

**UK Members Council  
5 December 2009  
UKA, Solihull**

**Present:** Lynn Davies - Chair  
Roy Corry – Athletics Northern Ireland  
Lynnette Harries – Welsh Athletics  
Stan Burton – Officials Representative  
Mike Harris – Coaching Representative  
Keith May – Clubs Representative  
John Graves – England Athletics  
Bill Adcocks – Clubs Representative  
Roger Simons – UK Athletics  
Geoff Wightman – Scottish Athletics  
Graham Jessop – Off Track Representative  
Andrew Taylor – Road Running Representative

**In attendance:** Niels de Vos – UKA Chief Executive  
Charles Bartholomew – UKA Finance & Operations Director  
Ed Warner – UKA Chairman

**Apologies:** Chris Cohen – IPC Representative  
Frank Dick – Scottish Athletics  
Jonathan Edwards – European Athletics Representative  
Seb Coe – IAAF Representative  
Helen Clitheroe – Athlete Representative

**Welcome & Apologies**

LD welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Chris Cohen, Helen Clitheroe, Frank Dick, Seb Coe & Jonathan Edwards. The Council wished to congratulate to Frank Dick on his appointment as Chair of SAL and Geoff Wightman on his appointment as Managing Director of UK Road Running.

**Minutes of the meeting 25 September 2009**

The minutes of the meeting 25 September were agreed as a true record of the meeting.

**Matters arising from meeting 25 September 2009**

NdV to update the Council at the meeting on Super 8 – this will be done under the CEO report.

**Vetting & Barring** – BA said that this was still confusion over the terminology – David Brown to be invited to the next Council Meeting in February. AT & BA to discuss the letter recently sent out by David Brown.

**Domestic Competition** - Roger Simons to update the Council later in the meeting. RS expressed his thanks for the prompt response and involvement from England. JG confirmed that Mike Heath had been appointed to the Board of England Athletics with a brief to oversee Domestic Competition Strategy. Competitions Strategy Meeting January 2010.

### **Acknowledgement of the UKMC Vice President**

Steve Backley was officially declared elected as the Vice President of the UK Members Council for the next 4 years. The Council welcomed Steve to the meeting.

### **UKA Update**

The Chairman's paper was taken as read.

### **CEO**

NdV went through his report and amplified the following areas:

#### **Key Milestones to end of 2009**

Development and Apprentice Coaches – all but two are now appointed. A full list will be provided at the next meeting.

MH asked if the Council could be provided with an updated UKA structure so they could see where the new appointments had been made.

**Action:** SH to circulate updated structure

Lee Valley & Loughborough Development to bring centres up to World Class Standards was approved by the UKA Board on the 24 November. The finance for this development will come from UKA reserves. NdV confirmed plans for a Throws Centre would be built at Loughborough (subject to funding). SB asked to see the plans.

30 November was the deadline for WCPP Athletes to submit their 3 year training plans. Only 2 athletes out of 100 have not yet submitted their plans.

Athlete Contract deadline was also the 30 November – those who didn't sign would not be given entry to the centres.

Legacy Money has now been confirmed and the money will be received before the end of the year.

**Super 8** – The 30 November was the deadline for all cities to express interest in hosting – Five of eight cities confirmed. The decision was made to host a single outdoor Super 8 competition in Glasgow – Wednesday 7 July (weekend before Gateshead), pooling the money into one high profile event (rather than spreading it over 3 Events as originally planned) to ensure the quality was maintained and to reinforce the event concept that is proving so popular in secondary schools across the UK.

**“Demonstrate to the Board of UKA that the Performance improvements ..... towards London 2012”** NdV explained how he would demonstrate this through Performance Funnels. The KPI for 2010 is to move athletes to, or beyond, year 2 level of performance funnels – year 2 indicated that an athlete’s seasons best two years out from the Wolds/Olympics is on track for World or Olympic Top 8 2 years later.

GW confirmed that Scotland’s Head Coach Laurieu Primeau had been in post for over 1 month and had been widely seen as an excellent appointment in Scotland. LH confirmed John Dakata had also been well received in Wales.

