

UK MEMBERS COUNCIL MEETING
Friday, 17 February 2017 at 3.00pm
Meeting room 4, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Birmingham City Centre
Central Square, Birmingham, B1 1HH

PRESENT: Jason Gardener - President
Donna Fraser - Vice President
Myra Nimmo - England Athletics Chair
Leslie Roy - Scottish Athletics President
Carol Anthony - Welsh Athletics Chair
Roy Corry - Athletics Northern Ireland Treasurer
Tony Clements - HCAF Clubs Representative
Keith Reed - Senior Coaches Representative
Wendy Haxell - Senior Officials Representative
Nigel Rowe - Road Runners Representative
Kevan Taylor - Company Secretary

OBSERVERS:
Sarah Coffey - Executive Assistant
Niels de Vos - Chief Executive
Richard Bowker - UKA Chair Elect
Nigel Holl - Director of Strategy & Partnerships
Tracey Carey - Financial Controller
Eileen Walker - Minutes

APOLOGIES:
Lawrence Clarke - Athlete Representative
Ed Warner - UKA Chair

Jason Gardener welcomed everyone to the meeting, and announced that Lord Coe had resigned from UK Members Council.

JG also announced that a Council meeting had been held prior to this meeting, resulting in Tony Shiret no longer being on this Council for breaching the Code of Conduct.

JG welcomed newcomer Richard Bowker as Chair Elect.

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 9 DECEMBER 2016

These Minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF MEETING 9 DECEMBER 2016

Questions had been raised at the previous meeting about funding for Clubs' travel expenses for participating in European finals. NH said this was within the draft budget for 2017/18 at the same level as 2016-17. The budget would be put forward for approval by the Board in March.

Also, availability of English Schools winners' tickets for Anniversary Games was raised. NH said they were in contact with all Home Countries to enable that to go forward.

No specific strategy re disabilities – the wider strategic work going on to support disability needs to be core and central

WH asked what the personal UKMC e-mail address was for. DF asked if WH could access it, and asked if anyone else was having problems. It was agreed that this was not particularly user friendly.

The website information for Officials was also questioned. NH said it was an evolving process, some of the technology systems changing. He offered to take it to TAG. **Action NH**

JG raised Child Protection Policy but no-one had any questions

UKMC membership – JG said this needed to be reviewed (potential 5 new members by the 2017 AGM) – lots of updating to be done.

Re tickets, NdV passed around for information the number of World Championship and IPC World para Championship tickets that had been bought by all Home Countries..

PRESIDENT'S AND VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORTS

JG said there had been a lot of support across the country. Hopefully in years to come athletics would be in a really good position.

DF informed the meeting about the activities covered in her report.

Richard Bowker thanked everyone for the warm welcome and his appointment. He declared that he was very excited by this and looking forward to working with everyone. He said the current strategy comes to an end this year so there is the opportunity to do something afresh. We live in a very dynamic world. He went on to say that working group was being created – any strategic review process would only succeed if it is open and transparent. Everyone should feel encouraged in that and feel part of it – that is what it is about. He said he had had the opportunity to meet a few people so far; there is a lot of opportunity and whatever we do we will do it together.

NdV referred to the safeguarding presentation, some interest was expressed, and he felt this should be put on to a future agenda. **Action: NdV**

UKA UPDATES

Chair's report

Report taken as read

CEO report

Report taken as read

Home Countries domestic strategy (NH)

The desire to make sure we are getting a consistent approach across the country – this is key. Seeing some strong desire to provide support for each other.

Finance & Governance report

TC presented the report for the 9 months ended 31 December 2016

JG asked re headcount after 2017, was NdV looking at staff headcount remaining around the same as present.

KT reported on the forecast positions for UKA and both London 2017 and London Championships.

UKMC Elections

The report refers to elections for three positions. In addition, KT advised Tony Shiret's position could be filled by election or appointment as a casual vacancy until the 2019 AGM.

KT said it would be better if more people could stand for elections. NdV agreed wholeheartedly with this, adding that different ways and methods of voting should be considered. There was a need to encourage people to exercise their democratic rights.

It was agreed that a sub-group involving the President and UKMC representatives of each Home Country should be set up to review the election regulations; the role profiles of the Affiliated Clubs representatives and decide the most appropriate approach to the 2017 elections / appointment.

In order to enable candidates to be appointed before the AGM in December, Council needed to be briefed in advance of the June meeting. **Action: KT and members of sub-group**

VOLUNTEER REPORTS

Coaching report – KR

Report taken as read with the following comments:

- Coaching development group progressing well

Clubs report – Celtic – TC

Report taken as read with the following comments:

- Swansea Harriers growth due in part to endurance. It has a positive impact on track but may not necessarily have a positive effect on field activities. It is interesting information, although members may think it fairly typical. TC hoped it was useful. He added that he procured clubs' permission to share the report and hoped this was in order with everyone.

