

UKA Members Meeting
Friday 25 June 2021
via Teams Call

Present Jason Gardener – President
Stef Reid – Vice President
Myra Nimmo – England Athletics Chair
Ian Beattie – Scottish Athletics Chair
David Abrahams – Athletics Northern Ireland representative
Julian Starkey – England Clubs Representative
Toni Minichiello – Coaches representative
Arwel Williams – Officials representative
Roland Gibbard – Road Runners representative
Grace Hall – Clubs representative
Ed Warner – IPC Athletics Technical Committee representative
James Williams (JW) – CEO Welsh Athletics
Andrew Heyes – Vice Chair of Athletes Commission

In attendance Nic Coward – UK Athletics Interim Chair
Joanna Coates (JC) – UK Athletics Chief Executive Officer
Penny Avis (PA) – UK Athletics Board Member (SID) (part)
Mark Draisey (MD) – UK Athletics Chief Financial Officer & Company Secretary

Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were recorded from Hannah England and Steve Perks and that in their absence those organisations were represented by Andrew Heyes and James Williams, respectively.

The President welcomed Grace Hall and Ed Warner to their first meetings having recently taken up their respective positions.

President stated Cherry Alexander, Vice President European Athletics, will be joining as a guest to present an update on European Athletics. President confirmed Cherry is not entitled to be a UKA Member as she is not a Council Member of World Athletics, but according to an update from Chair of UKA, Nic Coward, she could be entitled to be a Board Member of UKA, this is being reviewed. **ACTION: MD**

The President advised Members that Helen Donaldson had stepped down from her role as minute taker for UKA Member meetings. The thanks of UKA Members to Helen for her work was recorded.

1. Minutes of the previous meetings and actions

Members meeting 12 March 2021

The minutes of the meeting were approved subject to an amendment to the location of the heading “5. UKA Update”, this should be before the paragraph starting “Confusion over the roles...”. MD to amend and re-issue the minutes. **ACTION: MD**

Previous actions

Actions from the previous minutes noted as follows:

5a.ii – Closed

5a.iii – Closed in part, discussions ongoing with European Athletics.

5a.v – Covered in agenda for this meeting.

5b.i – Confirmed that information on permissible logo size was communicated to the wider sport. A question was raised as to whether there have been any discussions with World Athletics on whether the permissible logo size could be increased, no discussions have yet taken place, this will be referred to WA. **ACTION: JC**

8c. – It was confirmed that attendance at European U18's was still being reviewed. It was also confirmed that GB and NI team will be attending the European U20 Championships but because of the Covid-19 scenario GB and NI would not be sending a team to the World U20 Championships

2. President's update

The President passed on his congratulations to the athletes for all their recent successes at the Para European Championships.

The President noted that it was disappointing that due to Covid restrictions that this meeting was not able to take place in person in Manchester. Best wishes were conveyed to UKA and all Athletes for the forthcoming British Championships and subsequent Olympic and Paralympic Games.

It was noted that following recent consultations and discussions on the future of the UKA Membership that the output from today's meeting would hopefully provide certainty for the future direction of the membership of the company and allow for the requirements of the Dame Sue Street review to be implemented.

3. Vice Presidents update

The Vice-President agreed with and supported the comments from the President.

It was noted that with the forthcoming Olympics and Paralympics that this summer once again represents a huge opportunity for the sport and its profile. In addition, the Championships weekend looks set for some fantastic competition.

An issue for further consideration was raised in respect of those performance athletes who, because of the events that they participate in, do not have the opportunity to go to the Olympics/Paralympics but who represent GB and NI, for example fell/mountain running. Consideration as to how that group can be best engaged to avoid disconnect would be welcome.

4. UKA Update

- a. UKA corporate membership and council – update on HCAF club consultation and consideration of proposals for change submitted by the HCAF's and UKA.
 - i. The President introduced this part of the agenda with reference to the proposals that were outlined in the meeting pack for the changes to the UKA Membership

as well as the introduction of a consultative UKA Forum, as UKA's "Council", alongside the letter that had been recently received from UK Sport and the 4 home nation Sports Funding Councils (Five Councils).