Schools athletics – UK School Games have now agreed to use the Super 8 format and this will take place on the Friday night and Saturday morning of the UK School Games.

NdV explained that the Selection Policy for European Championships will have the same standards as for World & Olympics – this was agreed at the UKA Board meeting on 24 November. The Head Coach will retain a “captain’s pick” for exceptional cases. The Selection Policy will be published before Christmas and placed on the UKA website. KM queried if this policy might mean leaving behind potential medallists. NdV explained that athletes in this category would be covered by the Head Coach’s discretionary selection.

UK Anti Doping will be the new governing body which comes into force on the 14 December 2009 and this will delegate results management from UKA. This was approved at the UKA Board meeting on the 24 November.

Dave Herbert will present to the Council on Anti Doping at the February 2010 meeting.

RS asked NdV for an update on Paralympics – NdV said that there were challenges around classification and UKA were trying to do as much classification in the UK beforehand to ensure that athletes know what their classification is.

RS added that Philip Craven had been re-elected as President of IPC

LD congratulated NdV on his election to the BOA Board

### **Charles van Commenee presentation**

The Council thanked CvC for taking the time to come and present to them and remarked on the noticeable improvement in attitude and performance by GB teams (especially Berlin) compared to previous years.

### **Domestic Competition Structure – Roger Simons**

RS presented to the Council background and update on the Domestic Competition Structure.

There were a number of issues which were still work in progress. MH asked who “owns” the outstanding work in progress – RS said that since this presentation had been requested at the last meeting England **Athletics taking** responsibility and things had moved on.

JG said that a number of competition providers for all aspects of athletics including endurance sports had met early this week and further meetings had been planned.

LD thanked RS for the background and research on the competition structure.

A copy of the latest draft competition fixtures for 2010 was circulated.

### **Keith May – Clubs**

KM wanted to make the Council aware regarding an issue over a disabled athlete wanting to enter a Cross Country race – after a risk assessment the athlete had not been entered in to the race.

### **Off Track – Graham Jessop**

The last quarter for a number of reasons has been one of the most fascinating and busy for the endurance community. It started in September with the World Half Marathon Trials and ended with the long awaited Endurance Level Officials Level 2 course at the end of November.

The World Half Marathon trials in Bristol got the autumn off to a fantastic festival of endurance running. The success of the event and the quality of the UK performances had high hopes for the World Championships, which this year were held in Birmingham.

It was then the turn of Keswick to host a Commonwealth Mountain and Ultras Championships – these events do not currently feature in the Commonwealth Games but the aspiration of the NGB is that this will no longer be the case in 2018. The weekend included uphill and downhill mountain running, a 24 hour endurance run and a 100 km run. The four Home Countries acquitted themselves well in all events and given the acclaim of the participants the

Championships will be repeated before 2014 and plans are already afoot to publicise the event in Delhi next year.

Attention then turned to Birmingham and the World Half Marathon (WHM) Championships at the beginning of October. What an honour for organisers, athletes and officials to have a World Championship on our door step. For many, especially some of the endurance officials, it may be their only opportunity to officiate at a world event. The weekend was a real festival for our endurance folk as attendance was also possible at a coaching seminar with the good and the great from around the world and an endurance officials and organisers seminar. The competition at the WHM was of the highest standard possible and the only downside was the low number of participating countries leading the IAAF to question whether this event is sustainable on an annual basis – watch this space!

The autumn sees the annual staging of two Great Runs – the North and the South, both successfully combining an elite event and a mass participation run. Probably the highlight of the series was the way in which Mo Farah took the 10 mile crown in Portsmouth by storm – the first UK victory in this event since Paul Evans some 15 years ago.

The early autumn traditionally is the transitional time for endurance runners to move from the track to the country - sandwiched by the National Six and Four stage relays.

