

**UK Members Council Meeting  
26 September 2008  
UKA Offices, Solihull**

<b>Present:</b>	Lynn Davies	Chair
	Geoff Wightman	Scottish Athletics
	Bill Adcocks	Clubs Representative
	Keith May	Clubs Representative
	Stan Burton	Officials Representative
	Mike Harris	Coaching Representative
	Helen Clitheroe	Athlete Representative
	Roy Corry	Athletics NI Athletics
	Lynette Harris	Welsh Athletics
<b>In attendance:</b>	Charles Bartholomew	UKA Finance & Operations Director
	Niels de Vos	UKA Chief Executive
	Ed Warner	UKA Chairman
<b>Apologies:</b>	Mark Hollinshead	Scottish Athletics
	Graham Jessop	Off-Track Representative
	Jonathon Edwards	European Athletics Representative
	Seb Coe	IAAF Representative
	Michael Squires	Representative
	Chris Cohen	IPC Representative

**Welcome & Apologies**

Mike Harris welcomed the Council to the meeting as Lynn Davies was stuck in traffic and would arrive shortly.

Apologies were received from Mark Hollinshead, Graham Jessop, Jonathon Edwards, Seb Coe, Michael Squires and Chris Cohen.

**Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting 12 July 2008 were agreed subject to the change of the name of the new Athletics Ireland CEO Mary Coghlan being amended.

The Council asked if numbers could be added to the bottom of each page of the minutes for easy reference. **Action:** SH to arrange.

### **UKA update**

EW presented his paper from the UKA Board Meeting 26 July. Due to the UKA Board meeting taking place the day before the Council meeting on the 24 September, EW summarised verbally what had happened.

The UKA Board had a presentation from Shaun Pickering on a new competition format "Super 8". It was agreed that a trial event will be held in 2009 using the format with UK Challenge and the UKA Board had committed to costs to back the trial. It may become commercially viable and with a focus on 2013 onwards if the trials were successful then a roll out from 2010 onwards. Funding would initially come from UKA.

Beijing Paralympics– There was disappointing feedback from the team who attended as well as from the medals achieved. This is being addressed urgently and UKA will look at appointing someone to head up the Paralympic programme.

UKA were very pleased with the appointment of Charles van Commenee as Head Coach which was announced earlier this week. NdV explained to the Council regarding the comments made by the BBC at the press conference about "welcoming Dwain back into the team" and explained the background to the comment and expressed the UKA Board's view which had been agreed prior to the European Championships in Valencia – UKA's statement is that "any athlete who is eligible to represent Great Britain and Northern Ireland under current regulations, will be treated as an equal and welcomed into the team."

NdV circulated the structure to the Council which was presented to them at the December 2007 meeting. He explained how the process was going forward. The candidate who NdV was hoping to appoint as Strategic Head of Coaching & Development had very recently declined the offer of the role. NdV said he would be revisiting other candidates and looking at other potential candidates and hoping to appoint someone as quickly as possible.

NdV circulated to the Council a copy of his report.

A copy of Olympic, Paralympic and World performances for both disabled and non disabled was circulated to the Council showing that athletics performance were not as bad as people had stated and this showed consistency.

NdV said that we all need to take a positive view and make sure that the message given to the public was good, as the perception the public have is that performances are getting worse.

JG commented that the BBC coverage seemed to be negative about performances. EW said that he had arranged a meeting with Roger Mosey at the BBC to express his concerns on how the commentators are representing athletics as well as how they reported following CVC's announcement.

The Council wished to express their congratulations to Helen Clitheroe on her achievement at the Olympics in Beijing.

The Council wished to record their thanks to Dave Collins for the work he has done over the past 4 years. **Action:** LD to formally write to DC on behalf of the Council to thank him for his efforts.

