

**Outcomes of the London Regional Council Meeting
Held on Wednesday, 27th April 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
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;
Ellie Brown (EB)

In attendance

Paul Merrywest (PM- Essex), representing Chair, Essex County AA
John Gandee (JG), representing SEAA
Ivor Wiggett (IW), representing Chair, Middlesex County AA

Apologies

Tom Pollak (TP), Chair, Surrey County AA
Susan Cook (SC), Co-opted / Disability Athletics
Natalie Kavanagh-Clarke (NKC), Interim London Area Manager
Sarah Wade (SW), EA (Minutes)
Richard Pettigrew (RP), Co-opted / Facilities
David Ralph – Kent County AA
Anthony Soalla-Bell (ASB), Co-opted / Schools 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 17th 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 SC, IW, TP, RP and DR. No declarations of interest relating to business of the meeting.

In the absence of any EA staff at the meeting JH agreed to take the minutes.

2. Minutes of 17th February 2016:

Confirmation of accuracy: IW had contacted Peter re omissions within these via his email report (see below), now rectified by PGC. Following that amendment, the minutes were agreed as circulated and signed by PGC.

Matters arising:

Action 1 (Disability): SC had been unable to attend the February National Council meeting due to illness, and subsequently had tendered her resignation from the London Council as she is moving to Wales. The council expressed their appreciation for the time and dedication SC has made to London Athletics during her time on the council (TLS and PGC had already emailed to express thanks). A replacement is needed for the London Council / to attend National Council Meetings. Some suggestions were made.

Action 2 (Communication with Councillors via website): PGC has met with NKC, Tim Howells and Chris Minn on two further occasions. Chris is looking at options of setting up dedicated email boxes for portfolio holders on the London Athletics website: will need to be linked to portfolio holder work being done via National Council.

Action 3 (London Schools officials): PGC has exchanged emails with ASB and has since spoken to Major Carr (LSAA Officials Secretary), who has been able to put together a Mailing list. PGC offered to encourage Surrey based officials to support LSAA Championships but Major felt this was already working OK. Opportunities for co-operation with Middlesex were good, although mid-week competition was not ideal. Discussion followed regarding clash between London Schools and SEAA Championships: not a new issue and little impact at U17 / U15 levels.

Action 4 (2017 Inspiration programme): PGC has provided contact details for ASB to contact Jane Stewart, no movement to date.

3. Portfolio Holder System

TLS explained that the National Council is aiming to better define role descriptions for three selected councillor portfolio holder positions (coaches, clubs, officials), with the aim to re-energise the system. Inter-Region communication at portfolio holder level is crucial, as is the need to make it easier for members to identify / contact portfolio holders.

Role description links to be produced on website (in progress), alongside summary reports to be published about what is happening within areas. TLS is meeting with Andy Barber to sort out IT side. Specific timescale is currently unknown., but aim is for this to be replicated across all areas of England before the end of 2016.

TLS has drafted a reporting template for the clubs portfolio, potentially covering areas such as number of competitions and position re officials. He is keen to have feedback on how formal people wish this process to be?

LB and SB both said that their main worry was time available to collate the data and questioned if this was not something that CCSOs are being paid to do.

Need to identify the primary aim / purpose of portfolio holders, before effectiveness can be monitored.

PGC, as official portfolio holder, commented that councillor elections currently held bi-annually, for London. Would annually be preferred?

Action: PGC to email councillors to gauge feedback on election frequency.

PGC questioned whether three portfolio reports could all be delivered at one Regional Council meeting, due to time constraints: possible better to rotate?

SB: Portfolio holders seek direction on who to speak to / contact i.e. which clubs to be a fair representation. Decision should be made by respective council.

For coaching portfolio, county coaching co-ordinator could be used if they exist in London.

PGC asked when shall details of portfolio holders within other regions be released? TLS: Unknown at present

4. Consultation and Club Conference

PGC and TLS expressed the view that timing was challenging (as usual), being early and having little time to prepare after seeing the EA slides for the first time, with the result that they were having to improvise on the night. Less time spent talking and more time available to listen to clubs' views would have been a better balance.

PM felt that the evening had been worthwhile – certainly not a waste.

There was apparently widespread support for PGC's idea of a better system for putting clubs in touch with officials and vice versa ("Who's the official?"). officials contact list, registration fees (YDL) discussed alongside facilities position in strategic priorities.

RP: believed it was okay, although discussion focused on facilities and not much else.

SB: believed it could be better if held during the day, smaller group discussions felt rushed. He knew several people in his group and the discussions suffered from the level of animosity on old issues. He felt that the point raised by Juliet Kavanagh re coach mentoring was a good one. LB agreed that she had identified an issue surrounding LCDP, possibly caused by communication breakdown above CCSO's. It was suggested that the national mentoring scheme was not a problem, being valued.