- ii. There was a wide-ranging debate on the differential between the proposals put forward by UKA and the four HCAF's compared with the expectations of the Five Councils.
- iii. Questions were raised about the timing of the sending of the letter from the Five Councils. Whilst noting this, it was clear that the key priority outcome from the discussion at the meeting was to achieve consensus over the approach to be taken and the need for the continued collaboration across the sport.
- iv. To achieve this outcome the Members considered each of the key points from the paper to achieve a final position:
 1. Chair of UKA Corporate Members meetings – President or Chair of the Board – The majority view being that this should continue to be the President.
 2. UKA Corporate Membership – agreed as set out but need to include details for club membership (Track & Field and Off-Track) segments, the term of office and appointment process.
 3. UKA Forum – agreed subject to some clarifications. Important that it is clear that this should only consider UKA roles and responsibilities, HCAF's will be there as attendees not to deal with HCAF specific questions.
- v. The specific details of the agreed proposals have been captured in an amended version of the paper.
- vi. In addition to the detailed agreements in the proposals other queries raised were:
 1. Requirements for and number of athletes able to vote in Athletes Commission election process to be clarified. MD to confirm. **ACTION: MD**
 2. Confirmation provided on the current Board directors and that now in compliance with Articles and the Code of Sports Governance.
 3. Confirmation that as part of changes to the Articles Article 2.4 requires amendment to be clear as to how things are actually working. The meeting confirmed that the process now is that there is a single unified strategy, achieved through collaboration and agreement between the five organisations as set out in the Framework Agreement and Change Plan. UKA and the four HCAF's work in collaboration under that single unified strategy, with each being responsible for setting their own plans for delivering their roles. UKA sits in partnership with the HCAF's not above the HCAF's.

4. As part of the discussion on the selection and appointment process for the specific club member roles James Williams agreed to prepare some initial proposals in conjunction with the HCAF CEO's. **ACTION: JW**
- vii. It was agreed that the President would prepare a response to the Five Councils outlining the basis of these revised proposals and how they will achieve the required outcomes.
- b. UK Strategy/Operational Plan update
 - i. JC presented the new operational plan for UKA to support the delivery of the Athletics Unified strategy. It was confirmed that this plan was developed alongside a variety of consultative meetings with the wider sport including focus groups, webinars and surveys. UKA Members who contributed to this process were thanked for their engagement and support with this process.
 - ii. It was confirmed that the plan had been approved by the Board and would be launched by a live stream on the 13th July 2021.
 - iii. In respect of the survey results covered in the presentation it was confirmed that these results are based on circa 150 responses.
 - iv. Following a question on the medal numbers it was confirmed that this is based on high level modelling of the activities/resources to achieve that outcome. Opportunity for Members to be provided with an update on the basis for these medal numbers can be provided at a future meeting if required.
 - v. It was noted that although the plan covers the whole sport, including para, there was a need to ensure that this is referred to in more detail.
 - vi. A query was raised as to the level of alignment, if any, with the Special Olympics. It was agreed that this would be taken away by JC. **ACTION: JC**
 - vii. It was confirmed that the operational plan would be aligned with an equivalent financial plan.
 - viii. The plan was welcomed as an ambitious document.
 - c. UKA - business update
 - i. The detail of the UKA business update was noted.
 - d. Code of Sports Governance - 2017 Article changes
 - i. MD introduced this item and outlined that the papers identified the changes which were made to the 2017 Articles to specifically align with the Code of Sports Governance alongside a letter received from UK Sport confirming the position.
 - ii. This information was noted, and no further queries raised.
 - e. UKA Chair recruitment
 - i. The information provided in the pack was noted.

- ii. A request was made for the UKA Board to consider an additional UKA Member to be included in the selection process for the new UKA Chair. The Senior Independent Director confirmed that this was a Board decision and that she would take the request to the Board and revert. **ACTION: PA**
- iii. Clarification was sought on the role of UK Sport and who would be involved. It was confirmed that their involvement was on an observer basis. They provide views on the appointability of the short-listed candidates, with UKA making the final decision. The current plan is for the chair of UK Sport to be involved in both interview days.

