

**Outcomes of the London Regional Council Meeting  
Held on Wednesday, 17th February 2016  
At Victoria Premier Inn, London**

**Present**

Elected Councillors;  
Peter Crawshaw (PGC) – London Council Co-Chair / Officials Portfolio  
Tony Shiret (TLS) – London Council Co-Chair / England Council Chair  
Ellie Brown (EB)  
Ben Noad (BN)  
Lorna Boothe (LB) – Coaching Portfolio  
Jacob Hood (JH), Elected Councillor  
Steve Bosley (SB) – Schools Portfolio  
Tim Soutar (TJS) – Governance Portfolio

Co-opted;  
Anthony Soalla-Bell (ASB), Schools Athletics  
Susan Cook (SC), Disability Athletics

**In attendance**

Paul Merrywest (PM- Essex), representing Chair, Essex County AA  
Natalie Kavanagh-Clarke (NKC), Interim London Area Manager  
Sarah Wade (SW), EA (Minutes)  
John Gandee (JG), representing SEAA  
Jane Stewart (JS), London 2017 Inspiration Co-ordinator,

**Apologies**

Ivor Wiggett (IW), representing Chair, Middlesex County AA  
Tom Pollak (TP), Chair, Surrey County AA  
Richard Pettigrew (RP), Facilities  
David Ralph (DR) – Kent County AA

*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 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2016 which have been circulated among those present, with amendments incorporated. The London Regional Council next meets on Wednesday, 27th April 2016*

**1. Welcome / apologies / declarations of interest**

E mails / text messages, explaining that they were unable to attend, had been received from IW, TP, RP and DR. No declarations of interest relating to business of the meeting.

## **2. Minutes of 21<sup>st</sup> October 2015: confirmation of accuracy**

The minutes were agreed as circulated and signed by PGC.

## **3. Regional Council Feedback on Council system – possible improvements to Portfolio holder system: recommendations to National Council.**

Feedback for discussion next week on future of councils for TLS to discuss at National Council. PGC had circulated some material for consideration. TLS would like feedback on the portfolio system, looking at what portfolios holders might like to do but identifying potential obstacles. i.e.:

- Issues inherent in the system?
- How can change happen and get issues heard nationally?
- How does information get fed back from national council to portfolio holders or other interested groups?
- Is there sufficient appetite from regional councillors to get the system to work?

SC pointed out that there no national disability group. Ian Thompson used to be a representative on the council but he no longer attends meetings. TS asked if SC would like to be national council representative for disability. SC agreed.

### **Action: TLS to invite SC to attend next National Council meeting**

TLS stated National Council has changed over last few years and is no longer just a reporting body but is now more aggressive to get things changed and influence decisions.

TLS feels the councils have been proactive with things such as the officials strategy but this work doesn't necessarily get shouted about.

PGC stated with regard to officials that most responsibility is still with Counties, though there have been achievements achieved via Regional portfolio holders working together, such as wider access to Trinity (UKA Portal). TLS feels there is a bottom up approach with county groups at bottom and the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) at the top mostly interested in televised competitions. There are now representatives from National Council on TAG so able to get points and concerns across to people at top, so there is now much more accountability at the top.

TLS; officials is a difficult area as there are so many different groups and many are resistant to change. TLS has asked UKA to investigate possibility of officials' identity card for competitions (e.g. swipe a bar code on the Licence card onto a reader as an alternative to manually signing in on arrival, so gaining better information re how active officials are at grass roots, and so informing a high level strategy). PGC felt the main benefit and purpose of the existing officials' Licence / Identity card is so that officials' qualification (including whether they have attended H&S course) and DBS clearance status is clear on the day.

PGC thought there would be benefit for Regional portfolio holders to knowing better the equivalent portfolio holders in other regions .LB said the coaching group had made a good start in bringing people together for a meeting on Coach Education but no momentum with following this up.

JH suggested bringing people together at conference where people are already in attendance. Also, it is necessary to clear up exactly what the role of a portfolio holder is and should be. There should be advice documents to portfolio holders on what they could and should do.

TLS felt that because of the logistical issues of a national meeting, online forums would be more practical.

LB also thought it would be useful to be clear how the system fitted in with paid staff from EA and how information should best flow.

TLS has agreed with Chris Jones that councillors should receive a redacted version of each board report to open up processes and goings on in EA. TLS could filter down reports that are produced on behalf EA. TLS agrees there is a need to ensure that there is transparency in the system and link between paid staff and volunteer processes. Need to be able to question and hold to account paid staff.

PGC sees the benefit of specialised posts through the portfolio system is that you can go into more depth on subjects that otherwise get glossed over in full council meetings.

TS considers Trinity is not fit for purpose. Difficult to book on to courses. PGG reminded the Council that he had written to senior UKA management over three years previously re the need for online officials course bookings and had been promised a root and branch review of officials education by the TAG Chair.

PGC asked if we could learn anything from Youth Advisory Group that JH sits on? JH said that the YAG has links with EA/UKA through June Swift And Stuart Atwell, so they have good communication with paid staff. JH feels it is a good idea to have a portfolio for youth to sit on regional councils. JH wasn't sure there was enough advice for portfolio holders, and within cross-regional portfolio groups there should be a lead portfolio holder to report into national council.

