

**Minutes of the London Regional Council Meeting**  
**Held on Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2014**  
**At Kings Cross Premier Inn, London**

**Present**

Peter Crawshaw (PGC) – London Council Co-Chair / Officials Portfolio  
Geoff Morphitis (GM) – Clubs Portfolio  
Tim Soutar (TJS) – Governance Portfolio  
Steve Bosley (SB) – Schools Portfolio

**Apologies**

Tony Shiret (TLS) – London Council Co-Chair / England Council Chair  
Lorna Boothe (LB) – Coaching Portfolio  
Ben Noad (BN)

In attendance:            Bob Smith (BS) – EA London Area Manager  
                                 Paul Merryweather (PM) – Chair, Essex County AA  
                                 Ivor Wiggett (IW) – Chair, Middlesex County AA  
                                 John Gandee (JG) – South of England AA  
                                 Sarah Wade – England Athletics

***Basis of preparation***

*Outcomes show the decisions made at London Regional Council Meetings but not the full debate at those meetings to reach those decisions. Publication of separate Minutes and Outcomes allows the Council to have a full debate for the record (Minutes) while keeping interested parties informed of important decisions reached (Outcomes). Minutes are not formally approved until the next Council Meeting. These Outcomes are based on the Draft Minutes of the Council meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> April, which have been circulated among those present with amendments incorporated. The London Regional Council next meets on 27<sup>th</sup> August.*

**1. Welcome**

PGC took the chair and opened the meeting.

**2. Minutes 22<sup>nd</sup> January:**

4b) in minutes – should have read that GM had not attended YDL meeting in November 2013.

4c) – should read Moore Stephens. GM commented that he did not understand the delay in release of the Joint Assurance Audit report.

4d) – Correction – sentence to read “PGC explained Bob Miller has stepped down as London field rep and that the ELSE group had recommended that Steve Marshall (Middlesex CofSec) be appointed by the London Regional Council to take over.”

8) bullet point 2 – Lynette Smith also on sub-group.

### 3. Matters arising where not already on the agenda

- a) **Co-opting of members of London Council:** London Council agreed to approach four possible co-opts and to give further thought to other suitable representatives with a range of relevant experience in the sport.
- b) **YDL: Letter to Chris Jones / YDL response**

PGC is to meet Roger Simons next month to respond to the letter. Consensus is that it is all clubs (large and small) that are affected. SB is to join the group and Council also need to find a representative from a smaller club. TJS emphasised the importance of this matter as it is the bridge between young athletes and senior performance, and as currently there is such a large drop off in participation in the 16-19 age group there must be something going wrong and this must be addressed.

It was mentioned that a report has been sanctioned by UKA, conducted by Ellie Spain looking at English Schools Champions over previous years and their continuation in the sport. The council thought that this report could offer some insight into some of the issues of participation drop off and have requested that a copy of the report is to be chased and circulated to members.

SB reported that 10 clubs have opted to participate in this year's SLAN Under 17 and Under 20 competition.

Counties are moving to using online entry systems for their championships. Surrey, Middlesex and Kent are ready, and Essex will be ready from Indoor Championships next year. The council discussed if there was any guidance on systems to use and what would be best / most cost effective and asked for this information to be shared to ensure counties are not duplicating work or wasting money.

### 4. Report London manager:

- a. **Run/ Participation:** GM and PGC have looked at latest figures and asked for more clarity on what exactly was being reported on and how the information is collected as there seems to be some disparity in data from borough to borough, with Greenwich being a stand out case. BS will supply details of breakdown of Greenwich figures, and updated council that Greenwich no longer has an activator since GLL took over the Sports Development team in the borough. BS hopes there will soon be an activator in Camden. GM updated that that a new Park Run has been set up by Jared Keely from Allianz Park. As Run! has been involved in set up, they can collect numbers from the event.

PGC met Rhian Horlock last month and discussed potential GLA funding. BS updated that a new date for a meeting with the GLA, EA, and UKA has not yet been set.