There were no questions. JG thanked TC for this useful exercise.

Road Runners and Off Track report – NR

Report taken as read with following comments:

- LR gave figure of 259 licences issued for Scotland
- Parental consent England & Wales – 18
- Scotland and Northern Ireland – 16
- Responsibility for Government body – this will be updated in due course.
- Perennial Risk Awareness Module has been reported at the last three meetings of Sub Group. **Action** NH
- RC commented that in Northern Ireland they do not have to pay for Police,

Officials report – WH

Report was taken as read with the following comments:

- Tracey C asked what sort of members are involved in level 5 course and WH advised those under 60 years were the most likely as it would lead to a chance of doing European Exam. JG asked what age would a Young Official be. WH said recently she had one 19-year-old working at national meeting, although younger officials were also active but could not be licensed until 16. There seemed to be a selection of young officials right across the board for 2017. If they are willing they will adapt. If they go to University they will have a gap after which hopefully they return to continue to be an Official.
- NH said we all signed up to an official's strategy last year. There are a lot of people who would not be able to do that if they are holding down a full-time job or bringing up a family. All home countries are being very, very active. We have to take every possible opportunity to make use of young officials.

HOME COUNTRY REPORTS

Scottish Athletics – LR

The report was taken as read.

Welsh Athletics Report – CA

The report was taken as read with the following comments:

- Opportunity taken to send a small team to the Youth Commonwealth Games in Bahamas. Preparations are going well. Hopeful these young athletes will peak at the right time for next Commonwealth Games
- WA Endurance Programme led by Christopher Jones a real success story starting at grass roots level. This experience could be shared. **Action:** CA
- About to embark on a club modernisation programme. Looking at system similar to Scotland's hugely successful Club Together programme. This will bring about changes to continue to drive athletics programme forward.

England Athletics report – MN

The report was taken as read with the following comments:

- Hopefully on 21 February EA will receive funding award news from Sport England.
- Management team working extraordinarily hard and well to enable successful restructure due to substantially lower funding
- Nitro Athletics in Australia was a great success and England team hugely enjoyed the experience
- The launch of Run Together got enormous publicity. Endeavouring to ensure we get finance to enable continuation of programme.

AT THIS POINT NIELS DE VOS LEFT THE ROOM AS HE HAD ANOTHER MEETING TO ATTEND

Athletics Northern Ireland report – RC

The report was taken as read with the following comments:

- Situation has improved quite considerably – 125%. Members have gone up and permits on the increase.

JG said that we are seeing successes in various reports: Working Well, Working Together etc. is excellent.

INTERNATIONAL REPORT

None

AOB

KT issued the recent Board Agendas to UKMC members and these will be included in future issues of UKMC papers. **Action:** SC

JG advised Council Members will get two tickets for each of the 2017 Athletics World Championships.

CLEAN ATHLETICS PRESENTATION

David Herbert gave a presentation which was well received by attendees.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING Saturday 1 July 2017 – 9am

UK Members Council
Friday 17 February 13, 2017

President Report

Welcome to the first UKMC meeting of 2017.

This year provides a great opportunity for our sport as we count down to both World Championships in London. I am sure the Council would join me in wishing UK Athletics every success for delivering the best ever Championships and ensuring that the health of our sport continues on many levels throughout all of the home countries.

I am sure the Council will also welcome Chair-elect Richard Bowker to his first meeting. Richard is keen to get to know all of you to start the process of collaboratively working together on a new strategy for our sport. The dinner after the Council meeting and the following day at the Muller Indoor Grand Prix will provide plenty of opportunities to develop the relationship with Richard.

As you are aware we have two UKMC meetings with the first one being called to consider an allegation that Tony Shiret has acted in breach of the UKMC Code of Conduct and should he be requested to resign to protect the integrity and function of the UKMC.

On the later meeting we look forward to hearing how London 2017 is developing from the executives. You will also see on the agenda is a presentation from David Herbert on Clean Athletics, formally known as Anti-Doping department.

I look forward to seeing you all on the 17 February and also looking forward to watching world class athletics the following day at what is the number one indoor event in the World.

I am also looking forward to working with you on developing the long term interest of the sport.

Jason Gardener

UK Members Council
Friday 17 February 2017

Vice President Report

Promoting the UKMC

Nigel Rowe has been filmed for the Home Straight publication. Due to the indoor season, I do not know when this will be aired. In terms of future participants, they will be linked to the UKA company values i.e. Nigel Rowe is around accountability and the important role the UKMC plays.

