

Draft Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held virtually (via Teams) on Saturday 27th November 2021

Present:

Gerald Davies (Chairman, Glamorgan Valleys, GD), Dai Gatehouse (Immediate Past Chairman, DG), Dai Williams (Treasurer, DW), Gwilym Williams (Life Member, GW), Steve Jones (Afan Nedd Tawe, SJ), Andrew Jenkins (Afan Nedd Tawe, AJ), Kay Chapman (Cardiff & The Vale, KC), Matthew Edwards (Cardiff & The Vale, ME), Pete Morris (Cardiff & The Vale, PM), Gareth Oldham (Powys, GO), Rhys Stephens (Powys, RS), James Williams (Welsh Athletics, JW)

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

GD thanked everyone for sacrificing their Saturday to attend, and for their efforts in steering and continuing to guide the WSAA through the C19 pandemic. In particular he thanked SJ for his invaluable 7 years and over of dedication as the WSAA paid support officer after recently retiring. GD also thanked WA for their financial support of the entire schools competition program and support officer. He regrettably had to report on the passing of three key volunteers of WSAA from years gone by: Ivor Arnold (WSAA Vice President & Glamorgan); Terry Davies (Dyfed) & Ian Dixon (Photographer).

2. Apologies for absence

David Ball, Derek Price, Hedydd Davies (Dyfed), Sarah Moore (Cardiff & The Vale), Kath Elias (WSAA), Zane Maynard (Afan Nedd Tawe).

3. Minutes of the 2020 AGM

Were not accepted as an accurate record PM outlined the following errors and omissions all of which were agreed to be amended:

3.1 to add; *SJ felt that it was really important that the minutes are an accurate record.*

4.1 to add: *(Numbering 4.1 not 5.1) It had been agreed at the 2019 AGM that we go out to advert for the Trustees and General Secretary but that did not happen. and he confirmed that the two representatives of Welsh Athletics are usually the Chairman and Chief Executive. Minutes should read passing of two former vice presidents not life members, and reference of service awards were made at the WA AGM not WA Awards night.*

5.6 to add: *SM asked if a date had been set for the Welsh Sportshall Finals. SJ confirmed that Sunday, March 7th had been agreed with Adam Burgess at the Sportshall Association.*

6.4 should just read; *SIAB Schools, delete HCI as HCI was not part of the event.*

7.1 to add; *numbering to be changed from 7.3 to 7.1*

8.3 to add; • *PM suggested that, when, in the future, it is possible to hold face-to-face meetings again, the association should continue to offer a virtual attendance. It was Accepted. And) with the addition of an Executive on February 6th and It was reported that the indoor combined events in Glasgow is likely to be held on the last Saturday in November. The suggestion from SJ that the WSAA AGM be moved to the first weekend in December was accepted.*

11 amend 2020 to 2021.

12 amend 2020 to 2021

13.8 to add: *PM nominated GW & KE as the representatives of districts with DW as reserve (if KE does not wish to continue) – accepted - and he noted that on the Charity Commission website, Steve Perks is not recorded with other trusteeships, but he is listed as a trustee for the Run 4 Wales Charitable Foundation.*

15 to add: *It was AGREED to discuss at a later meeting what we want Vice Presidents to do, and whether there are other individuals who might be added.*

16 DW requested that a discussion be permitted around some of them – GD AGREED.

Drafting alterations to notices of motions:

3 (b) The start time for events on the track will NORMALLY be 11 am.

(c) The start of warm up time for all field events will NORMALLY be 10.45 am with competition in field events. Drafted alteration to motion 4 should read all WSAA meetings.

Drafting alteration to motion 5 to add The feeling of some was that this should not be restricted to schools in Eryri and North East Wales. The principle was accepted. Cardiff & The Vale agreed to withdraw the motion on the understanding that a mechanism will be put in place and that the details are agreed at a future meeting.

17 Items Notified To The Chair By November 15th: To add *There were no additional items submitted for discussion but AB asked via the chat option if the national track & field championships will be held in Cardiff in 2021. GD agreed that this could be raised on February 6th.*

GD Stated he will make all the amendments and recirculate the 2020 AGM minutes.

4. Matters Arising from the 2020 AGM Minutes

No other matters were arising.