5. European Athletics update

- i. The President welcomed Cherry Alexander to the meeting to provide an update on developments at European Athletics.
- ii. Topics covered included an update on forthcoming competitions in 2021 and beyond, details of the Dynamics New Athletics (DNA), elections for president and vice president of European Athletics in autumn 2021 and an update on current broadcast, commercial and investment activities.
- iii. There were a number of questions raised, particularly around events. Topics included the potential for the UK to host U18/U20 championships, the re-introduction of the Junior Clubs Championships and the integration of para events into EA programmes such as the Continental Tour. All feedback was welcomed as areas of interest and focus for the future.
- iv. Clarification was also provided on the bid and selection process for the European Championships in 2026, it was confirmed that the final decision would be taken at the Council.

6. Home Countries update

- i. No specific matters not covered elsewhere in the agenda were raised.

7. Volunteer Reports (where specific item raised)

a. Road Running

- i. It was noted that road running environment is changing rapidly as we emerge from Covid restrictions.
- ii. An area of focus is to manage the requirements of Covid rules within the context of road running events and the environment where those events take place.

b. Clubs

- i. It was noted from both club representatives that leagues and competitions have re-started. There is an ongoing challenge to meet the capacity constraints that are having to be applied against the demand to take part.
- ii. Clubs have a waiting list of coaches to undertake coaching courses and assessment, anything that can be done to release that demand would be appreciated.

iii. It was noted that the different systems of athlete registrations across the four HCAF's continues to cause challenges when ensuring that athletes are permitted to compete.

c. Coaches

- i. The appointment of Jackie Newton as Head of Coaching Development is welcomed as a positive appointment.
- ii. The decision to not change the qualification standards for the U18's championships was noted as a disappointment given the challenges faced over the last 18 months.
- iii. The MBE awarded to Jeanette Kwakye in the recent honours list was welcomed. A question was raised in respect of how UKA is managing the honours nominations process going forward to ensure we recognise contributions across the sport. JC/MD to take forward **ACTION: JC/MD**

d. IPC

- i. It was noted that the IPC have made a policy decision to transfer ownership of specific events out of the IPC, including Athletics, into standalone federations. The details of the process/timing are to be confirmed.
- ii. Changes are like to be made to the distribution of events in the Paralympics in 2024, details are to be confirmed.

8. Any Other Business

- a. Following a query on the off-track representatives and that at least two members may know individuals who are willing to step forward MD confirmed that he will advise all Members when the nomination process for representatives open later in 2021. **ACTION: MD**
- b. A query was raised as to whether Members would receive an invite to the Gateshead Diamond League on the 13th July. This would be confirmed in due course post British Championships weekend.

END

Summary of Actions

Point	ACTION	Responsible
1	Update to be provide on the status of discussions with European Athletics and Cherry Alexander taking a position on the Board of UKA.	ACTION: MD
1	The minutes of the meeting were approved subject to an amendment to the location of the heading "5. UKA Update", this should be before the paragraph starting "Confusion over the roles...". MD to amend and re-issue the minutes.	ACTION: MD
1	A question was raised as to whether there have been any discussions with World Athletics on whether the permissible logo size could be increased, no discussions have yet taken place, this will be referred to WA.	ACTION: JC
4a. vii	Requirements for and number of athletes able to vote in Athletes Commission election. MD to confirm.	ACTION: MD
4a. vii	As part of the discussion on the selection and appointment process for specific Member segments James Williams agreed to prepare some initial proposals.	ACTION: JW
4b vi.	A query was raised as to the level of alignment, if any, with the Special Olympics. It was agreed that this would be taken away by JC.	ACTION: JC
4e. ii	A request was made for an additional UKA Member to be included in the selection process for the new UKA Chair. The Senior Independent Director confirmed that this was a Board decision and that she would take the request to the Board and revert.	ACTION: PA
7c	A question was raised in respect of how UKA is manging the honours nominations process going forward. JC/MD to take forward.	ACTION: JC/MD
8a	Following a query on the off-track representatives and that at least two members may know individuals who are willing to step forward MD confirmed that he will advise all Members when the nomination process for representatives open later in 2021.	ACTION: MD