

**Outcomes of the London Regional Council Meeting  
Held on Wednesday, 22nd April, 2015  
At Kings Cross 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  
Steve Bosley (SB) – Schools Portfolio  
Lorna Boothe (LB) – Coaching Portfolio  
Tim Soutar (TJS) – Governance Portfolio  
Jacob Hood (JH)  
Co-opted;  
Susan Cook (SC)  
Ellie Brown (EB)

\*Left meeting at 8.00pm to attend teleconference with YDL management

**Apologies**

Anthony Soalla-Bell (ASB) Co-opt  
Richard Pettigrew (RP) Co-opt  
Ben Noad (BN)  
David Ralph – Kent County AA  
Ivor Wiggett (IW), representing Chair, Middlesex County AA  
Tom Pollak (TP), Chair, Surrey County AA

**In attendance**

Paul Merrywest (PM- Essex), representing Chair, Essex County AA  
John Gebbels (JGe), representing SEAA  
Bob Smith (BS), EA London Area Manager  
Sarah Wade (SW), EA (Minutes)

**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 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2015 which have been circulated among those present, with amendments incorporated. The London Regional Council next meets on Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2015.*

**1. Election of London Region Chair/ Co-chair (Elected councillors in attendance only)**

BS took the chair and opened the meeting to finalise make-up of the London Council and elect a chair/ co-chair. TLS and PGC re-elected London Council Co-Chairs. SB (who had

advised that he was likely to arrive a little late) and BN had sent proxies by e mail in favour of TLS' and PGC's re-election - these were passed to BS – and the other Elected Council members who were all present also voted in favour.

## **2. Co-opting of Council Members (Elected councillors in attendance only)**

PGC resumed chair, 4 co-opted members (as listed above) were endorsed by the Elected members of the London Council to continue. SC and EB confirmed that they wish to continue in that capacity. ASB and RP had e mailed PGC to confirm that they were willing to continue. TJS suggested a further co-opting exercise in 2017.

## **3. Welcome/ Apologies**

PGC welcomed JH to his first London Council meeting.

Prior to other attendees joining the meeting TLS and PGC gave an update on the London Council having been asked to support an appeal by Chris Tomlinson on Greg Rutherford UK LJ record. National Council has agreed and this will be channelled through EA Board. UKA Chair had said there was insufficient notice for the EA Board's request to be dealt with at the last UKA Board, so the issue will be considered at a UKA Board Meeting in late May. London Council felt it was an issue of fairness and procedure. Chris Tomlinson needs to be kept informed of the current situation.

***Action: PGC to update London Council once the outcome of the May UKA Board decision is known. TLS to keep CT informed.***

**Meeting then joined by PM, SC, JG EB**

## **4. Review of Portfolio holders:**

ASB takes on schools from SB (subject to approach from PGC)

SB – Clubs (previously held by Geoff Morphitis)

SC – Disability

LB - Coaching

RP – Facilities

PGC – Officials

It was agreed that a formal Governance portfolio (handled thus far by TJS) is not required at Council level, but that TJS would provide advice on governance matters as required.

London has persevered with the portfolio holder structure, where some Regional Councils have found it difficult to get regional councillors engaged. TLS pointed out that a more effective e mail communication structure was being put in place via the National Council, in order to encourage Portfolio Holders to liaise across Regions more effectively

***Action: PGC to confirm to London Council members the structure of Portfolio Holder sat National Council level – specifically whether there is a National Portfolio Holder for Coaching*** (noted that the Board Advisory Group on Coaching chaired by Neil Costello – see 6(b) below).

## **5. Minutes of 4<sup>th</sup> February 2015 Meeting, Confirmation of accuracy**

Agreed and signed by PGC as a true record.

## **6. EA Matters**

### **6a) National Council Update**

TLS gave a verbal update:

YDL is an ongoing issue. Outcomes of recent meeting can be found on EA website. TLS has been asked by YDL to support them to find solutions to issues of travel time/meeting length. There are a few proposals for them to consider, but difficult for things to change.

Efforts are being made to develop a system for recording incidents at meetings where officials are 'abused'. This will track persistent offenders. A poster will be produced to promote respect to all officials and volunteers.