Power of 10

I had a recent complaint about the U15w TJ not being included in the Power of 10 Rankings. I have since contacted Power of 10 and they have put this forward for review at the April board meeting. Feedback has been given to the complainant.

Asians in Sport

I attended the EY Asians in Sport event last month where the Asians in Sport Foundation supported the event. There were several conversations about the ongoing barriers in the Asian community. I made a connection with the Chair of Sikhs in the City who was also coach to the oldest Asian male participant in the London Marathon. A meeting with Harmander and Lynnette Smith from England Athletics is scheduled on 17 February to discuss building relationships to help support the increase of Asians in Athletics.

Donna Fraser
Vice-President

UK Members Council
Coaching Report
February 2017

KPI 1: Win more medals to inspire the public

The teams did well in the European Cross Country and it is hoped they will do well in the European Indoor Championships in Belgrade. Early signs from our athletes are good with some excellent indoor performances. Medal success is key as we build toward the outdoor season and the World Championships. From a coaching perspective the indoor season is a good indicator of how things will go.

KPI 2: Stage great events to engage the public

It looks like both the World Championship events will be well attended which is fantastic. It may be that some of the other events may suffer a bit but we hope not. The Indoor Grand Prix is again close to a sell out and is always one of the best meeting in the world. It will also be a great showcase ahead of the 2018 World Indoor Championships which will be held there.

KPI 3: Increase participation to build an athletic nation

Unfortunately there have been funding cuts to the National Coach Mentor scheme and this is likely to get worse with the reduction in funding from Sport England. I am sure our coaches will continue to work hard to develop the athletes of the future without the funding. It is very much a complement to them all that they can do this with many suffering personal hardship as a result. There has been a lot of discussion in the Athletics press just recently about the problems with coaching in the UK and also a general disapproval about the centralisation of resources in Loughborough. Sadly it is often the case that funding will dictate where support can be given. We need to ensure our coaches all over the UK are supported in every way we can.

I was unable to make the last meeting of the Coaching Development group but there has been significant progress in the review of the Athletics coach course, and also the involvement of ex international athletes in the process. It is still hoped to have a pilot course by September. I have also attended the first meeting of the Domestic Strategy group representing coaching. It is hoped that we can all work together to shape the strategy of our sport. The key thing, as always is setting up two way communication with the coaches and ensuring they realise that things are being done to help them. Some changes to the IT system will be required to help this process. I am very happy to play a part in this process.

Excellent work is being done by all the Home Countries but a particular mention should go to our Scottish athletes who are excelling at the moment.

KPI 4: Host the `best ever` World Championships to make the country proud

It already seems that the World Championships will go well. WE do need to ensure there is a legacy of volunteers that come out from the event. We need to ensure that clubs are ready for

another influx of keen athletes by having enough coaches in place to cope. We also need to look after our officials who sadly are a ageing workforce. This will also be addressed by the Domestic Strategy group

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Key Philosophies

All strategic decisions should be driven by the support of the Athlete Development Model (ADM)

This needs to underpin the strategy of our sport across all disciplines from mass participation up to high level competition.

To be Britain`s best Olympic and Paralympic sport in everything we do.

The early signs from the indoor season and endurance events demonstrate that we have new athletes coming through who will hopefully become our next generation of medal winners. We need to accept that it may take some time but hopefully we will get success in 2017. Certainly the coaches will do all they can.

**Keith Reed
Coaching Representative
February 2016**

**UK Members Council
T&F Clubs Representative report
February 2017**

Update European Clubs Travel Expenses – **Nigel Holl**

Update English (and other HCAFs) Schools Champions 2016 tickets for Anniversary Games 2017 – **Niels de Vos**

Disability Access

Clubs Strategy

Disability

Following the unfortunate incident widely reported of UKA NED Anne Wafula-Strike's experience on National Rail I have been discussing the whole area of disability access within our clubs with her.

As with many other areas the debate is hampered by the absence of any data on participation rates and there is no real overview readily available. However anecdotally the experience of disabled participants and potential participants is not at the same level as for non-disabled people.

Although this is at a very formative stage we are working at a draft plan currently which seeks to establish the extent of provision v participant requirement before seeking to improve the current position. Provisionally this would involve twin track work on a User Group and a Provision Audit at the outset.

As with other areas the debate is where the work should sit between UKA and the HCAFs and how it should be funded. As it will eventually be delivered by clubs inter-face with Club Connect should also be considered.

I would like UKMC to support the work and advise on how to proceed (including any existing HCAF work streams that can be drawn upon).

