

UK Members Council
12 July 2009
Crowne Plaza - Birmingham

Present:

Lynn Davies - Chair
Roy Corry – Athletics Northern Ireland
Alan Currie – Welsh Athletics
Stan Burton – Officials Representative
Chris Cohen – IPC Representative
Mike Harris – Coaching Representative
Keith May – Clubs Representative
Mike Summers – England Athletics
Geoff Wightman – Scottish Athletics
Graham Jessop – Off Track Representative
Jonathan Edwards – European Athletics Representative
Bill Adcocks – Club Representative
Roger Simons - Representative
Steve Backley – Vice President

In attendance:

Niels de Vos – UKA Chief Executive
Charles Bartholomew – UKA Finance & Operations Director
Sarah Hall – Executive Assistant

Apologies:

Seb Coe – IAAF Representative
Ed Warner – UKA Chairman
John Graves – England Athletics
Mark Hollinshead – Scottish Athletics
Lynette Harries – Welsh Athletics
Helen Clitheroe – Athlete Representative

Welcome & Apologies

LD welcomed Roger Simons & Steve Backley to their first UK Members Council meeting.

Apologies were received from Seb Coe, Ed Warner, John Graves, Mark Hollinshead, Lynette Harries & Helen Clitheroe

Minutes of the meeting 12 February 2009

SB raised the timing of RS's appointment until November 2011 – SB thought this was a 2 year appointment from the date it was agreed in February 2009. The Council agreed with SB; it was subsequently pointed out that the appointment could only start when RS left the Board at the end of March 2009, so it would be up for reconsideration two years later, at the end of March 2011.

Action: SH to record the correction to the minutes.

With this change the minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting

Matters arising from 12 February 2009

Coaches - Mike Harris still to liaise with Ewan Cameron regarding what coaches want and then to feedback to Kevin Tyler - MH has met KT and spoken with Coaches and refers to this in his report.

Website - Some Council members still need to provide information for the website – CB reported that there were two outstanding.

LD to inform the UKA Board at the meeting on 24 February that UKMC endorsed the proposed reappointment of EW as Chair for a further three years at the end of his current contract – Actioned at UKA Board meeting 24 February

Strategic Business Unit (SBU's) – New KPIs will be shared at the next meeting which will include 1 year & 4 years plans – attached within the papers and discussed under AOB.

Election process for 2011 - CB to make suggestions to the Council. Paper circulated and will be discussed under AOB

LD to write a letter of thanks Michael Squires for his input – Actioned

The Council agreed to create an additional non elected post against a job description to be devised by GAJ in the first instance. Actioned – paper circulated and will be discussed under AOB

Vetting & Barring – October 09 – some confusion about what is going on and what is required. KM confirmed that David Brown had provided the information.

LD asked if Kevin Tyler could give a progress report to the Council at the July meeting. KT will be presenting later in the meeting.

CEO Report

The Paper was taken as read and the CEO highlighted areas to the Council

Elite Performance

NdV said that many changes had been brought in by CvC with an aim to create a team ethos. There was still work to be done but this was progressing in the right way. CvC's aim was to get as many athletes as possible to attend UKA warm weather training camps, this was working well and athletes seem happy as their training partners are allowed to attend and still train together.

Performance restructure

This was now complete, with appointments made as detailed in the CEO report. However not all offers have been accepted.

The HiPAC appointments have been made and Dan Pfaff (Lee Valley) and Derek Evely (Loughborough) start in September 2009.

Olympic Task Force – team chaired by NdV and consists Charles van Commenee, Peter Eriksson, Jason Gardener & Tanni Grey-Thompson and includes Neil Black from a medical view point.

NdV confirmed that Lee Valley would not be an official BOA 2012 training venue.

Parallel success – a new initiative to find new talent to maximise chances at Olympics in 2012, NdV explained that in Paralympics, subject to classification, it was easier to take on athletes from potential to World Class in Paralympics.