### **UKA Accounts 2007/08**

CB presented the accounts for 2007/08 to the Council

- Surplus after tax of £317k even after costs of restructuring
- Healthy reserves and cash levels
- 2007/08 Accounts were completed and signed by July
- Auditors reported to the Audit Committee "excellent"
- Reserves up to £1,357k – still less than 2 months spend, however income is known each year which gives reasonable security

### **2008/09 outlook**

- Surplus against budget – due to timings and spending patterns
- Forecasting during October at 6 months
- £2,000 spends signed off by NdV even if within the budget
- CB reviews management accounts every month with Managers
- Self Assurance process with Sport England & UK Sport completed.

### **Auditors**

CB asked the council to re-elect haysmacintyre as the auditors – The Council approved the re-election.

BA asked who would be funding CVC – NdV said that UKA would be paying him but ultimately UK Sport fund the position.

The Council thanked CB for the "excellent" accounts

## Council issues – Mike Harris

Following the last meeting in July, MH was asked to collate issues which the volunteer representatives were concerned about and circulate to the Council. The elected representatives were now half way through their term and now felt able to contribute more to the meetings.

Information feedback from UKA – what could be passed on by the representatives to the sport: NdV had expressed that his door was always open for the council to contact him and ask questions for feedback to the sport.

Meeting on a quarterly basis – since the meeting with NdV, the volunteer representatives had felt that things had improved, and relationships had grown giving more confidence to ask more questions. MH felt that there was a gap in coaching particularly since Callum Orr left as head of coaching. LD asked MH if he would be happy to help out and sit on a Coaching strategy groups – MH confirmed that he would be very happy to do so.

As each of the volunteer representatives had different remits, it was especially difficult for the club representatives due to there being no specific person in place to speak to. The Coach and Officials representatives have dedicated people within UKA whom they can speak to. EW explained that UKA was not set up to feed clubs and that this should go through the Home Countries.

JG said that England Athletics were developing a Club Development package to go out to all clubs, and would include details of the UKMC club representative information within it.

LH felt that there was confusion over what UKA and Home Countries do, particularly for Officials and Coaches. The boundaries were unclear who is responsible for what. NdV to discuss with LH separately.

Contributing to the debate - An inclusion on the agenda at each meeting with a formal place for clubs, officials and coaches for the representatives to report on any issues.

Official Line – UKMC to be given the opportunity to produce “Official Line” in Athletics Weekly, MH to make contact with Liz Birchall.

UKMC section on the website – The representatives was looking for main page link, giving a higher profile for the Council. MH to make contact with Liz Birchall regarding this.

Date of Meetings – Suggestions to be made as it doesn’t always work to have meetings around TV Events.

Reports – Reports to be submitted before meeting to enable members to absorb.

LD thanked Mike for raising the issues.

## **Home Country Reports**

### Scotland - Geoff Wightman

GW informed the meeting that Mark Hollingshead had been promoted and may find attending UKMC meetings difficult as he is commuting from Scotland to London.

- Scotland to commence UKCC coaching courses November/December 08
- Glasgow hosting European Athletics Coaches Conference in conjunction with the annual SAL awards – 1 & 2 November. 230 applications so far with maximum capacity 300.
- SAL membership at 8,600 with a target of 10,000 for March 09
- Four Scots competed in Beijing Olympics and three Paralympic athletes, with a silver medal for Libby Clegg in the 100m
- During 2008 – 20 Scottish records had been set (9 senior/11 U20)
- Plans for a Scottish Performance Athlete and Coach Education Centre (SPACE) for January 2009
- 330 Senior athletes entered Stewarts Scottish Senior Championships at the end of August
- Scottish Athletics will be relocating in December into Sport Scotland's building, still in Edinburgh
- At AGM three Honorary Life Members approved. Ron Morrison becomes Convenor for Road and Cross Country Commission, James Stewart is the new Finance Director and Julia Bracewell a non executive director.
- £4m economic benefit from World Cross Country in Edinburgh and a further £3m to the Scottish economy. It was watched by 20m TV viewers in 160 countries.
- Consultation on a new 6 year strategic plan from April 09 will take place between November and February 09.

