

London Regional Council meeting – minutes

Meeting held at Premier Inn, Kings Cross, Wednesday 6th November at 6.00pm.

Present: L.Boothe, P.Crawshaw, G.Morphitis, B.Noad, T.Shiret (Chair),T.Soutar, D.Staines (Essex), I.Wiggett (Middlesex), T.Pollak (Surrey), J.Gebbels (SEAA), C.Jones, G.Allan, R.Smith.

Apologies: S.Bosley, D.Ralph (Kent), S.Gandee (Herts).

1.Minutes of meeting on 24th July 2013 were approved.

2. Matters Arising:

a) Tony Shiret met with Lynn Davies to discuss club representation on UKA Member's Council – any changes will depend on wider discussions between EA and UKA.

b) Following London region representations, proposed cost of Athletics Coach course had been reduced from £325 to £250, and LIRF course costs have also been reduced.

3. Election of Co-Chair:

Tony Shiret is now increasingly involved in national issues at Board level, and consequently spending less hours on London where there needs to be a continued focus. It was agreed that Peter Crawshaw would be the new Co-Chair of London Council.

4. EA matters:

- Clubs comments on YDL had been put forward for consideration by the YDL in its end-year members meeting.
- Sport England have commissioned a Joint Assurance Review of EA/UKA, looking at where the Sport England grant goes, authorisations, responsible officers. Report to be produced.
- Affiliation – numbers have held firm nationally, since doubling of affiliation fee. Under 11's are well behind budget. Other regions are already at 90% total for affiliation for 2012-13, but London lags behind (closer to 80%). Four steps are being worked on to address shortfall:
 1. Free VLM places to be restricted.
 2. ERRA and ECCU – talks to enforce affiliation to entry to their races. On-line consultations showed that clubs that have paid expect other clubs to pay too.
 3. Draft affiliation compliance policy going to EA Board the following week. T. Shiret has objected as the enabling rules for the UKA Rulebook have not been seen, and there has been no consultation with the clubs on this.
 4. Progress chase of 'worst' non-paying clubs establishing reasons for non-payment.

Tim Soutar commented that there has been terrific progress in the last 12 months but there is still a need to work through outstanding issues, and there is no logical, holistic approach to affiliation from EA. D.Staines commented that the rules are not clear, and that running clubs need to be sold the

benefits of being part of EA. G.Morphitis felt that a list of events requiring registration of athletes should be published. Chris Jones gave an overview of the situation, and said that at National and Area level, registration was more rigorously applied. At County level, the picture was mixed as the Counties were not driven by a desire to regulate affiliation. T.Soutar advised that the NGB needed to take the sport with it, before implementing a compliance policy, rather than introducing a policy in April 2014, and then consulting after the event with the sport.

- **Officials Strategy:** EA is trying to take responsibility for driving this forward. T. Shiret is meeting the tri-regional officials in near future. P.Crawshaw reported Trinity database is good for records of officials though not as effective at producing summary statistics and ad hoc reports.
- **Coach Education:** T.Shiret meeting P.Stanley to discuss the two reports which have been produced in 2013.

5. Counties:

- a) Essex – date of County Champs (T&F) likely to revert to May with two dates under consideration. Good relationship with Essex LAN.
 - b) Middlesex – not much debate to report on affiliation.
 - c) Surrey – County Champs entry increased this year, and they will retain bank holiday weekend. Standards up too. Some disconnect with Inter Counties and they would not rule out at some future time a split in County Champs with seniors being held in July, so as to improve linkage with CAU. Not prepared to police affiliation for entries to County Champs.
6. **SEAA:** J.Gebbels reminded the meeting that competition was a key element in Athletics, and that he believed there was a need to invest in SEAA to ensure good quality competition is maintained.
 7. **Education report (Coaches/Officials):** Graeme Allan reported on his first three months in post. It has been a challenging period with some legacy issues requiring actions. Agreements are now in place with many venues to lower hire costs which will enable courses to be run at break even. No courses have been cancelled and demand for coaching courses is very high. However, there is an ongoing problem with supply of tutors – only four coach tutors are located inside the M25 and only one of these can lead on LIRF. No Children’s Coach courses are being held in the foreseeable future. Graeme will become a tutor but this will take 3-6 months. There are 37 coaches stuck in the system – needing logbook verification before they become qualified as an Athletics Coach. Tutors are now agreeing to free assessments of log books. Graeme has met the COFFSEC’s whose involvement is essential as they know the demand for courses on the ground. The Level 2 officials’ course at Allianz Park was very positive with 58 attending.
 8. **Report by London Manager:** A monthly report on the Run project is now being sent to the London Council, detailing successes, achievements, events etc. At the midway point of the reporting year (30th September) London is leading the way in terms of new participants – the key driver for Sport England funding. 12,000 new participants have been registered in

London which exceeds our half year target by one third. As reported above, Graeme Allan has commenced work in London and has made an immediate difference as he tackles the low level of previous activity on Coach/Officials Education in the capital. Tim Howells has now visited all of the North London tracks bar one and is working closely with the Activators, piloting a joined up and cohesive approach to CCSO working. All seven London athletics networks have reported as required. A new Activator, funded by Saracens, has been appointed in Barnet - he is Jared Keely, worth seeking out on a visit to Allianz Park. The new compact athletics facility opened at Stoke Newington School in September, gaining national publicity at its launch which was attended by Christine Ohuruogu. Good progress is also being made in supporting facility development at Sutcliffe Park and New River. London has also been very successful in setting up satellite clubs, thanks in part to the Activators but also to a positive attitude shown by a number of mainstream clubs. Highgate Harriers will probably be hosting the EA 10,000 metres Champs on 10th May 2014 at Parliament Hill.

12. Portfolios: Deferred.

13. Any Other Business: Co-opts to be discussed at next meeting.

14. Date of next meeting: 22nd January 2014 – venue to be confirmed.

Tone down