There are new arrangements in place for expenses/ accommodation for officials at England matches. This is a contentious issue as there will now generally be shared accommodation unless the official elects to pay a supplement. Attempts are being made to find a resolution such as private accommodation being ring fenced for older officials.

Board has pushed hard for closer link with England Schools Athletics Association (ESAA). Chris Cohen from ESAA is now on National Council, which is a positive development. The Board have already facilitated involving ESAA in the commercial activities of EA.

National Council is to discuss further the proposed age group rule changes by UKA. PGC had presented on age group changes at London consultation. PGC stated that UKA have yet to make a formal case setting out reasons to change and there is a need for definitive pros and cons to be put forward. Does London council want make formal representation to UKA with regard age group changes? LB thought the change would be beneficial at higher levels as would bring into line with international competition. JH felt there was a need to get something out to clubs to garner opinion and whether opposition or support to changes. TJS said he was concerned if the change might exacerbate or prevent decline in participation from U20 level. Second concern was clarity of the age group where transition takes place to adult competition as opposed to Run / Jump / Throw approach: there seemed not to be any connection between the proposed Age Group changes and how YDL should meet development needs and strategies for the sport. PGC reminded the meeting that ESAA has stated that it will not change its age groups meaning that mainstream/schools athletics will be out of step. TLS felt it would be good to have a plan to make sure all age groups are catered for with appropriate competition, especially for younger athletes. EB emphasised the importance of this as Track and Field already loses athletes to other sports. PGC pointed out that disability athletics already use "even numbered" age groups, though he was not sure of those were based on a 1<sup>st</sup> September or a 1<sup>st</sup> January date (SC thought it is the latter). TJS said it could be an opportunity if competition for youngest age group can be sorted out and it would be good for older age groups to be in line internationally. There is a definite need for further discussion and it is important not to rush through changes without having proper plans in place, or at least scenarios discussed first. TLS reiterated the need to

decide if London Council should make an intervention. This is area (intervention by Council) is due to be discussed at the National Council on 29<sup>th</sup> April.

**Action: PGC to consider if any London Council intervention is required, following clarity on approach being taken by National Council.**

## **6b) Medium Term Strategy Review**

TJS said that EA has hitherto direction set by Sport England funding cycle, but it is also keen (within this framework) to look at a strategy through to 2022 which asks what should nature of the NGB be and what should it focus on? The current primary focus is thus on what the nature of EA as a company should be. TLS is however keen that EA should also define a strategy that the sport could buy into, as the sport would be less interested in a strategy that is about how we deliver something that has yet to be defined. Current meetings are about the 'hows' and not the 'whats'. There is a need for a broader strategic view.

TJS said there was clearly a need to do both as participation is a key driver with SE funding attached, so there is a need to look at where participation sits in the broader picture of the sport. The issue of (lack of) volunteers will keep growing. EB reported there is a big push on attracting young people into volunteering. BS agreed that there are lots of different things and initiatives going on, but he felt there is a need to look at pulling these initiatives together. SC has been talking to BUCS about getting disabled people involved in sport as coaches/ volunteers. SC would be happy to pull together and share information with regard universities volunteering programmes. BS asked SC to refer this to Liz Purbrick, Disability Manager at EA.

JH said the UKA Youth Advisory Group (YAG) are creating a document that pulls together some of these strands. Officiating projects are in progress targeting young people (YAG now has stronger links with EA while remaining a UKA-owned group). PGC felt that the recruitment of Officials via the schools projects deserves support but that the amount of time devoted to it must be tempered by reality as to the numbers who are likely to stick with officiating while at university / building a career / raising a young family.

EB suggested there are not enough coach/ officials courses to support people to practically help out.

SC highlighted PwC work with Sport England to promote transferable skills with volunteering.

JG referred to questions over the upcoming election and future funding for sport. The sport is already seeing impact of cuts on quality/ service at tracks.

TLS stated that at the beginning of the financial year, responsibility for Sport England money has reverted to EA from UKA. Now, EA get money more directly from Sport England and EA have more direct ownership of reporting finances and outcomes to Sport England. EA have consequent increase in ability to address the problems facing the grassroots such as the lack of coach tutors.

