

## London Regional Council meeting – notes and actions

**Held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May at 6.00pm at Kings Cross Premier Inn.**

Present: Tony Shiret (Chair), Geoff Morphitis, Steve Bosley, Tim Soutar, Peter Crawshaw, ben Noad, Chris Minn (EA), Tom Pollak (Surrey AA), Bob Smith (EA).

1. **Welcome to new members** – to commence the first London Council meeting since the recent elections, Tony Shiret welcomed newly elected Councillors, Tim Soutar (Blackheath & Bromley) and Ben Noad (Highgate Harriers).
2. **Apologies** – Lorna Boothe, Herts AA, Middlesex AA.
3. **Minutes of last meeting and matters arising** – minutes of previous meeting showed that “no clubs had raised concerns with the Council about the YAL structural changes”. GM pointed out that comments had been made by the clubs and that these had been made direct to the YDL by GM.
4. **Recent National Council and EA Board meetings** – the agendas of the meetings held on 12<sup>th</sup> March (at Allianz Park) and 30<sup>th</sup> April (at Alexander Stadium) were circulated. Tony Shiret also circulated brief notes on these meetings. It was queried why so much EA activity is centred on activation, with an emphasis on increasing participation by inactive people. Several members of the Council expressed a wish to make a difference to clubs. It was also felt that the governance of EA needs sorting out, and that the majority of the EA Board should come from the Regional Councils as this would lead to greater club based ownership and control. It was noted that after one month of the new financial year, numbers of affiliated athletes was marginally down, and numbers of Under 11’s seemed be poor.
5. **New London structure and update** – Bob Smith detailed changes that were being put in place since London became a separate area on 1<sup>st</sup> April. There will be two CCSO’s in London – Julia Bailey (maternity leave cover for Sarah Wade) in South London and Tim Howells ([thowells@englandathletics.org](mailto:thowells@englandathletics.org)) has been appointed in North London – commences work on 10<sup>th</sup> June. Activators will be employed in all existing boroughs except Tower Hamlets and Lewisham and there are likely to be new Activators in Redbridge, Southwark and Wandsworth – possibility of Activators in four other boroughs. A job description and person spec are also being put together for a London Education and Development Manager who will be tasked with coordinating coaching activity, liaising with clubs and networks to ensure that education opportunities are provided and ensuring that attendees on courses are fully supported to attain qualifications. A review of the coaching pathway is being carried out by sportscoach uk. There was a debate about whether the networks and the Counties need to have a “symbiotic relationship”. The first group of network panels (for south of the river) were scheduled for 15<sup>th</sup> May. There will be a slight delay until meeting with other networks (from north of the river) to coincide with Tim Howells commencement as a CCSO working with these networks.
6. **Direction of London Strategy and priorities** – regional strategies have been delayed as announcement of WSP funding, Council elections and consultation re affiliation have taken precedence. T.Shiret asked each Councillor to submit three areas which they feel should be the focus for London activity in the next four years.
7. **County Associations** – a full debate on a number of issues was started by the Chair’s statement that he wanted the London Council to engage with the Counties, and that there would be a standing invitation for the Counties to attend meetings. For this meeting Middlesex, Essex, Kent,

Surrey and Herts had all been invited although only Surrey had been able to take up the invitation. TP commented that there needed to be a line of communication and that representation at Regional Council meetings helped. The Chair said there was a need to be open and transparent at Regional Council level and that minutes should be posted on the London athletics website. Others asked for a monthly summary of London employees work. GM complained about VAT appearing in the Budget summaries that had been produced for the recent consultation meeting.

8. **Portfolio allocations** – some discussion about possible portfolios – Ben Noad (competition – road, xc), Geoff Morphitis (competition – t&f), Steve Bosley (schools), Peter Crawshaw (officials), Tim Soutar (governance), Lorna Boothe (coaching).
9. **Next meeting** – will probably be in July 2013.