Revenue 2012 - £50m additional income for London required through "Team 2012" – athletes have been asked to sign a central contract. This includes the same number of appearances as the previous contract but they will be asked to do this for commercial sponsors (Olympic sponsors). Some agents are still concerned over the commercial rights for athletes. Athletes need to be encouraged to sign. Kit sponsors Nike & adidas are happy with the contracts and have encouraged their athletes to sign.

NdV is working with Fast Track and England Athletics on post 2012 revenues and how things will look. NdV confirmed that most commercial contracts with UKA run to 2014 with the exception of Aviva which ends 2012.

UKA will undergo a mid cycle review with UK Sport which means funding for World Class Performance could go up or down by up to 20%.

NdV confirmed that the Sport England funding had now been agreed for the next 4 years.

Strategic Business Units

Marketing & Communications

TV Events budget – must always at least break even. This year this was difficult due to previous years. Also, Crystal Palace not getting financial support from London Government this year, taking £50k out of budget.

Ticket Sales – Birmingham has been a hard sell and numbers are down on last year, though this is usual in the year after Olympics.

Super 8

A review meeting is being held at UKA on 13 July - The aim remains to build the series into 8 events per year, but that for next year (2010) unlikely to expand beyond one indoor and one outdoor event. NdV said that there were feedback forms on the UKA website should anyone wish to provide any feedback.

The Council agreed that they felt that overall they felt the Super 8 pilot was a success.

Aviva Academy

Aviva Academy was launched on the 4 June, providing a new umbrella sponsorship for all grassroots products across the UK. Home Country Athletic Federations will be fully engaged in the Academy programmes in each Country, led by a sponsorship of each Home Country Schools Association.

Competitions & International Relations

CA presented to the UKA Board in May where the team's KPIs and strategy were agreed.

The Officials conference held in April went very well and feedback was that it was the best one yet. SB confirmed that conference was well received and endorsed the recent work of the Officials team.

Finance & Operations

Hay review to confirm that correct levels of remuneration are in place has been completed before the start of performance related pay.

Facilities Strategy

Currently being reviewed for post 2012. This work is being developed in conjunction with England Athletics and Building Schools for the future.

Chief Executives Office

Sport England Agreements have now been signed and UKA are working with England Athletics to ensure delivery.

NdV updated the Council that a UK wide common strategy was now in place around the athlete pathway

Commonwealth Games

UKA have funded a post with Alison Wyeth leading on behalf of England Athletics to coordinate the Commonwealth Games with an option to open this to all other Home Country Athletics Federations which would mean the first time all had worked together.

Diamond League

UKA are founder members and shareholders – with the only 2 day meet in the league and one of only two countries to have two events. This replaces the current Golden League and starts in the UK at Crystal Palace in 2010. One of the most important developments of Diamond League vs. Golden League is the commitment of Diamond league to include all events.

HiPACs

The need to make these world class centres was the reason we have moved to 2 centres – Loughborough & Lee Valley. Other centres will still be around but will become regional centres. Scotland and Wales will also have centres (UWIC & SPACE).

Anti Doping

UKA's challenge is to keep missed tests down to a minimum. Currently there are no athletes with 2 missed tests.

London 2012

Two dates are in the calendar at the moment in 2011 & 2012 for test events at the Olympic stadium before the games. NdV confirmed that there was still no certainty on what the stadium will look like post Olympics.

Run Britain

The next two months' main focus will be a) to get as many as possible of the top 50-100 races agreeing to use the online entry system & b) to get a many races as possible to agree to post the Run Britain web link on their home races. BA asked how many non club members had signed up to run Britain – MS & NdV confirmed that very few had and this was one area of concern.

UKA Budgets 2009/10 presented by Charles Bartholomew

- Reserves now at secure level, so break even budget
- Bulk of UKA revenue now contracted for 4 years
- Use of legacy “rump” to build coaching base
- Lower UK Sport grant for WCP as expected
- Increase in UKA contribution to WCP
- New full year sponsorship from McCain
- 2008/09 accounts forecast showing a surplus of £262 k

LD thanked CB for his detailed presentation.