2009 was no different with the leading English clubs being joined by counterparts from Scotland and Wales in some fascinating duels in Sutton Park – for the ordinary club runner the relays are one of the few opportunities where they can run side by side with our leading internationals, who might have been at the World Championships in Berlin or the World Half just down the road some six days earlier. The day was a triumph for Newham and Essex Beagles and in particular to Mo Farah who in helping his club to the national title ran the fastest lap of the day – picking up the first two of his three national championship medals he was to win in a week.

November saw the start of the serious cross country events with the relays at Mansfield and the international Challenge in Gateshead. The former is significant because of the record size entries in most of the age groups and the latter because of early season form prior, to the Europeans in Dublin in January.

2009 has seen major developments in meeting the needs of the endurance official – it started in April with some specific sessions at the UK officials' conference and culminating in a bespoke conference in October covering many significant aspects of officiating and event management. All participants welcomed the opportunity to be brought up to speed on current developments as well as networking. Then some six weeks later the waiting was over for new, aspiring officials with the launch of the re-vamped level 2 endurance course at Haywards Heath in Sussex – some thirty officials participated in the first of four pilot courses which, when finalised, are to be rolled out across the UK in 2010. The Officials Pathway, which at level 2 mirrors the Track and Field scheme, is achieved by studying a number of relevant modules combined with practical

experiences. Early impressions of the course are very favorable but a recurring theme currently from the endurance community is more recognition for the organisers and officials at smaller events and for cross country.

The intense activity during the autumn has brought another issue to a head – endurance event fixture congestion with as many as three major events taking place on the same day. This is now being addressed by the re-convening of the Endurance fixtures conference which shortly will meet to look at fixture planning for 2011.

### **Coaches Report – Mike Harris**

I attended the launch of the UKA Coaching Strategy in October. As I said at the time;

“The new coach development strategy is full of promise and opportunity. It was delivered with enthusiasm by the key players at UKA and the Home Countries and it was evident that Kevin Tyler and his team have worked hard in recent months to come up with a strategy that is comprehensive, understandable and cutting-edge.

What was encouraging was the willingness to listen to feedback and that the team sees this as a long-term development, beyond 2012.

“The website will, I’m sure, be a winner. Some of the things on it are fantastic and, for the first time, coaches will have a forum in which to communicate. It will be pivotal in enhancing the quality of our coaches.”

I am now Chairman of the EA North West Regional Council and, consequently, will be overseeing the Coaching Portfolio for the National Council. The first national sub-group meeting will be held, possibly in December, with Richard Wheeler & Kevin Tyler attending.

I will be attending two of the three England Athletics National Coaching Conferences, at Sheffield & Birmingham.

Having attended four league AGMs in recent weeks it is clear that coaches are still at the centre of the tug of war between athletes & team managers but I note that BAL Chairman, Mike Heath, has been appointed to the board of EA to oversee domestic track & field competition. It is not yet clear what his remit is but I am due to meet with him shortly.

### **Officials Stan Burton**

#### **England National Technical Officials Forum**

This was held on 3 October and was a great success. It was well organised by England Athletics, and presentations were made by England Athletics and UKA, followed by Break-out Sessions, followed by feedback and questions and answers. A de-brief has been scheduled for 8 December.

Those attending were representatives from Technical Officials from the North, Midlands and South of England. Also attending were some County Officials Secretaries, representatives from UKA, England Athletics and competition providers.

It is intended that the Forum will meet twice a year, and further details are available on <http://www.englandathletics.org/page.asp?section=833&sectionTitle=National+Officials%27+Forum>

If you are interested in getting further information, have a look at the presentations and feedback which are accessible by links on the right hand side of the above website.

### **Home Countries Technical Officials Forum**

This is taking place on Monday 30 November, and I should be able to provide further details at the Members Council Meeting.

### **2012 Olympics**

Technical Officials with the appropriate qualifications were circulated in October to ask whether they wished to be considered for inclusion in the team needed to run the Olympic events. The closing date for the returns was 5 November 2009 and there was a good response.

Since then, the Chief Officials have been selected and have been notified. However, these are subject to approval by LOCOG and full details will be published following that approval. The remainder of the team will be selected in due course.

