

# Welsh Schools Athletics Association

## Management Committee Meeting Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2024 10.00am Start on Microsoft Teams

### 1. Apologies for absence & Present

1.1 Apologies : Zane Maynard (WSAA International Secretary) and Euan Coney (Welsh Athletics Competitions).

1.2 Present: Jo Warner (WSAA Chair) Steve Jones (WSAA Vice Chair) Dai Williams (WSAA Treasurer and Trustee), Gerald Davies (WSAA Immediate Past Chair and Trustee), Gareth Oldham (Powys), Alex Donald (WA Off Track Competitions Manager) Gwilym Williams (WSAA President & Trustee) and Andrew Jenkins (WA Schools and Young People Engagement Officer).

### 2. Approval Of Minutes of last Meeting 12<sup>th</sup> June 2024

WSAA file sharing folder is not yet set up, Eleanor Cartlidge (WA Human Resources & Finance Assistant) will be able to do this for WSAA as soon as officers are ready to submit relevant files and contacts for access.

### 3. Matters Arising From 12<sup>th</sup> June 2024 WSAA Management Meeting Minutes

WSAA Finance income, expenditure and event costs, plus WSAA Championships athlete and team manager event information, will be detailed later in this meetings' agenda.

### 4. Review Of WSAA 6<sup>th</sup> July 2024 Championships and Cup & Plate Final 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024

4.1 School districts require Championships event information well before the day, ideally before May half term to aid selection of teams and to arrange all other team logistics, 6<sup>th</sup> July 2024 WSAA Championships was received far too late, with less than 3 weeks to go.

WSAA Officers and WA both need to endeavour to find more and appropriate volunteers to assist on presentation. WSAA Officers and WA staff were indisposed organising or volunteering on other aspects of the day or team management of their home school districts. Thanks to Euan Coney & Darran Williams of WA and all other volunteers and officials for their invaluable support on the day on what otherwise was a successful championships.

4.2 WSAA Cup & Plate Finals Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at Brecon went smoother again this year, however team medals for the top 3 in each age group and gender for the Cup & Plate still have not been distributed. Thanks to Steve Jones, Darran Williams, Freedom Brecon Leisure Centre staff and all other volunteers, for their work in making the day a successful and run to time fixture. SJ not having any budgetary control as the event organiser caused significant organisational challenges, a new meeting manager will need to be appointed in 2025 if this cannot be changed.

**4.3** AD confirmed there are adequate numbers of medals in stock for Inter Schools cross country on 16<sup>th</sup> November at Newtown and 19<sup>th</sup> February for the WSAA Championships at Brecon. 2025 summer medal stock is to be ordered in December 2024 for track & field fixtures will include the new WSAA Logo, JW & SJ will reconfirm with the competitions department the annual medal stock that needs to be ordered for all WSAA fixtures.

#### **5. Review of SIAB at Carmarthen Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

Despite the atrocious weather conditions the competition went well, with lots of positive comments and feedback. Our gratitude and thanks to Carmarthenshire County Council, Carmarthen Leisure Centre Staff, Welsh Athletics and all other volunteers who contributed to a successful International. Over 20 medals were won by Wales one of most successful medal hauls ever at a SIAB. There were challenges for the English Schools team at their accommodation. Meals received were different to those ordered (and NOT appropriate for performance athletes pre competition), charges incurred for a meeting room not used/booked and for transport from the hotel to the track. ESAA will be writing to WA & WSAA to get the finance element of the issues resolved as soon as possible.

#### **6. WSAA & WA Finance & Charity Commission Information**

DW reported that as for the last two financial years, he is again, at this stage, unable to present an accurate finance report for the WSAA AGM on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2024. Despite numerous requests he has no written correspondence on the income, expenditure or balance of the WSAA Trustees account, despite being a WSAA Trustee & WSAA Treasurer, nor has he managed to obtain the competition cost breakdown of WSAA events.

NASUWT Cup & Plate grant – unknown if it has been received, and, if it has been paid, whether it has gone into the WA or WSAA accounts, the same applies to personal donations from outside of the WSAA Trustees/Officers towards to cost of SIAB.