Presentation by Kevin Tyler on Coaching & Development

LD welcomed KT to the meeting.

KT gave a brief biography:

Director - Canadian Athletics Coaching Centre, University of Alberta. 2004 to 2009

Sports Marketing Manager - Running, NIKE Canada, 2001 to 2004

Technical Manager - Track and Field - BC Athletics, 2001

Masters Degree, (MA), from the University of Toronto, and a Bachelors Degree (BA Hons, First Class) from Simon Fraser University.

Personal Coach to 16 Canadian Senior Records, including Tyler Christopher: 2008 World Indoor Champion & 2005 World Outdoor Championships Bronze Medalist (400m: 44.44); Adam Kunkel 2007 Pan American Games Champion and 2007 World Championships Finalist (400mH: 48.24). Shane Niemi: 2002 Commonwealth Games Silver Medalist (400m: 44.86). He also had 4 athletes on the Canadian Olympic team in Beijing including 2 of the men's 4x100m relay team, finished 6th in Beijing.

KT competed in the 1988 Winter Olympics, Bobsleigh.

Awarded -2 x Petro Canada Coaches Association Award: Given to coaches of World Championship or Olympic Medalists - 3 x Alberta: High Performance Coach of the year.

A copy of the presentation is attached for information

LD thanked KT for attending the meeting and his presentation

Volunteer Representatives – Reports

Clubs – Keith May

Welcomed UKA and England Athletic schemes to bring more youngsters into the Sport but highlighted that many clubs are already struggling to cope with number of youngster wanting to join clubs due to falling number of volunteers/coaches.

Road Running & Off Track - Graham Jessop

An exciting time within the endurance fraternity due to the good performance of the athletes, which has boosted interest.

Run Britain

GAJ was asked to give a bit of a background to how Run Britain was set up. GAJ explained that approx 4 years ago concern was raised over road running. A group was then set up to include a number experienced road running people – Hugh Braisher, Dave Bedford, Brendan Foster etc. The meetings are chaired by Geoff Wightman and they meet approx every 6 weeks. More recently the main focus is to help race directors to improve road running, including health & safety around events. GAJ felt that there was lots of good work going on. Run Britain are planning to organise an Endurance Seminar the day before WHM in October.

GAJ reported to the meeting the sad news that Colin Gostelow who died recently. GAJ attended his funeral yesterday (10 July) on behalf of UKA. Action: GAJ to write on behalf of the Council to Colin's family with UKA/UKMC's condolences.

Coaching - Mike Harris

Both UKA and England Athletics have very much put coaching at the forefront of the sport and emphasized that the sport will be coach-led and this is welcomed. However MH concerned that, at grassroots level, there is still ignorance as to the respective roles of UKA & EA; It was felt that in time this would evolve and become clearer.

The provision of domestic league competition is still a complete hash and the impact this has on coaches' plans for their athletes should not be underestimated. Any good coach will produce a race programme for each of their athletes but attempting to put this together is not easy under the current domestic agenda and very often the coaches are classed as the bad guys by their athletes' clubs or even suffer a strained relationship with their athletes.

The league programme as a whole is disjointed, unbalanced and inconsistent. Each league has its' own direction with rules and fixtures programme specific to them. Championship events are experiencing declining numbers as they compete with the ever-increasing number of extra competitions on offer and there is a perceived lack of concern by the governing bodies. MH welcomed the new competitions driven by UKA - The UK Challenge Final, Jumps Fest, Throws Fest and now Super8 but felt that there were still too many more established fixtures that now needed to be rationalized. There is also concern over age groups and despite several attempts over the years, no positive improvement. The failures do not all lay at the feet of UKA & EA but MH stressed they must continue to provide direction, guidance and leadership for our athletes to follow a competition pathway at whatever level they compete.

The introduction of UKCC is an immediate challenge for UKA. The length of the courses, the content, the cost and quality of tutoring are all areas of concern. MH has met with the new UKA Head of Coach Development, Kevin Tyler at Bedford and he has paid a visit to Trafford AC, as well as other clubs, to see at first-hand how things are operated and to chat with club coaches to gain their views on coach education.