Satellite Clubs: GM reported 2 more have been set up in Barnet from September. GM stated he thought there was not much involvement from teachers in satellite clubs and they could do more in the way of paperwork and support. The Barnet satellite clubs will work by offering the first 3 sessions free, then £2-£3 thereafter, if a child does a whole term they are offered free membership of Shaftesbury Barnet. SB reported how the satellite club system

had helped HHH to get a session started at Lilian Baylis School, something that they had previously struggled with at that location. They now get 25-30 attending sessions, with some also joining the club. SB stated the advantage was now getting into schools with EA support.

Staff Development: Tamsin Fudge has moved on to national disability role from Haringey. She has helped with promised improvements to Finsbury Park (which has have recently received confirmation of £1.3m grant funding from London Marathon Charitable Trust) also the track at New River is now safeguarded, albeit with a restricted infield. A new appointment has been made, Vanessa Doabry who will replace Tamsin in Haringey and also work in neighbouring Islington.

The Council sent best wishes to Jerry Odlin following recent bereavement.

Peter Stanley is now lead coach on Combined /Field events at UKA.

Rhian Horlock has left EA to join MacMillan Cancer Trust. The Council wanted to give Rhian a vote of thanks as they felt a lot of the success of the Run! project was down to her enthusiasm and that she set the tone for the project. BS is currently covering much of her role. An advert for a replacement will go out soon.

## **5. Counties – update on competition plans and meetings / communications with England Athletics**

Kent: PGC reported an update from David Ralph on behalf of Kent AA. They are using false start equipment at their championships. IW enquired about the costs for such equipment, and generally on the various counties photo finish equipment and costs. BS said he would investigate the status of Brunei University's photo finish equipment as it is currently unused.

Essex: PM reported entries were currently fairly low for the upcoming champs but these may increase when the schools started back. They were also struggling with Officials numbers. PM enquired if any counties offered competition for athletes with disabilities. PGC reported the Weir Archer Academy held a meeting that had good numbers and was very successful but that such successes were dependent on having a key person to push events through. PM also confirmed Havering Mayesbrook AC now known as Havering AC.

Middlesex: IW reported they were struggling to find enough officials and thought the hoops to go through for officials to be able to officiate at certain competitions was too high (currently 8 competitions to qualify or 4 if at a higher level.) GM asked if processes could be formalised so COfSecs set up communications between officials and clubs and copy in officials secretaries in clubs to ensure the circle is closed. GM stated Trinity does not currently say which club an Official may be associated with and it should be essential for those on an Officials course to state their club and for the COfSec to be told – anyone unattached should state an area they can volunteer in. PC said he would talk to Graeme Allan about the issue.

## **6. SEAA: update on competition plans and meetings / communications with England Athletics**

South of England: JG reported SEAA have received funding from EA. Summer age group Championships have been set up as usual. Cross Country, Road Relays and Fell Running

Championships all set up. Entry fees remain same as 2013. Infield at Crystal Palace may now be used only for football training. PGC enquired about stability of finances given reports he had heard about Northern Athletics running out of money. JG responded that Northern Athletics had conducted a survey that had indicated members would be willing to contribute £3 direct to Northern Athletics to keep them in business.

BS reported EA have subsidised Highgate 10k from Innovations fund to incorporate England Championships.

GM reported on Saracens Autistic Athletics class. It recently held a fundraiser and raised £10k for a sensory room for the athletes. GM to ensure Jared Keely is fully aware.

## **7. EA Matters**

### **a. Affiliation**

TJS is on the advisory group to draw up policy on affiliation. GM stated that there was a potential conflict between Road Running clubs and Track and Field clubs as there are very clear benefits for affiliation for Road Runners (£2 race discount), but nothing obvious for track and field.