There were questions whether this was being transferred to a local level. Positive reports identified a high demand for the speed programme, but LB has concerns that this may be reduced due to lack of funding.

Action: PGC to find out the impact of reduced funding.

SB: Speakers from Birmingham (head office) were very vague and did not answer questions in desired detail.

PGC had found that in his group discussion, several of the sub-priorities were apparently very similar: wording of those could be improved to bring out the differences.

TJS asked if this form of consultation has had its day? While he felt that this is something that we "wouldn't not do", the format possibly needed revisiting: should the attendees be asked? PM suggested greater focus on one subject.

General agreement that it is time to rethink the format, possibly looking to see what other sports do.

5. London Volunteer Awards

Schedule identified:

- 9th May: Nominations open
- 31st July: Nominations close
- 26th August: Communication of Regional decisions to EA

Action: PGC to liaise with NKC re nominations received and advise Councillors of short list.

6. EA Matters

TLS: National council update.

- Schools strategy, via PE board and England Schools. Survey completed, but TLS felt it is too short and providing little detail. TLS believes there is a lack of senior EA representation on the Steering Committee. He also questions what will be the delivery mechanism – possibly using EA kite-marked / qualified people to go into schools? JH expressed concern over the Youth Advisory Group not being consulted or made aware of this. TLS agreed but also questioned why, given that this is a strategic issue, why the plans to formulate this strategy had not been on the Board's agenda, or raised via the National Council.

Schools strategy seen as an important basic element, that needs more time / effort dedicated to it

- Facilities strategy is also being formulated using consultants (KKP): Steve Grainger (EA NED / participation director within the RFU) had done work within RFU to deliver costings of work required to bring Rugby facilities to the required standards, potentially looking for a similar objective in Athletics? Michael Hunt is due to present to the NC. PGC and TLS had met with KKP CEO to explain London situation and suggest some tracks that he might visit. Some concern over consultant, suggesting a desire to identify which tracks are most important.

PGC mentioned several other London facilities issues:

- Sutcliffe Park indoor track is going ahead with funding from Greenwich council (£12million).
- Finsbury Park: more delays but still proceeding.
- Norman Park: TJS gave an update re discussions with Sport England and main options.
- London 2017: TLS expressed concern at the impact on domestic sport of the secondment of UKA senior management to the IAAF Championships. Terry Colton appears now to be in charge: he will attend the NC to provide an update.

TLS also referred to the need for Modernisation: initial movement, making IT systems more current is needed to make changes. See his blog.

TLS / PGC / TJS: Board Activities: Sport England's proposals for the next funding cycle to be provided to NGBs soon.

7. Report London Area Manager

Report by KKC deferred to next meeting. Council referred in the meantime to London Run! section of London Athletics website.

PGC handed out quarterly report of Officials and Coach courses held (with attendee numbers) and officials licences issued. No data was available re Coach licenses issued. PGC expects timely and complete provision of this data to be much improved once the new London Education Officer starts in post, but more information was already forthcoming re officials courses held: a high proportion were shown to be Assistant Official courses held at schools: PGC questioned

8. Portfolio Reports

- Officials: see 7 above. PGC also commented that courses continued to be cancelled e.g. Newham, with short prior warning. He is seeking to be informed before such decisions are taken. Disappointing figures for total number of licences issued within London. New officials course designed and currently being piloted (tutor course held at Brunel in February). Two of the newly recruited London tutors had attended and it is hoped that they will soon be cleared by UKA to begin tutoring. Suggestion made that an online officials course booking system (which PGC has been seeking from UKA for several years) is only likely to happen if delivered by an IT provider external to UKA.
- Facilities: RP not present. See discussion under 6 above.

9. Counties Update

- Middlesex (IW): Roy Stratton has taken on role of interim Officials Secretary (focus on recruiting officials for County Championships). PGC expressed a willingness to assist if needed re Officials' education / follow up from courses.
- Essex (PM): Expressed difficulties in sourcing officials. TLS: followed up on lack of CCSO assistance and communication. Pentathlons to be held on Bank Holiday Monday.

10. SEAA (JGa)

Road Relays held at new venue in Kent: all went well. Ready for summer. Seniors (Lee Valley), U17-18 (Kent), Combined (Ashford).

11. Matters Arising when not on agenda / “outstandings” list

None / deferred to next meeting given time constraints.

12. AOB

Next meeting agreed for Wednesday 7th September 2016, as per schedule published at the start of the year.