SC would find it useful to have direct contact e-mail addresses for those across the sport who are dealing with disability athletics to ask what they might want to see happen and create a two way process for information flow. A significant problem with disability sport is looking at the number of different bodies that are involved and there is a lack of joined up thinking across them. TLS feels that having SC sitting on the National Council will help effect change and bring people together more effectively in this area.

SB feels that there is a need to promote what the council and specifically portfolio holders do so people from the sport know who to approach for relevant issues.

TLS; it should be fairly easy to promote councillors and what we do using the existing communication infrastructure. EA would probably not be prepared to spend money on promotion etc. NKC agrees we could raise profile of council through existing infrastructure.

SC can we make better use of google plus/Facebook/ twitter? Can there be a contact form online to use to direct queries to councillors?

JH; had looked at this problem through YAG, they hadn't changed, just make better use of website, e-bulletins and keeping the blog up to date.

TLS; it should be easy in London to improve communications as there is the separate London website. Can we have a page for Council with Pictures and profiles of members and a contact form to click queries through? EB worries if people can directly contact could be overwhelmed- councillors are only volunteers. This was accepted, with clarity regarding the respective roles and responsibilities (as per the Regional Councils' published ToR) a key issue.

**Action: PGC and NKC to meet before next Regional Council meeting to identify how the London Athletics website / social media can be used better to allow clubs to contact the appropriate Council member.**

ASB; have to use county website/data to get officials data. TLS; there are issues over Data Protection and sharing but are pushing for ways to get through this. PGC has been looking at system being used by rugby/cricket (whostheref.com / whostheumpire.com), and seeing how it could be adapted for use by athletics.

**Action: ASB and PGC to discuss offline to agree how London Schools AA may be better supported in obtaining officials for their events.**

TLS; Dean Hardman is doing work on EA data collection and use at the moment as there is a need to improve participation data collection. TS will report back to PGC on progress.

#### **4. Consultation/ Club Conference 2016**

PGC: Suggested date is 6 April. Do we want it to happen? TLS: should give people the opportunity to talk. Suggestion that Monday 4 /11 April would be better.

**Action: PGC to go back to DH to agree date / venue**

NKC/ PGC need to look at the format and what will work best. TLS: would be good for someone from EA board leads event.

PGC EA also looking to piggy back on to a local athletics event (suggestion: Highgate Harriers night of 10000 PBs). TLS; this will be discussed further at National Council next week.

#### **5. London 2017 Inspiration Programme**

JS spoke to her presentation, explaining her role in relation to the overall Programme which has Tessa Jowell and Steve Grainger heading up the main Steering Group. More information regarding the Programme will be publicly available soon. PGC hopes that this can be progressed through the upcoming EA 2016 Consultation programme.

Additional points/ questions;

Spirit of 2012 is a potential source of funding, as they are able to offer significant funding to projects which can have beneficial impact communities, volunteering, and inclusion. All projects they approve must hit these factors and they are rightly demanding in providing due

rigour around this. There are opportunities with Spirit to do research with data and numbers on specific areas.

JS; likely that volunteering will be our biggest bid to Spirit. They are generally prepared to acknowledge the intrinsic benefit of sharing knowledge and learning outcomes from projects.

Discussion;

SC asked if there are plans do any work with Duke of Edinburgh/scouts/guides. JS; No plans to as yet but will see what the research comes back with.

TLS; Who is point of contact person in UKA? JS; Stuart Atwell is contact in UKA, although he mainly deals with th International strand of the Inspiration programme.

SC requested to be included in anything that related to Disability Athletics. JS; no problem to do that.

PGC asked what the London Council could do to support the success of Inspiration. JS; communication is key as want full involvement/engagement from whole athletics community: we will need local sounding boards to discuss feedback and how best involve all spheres of athletics. Could also look at assistance with research projects and pilots. Will need ideas on projects that can be “Team PB” branded to raise profile. Will need local knowledge and links so Councils will have significant role to play.

PGC asked where Participation fits in? JS; Track and Field is the main focus but there will be overlap with off-track Participation. Participation aspect will mainly focussing on schools engagement.

SC asked if there will be links to FE/HE? JS; no, predominantly will be working with primary schools, but will be engagement with FE/HE in terms of volunteering.

ASB: what do with Primary Schools? JS; the plan is to link athletics into curriculum. ASB stated there are website resources for teachers to download with potential to exploit these for athletics/sport use . JS can ASB send details of these websites?

**Action: PGC to provide ASB with JS contact details so that he can progress further ideas as above.**

SB: is there a danger that don't control who wants to do what then there will be competition for the same numbers? JS; don't want to interfere and dictate who can do what or when, we want to encourage all to join in, although if there are major events there will be direction offered.

PGC where do we stand on trademark? JS –Inspiration logo will be unbranded, but will still be dictated by existing / potential other commercial relationships.