There is concern regarding the cost of UKCC and a general view that, at Level 1, the aim should be to attract as many coaches as possible. This means either offering the courses free of charge (or charging a small fee), alternatively ensuring that the costs are covered by other means, this could be via the clubs, local development groups, Athletics Networks, etc, or, more radically, an increase in the affiliation fee. The feature in Athletics Weekly on UKCC plus the back page article is a huge help and this should become a regular item in order to spread the message throughout the coaching community.

The return to National Event Coaches is a positive move for UKA and these people need to have a high profile and be highly respected. New technical manuals will be produced for each event.

The appointment of National Coach Mentors has added additional momentum and will be a vital link between the National Event Coaches and the Area Coach Mentors.

Scotland will be hosting a Festival of Athletics Coaching in November with some illustrious speakers.

Everybody has their views on why there aren't more female coaches in athletics and UKA are addressing this with a women only coaching conference at Crystal Palace on 24 July. A great idea but whether it should be to the exclusion of male coaches is debatable in MH's view.

Officials – Stan Burton

SB reported that there are still not enough officials, particularly at grassroots level. However for 2012 there is a good core of high quality technical officials and they are confident of quality officials for 2012.

SB wanted to thank England Athletics for getting together forums of technical officials where common problems can be discussed and fed back to UKA.

A recruitment drive is ongoing within England (through Athletics Networks). HCAF official's forum has already happened and will take place twice per year with the next meeting planned for September.

Home Country Athletic Federations Reports

Scotland – Geoff Wightman

- Number of Commonwealth qualifying performances at 7 July (opened on 1 May 2009) is 23 performances by nine athletes
- Number of Berlin A/B qualifying performance at 7 July is three (McConnell, Child, Lemoncello)
- Number of European U23 Championships qualifying performances at 7 July is nine standards by five athletes (seven selected)
- Number of European U20 Championship qualifying performances at 7 July is six performances by four athletes (three picked in first wave selections)
- Number of World Youth Championships qualifying performances at 25 June is seven standards by three athletes (three selected)
- International Athletics Coaching Festival in Glasgow (30 Oct – 1 Nov) with speakers and guests including Wilson Kipketer, Sergei Bubka, Adam Nelson, Charles van Commenee, Peter Eriksson, Frank Dick, Vincenzo Canali, Santiago Antunez was launched on 11 June. Capacity is 400. 144 reservations were made in first four days
- New Scottish Coaches Association met for first time on 12 June, under interim Chairmanship of Frank Dick
- National and regional volunteer coaches appointed and squads set up through to Spring 2010
- New performance structure being agreed with UKA and **sportscotland** led by new Head Coach (role currently advertised). Performance environment (SPACE Centre) to be created in final quarter of this year
- Black-Shields rankings (top 100 Scots on rolling five event points scores over twelve month period) indicating rising standards among this level of predominantly senior athletes
- Golden League inaugural format showing potential in year one with entries, turnout and performance standards all up against 2007 and 2008 levels
- **jogscotland** Challenges 5 x 5k evening race venues attracted 4,500 entrants and made a surplus.
- **scottishathletics** membership 8,600
- Audited accounts for 2008-09 show turnover at £2.1m and surplus of £650. Reserves at £48,000
- New Regional Development Managers (6) to be in post by 2010. Education & Development Manager and Youth Development Manager Posts merge. Ewen Cameron leaving in July to become a Partnership Manager at **sportscotland**

