

Welsh Schools Athletics Association
Management Committee Meeting
Wednesday 20th March 2024
12.30pm Start @ Sport Wales, CF11 9SW

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies : Zane Maynard (WSAA International Secretary), Gerald Davies (WSAA Immediate Past Chair and Trustee), Dai Williams (WSAA Treasurer and Trustee).

Present: Jo Warner (WSAA Chair) Steve Jones (WSAA Vice Chair) Gareth Oldham (Powys), Alex Donald (Head of Competition, WA) Andrew Jenkins (WA Schools and Young People Engagement Officer) Gwilym Williams (WSAA President and Trustee).

2. Approval Of Minutes of last Meeting 11th January 2024

Minutes were accepted.

3. Matters Arising From 11th January Minutes

File sharing is still not up and running, two requests to Colin Slater (WA IT Consultant) from AJ made, no response received, AD will follow up with CS.

4. Feedback regarding 61st Welsh Schools Cross Country Championships

JW thanked everyone who was involved in the planning and delivery of a successful championships. Consideration should be given to combining Middle & Seniors Boys and Middle & Senior Girls into one race, but still scored separately, due to low numbers in the senior races, this also allows a later start time for travel and shortens the day by two races/almost an hour. Dropping the number of scorers from 6 to 4 in Senior races should be considered too, with so few districts unable to finish full scoring teams.

5. SIAB Cross Country Logistics Friday 22nd & Saturday 23rd March 2024

SJ updated the meeting on logistics and thanked BD for all her efforts in booking flights, compiling athletes replies and numerous other administrative tasks. Event plan received yesterday, flights booked, one athlete withdrawal due to injury, one team manager withdrawal due to illness, Spond group active, athletes and team managers checking in with Ryan Air online prior to arrival at Birmingham.

6. WSAA Championships Saturday 6th July 2024

AD Cardiff booked as the championships venue, all other planning and preparation are about to commence with a competition sub group to meet in the next few weeks for more detailed planning.

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SD – provisional talks have been held with a potential sponsor for the Championships, ZM, JW & SD will be following this lead up to hopefully finalise a sponsorship package.

7. WSAA Cup & Plate Wednesday 10th July 2024 - SJ

SJ Preparations for the Cup will commence after the SIAB cross country at Dublin. A site visit at Brecon will be scheduled for April with GO. GO updated the meeting regarding correspondence with Freedom Leisure on their progress towards ensuring the facility is fully ready to host events this summer, from an equipment and infrastructure perspective.

8. SIAB 2024 – matters arising AD

Event planning is well underway, a budget was set several months ago. HD has made a personal contribution towards any ancillary costs to hosting the event which was gratefully received and is sourcing more additional funding. The competition department will be the only individuals to correspond with Carmarthenshire Council on any aspect of hosting the International moving forward, to avoid any confusion on who is responsible for delivering the event and decision making. CEO JW will attend the SIAB delegates meeting at Carmarthen to update the home countries on the latest progress to the 1st April 2026 age group changes. Gwilym Williams (WSAA President) will compile a guest list of invitees, from Welsh School Athletics Association members, to attend the 2024 SIAB.

9. WSAA Finances

JW updated the meeting in DW absence. WSAA made a £10,000 contribution from reserves to WA as agreed and decided in the trustees meeting, the donation is to WA to support the operational costs of WSAA activities, in what is a very challenging financial climate. WSAA officers will chase AT for latest WSAA financial statements and balances in a legible format ready of the WSAA Executive on Saturday 13th April 2024. GO will contact NASUWT to request potential funding for the 2024 Cup & Plate Finals at Brecon.

10. Update on teacher courses, Sportshall & WSAA social media platforms growth

Only two teachers education courses have been delivered this financial year, well down from the 2023/24 year. A review on how we can best return to near last years figures will be undertaken including consideration on format, timing, costs and promotion of courses.

WSAA Social media platforms of Twitter and Facebook followers and post engagement continues to grow, to help promote all events and initiatives related to schools athletics. Thanks was given to NJ for his time in administering the accounts on behalf of WSAA in a voluntary capacity.

The Welsh Sportshall Athletics final was held on Sunday 10th March 2024 at Cwmbran. Four of the eight school districts fielded teams who were, Afan Nedd Tawe, Powys, Dyfed and Cardiff & The Vale, with three of the four districts qualifying teams for Stoke on Saturday 6th April 2024 in the UK final. Thanks was given to Adam Burgess from Sportshall and all the volunteers who assisted on the day. Eryri did not attend due to the costs of transport. For 2025 a change of date to avoid clashing with Mothers Day & Welsh Rugby Internationals will be considered along with a

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potential change of venue to hopeful result in more districts entering, fielding full teams and more volunteers available.

11. Update on new WSAA Logo

JW conformed two logos have been shortlisted, the dragon will be amended to be left facing. The SIAB cross country teams will be consulted on their preferred logo whilst in Dublin to get an opinion from the demographic our organisation functions for, rather than just the officers of the school districts.

12. AOB including date of next meeting

In line with the new constitution the date for the next **Executive** was **reconfirmed as Saturday 13th April 2024 (10:30am) and will be held on Teams**, and the next **Management Meeting** for **Thursday 6th June 2024 (12:30 to 2:30pm at a venue TBC)**.

Meeting closed at 2.00pm