Clubs Strategy

EA is currently reviewing its clubs strategy as part of preparatory work for conditions after the 2017-21 Sport England settlement. In particular it is seeking to demonstrate value-for-money to its member clubs and affiliated members. Both have seen increased fees over recent years and are likely to see more in due course. The relationship between the HCAF/NGB and the affiliated members/clubs is likely to receive increased scrutiny in England.

EA has a club support network which will be led by a Club Development/Support Manager for the prospective Sport England funding cycle. EA will debate internally and within its 2017 Club Consultation round what type of relationship and how much intervention the clubs wish for.

Broadly speaking EA provides a suite of products/services in a centralised and (relatively) efficient way that affiliated members have access to often at discounted rates – coach ed, insurance, race entry discounts etc. However, it does not have a formal development programme in this area.

The picture is complicated by the fact that EA's club membership comprises 60% off-track and the balance mixed on- and off-track. So EA's development requirements need to consider a range of participant aims and abilities.

Recent contact with clubs through the EA Regional Council system (elected volunteers) suggests that clubs ascribe a low value to NGB intervention(/existence?) and indeed have very lowly-defined development aims generally – probably because of limited volunteer support numbers.

There is no performance based strategy among clubs in England with the Scottish Club Together model being the nearest. There appears to be no overall UKA driven clubs strategy albeit the Club Connect programme could form the basis for more pre-active club development.

One option that may be considered is to develop an elite club strategy within the overall work. This would allow concentrated branding, focused funding and link in with broader performance development.

So the whole area seems to be very low-key. UKMC is asked to consider whether more active intervention at UKA level is desirable. Given the work being done in England and the appointment of Nigel Holl as a Development/Domestic Strategy Director now would seem an appropriate time to consider whether UKA itself should become more engaged in this area.

The Disability work outlined above could form part of a UK wide club development approach – although the need there is more pressing.

Subject to decision would suggest that HCAF CEOs are engaged to generate a consistent approach through a Steering Group.

Tony Shiret
9 February 2017

UKMC REPORT FEBRUARY 2017

CELTIC NATIONS TRACK AND FIELD CLUBS REPRESENTATIVE

The indoor track and field programme is well under within the Celtic nations with record or near record athlete numbers.

The Northern Ireland Indoor Age Group Track Championships took place on the weekend of 4/5 February with 746 individual athletes taking part. Despite the very cold conditions at Magherafelt, with sub-zero temperatures on the Sunday morning, there were a number of very good performances across all age groups.

In Scotland there were record numbers across the indoor event series, where they were particularly strong at senior and U17/U20 levels which is very positive. Numbers for the Age Group Championships on 11/12 February are up by 24% on 2016 entrants, with 781 athletes entered across U20, U15 and U13 age groups. Most encouragingly U20 numbers have increased from 114 athletes in 2016 to 247 this year, good evidence that Scottish Athletics is winning the retention battle in this vital age group.

There has been a similar picture in Wales, with record numbers of athletes at the indoor Regional Championships. The second day of the Welsh Junior Open and South and East Wales Regional Championships on 9 January saw over 600 athletes taking part, with 319 athletes involved in the West Wales Championships two weeks later. Nearly 600 athletes have entered the Welsh Indoor Junior Championships on 11/12 February.

Despite these very encouraging figures there remains a real challenge in ensuring that older teenagers stay with the sport so that senior track and field athletics remains strong and successful. The recent State of the Nations series of articles in Athletics Weekly has highlighted this concern as well as a suggestion that club athlete development is being squeezed in the middle, through a focus on elite performance at the one end and on mass participation and junior athletics at the other.

In Wales, the retention and recruitment of U17 and U20 athletes has been given particular attention, with Welsh Athletics have undertaken an in depth analysis of athletes turnover across all age groups and the Wales Athletics' General Council having focussed its attention on this issue at its last meeting.

One significant part of the work undertaken by Welsh Athletics is to highlight significant drop out rates within the U15 age group rather than just seeing this as an U17/U20 problem- high participation figures at the U15 level probably mask this issue.

To provide an example of this work, Swansea Harriers have agreed that the information relating to the club can be shared with UKMC- and although Swansea has particularly high membership and turnover figures, the trends are not dissimilar to the majority of leading clubs in Wales, and possibly the UK as a whole.

The figures below demonstrate the success the club has had in attracting new athletes, especially at a junior level where there is a well established development

programme taking athletes through the Foundation, Event Group and Event Specialism stages as they mature and become more confident and skilled.

