

London Regional Council meeting – minutes

Meeting held at Premier Inn, Kings Cross, Wednesday 24th July at 6.00pm.

Present: L.Boothe, P.Crawshaw, G.Morphitis, B.Noad, T.Shiret (Chair), P.Merrywest (Essex), I.Wiggett (Middlesex), R.Horlock, R.Smith.

Apologies: S.Bosley, T.Soutar, D.Ralph (Kent), T.Pollak (Surrey).

1.Minutes of meeting on 1st May 2013 were approved.

2. Matters Arising: Covered in body of meeting.

3. Election of London Region Chair: Tony Shiret was proposed by Geoff Morphitis and seconded by Peter Crawshaw.

4. Report by London Manager: Bob Smith reported that Natalie Kavanagh-Clarke was on adoption leave for three months and that her work would be minded by Rhian Horlock and by Bob himself. Tim Howells had commenced work as CCSO for North London. Graeme Allan had been appointed as Education and Training Manager with a remit for sorting out Coach and Officials Education. The London budget for 2013-14 was agreed, and the Network panels had been held to consider their plans and funding for the current financial year.

5. Report by London Run Manager: Rhian Horlock reported that Activators were now in place in Hammersmith and Fulham, Redbridge (part-time),and Wandsworth. An Activator role in Barnet (hosted by Saracens) would be advertised in early August, and it was likely that West Ham United would host a part-time Activator working in the Olympic/QE Park. The Run project had been awarded £35,000 by Wembley Stadium Trust for disability athletics, and three doorstep clubs had been set up in conjunction with Street Games in Newham, Hackney and Greenwich. Rhian said that she was working with Team London to access their volunteer database. GM said that clubs don't always deal well with new volunteers and it was suggested that we needed a database of volunteers, outlining their experience and skills with a view to giving them a good experience at meetings in London. GM offered LICC as a meeting where volunteers would be welcomed, and PC suggested the Surrey multi events Champs. RH suggested that if possible, meeting organisers should think about rewarding volunteers, perhaps by paying travel expenses or by providing t-shirts. They would also be pointed in the direction of relevant coach or officials education courses. A monthly Run newsletter is now being produced (to be sent to Counties). RS outlined bid to GLA for more funding which would be centred on working with different nationalities and faith groups, and there was discussion about linking to existing access events/competitions such as Italian Olympics. RS stressed the need to link the Run project to the mainstream of the sport (the clubs) to ensure sustainable benefit to the sport.

6. Counties reports: this will be a standard item at future meetings. Nothing significant to report from Middlesex. PW commented on lower numbers of participants at this year's track and field champs – no firm conclusions to be drawn re significance of change of date at this stage. Next year's County Champs date not yet decided.

7. EA matters: TS reported verbally – TS meeting Lynn Davies of UKA Members Council re role of EA National Council. Several options have been discussed re role of portfolio holders – should they

meet? Should each region take a portfolio? Aim would be to increase thinking on how to improve volunteer contributions to strategy. There has also been discussion with Andy Barber re a dedicated Council website. The Whole Councillor Conference will be held at Birmingham on 19th October. Proposed rule changes re affiliation have been rejected. Affiliation fees for 2014-15 not going up.

TS reported on the report into coaching that is being written by Ollie Holt and has suggested reduction of cost of CIRF and Athletics Coach courses. He has also suggested to Petr Stanley digitisation of coaching manuals. There have also been some discussions on ongoing work and funding of networks.

8. EA Articles Revisions: these were circulated by TS. A vote of thanks was given to Peter Crawshaw for his work on drafting, re-drafting and understanding the Articles. The meeting felt that at least two members should be from clubs., and that these should not be vetted by the Appointments Panel.

9. Consultation report: Also circulated by TS. Various Council members commented that the consultation meetings elsewhere in the country had been conducted differently to the London meeting and that numbers attending were lower. It was felt that the consultation report did not draw out requests for a separate explanation of how affiliation fees are spent, and that there was insufficient detail given to the discussions on governance of the sport. Also, there was little about the importance of schools athletics although it was noted that the on-line consultation feedback had stressed the importance of schools athletics.

10. UKA Rules Changes: TS reported verbally.

11. London Plan: Deferred.

12. Portfolios: Deferred.

13. Any Other Business: GM stated it was disappointing that reports on performances by elite athletes did not mention their clubs. Possible co-opts to be discussed at next meeting.