Charity Commission website still indicates that WSAA is not registered for Gift Aid even though the WSAA Officers believe we are, the constitution is missing and several reports since 2021 are also missing or have been subject to delays in submission. It is believed that Gift Aid can be backdated up to 3 years should any donors wish to do so, assuming such donations were paid into the trustees account.

[Charity overview, WELSH SCHOOLS ATHLETIC](#)

[ASSOCIATION - 510848, Register of Charities - The Charity Commission](#)

WSAA Trustees at the next trustees meeting on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2024, will be requesting all the issues to be resolved as a matter of urgency. There are also concerns around any potential audit by HMRC or the Charity Commission. Trustees need confidence that WSAA are fully compliant with statutory accounting and reporting requirements.

## **7. Confirmation Of Fixtures Dates & Venues**

**7.1** There would be no WA or WSAA Combined Events Indoor Championships this November 2024 primarily due to costs. The selection policy can be found on the Welsh Athletics website under competing for Wales. Team selection meeting scheduled for Wednesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**7.2 Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2024** Welsh Inter Regional & Inter Schools & Inter Colleges Championships at Dolerw Park, Newtown. AJ – Event details needed as soon as possible so he can contact all schools for dates, and in return receive dates and venues of district cross country trials, although Powys, South East Wales and Afan Nedd Tawe have submitted theirs already.

**7.3 Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2024** Schools Combined Events International at Glasgow. This fixture clash with Newtown should not affect any athletes but will impact availability of some volunteers who would usually be at both.

**7.4 Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2025** Sportshall Finals at Cardiff. AJ has been advised there is no budget for Sportshall in 2025. Therefore, the venue will not be Cwmbran, instead Cardiff Metropolitan University Students will deliver the Final as part of their event management coursework and provide the facility for free. GO – is there any possible budget assistance from WA to subsidise costs for North Wales School Districts travel and or accommodation as this was the unaffordable barrier to their non-attendance in 2024.

**7.5 Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2025** SIAB U15 & U17 Cross Country International at Scotland, we are awaiting confirmation of the venue and city.

**7.6 Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2025** is the Oasis concert in Cardiff, this will make accommodation for athletes travelling from West or North Wales impossible to find regardless of cost, access to stadium parking is likely to be a major issue too. WSAA Officers preference is to return to the traditional home of Schools Athletics i.e. Brecon. Welsh Schools moved to Cardiff due to collaboration with Gemau Cymru which has now been lapsed for several years.

**7.7 Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> July 2025** TBC WSAA Cup & Plate Finals at Brecon.

**7.8 SIAB 2025 Track & Field** is due to be hosted by England, venue TBC, we understand at this stage Liverpool, Derby & Middlesbrough are the shortlisted venues.

**7.9 March 2026** Wales are due to host the U15 & U17 SIAB Cross Country International. WA are open to suggestions of a venue, initial thoughts are to host in North Wales. GO asked if Dolerw Park, Newtown could be considered.

## **8. AOB including date of next meeting**

**8.1** GW Further consideration need to be given to proposed age group changes from April 2026 as we must do what is in the best interest of the pupils. JW advised that SIAB and Home Countries have met once at Carmarthen prior to the SIAB International, and will meet again at the Combined Events on 16<sup>th</sup> November to finalise a collective decision on proposals. At this stage age groups will run from 1<sup>st</sup> September in line with the academic year rather than 1<sup>st</sup> January.

**8.2** WSAA social media accounts engagement and followers continue slow and steady growth on all three platforms, Facebook, X and Instagram.

**8.3** Primary & Secondary Teachers Education workshops were a struggle to deliver in 2023/24 academic year, primarily due to budget restraints on schools and unitary authority sports development departments. Contact received from Cardiff Metropolitan University to run courses in 2024/25 again subject to finance.

**8.4** Correspondence from Crickhowell High School with a request to compete in the South-East Wales Schools Cup Qualifying fixtures rather than its geographical location of Powys due to costs of bus hire. It was felt that this would set a dangerous precedent and was therefore declined.

**8.4** The next **WSAA Management Meeting** is scheduled for **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2024 (10am to 12pm)**

Meeting closed at 11.20am.