Wales – Alan Currie

- Following a Track & Field Competition Review during the year a new league structure is in place. A formal review will provide feedback later in the year.
- Commonwealth Games qualification guidelines for Delhi have now been published together with criteria for nomination to the Commonwealth Games Council for Wales
- The new home of Welsh Athletics, the Cardiff International Sports Stadium has successfully hosted the following meetings:
 - Welsh Senior Open Championships
 - Super 8 Premier
 - Aviva Welsh Schools Track and Field Championships
 - UK & Welsh League matches
 - The McCain UK Challenge Final and UK School Games will be held in August and September, respectively
- The UK launch of the Aviva/UK Schools sponsorship was hosted at the Faenol Estate, North Wales, which was also the venue for the inaugural SIAB/Home Countries Senior & Under 20 Cross Country International
- The Welsh Athletics four year Strategic Plan, 2009 – 2013, is now operational and the objectives have been cascaded down to individual employees to take responsibility
- The following appointments have been made:
 - Competition Manager James Thie
 - Education and Training Manager Neil Wheeler
 - Media and Publicity Officer William Ponissi
 - Head of Coaching Interviews on 17 July
- A new competition and non-competition kit sponsorship is being finalised and will be announced in the coming weeks
- Cardiff has been named as one of six Regional Training Centres by UKA
- Welsh Official's conference will take place in October

Northern Ireland – Roy Corry

- **ANI Strategic Plan 2009-2013** - Delay by SNI reference the board's challenge to the CEO timeframe otherwise all other items in the proposed funding are acceptable. Selection & Recruitment process has commenced in respect of Athlete Development Manager, Talent Development Coach & Coaching Development Manager – Kevin Tyler will assist in the recruitment process.
- **Management Accounts 6 months 31 March 2009** - Reflected a loss of £0.8k as compared to budgeted loss of £1.2k
- **Annual Financial Budgets y/e 30 September 2009** - Still unable to proceed with same until approval of SNI submission and the agreed phased expenditure, therefore the remaining 6 months to 30 September 2009 are incomplete. However, they will be integrated into a fiscal year setting 31 March 2010
- Redundancies of three development coaches' contacts in March 2009, however, they were re-engaged on short term temporary contracts until 31 July 2009. These staff members will be eligible to apply for two of the above positions.

- Active Communities Coaches in partnership with four local councils at present commencing in January 2010.
- **Run Britain** - Pierce O'Callaghan & John Temperton presented Run Britain road show at Mary Peters Track Belfast April 2009 in an attempt to roll out the scheme in Northern Ireland. There are some practical difficulties to overcome and we need to ensure that the website and associated material has relevance to Northern Ireland before we try to promote it.
- **Mary Peters Run** - To celebrate her 70th birthday, Dame Mary will be hosting a 10k Run With Mary at her track with a cross selection of international celebrities in association with Athletics Northern Ireland and the proceeds going to her Mary Peters Trust Fund.
- **Schools Sponsorship** - Agreement reached with USSAA and all relevant contracts and memoranda signed, both organisations have agreed to work together and ensure that both the sponsors are happy. The annual SIAB Aviva home countries international will be held at Antrim 18 July 2009.
- **McCains Athletics Networks** - Jackie McKiernan will be taking ownership of this opportunity and will liaise with Andy Paul regarding implementation.
- **Kevin Tyler visit** - Kevin Tyler, Strategic Head of Coaching & Development visit us for 3 days in June and addressed a council meeting including coaches giving his terms of references, his strategy and more important his past record. Kevin endorsed UKA working with the Home Countries to attract the best coaching knowledge and expertise for the benefit of developing our coaching workforce. It was a very relaxing & informative talk and the general consensus gave a positive reaction.
- **Championships T & F** - Successful championship in both age groups and seniors with some emerging talent coming through.

England – Mike Summers

New organisation structure now fully operational, led by 19 Club and Coach Support Officers across the country

- Team of National Coach Mentors appointed covering 400m, CE, endurance, triple jump, long jump, shot put, pole vault and physical preparation; additional Area Coach Mentors to be appointed to cover endurance / road running
- Each National Coach Mentor will bring together a group of 20-40 Level 3 and Level 4 coaches in a "National Coach Development programme". These coaches in turn will support a further group of coaches, and "cascade" knowledge and best practice through the sport.
- Job adverts out for National Coach Mentors to cover remaining events
- Series of coaching conferences and masterclasses planned for the Winter 2009/10.
- Over 200 flying coach visits to clubs delivered
- Preparing for launch of UKCC coaching programme in October 2009
- 29 Athletics Networks now either in place or finalising agreements; funded by Sport England and McCains and supporting clubs who will work together to raise coaching standards and support for young people
- London strategy for 2012 legacy in consultation phase; London coaching appointments planned