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5. Reports

5.1 Finance

Dai Williams on Tuesday 16th November emailed the 2019/20 & 2020/21 and current year to date accounts to 27th October to all eight school districts. These were produced by Welsh Athletics and approved by the Welsh Schools Trustees at their meeting on 15/11/21. DW gave a brief verbal overview of all three years accounts, confirming that Welsh Athletics took over the WSAA financing from R4W during the 2018/19 financial year. 2020/21 accounts have been accepted by WSAA trustees and signed off by DW & JW on 15th November 2021. Year ending 31st March 2020 saw a year end loss of circa £6,000 primarily due to SIAB @ Swansea University additional accommodation costs and Home Countries cross country international. Current financial year virtually no costs have occurred due to C19 and all other outgoings being covered by WA, DW reiterated his thanks to WA for their financial support. Current WSAA reserves circa £50,000, however no costs to WSAA are currently projected as all operational costs are now undertaken by WA.

PM queried the 2019/20 £15,000 contribution to WA for competition delivery, specifically where this came from. JW answered 2018/19 RFW £150,000 income to WA ceased, therefore a request was made to WSAA to contribute £10,000 for the WSAA competition program which was topped up by £5,000 from the NASUWT grant.

PM queried the 2019/20 accounts specifically the significant increases in head office operation costs doubling from £4,100 to £9,700 and NASUWT event costs rising from £3,000 to £5,000. JW stated possibly SJ salary recategorized in budget lines and will check with AT and report on this and on the cost of the NASUWT finals.

PM queried that at last year's AGM, the 2019/20 accounts were reported as showing a deficit of £4,000 but this had been increased to £6,000 when the accounts were published. SJ answered this was due to additional recharge from Swansea University SIAB accommodation, which accounts for the additional £2,000 deficit.

PM queried how the 2020/21 accounts showed a profit. JW answered auditing was done inhouse rather than outsourced therefore making a material plus.

PM queried if income was less than £10,000 does this mean we don't need to report to the Charity Commission as normal. DW answered that accounts reporting is in hand with Andrew Thomas and that we have changed the WSAA legal status to a charity with CIO (Charitable Incorporated Association) which has created the opportunity of claiming 25% additional income on any donations to WSAA. GD added that AT will change procedures and paperwork literature for events so that it is stated and obvious that any donations can be gift aided.

DG stated that the SIAB affiliation will increase from £150 to £200 agreed at the last SIAB meeting. SIAB have a reserve of circa £3,300. In addition, SIAB is to be held in Dublin in 2022 and that the Combined Events is a Scottish Schools invitational rather than a SIAB event, and that each country would have its own flag/feather'.

5.2 Association Report

Steve Jones

GD read and was accepted as a true record, including that the new constitution needs to be aligned to the WA & WSAA SLA (service level agreement).

PM enquired whether it was possible to raise questions on the 2020 Annual Report as this was not available at the previous AGM and it had not been possible to discuss it. GW declined.

5.3 Schools' International Athletic Board/Fixtures

Zane Maynard

Accepted as part of the Association Report in ZM absence.

5.4 Welsh Athletics General Council

Gerald Davies/Dai Williams

DW verbally reported the last meeting was held virtually in November, no specific feedback in relation to WSAA.

5.5 Management Committee

Gerald Davies

GD noted that the last meeting was on 6th October 2021. He plans to write a report on the meeting and will circulate it with the amended minutes of the 2020 AGM. Agreed.

6. To note reports received during the year on competitions held:

6.1 SIAB Trial – Brecon (July 2021)

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SJ emailed reports on 3rd November.

PM noted that the title of the results on Power of 10 need to be amended from a championship to a trial event.

JW offered to get the WA competition department to contact Power of 10 to make this change, and he commended all involved in the efforts in organizing covid compliant events in such a challenging and fluid set of Welsh Government restrictions.

GD commented that he was glad that some pupils gained international selection from it.

6.2 SIAB Schools u17 Track & Field International – Derby, (Sept 2021)

SJ emailed report on 3rd November

GD added how well the team performed individually and collectively in partnership with all the team managers and coaches. SJ added the support specifically of Lisa Waddon & Kevin Williams relay coaching

7. To receive reports on competitions held since the September Executive:

7.1 Joint Indoor Combined Events Championships – NIAC, November 7th, 2021

DW gave a verbal report. Number of entries was pleasing; performances were solid despite lack of training opportunities due to C19 restrictions, U18W in particular were exceptional with five over 3000 points. The entry system does not allow for submission of school's names despite being a joint championships. A full quota of athletes has been selected for Glasgow Scottish Schools Invitational International.