### **6c) Update on board activities**

The recent meeting of UKA and EA Boards was the first for a few years. Peter King is trying to get the two boards to work more closely together. One discussion was 2017 legacy and from the Boards' perspective the infrastructure being put in place for 2017 legacy. UKA's primary focus re 2017 is ensuring that the IAAF and IPC Championships are a success commercially and otherwise. Thus a separate structure will be needed to deliver any wider legacy (e.g. increased volunteers / participation): see 7(a) below.

EA has recently appointed agents to assist EA to generate commercial income, following UKA having ceased making the £250k per annum payments as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014. Sport England have encouraged this and have helped kick start project with funding. The objective is to generate commercial revenue to fill the gap left by UKA's withdrawal of funding and to reduce reliance on when Sport England funding. A new kit contract has been awarded to New Balance, and an arrangement has been organised with BUPA (as communicated via the Clun Consultation).

The Board is also encouraging a closer relationship, through the Run Group (chaired by Dave Moorcroft – see <http://www.rungroup.org/>), with commercial Road Race organisations and other partners.

Coach Education; Neil Costello has put together a critique of the current coach education system. Paul Moseley and Martin Rush have put together some proposals for a revamp of coach qualification with more event group focus. This is still to be agreed with UKA (who, despite the changes set out in 6(b) above, still control the syllabus / content of courses). UKA are also due to review coach education system.

### **6d) 2015 London Consultation: review of 30<sup>th</sup> March event and matters arising.**

Draft notes had been circulated to Council members for comment. PGC explained that he had been asked by Dean Hardman not to circulate the London notes separately, so that all Regions' notes can be posted together. All Councillors were asked please let PGC or BS know of any corrections/additions. EB asked if London Council was pleased with the turnout? TS/PGC both stated that similar numbers were similar to previous years, pointing out that London consistently has a bigger turnout than other Regions (PGC, TJS and TLS have as Board members been attending Consultation events across England). PGC felt some of the logistics such as room set up (he would have preferred "cabaret style" – as in 2014 - to "theatre style" and being more strict on use of microphones required better planning next year. TLS said there was obviously an issue for London clubs with regards to the rules re payment of an additional fee re foreign athletes, which needs to be addressed ASAP. Both PGC and TLS had expressed concern that an additional fee should be required from athletes who are permanent residents in the UK. PGC said that he had already taken this up via Dean Hardman and that discussions were taking place between UKA (who set the rule) and EA. The volunteering video had not reflected the diversity in the sport in London and was perhaps rather reactive in nature – this is how it looks now, rather than thinking about what volunteering in the sport could look like.

***Action: All Councillors to revert to PGC / BS asap re any amendments to the London consultation notes, prior to their being published on the EA website.***

***Action: PGC to follow up further re Foreign Athletes fees and report progress.***

## 7. Report London Manager

### 7a) London 2017 and Legacy Issues/Plans

BS said that 2017 was a great opportunity for athletics, particularly in London. Various appointments are being made by UKA, and there is an expectation from IAAF and Government that there will be spin-off benefits for the sport- financial, cultural, participation and volunteering related.

A Strategy Group has been set up to be chaired by Tessa Jowell, and there will be sub groups to look at participation, volunteering and disability. BS has put forward an initial scoping document to the GLA, Sport England and other parties looking at what Athletics wanted to see from 2017. This group wanted to see something offered that EA wasn't already funded to try to achieve through Whole Sport Plan. BS felt the impact from 2017 should be about **track and field** participation, volunteering and coaching (London Marathon already gives a great source of inspiration for Road Racing). One suggestion was for a Festival of Athletics culminating in an event in the Olympic Stadium to encompass a London Championships, plus opportunities for schools/ universities to compete in Olympic stadium. Other suggestions were to look at volunteering through engagement with colleges/universities, a Primary schools cross country event and Coaching bursaries?

BS asked for feedback/suggestions/ ideas from the London Council.

PGC felt the idea of having a competition in the Olympic stadium was interesting. He recalled that prior to London 2012 London clubs had been asked by TLS if they wished to participate in a pre-Games competition but that appetite had been low.