### **Officials Education**

The next stage of courses for Level 4 is now being rolled out. These courses are essentially for Technical Officials who wish to get more involved in event management, mentoring and disability athletics. The courses are running from November 2009 through to April 2010 at various venues in the UK and more details can be found at:

<http://www.uka.org.uk/competitions/officials/education-and-training/>

RS added that the list of Indoor Officials working at the indoor events will go out next week and will be on the website. Outdoor requests for availability will also be sent shortly.

### **Road Running – Andrew Taylor**

AT confirmed the appointment of Geoff Wightman as MD of Road Running since the report was circulated.

Website. Website traffic is up. Progress on the development & investment of further resources for the RealBuzzRunBritain website is waiting on a strategic decision from UKA & EA

Business Manager. Progress on the appointment of a new business manager to replace Pierce O'Callahan is waiting on a strategic decision from UKA & EA

Race Organiser Support Officer. Progress on the appointment of a new technical officer to support race organiser & the technical review is waiting on a strategic decision from UKA & EA.

Officials Conference. The UKA RunBritain Endurance Officials Conference was hosted on Saturday 10 October at Village Hotel, Solihull, on the eve of the World Half Marathon Championships. Plenary speakers included Geoff Wightman & David Bedford, plus workshops on medical standards & event organisation. This was well attended & received.

Road shows. A further RunBritain/Welsh Athletics roadshow was hosted for race organisers and licence officers in Wales at the end of October (hosted in Cardiff with live web-cam link to North Wales). This provided an opportunity for RunBritain & WA to explain & discuss progress in road running & to obtain feedback from local organisers – including matters arising as Welsh Athletics now joins the RunBritain road race licencing scheme. Feedback was generally positive as to strategy & progress.

Technical standards review. Ongoing review of UKA policy, best practice advice & administrative procedures for road race medical standards, highways management, licenced officials, licence standards & risk assessment. Progress to date: new on-line licence application process set up & revised endurance officials education pathway agreed – coursework for new level 2 course in progress. Draft consultation papers anticipated shortly.

Course Measurement. Positive progress has been made in discussions between RunBritain & the UK Course Measurement Working Group, towards the adoption of a formal membership constitution & ratification of existing arrangements between UKA & the new 'Association of UK Course Measurers'.

### **Scottishathletics UK Members Council Report**

- The number of Scottish athletes with at least one Delhi Commonwealth Games qualifying mark in 2009 is 13. This remains in line with our aspirational team size of 30 (up from 20 in 2006, targeting 56+ in 2014) but this will depend on getting 1-2 4 x 400m relay teams qualified in the Spring
- There are five Scottish athletes (including one Paralympian) on World Class Plan. 26 Scots have since been named for Commonwealth Games funding support
- The number of Scottish athletes who achieved UK Power of 10 targets in 2009 was ahead of the six year plan figure (of 30 seniors and 20 under 20's) with 32 seniors and 30 under 20's. This was also up on 2008 (30/21)
- Scotland has introduced 'Home Grown' coach awards with bursaries of up to £5,000 pa each for Scottish based coaches working with Scottish athletes who are ranked top five in the Commonwealth, or equivalent
- 410 delegates attended the International Festival of Athletics Coaching in Glasgow on 30 October – 1 November. Keynote speakers included Seb Coe, Sergey Bubka, Wilson Kipketer