PM felt that the (online) entry form for the combined events needs to be amended because, with the exception of pupils from Dyffryn Amman and Cwm Rhymni, who were not club members, pupils in the under 16 and under 18 competitions were not listed for their school, and they competed in their club vests as well. JW mentioned that the competition team will aim to hold a review meeting for both events and he suggested that a Welsh Schools delegate could feed-in those comments ahead of next year's events.

PM pointed out that, in the initial information that was circulated about the indoor combined events, there was reference to the IAUM tables being used to score the boys' 800 performances, and he gave credit to SJ for taking this up with competition and getting it changed. That had happened in 2019 and DG had written to JW. DG added that this was a recurring issue. Comments are made but then people forget to do things when they send things out.

PM felt that we need to be clear on the status of any English pupils, who enter the combined events.

7.2 Inter Schools Cross-Country Championships – Brecon, November 20th, 2021

DW gave a verbal report on a successful day, there were large fields of runners despite C19 issues, some school districts were better represented than others. An interesting course was made in what is now a very restricted area. Again as for the combined events at the point of entry athletes regions and schools both need to be included as it is a joint championships. Equaling billing is required.

8. Discussion Items

8.1 12th February 2022 WSAA XC Championships

PM queried why the date change had been changed to Saturday 12th February from Saturday 5th March. GD answered this had been changed after concerns from WA. (There were concerns that 6 consecutive weekends of racing from the National Endurance lead Liz Davies and club coaches, plus a clash with the WA Conference & Award weekend leaving no WA staff able to assist with event delivery.)

8.2 26th March 2022 SIAB Schools Cross-Country

PM enquired whether we would have details of the events at the January executive. (This is in hand with the WA competitions department of AD & RLP with significant support from Neil Thomas Chair of Carmarthen Harriers and who is also the Manager of Pembrey Country Park.)

GD indicated that, at this stage, all we can say is that we are planning for the event to be held on March 26th. He added that we normally schedule an executive in January when we look at these things in more detail. Agreed

DW had asked at the last Trustees' meeting if a Welsh Schools' delegate be included in the discussions on any future fixture calendar, to avoid any fixtures clashing – and that had been agreed. JW gave an update on the UK wide approach because of clashes and the impact on officials. Fixture setting is now led by the UKA competition group and is based on a tiered system. This will avoid clashes, reduce pressure on officials and be athlete-centered. The knock-on effect to Welsh Schools is minimal and WSAA events in 2022 are on the usual dates. Moving forward, WSAA should use its nominated delegate on WA track & field committees to disseminate fixture calendar information and request dates. That is a new process for next summer and will be rolled on.

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The meeting agreed that these items would be discussed in more detail at an executive, and Saturday, January 15th, 2022 was set as the date, with a 10.30 am start.

9. Association Awards 2021

To determine the recipients of the following National awards:

Nominations had been received from two districts.

9.1 The Denys Gumbley Award (for cross country) - Boy

9.2 The Raye Evans Award (for cross country) – Girl

It was agreed that the awards would not be made in these two categories this year as no major schools' cross-country competitions had been held because of the Covid restrictions.

9.3 The JDB Williams Award (for field) – Boy or Girl

Nominations were received for two Dyfed pupils – Michael Jenkins and Dafydd Pawlett.

It was agreed that Michael will receive the award.

9.4 The Jack O'Connell Award (for track) – Boy or Girl

Nominations were received for two Dyfed pupils – Gracie Griffiths and Jessica Lee – and for the members of the boys' 4 x 100 meters relay team. AGM agreed that a nomination for the members of the relay team was acceptable and, following a vote, it was agreed that the members of that team will receive the award; Dylan Morgan, Callum Webb, Joseph Berry & Jac Patterson.

PM queried whether the 2020 awards had been distributed. GD remembered that the letters had gone out to the individuals but will confirm with SJ as SJ had to leave the meeting early. *

10. Team Manager & Assistant Team Managers – 2022

10.1 To nominate individuals for the management pool. This was deferred to the Executive on Saturday 15th January due to Zane Maynard (International Secretary) being unavailable for this AGM. It was noted that Cardiff & the Vale district had nominated Kay Chapman, Matthew Edwards and Matthew Collins.