#### **Action: all to feed back ideas to BS re potential London based events**

PGC expressed the view that UKA's focus is primarily to run a successful champs so they don't have manpower to devote to wider projects, but he felt they would be happy to let others take this on, subject to adequate controls over use of "marks". Steve Grainger (EA Non-Executive Director and Rugby Development Director at the RFU) has considerable experience of a similar project from the Rugby World Cup 2015 and it is hoped that Tessa Jowell's group will be able to leverage that expertise. There is the possibility of forming sub-groups on volunteering/ disability to take this forward. TJS was of the opinion that one issue is the clubs' lack of capacity to take on additional participants generated, and that there is a second issue around communication, communicating upwards problems with human resource and facilities to key partners such as GLA.

#### **Action: PGC / TLS / BS to approach Steve Grainger re potential opportunities for London Council representatives to be involved with sub-groups (this route will for now provide delivery against Action Point Ref from the April 2014 Council meeting)**

SB felt there was a need to encourage clubs to put on activity in lead up to all major championships to engage local community.

SC asked if it would be possible to sit down with EA to get JD's for volunteers so these can be advertised.

JH reported that YAG has been discussing how to tackle this, and have discussed to setting up a conference to include multiple levels of how to get involved.

SC suggested Volunteer Fayres at Universities are a good way of finding young volunteers, and asked if EA able to engage with any of these. Tap into student's activity.

**Action: SC to pick up potential volunteer recruitment ideas with Tim Howells, Run! Project manager, at their meeting scheduled for 11<sup>th</sup> May re Volunteering, and report recommended actions to PGC and BS.**

**Action: PGC and JH to discuss further with LCAS representatives (see below) and report recommended actions to BS.**

BS said that he has a small innovation fund that currently helps to fund London Inter-Club Challenge (LICC) and the inaugural London Colleges Athletics Series (LCAS). LICC has now a linked up with LCAS. Last year, the same fund had been used to support Highgate Harriers Night of 10,000 metres – the event was now being supported by EA at a national level as it incorporates the England Champs.

BS reported good figures for 2014-15 in respect of participation, satellite clubs, and disability participation.

There was no opposition to renaming Run! newsletter to London Athletics newsletter.

### **7c) Education: coach/ officials/ tutor recruitment training**

BS reported that four tutors have qualified from last year's recruitment process, and that three others are close to becoming qualified. Another recruitment process has commenced for tutors – there is still a long way to go, but some progress is being made in addressing the shortage of tutors in London.

PGC had received updated statistics from BS and Graeme Allan for the quarter ended 31<sup>st</sup> March re coaching course attendance and coaching licences granted. Particularly at Athletics Coach level (numbers for Coaching Assistant are better) these numbers were not good. Out of 7 courses and 100 candidates last year, only 9 new Athletics Coaches had so far qualified and become licensed. Other numbers are fairly comparable with previous year.

For Officials Education, numbers were slightly better this year than in 2013/14 for licenses issued. PGC stated that the course bookings system needs reviewing (specifically to enable online booking) as it is currently far too difficult and ponderous.

SC stated that EA could do much better at utilising social media: SW encouraged SC to make contact with Chris Minn ([chris@londonathletics.org](mailto:chris@londonathletics.org)) who handles use of social media for EA in London.

**Action: SC to contact Chris Minn, and to include her ideas re social media at her meeting with Tim Howells on 11<sup>th</sup> May.**

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

PM - County championships are fast approaching. Essex holding pentathlons this year as Woodford Green (WGEL) couldn't hold full multi-events competition again this year. U13 numbers are very high. Essex are also holding 10000 metres Championships in August – EB

said the Night of the 10k is brilliant. Can this format be used elsewhere? BS reported that Orion Harriers also have a forthcoming event.

PM reported Essex AA are investigating a county wide Network possibility but reiterated that any Essexwide Network would need to include London Essex clubs, such as WGEL, NEB, Orion, Eton Manor etc.

BS informed the meeting that with the ending of funding for networks, CCSO liaison responsibility for a number of clubs, including Ilford AC, Havering AC, Dagenham 88, Barking Road Runners, from London but within the Essex LAN have been transferred to Guy Spencer.

PGC spoke (in absence of TP) about an exploratory meeting that had been held on 13<sup>th</sup> March in Surrey of the three Surrey networks. Ben Noad is putting together a consultation document to see a way forward for these groups of clubs.

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

JGe said with regards to Crystal Palace, there is no real update since London Borough of Bromley and Chinese development has fallen through. The situation is being monitored closely by BS and PGC (see 10(a) below).