- 320 attended the **scottish**athletics Awards Dinner. Eilidh Child was awarded Athlete of the Year
- New Head Coach Laurier Primeau commenced in post on 1 November. Performance structure and high performance environment being reviewed through December
- PUMA Grand Prix format for 2010 indoor season is the final event discipline (after road, cross country, outdoor track and field) to have a grand prix/Golden League format applied. It links inaugural Inter Regional Championships, Scottish Nationals, UK Nationals, English U20 Championships on a top five point scoring basis
- Black-Shields rankings, listing the top 100 athletes in Scotland on a golf/tennis points score on a twelve month rolling basis, worked strongly through April-September. Average performance level was higher at autumn 2009 than autumn 2008
- Scotland will go with UKCC Level One and old style UKA Level two Coaching courses through to end of March and then adopt the new UK-wide structure from April but the past two years have been a mess in quality and quantity as well as wider credibility terms
- Currently in discussion for renewal of three major sponsorship contracts including Bank of Scotland
- New Chair Frank Dick succeeded Mark Hollinshead at end of four year term on 1 November. On 7 November we had our annual strategic planning day for Board/Management Committee/staff, with a five key areas of six year plan being reviewed in detail. There will be five 'Town Hall' visits in Inverness, Aberdeen, Dundee, Glasgow and Edinburgh in one weekend in January with Chair and CEO.
- GW added that Jim Goldie has been appointed as National Development Manager and starts in January 2010.

### **England Athletics – John Graves**

- National Coach Development Programme launched, 150 coaches attended Birmingham event.
- 90 attendees at Endurance masterclass; 80 booked for Hurdles event; National conferences taking place last / this weekend with over 350 delegates (Lee Valley, Birmingham, Sheffield)
- 5 NCM appointments confirmed: Graham Ravenscroft / Denis Doyle (HJ), Clarence Callender (100/200), Tim Newenham (Javelin), Malcolm Fenton (hammer) – **3 more have now been appointed.**
- Women in Coaching Project Manager appointed (Alison Potts). Bids in development for Sport England "Active Women" themed round.

- 100+ attendees at McCain's Clubs and Athletics Networks conference; £45K McCain's funding confirmed for 2010.
- Hall of Fame evening widely acclaimed; fortnightly England Athletics News email shows in excess of 1,000 extra hits on website on each transmission; Facebook fans exceed 3,000
- EA Schools Competition Framework now government endorsed – planning underway for 2010 schools coverage. 150,000 young people receive QK and SH competition in 2009. **Competition framework for primary children and based around the Super 8 format.**
- Work in progress on new awards programme, endurance competition format for schools and Athletics 365 concept
- First EA National Officials meeting - 35 people from key organisations across the country
- Leadership in Running Fitness course: over 890 people either attended or due to attend. Over 100 *Run in England* Group Leaders signed up, with over 50 Run in England groups due to launch in January.
- Over 230 Level 1 courses delivered in October alone. Planning in progress for new coach education scheme (unveiled by UKA 28 Oct).
- Finance team expanded with recruitment of Kate Liggins and temporary processing support. New accounts system functional.
- Plans to recruit a Race Directors' Support Manager on hold, pending UKA strategy on the future direction of Run Britain.
- Commonwealth Games Team Leader – John Brierley appointed. Our maximum team size increased to 123 (23 staff and 100 athletes max).
- Sport England bi-annual review successful.

### **Athletics Northern Ireland Report – Roy Corry**

#### **Corporate Issues**

##### **ANI Strategic Plan 2009-2013**

Selection & Recruitment process finally concluded in respect of Coaching & Club Development Manager the successful applicant Vicki Kennedy (nee Jamison) former World Junior 400H silver medallist and member of 400 x 4 relay bronze medal team. Selection panel included Kevin Tyler UKA Strategic Head of Coaching & Development.

##### **Annual Accounts year ended 30 September 2009**

Presented & approved at Board meeting 29 October 2009 subject to audit certificate and no material changes, reflected a profit of £2.1k (2008 - Loss £4.9k) as compared to budgeted loss of £1.0k

##### **Annual Financial Budgets y/e 30 September 2010**

Presented & approved at Board meeting 29 October 2009 on a quarter basis.

## **Promotional Issues**

### **Annual UKA Regional Awards**

Niels de Vos CEO UK Athletics attended the Presentation Evening 18 November 2009 held at Athletics House, Mary Peters Track, Belfast. Conducted in a warm friendly atmosphere Niels addressed the gathering with a broad-based speech on UK Athletics, after which he responded to relevant questions from the floor. In concluding, Niels was involved in the presentation of the awards to category winners and was thanked for his presence. A finger buffet complete with liquid refreshments including the sponsors Heidsieck & Co. product concluded a successful evening.