Club Conference feedback: GM referred to the finance figures shown at the conference. PGC agreed there needs to be more detail for clubs on what they get for their money. GM asked what the plan was to examine the figures and questioned how accurate they were and who ultimately was responsible? Council felt the numbers need to be much clearer and needs to be obvious exactly what is being paid for and how value for money is to be judged. PGC stated he was going to EA HO to look more closely at the numbers and will find out more details, especially on participation. TJS added that to sell this to participants it is essential for them to understand what goes into maintaining the sporting infrastructure that is taken for granted. There are certain needs with associated costs that need to be paid for, and there is a lot going on that does not get sold or advertised. PGC summarised that a better idea of benefits was essential, and increased transparency on numbers was key.

b. Outcomes of National Council: TLS is chair for further 12 months.

c. Election of new EA board members: TJS has been elected on to Board. He will be undertaking various inductions over next few weeks.

d. Terms of Reference for Regional Councillors: PGC has undertaken task to tidy up document to make it clearer for public reference. PGC would appreciate views from the Council on the draft document and if it is fit for purpose – please email PGC any comments. A draft will be discussed at the national Council on 30 April, and possibly at Board meeting on 7 May.

## **8. London Strategy**

PGC asked members if they wanted to update and take forward a London Strategy that could be important to attract potential funding partners and be a rallying point for the Council. SB thought the 2017 World Championships was a good opportunity for Athletics and a strategy could maximise this. GM thought a strategy was an important document to buy into and the strategy should show how hosting the Worlds Championships could have an impact at Club level. TJS felt there could be a

better approach for clubs to buy into and need to look at how best to support clubs to do more and be able to benefit and strengthen the infrastructure of the sport.

BS asked how best EA could do this and if a Strategy was worth taking further. In response to the questions in PGC's paper;

1. Yes (we do want an updated strategy)
2. We may need to highlight areas where the Whole Sport Plan may not reflect the specific needs of London and its communities.
3. The strategy needs to be specific to the needs of London.
4. What time and resources should be put in? A smaller group should be formed to reflect club views –co-opt from outside council if necessary. Need to think of Road Running/ Track and Field balance of group. Increasing capacity of clubs is a recurrent theme when clubs are consulted. JG stressed the ongoing focus of the Olympics as a pull, as well as the 2017 World Championships.

### **9. Networks**

BS reported funding has been agreed for 6 of the 7 networks. PGC asked if networks which employed a paid administrator were aware of guidance from HMRC on the legalities and obligations of such employment. PGC agreed to share document.

Council discussed continuation of networks after current funding arrangements as Chris Jones had seemed to indicate at Club Conference Networks could continue if the desire was there to do so. PM asked if there would be a review of network members and boundaries as he felt Essex networks were confusing as several anomalies.

### **10. Portfolio's**

- a. Draft portfolio holder job descriptions: PGC still waiting for these to be sent to him.
- b. Officials: PGC circulated document Update re Officials Portfolio. Updates have been sent from HO but not made as much progress as would have liked especially on Health and Safety training. Paula Gowing (Education sub-committee, technical advisory group) TAG due at next National Council. *Renaming of Officials Levels*: PGC not in favour as he believes that would add confusion on the ground and would like to ask clubs for feedback and views on whether they want any changes. There should be clarity on the levels and associated responsibilities. GM was concerned that a structure could be created that was not fit for purpose at grass roots level. JG thought Base level requirement was to be safe and effective, then progress through the levels if desired. JG felt clubs are simple in needs re officials - competent , safe people and no need to add confusion.
- c. Clubs (including London Club Conference): GM wanted a response with regard to the finance figures from the conference. PGC will take GM through numbers to help clarify where he can. SB felt the Conference this year was a marked contrast to previous year as was a lot more relaxed atmosphere. PGC felt that it was more positive as it was run by the Council.

### **11. Items for noting**

- a. New affiliation applications by London Clubs: Barnes Runners and Crystal Palace Fun Runners - Both agreed.
- b. Dates / rolling agenda for future meetings: agreed

## **12. AOB**

Council were not happy with current ECCA and ERRRA ruling on foreign athletes. GM felt there as a definite need to do something and for Council to try and influence a change in this ruling. GM felt the stance taken by British Athletics League was a good example of where there is a distinction made between Resident Foreign Athletes and Transient Foreign Athletes. PGC agreed to write a letter on behalf of London Council to ECCA and ERRRA to inform them of the concerns of London clubs about this decision. Council members would also try to encourage representatives from London clubs to attend the AGM's of both organisations which are being held in Derby on 17 May to try to overturn the current ruling.

Meeting Closed.

DRAFT