to for various aspects.

JoW confirmed that she thought it was a superb event overall, with congratulations to all concerned.

**8. WSAA executive committee & trustees meetings updates**

Nothing was reported.

**9. Primary & Secondary Teachers Education workshops**

AJ gave an overview of courses held for primary and secondary teachers over the last 12 months.

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**10. Unofficial results distribution.**

JW – WSAA officers to meet to discuss potential sanctions if continued excess correspondence are not halted, causing issues with staff and volunteers to effectively fulfil their roles, and how this will be communicated.

**11. AOB.**

AD seeking WSAA approval for Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2022 for the WSAA Inter Schools & Colleges cross country championships to again be incorporated with the Welsh Inter Regional Championships at Brecon. Due to time constraints a final decision will be made in the next WSAA management meeting with more detailed discussion. AD will send a formal request via email.

Meeting closed at 18.30pm