### **McCain UK Challenge (IAAF World Cross Permit Meeting)**

Arrangements well advanced at this stage for the 23 January 2010 thanks to the assistance of UKA coupled with the names of Ian Stewart & Spencer Barden in relation to the assembled field. With the inclusion of the Celtic Cross Challenge it looks set for a festival of running.

### **New Clothing Sponsor**

The new competition kit and merchandising range was released in October along with a clothing sponsorship agreement with Kukri

## **Competition**

### **Age Groups Cross Country Championships**

Successful two days competitions held in November attracting in excess of 2,000 competitors.

## **Courses**

### **Coaching - Levels 1 & 2**

Three courses held in October & November with maximum capacity attendance per course

### **Officials - Levels 1, 2 & 3**

Three courses for Levels 1 & 3 held in November with maximum capacity, with March 2010 designated for Level 2

### **Spar Sprints**

Twenty coaches plus four staff attended the course with Kevin Tyler in attendance which gives us a huge window of opportunity.

### **Volunteers**

Staff attended course with Volunteers Development Agency to be registered practitioners. Subsequently, courses for volunteers organised and timetables set.

## **Other**

Congratulations to the following on their awards:

John T Glover (Chair of Track & Field) recipient of Torch Trophy Award

Eddie Wilson (Past President) awarded MBE in respect of athletics.

## **Welsh Athletics – Lynette Harris**

- Welsh Athletics will be presenting a proposal to the Welsh Assembly Major Events Committee on 1 December; this proposal will include a bid for financial support for a series of events across the four key disciplines.
- An independent consultant has been working with Welsh Athletics in recent weeks to examine and evaluate current financial processes and procedures. His recommendations for improving the quality of financial management and reporting will be addressed at the next meeting of the Board.
- Congratulations to Malcolm Arnold who was awarded a Lifetime Achievement in the Welsh Coach of the Year Awards; the award was in recognition of excellence and his special contribution to the sport over the past forty years.
- Charles Bartholomew visited Welsh Athletics to review and advise on the implementation of the Trinity system.
- A successful Officials Conference was held in September when the keynote speaker was Alan Bell. Everyone present was enthused by his presentation.
- Steve Brace and Dave Jessett also made excellent presentations. The breaks out groups were focused and addressed the theme of ‘the way forward’; their observations will be fully utilised to inform future practice in Wales.
- John Dagata our newly appointed Head of Coaching is now coming to the end of an intensive induction programme. He has now met key personnel in athletics coaching throughout Wales. He is also working closely with Kevin Tyler and the SCW to formulate a new coaching plan for Wales.
- Darrell Maynard has reverted to his previous role as Development Coach and will report to John Dagata.
- Welsh Athletics is in discussion with SCW re establish Sport Science and Medicine support, following the withdrawal of UKA investment in this area for our performance athletes

### **IAAF/EAA Report**

Nothing to report

### **Future use of Athletics Foundation**

Following the recent Athletics Foundation AGM, CB was asked to look at the best ways for the Foundation to be most tax efficient.

LD then asked the Council what they felt was the role for the Foundation as this needs clarifying.

LD said that the Foundation over the last 18/24 months had been quiet and the question from the trustees was should the Foundation carry on and in what role.

EW & CB to discuss the Football Foundation and the possibility of their changing the name to "Sport Foundation".

LD asked the Council how they felt the Foundation could best move forward – LD also asked the Council to suggest any areas of the sport which could benefit from the money.

### **Any Other Business**

SB asked on progress of Trinity – CB reported that Officials and Coaches were now on Trinity but the data needs cleansing.

MH asked regarding the Athletics Services review and when it would be available – CB confirmed that it would be by the end of December.

LD thanked the Council for their contribution over the past 12 months and hoped they have a good evening at the Awards Dinner and a very merry Christmas.

### **Date of next meeting**

Saturday 20 February 2010 – 9.30 am – Venue to be confirmed