### England Athletics - John Graves

- Sport England bid presented on Monday 22 September. England Athletics bid to Sport England to make the sport successful. Focusing on improving performances of Coaches and Clubs. Including coach mentoring and a club development programme. Funding amount will be confirmed within about a month.
- Athletics in Schools – Group set up including ESAA, YST, and Competition Managers to look at athletics in Schools. Competition pathway – recreational pathway & elite pathway (county schools upwards). Using Elevating Athletics. Presentation in December for roll out from September 2009.
- English Schools lost their sponsorship with Sainsbury's – funding from UKA has been agreed for England Athletics to support English Schools over the next four years.

### Lynette Harris – Welsh Athletics

- Coaches' conference on 11 October 2008 with 95-100 coaches attending.
- Year end accounts ready to be presented to the Board on 9 September 2008
- Proposed designation of High Performance Centre for the indoor facility at NIAC
- Strength & Conditioning Coach & Physiotherapist has been appointed to work with the Welsh Talent Development Agency and the World Class Programme athletes.
- Three Athlete Development Centres will be implemented in Cardiff, Deeside and Swansea from autumn 2008.
- Re brand of Welsh Athletics with launch September 2008, to coincide with move to new offices at Cardiff's International Sports Stadium
- Annual Awards Dinner and Hall of Fame held on 19 September

### Roy Corry – Northern Ireland

- Strategic Plan 2009-2013 - Advanced stage, presentation to Management Board on 30 October 2008 for approval. Final submission to Sports Northern Ireland 7 November 2008.
- Annual Financial Statements 30 September 2008 - Will be presented in draft format to the Management Board 30 October 2008, together with annual & monthly budgets
- Competition Programme - Cross Country, Road Running & Mountain Running - Appropriate championship dates approved by Committees, final submission due to Management Board.
- Change of date - IAAF & UK Challenge to 3 January 2009 will be held at Antrim.
- Window of opportunity for McCain's to sponsor National Championships inc Indoors, T & F, XC & RR. Is there money available for Home Countries participation? Specific ideas to be fed in to NdV.
- Competition Programme –Track & Field - To be finalised by T & F committee and endorsed at future Management Board meeting
- Trust Fund - Northern Ireland Athletics Federation Trust registered by HMR & C as now been approved as a charity from 25 June 2008
- AGM - Wednesday 18 March 2009
- Annual Award – 20 November 2008
- Now registered as Athletics Northern Ireland (2008)

### **IAAF Report**

Nothing to report

### **EAA Report**

Nothing to report

## **IPC Report**

Nothing to report

The Council wished to record their thanks to Chris Cohen for his work out in Beijing for the Paralympics.

## **Any Other Business**

Vice President –The Council was asked to think seriously about names who could fit the bill longer term and become a natural successor to him. **Action:** LD to remind Council members in couple of weeks.

McCain's – MH asked for confirmation of the areas of involvement with the McCain Sponsorship – NdV confirmed that currently it was the Young Athletes Leagues and club networks – **Action:** Briefing note to be sent to the Council outlining their sponsorship including NSF contribution.

Athletes Panel - HC asked if CVC would be continuing the athlete panel (approx 12 athletes currently on the panel). **Action:** HC to provide feedback to NdV on what the athletes would like the panel to achieve.

Scotland's Hall of Fame – An addition to Tom McKean, to be announced shortly. 5 to 6

Square Mile Relay – EW ran in the Square Mile Relay yesterday as part of the Aviva Team and came in 4<sup>th</sup> place.

Commonwealth Youth Games – NdV made the Council aware that anti doping education with the youth teams was important as they were going to be very strict on this area.

European Cross Country – Brussels – NdV confirmed that CVC would be attending

## **Date of Next meeting**

29 November 2pm at UKA offices Solihull, followed by UKA Annual Awards Dinner at National Motorcycle Museum. NdV to ask CVC to attend next meeting.