11. 2022 Selection Policy

It was agreed to defer discussion on this document to the January 2022 executive. GD asked AJ to forward a copy to Adrian Palmer & Liz Davies so that they had an opportunity to give feedback before the meeting.

12. Appointment of Delegates

PM asked if appointment of Trustees should be added to future appointment of delegates. GD agreed to add as item 12.8

12.1 SIAB Annual General Meeting (3 delegates) International Secretary = Zane Maynard, Chair = Gerald Davies and Vice Chair – Jo Warner.

12.2 SIAB Executive Committee (1 delegate) = WSAA Chair = GD.

12.3 Member of Welsh Athletics Ltd, and representative to general meetings. = Gareth Oldham.

12.4 Members of Management Committee (up to 3 in addition to standing members) No appointments made and deferred to Saturday 15th January WSAA executive committee.

12.5 Representative on WA Track & Field Committee (1) Kath Elias

12.6 Representative on WA Road/XC Committee (1) Steve Jones appointed

12.7 Representatives on WA General Council (2) Gerald Davies & Dai Williams appointed

12.8 WSAA Trustees (4 delegates) Gerald Davies, Dai Williams, Kath Elias, Gwilym Williams appointed. (Plus two from WA Steve Perks & James Williams)

13. Appointment of Awards Committee at National Track & Field Championships 2022.

GW was re-appointed as Chairman of this committee with authority to invite other members.

14. Notices of Motion

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14.1 Motion submitted by Afan Nedd Tawe

This meeting of the Welsh Schools Athletics Association confirms that during the 2019 AGM, item 5.6 confirmed the acceptance of the "Future of WSAA" document and in doing so provided delegated authority for WSAA Officers to adapt structures, negotiate and agree a new SLA with partners and prepare for the drafting of a new WSAA Constitution.

We therefore submit that Motion 8 from the 2020 Annual General Meeting should NOT have been considered and all references to it should be removed from the minutes.

This was read out by GD.

A long and very complex discussion followed on protocols of WSAA notices of motion, amended WSAA constitution, WA & WSAA service level agreement and WSAA General Management and Executive committees' roles.

DW questioned whether any new constitution needs to reflect what is included in the new SLA but GD felt that this was not the case.

GW suggested that, as a matter of urgency, a small group look again at the constitution produced in February 2018, and which was a re-adjustment of the proposed constitution not accepted at the 2017 AGM. He felt that a copy of both documents was needed and that these should be considered by three of the members, who drafted the 2017 document, - GW, GD, DW - plus PM. This matter needs to be resolved once and for all and needs to include, and reference the SLA.

DW supported GW but suggested that Jo Warner should replace himself on the group, because she will be the next Chairman and she was a member of the small group which negotiated the SLA. Agreed

In the light of this development, AJ was asked if he would withdraw the ANT motion. He declined and expressed the view that the process needs to be simplified. Since he has been involved, everything seems to be discussed twice. In his view, there should only be one committee.

GD then asked AJ if he would amend the motion by taking out the final sentence because, as DW pointed out, the minutes of the 2020 AGM had already been approved.

AJ agreed to this suggestion and a vote was taken on just the first sentence of the original motion. The voting was four in favor with one abstention.

14.2 Motions submitted by Cardiff & the Vale of Glamorgan

PM noted that the two notices of motion (plus two discussion items) had only been circulated to districts two days before the AGM. He felt that it was unfair on everyone to discuss them at such short notice, and he requested that they be deferred to the January executive, which should be given delegated authority to deal with them. The meeting was happy to accept the request.

15. Approval of WSAA/WA Service Level Agreement

GD agreed to take this item ahead of Notices of Motion on the agenda. The SLA was not available for review prior to the WSAA AGM for all attendees. GD announced that he had signed the agreement at Brecon on November 20th so that we continue to be funded by Welsh Athletics Limited. He will circulate a copy by email.

16. Closing Remarks

GD noted that the next meeting is planned for January 15th and he thanked everyone for their contributions. GW thanked GD for chairing the meeting in such difficult circumstances, and he expressed his personal view that a face-to-face meeting is far better than a virtual meeting.

*Note that the following attendees left the AGM prior to its conclusion at the following times:

SJ 11.50
DG 12.07
JW 12.15
KC 12.16
RS 12.27
ME 12.31