## **10.Portfolios**

### **10a) Facilities**

#### **i) Facility Assessment Process**

PGC has been sent an update on the facility assessment process setting out the new scheme. This re-emphasises that the responsibility lies with the owners of the track and officials to check on the day that all is safe. Better training for facility managers and an improved reporting process are also in the pipeline. PGC has been informed by UKA that a communication re the new approach has been sent by UKA (Michael Hunt) to all facility operators. Transitional arrangements are in place for facilities whose (5-year) certificates are due to expire in 2016: he had been asked to visit Croydon Arena that morning in that connection.

#### **ii) Tooting Bec/ Crystal Palace**

BS said that it seems certain that Crystal Palace outdoor track will remain. There is seemingly little funding now to redevelop so all has apparently moved on to the back burner, but PGC and BS will continue to monitor this. JGe expressed concerns if Crystal Palace is no longer a spectator facility and WHUFC take over Olympic stadium there will be nowhere to hold large events other than in Birmingham, which he feels is a disgrace to the sport. He said there was a need for a decent 'back-up' stadium.

SB gave an update on Tooting Bec. The only group who expressed an interest in taking on the ongoing running of Tooting Bec was the Staff Mutual who will take over from October 2015. HHH are working closely with RP and Lucy Broad, the Wandsworth Run! Activator, to increase footfall at the track.

PGC reported Sutcliffe Park plans are currently out at consultation.

TJS said B&B are looking to raise money to take over long term running of Norman Park track from Bromley council.

10b) Officials (to include agreement on change of ELSE representatives)

PGC reminded the meeting of the purpose of the Tri-Regional Officials Group, known as ELSE (East, London & South-East). Paul Langston, currently London Timekeeper rep, is switching across to become Timekeeper rep for East Region. That has created a vacancy for London, which the ELSE secretary / chair have recommended be filled by Sharon Herbert. The London Council unanimously approved Sharon's appointment to that position.

**Action: PGC to confirm agreement of Sharon Herbert's appointment to ELSE Chair.**

PGC said that Online DBS seems to be working well so far and that he had successfully trialled for two courses the idea from SC at the previous Council meeting to get candidates to bring their information to do their DBS on the day of the course.

## **11. Matters arising where not already on the agenda / 'outstandings' list**

*Ref 17:* BS said that portal training for CCSO's took place in middle of March. CCSO's can now go to clubs or groups of clubs to offer this help/training to clubs.

*Ref 29:* Proposed guidance note re starting order / position of wheelchair racers in off-track events has been drafted (copy sent to SC by PGC) and to go onto RunBritain website.

TLS felt EA not doing enough if anything on disability but doesn't know where to start to change things. Talking to other regional councils to see how go forward. PGC referred to a recent discussion at the Surrey Disability Championships with Ann Strike (UKA Non-Executive Director / Paralympian) re need for better communication to grass roots athletes with a disability. He had also responded to a survey by a member of the YAG on the topic, Based on those interactions he felt the London website was not helpful in directing disabled athletes to where to get involved. PGC asked if it would be possible to compile a list of wheelchair and clubs and venues as a starting point.

SC stated there is a need to issue basic practical guidance on how to be involved/take part in wheelchair racing, and signposting/ technical info for people to speak to them to help deal with Wheelchairs.

BS asked if EA should take more forward role in promoting wheelchair athletics and if this should be the role of London or nationally? Improve signposting on the Website? JH wondered whether or not an advisory group should be set up to push this forward and to discuss issues and advise EA? LB said that Sport England had a disability advisory group, and, if it is still active, that may be able to advise on how to progress matters.

TLS agreed it would be easier to tap into existing expertise. PGC suggested EA can improve signposting on its website in the meantime.

JH said Job King has input into Athletics365 so SC should be in touch with him.

**Action: BS to investigate possibility of better signposting on London Athletics website to clubs / tracks that provide coaching opportunities / facilities for athletes with a disability.**

**Action: BS to contact Liz Purbrick to establish if the SE group still exists / may offer advice.**

*Ref 38:* BS updated on the Metro advert campaign and reported that vouchers did get redeemed in boroughs where there were activators. Elsewhere, it was more difficult to track increase in participation as not the job of volunteers to give feedback. He felt there had been a raising of awareness of EA but not necessarily participation.

The meeting ended at 9.45pm.