- Investment in Sportshall and Quadkids showing big uplift in young people experiencing Athletics. Approx 250,000 young people taking part in 250 Quadkids competitions
- Athletics365 academy programme under development, aimed at clubs and schools and helping them improve the quality of experience they offer young people. Discussions with UKA on combining this with the Aviva Schools Academy.
- Run in England programme launched, aimed at getting more people running in groups led by a qualified leader
- Leadership in Running Fitness course launched, qualifying road running leaders to deliver mixed-ability groups
- England U23/U20 champs at Bedford a great success. Planning England Athletics Senior Champs for June 2010.
- Commonwealth Games 2010 planning underway.
- National portfolio groups being set up for Coaching, Clubs and Officials
- Road running roadshows in July in partnership with Run Britain
- EA Facebook site now has over 1,000 members. New system under development with Sport England and BUCS to use Facebook to drive participation in running in Universities
- England Athletics Hall of Fame to take place on 10 October 2009 at Villa Park

IAAF report – Seb Coe

No update to report

European Athletics report - Jonathan Edwards

- JE asked for any feedback on the new format European Team Championships which will then be fed back to European Athletic. Contact JE directly or via SH
- UK hosting Euro Team Champs in 2012
- UK hosting EA congress in 2011

Any Other Business

Election process - CB presented the paper on council membership and elections. A copy of the Election Regulations is attached to the minutes.

Vice President - Need to elect a Vice President during 2009 by the AGM. Appointments panel to be established (appointed by the UKA Board – 2 from UKA Board & 2 UKMC – subcommittee of the Board) to decide on nominations. If more than one nomination received, then need to have an election. Steve Backley has stepped in as interim Vice President, LD has had conversation with Steve Backley and he still has reservations and will confirm after Berlin if he would like to stand for election.

It was agreed that the appointments panel be selected at the UKA board meeting in July and then start the process immediately after that – Proposed LD & MH as UKMC representation.

Road Running – Run Britain to confirm at their next meeting who they would nominate as the representative of Road Running on the Council. If this led to a vacancy for a Club representative an election would need to take place for the vacant position (off-track).

Elections 2011 – The next round of elections is due in 2011. The Council discussed the possibility of changing membership terms to coincide with the Olympic cycle to preserve continuity of approach for planning and evaluation.

Action: CB to prepare paper to be considered by the Board at their next meeting for their views.

Characteristics of a prospective new member – GAJ

The Council discussed the paper presented by GAJ and agreed with the small change made.

Any Other Business

KM asked if UKA had any thoughts on an athletics museum. After discussion it was felt that other museums had failed and an athletics one wouldn't really work commercially

KPI's paper Coaching & Development – CPD – top 25 & top 250 coaches in the UK, how will that be monitored and highlighted?– NdV asked MH to work with KT to help identify as the UKA Board currently doesn't have Non-Executive to support KT.

The council thanked NdV for providing the information on the KPIs for the SMG

The Council asked if the papers for Council meetings could be sent out 1 week prior to meeting and also sent by email.

Action: SH to mail out papers to the Council at least one week before the next meeting.

LD asked the members for their view on how UKMC was now operating. The meeting responded very favourably. This meeting was felt to be the best yet in terms of honest and productive sharing of views and opinions. Roy Corry thanked NdV for the successful impetus he had brought to including UKMC as a genuine contributor to policy and linkage between UKA and the wider sport.

GAJ & RS agreed that the way that the Council and the Home Countries were now working together should be commended, and felt that there was now trust between everybody. The rest of the Council agreed.

Areas of discussion at next meeting

- Reflection of the summer – CvC
- Anti doping presentation - DH

Date of next meeting

Friday 25 September 2009 – 10 am UKA offices