## **6. EA matters:**

### **a. UKA Competition Strategy Review and National Council Response**

Competition Strategy Review (CSR)

PGC: Not sure what happens next. TLS yet to receive a response from his letter to Nigel Holl. TJS surprised by the view that the CSR was anti-club, stemming from suggestion that clubs/leagues could streamline fixtures. TJS happy to take constructive criticism. TLS has merely passed on concerns and comments (i.e. via the National Council members) from clubs and reacting on behalf of clubs. TJS: the leagues are being consulted on potential changes. TLS: clubs are not always in sync with the thoughts of leagues so shouldn't be done in isolation. TJS consultation process is open and fair and will take views of clubs into account.

SC: document that got sent out was not worded in the best way, no mention of Disability in the document. TJS: Disability wasn't part of the Terms of reference of the group. SC Why was disability not part of this as disability competitions are significant part of the framework of athletics.

**Action: TJS to pass that comment back to the review group. i.e. that Disability Athletics should be a part of CSG ongoing work.**

TLS apologises for not considering disability as part of the wider framework: agreed by the Council.

#### **b. National Council Update (inc. meetings since 21 October meeting)**

TLS nothing to add to Blog.

TLS now sits on UK Members Council as well. TLS will be challenging governance and raising issues. Still 2 spare seats left on this UKMC that won't be filled until 2017.

#### **c. Update on Board activities**

PGC stated there has been one board meeting since Christmas. There has been discussion about coming to end of the current four year funding cycle (2013-17) with Sport England, so increasing priority to focus on both plans for the next cycle and on longer term Strategic Priorities and related programmes. Awaiting news from DCMS consultation: EA Senior Leadership Team (SLT) working (with Board input) to ensure the sport remains in a prominent position with the benefits (including social and health) from Athletics clearly communicated to Government.

TLS: there are allegedly moves underway by race organisers to take on participation funding – it is unsure if this will end up with activity been taken away from EA. SC: race organisers do not prioritise disability so would be concerned to see EA removed from involvement in delivery. TLS asked who are the best lobbyists on behalf of disabled sport? SC; EFDS probably are but they do not always have best interests of disabled people at heart. SC asked how best put across views on disabled sport to Sport England in consultation process. NKC one option would be to speak to Jane Stewart/ Matt Birkett on way forward. TJS: it would be possible to write from a personal perspective.

**Action: PGC / TLS to check with EA SLT regarding appropriate links with EFDS and other relevant lobbying groups in this area.**

## **7. Report London Area Team:**

### **a. Update by Interim Area Manager**

NKC; as noted under 6c, we are going into final year of Whole Sport Plan to 2017 so currently setting objectives for next year. From London perspective all EA Run! Activators have been given 6 month contracts so need to position ourselves to best continue leading up to next funding cycle. Waiting for final budget approval to confirm continuance of projects coming up to end of this plan and start of next one.

NKC; there will be a report on what project has done over this funding cycle. TLS; need to shout about our successes and the numbers we have achieved, whilst looking at what can improve/ change going forward.

NKC to continue as Interim until end of May, Tim Howells is now main Run! Project manager, and London Education Training Officer role is currently been advertised.

London Community Games on 7th August at Mile End, encompassing relays and range of events. PGC maybe need to talk about the competition and how it is aimed/targeted. TLS ask if want to have a test event prior to World Championships then this could be an option for next year.

JH has taken on coach development role with LUCA.

Partner event on 17th May to celebrate and ideas going forward, details to be sent out in next couple of days.

### **b. Education: coach/officials tutor recruitment /training**

PGC had circulated with the meeting papers figures for the period to December re both Officials and Coaches courses held / licences issued. He thanked SW (with support from Becky Turford who is covering the London Education role as well as her regular South-East responsibility) for her help in getting this information provided on a more consistent and timely basis.

PGC has received an update from Paul Mosely about London Coach Tutors. It has proved difficult to recruit directly new tutors for Athletics Coach, so Paul is tutors is focussing on starting off with LiRF/Assistant Coach with a plan that they progress to Coach/CiRF.

Some comment from BN and others that the problem with recruiting Athletics Coach tutors is the weakness in the syllabus and structure of the courses. TLS; Athletics Coach Diary has gone and event group focus will be coming back.

## **8. Counties - update on competition plans and meetings / communications with England Athletics**

PM said that Essex were experiencing difficulties with recruiting officials for their events. It was noted that there were also considerable price increases for the use of Lee Valley.

DR had provided an update by email. Key points:

- Successful Cross-country season but difficult to find suitable venues with sufficient parking;
- Tri-Counties Indoors at Lee Valley on 19<sup>th</sup> / 20<sup>th</sup> March;
- Almost all communication is now by Facebook, web or email and over 90% of entries come in online;
- Have run an officials taster day & Level 2 officials courses over the winter months. In April there is an Official Development day which will focus on the new rule book

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

JGa reported on a successful Cross-country and Indoor season. SEAA have now identified a suitable alternative venue in Gravesend for the Road Relays.

### **10. Matters arising where not already on agenda / “Outstandings” list:**

PGC had circulated an updated list. The clearance of a number of points was noted.

### **11. AOB, including dates for future meetings**

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> April at Premier Inn, Victoria (noted that accessibility issues to be addressed).