Swansea Harriers 5 year Membership Growth per Age Group

	U11	U13	U15	U17	U20	20-35	35+	TOTAL	Growth per year
12/13	97	132	80	52	37	48	42	488	
13/14	122	155	106	51	41	64	46	585	16.5%
14/15	118	159	115	54	36	78	52	612	4.5%
15/16	119	165	112	56	34	69	64	619	1.1%
Jan 17	139	153	116	72	36	91	93	700	13%
Total % growth	40%	16%	45%	40%	-3%	91%	120%	43%	

Swansea Harriers Turnover (Drop out rate) over last 2 Years

	U11	U13	U15	U17	U20	20-35	35+
%	2	23	28	18.5	10.3	14	2.8

Similar high drop out rates at U15 level also occur at Cardiff AC, Carmarthen Harriers, Newport AC, Brecon AC and Bridgend AC. Despite a drop in U20 membership, there have been significant increases in senior membership. This is primarily the result of a growing and successful endurance social running/competitive group the TNTs (Tuesday and Thursdays) within the club and the recruitment of athletes from elsewhere.

One important point in relation to the Swansea Harriers figures is that whilst membership figures have increased by 43% over the five-year period, facility capacity has remained the same and though there has been some increase in coaching numbers this has not seen a corresponding rise. Retention and recruitment from U15 upward is an issue being considered by the club, though of equal concern are the high athlete to coach ratios in the younger age groups and concern that this will have a negative impact on athlete performance, though currently the club remains a high performing one.

Retention and recruitment suggestions made at the WA General Council will be familiar to the UKMC and included:

- Squad ethos at regional level for specific disciplines
- Specialist competition structure with shorter timetables
- Positive links between schools and clubs
- Maximise use of social media to inform and update
- Team competitions around events
- Increase social side of clubs
- Highlight and reward success/development at all levels of performance

Welsh Athletics is now in the process of contacting a sample of leavers to ask why they left the sport and what would have made the difference in encouraging them to stay with athletics.

A personal highlight in January was attending the Northern Ireland Athletics Awards Evening at Titanic Belfast. Despite serious traffic problems on the night, the venue was full with the evening very well attended. All the athletes who were selected for the European Junior Championships (4), the World Junior Championships (2), 2016 European Championships (120), IPC European championships (1), European Cross Country Championships (3), World Half Marathon (3), and Olympic and Paralympic Games (7) were all recognised and awarded on the evening. Ciara Megeean's bronze medal in the 1500m at the European Championships was especially highlighted as well as her breaking the 800m, 1500m and mile national records during 2016!

Of equal importance was the recognition of the coaches and volunteers who have contributed so much to Northern Ireland athletics during 2016. John Allen was especially congratulated and honoured for obtaining his MBE in the Queen's New Years honours list.

One particular initiative highlighted on the night which is helping young athletes gain success, is the Rising Stars athlete development programme aimed at delivering a sound physical preparation and multi event approach to athletes aged 12-15 years old. The focus of the programme is ensuring that young athletes learn the fundamental building blocks of athleticism before moving on to more focussed training.

Tony Clements
February 2017

UK Members Council Road Running and Off Road Report
February 2017 meeting.

Achievements:

- **Calum Hawkins** Breaks Scottish Half Marathon record in Japan
- **Laura Muir breaks** European 3,000 metre indoor record
- **European Club Cross Country** - The Aldershot, Farnham & District AC Women's and Men's teams travelled to Albufeira, Portugal for the European Clubs Cross Country Championships to represent Great Britain at the Competition.
- Steph Twell (Coach: Mick Woods) led Aldershot, Farnham & District's runners to third place in the senior women's race at the European Clubs Cross Country Championships
- Twell's fourth place was backed up by seventh for Louise Small (Coach: Mick Woods), fourteenth for Jess Martin and eighteenth for Amy Griffiths (Coach: Mick Woods).

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Data:

ITEM	2013	2014 Dec	2015 Dec	30.12.16	09.02.17
Licensed Events	2,115	1,670*	2636	2857	1,082
Races with online entry	359	494	620	734	329
Online Entrants	66,403	82,982	103,148	129,975	32,446
Total Maximum Field Size	190,030	213,652	245,789	257,863	128,165
Usable Data	88,627	120,871	108,246#	132,472	135,282
Event Adjudicators on Trinity	299	303	330	336	340
Licensed events covered by EA				91-95%	91-95%
Handicap scoring claimants			60,000	68,978	70,000

*2390 when you take into account multiple events (2013-2,115)

Usable data has dropped because of de-duping the data.

Scotland has issued ??? road race licenses this year.

Northern Ireland has issued ??? road race licenses this year.

Road Running Management Group formerly (runbritain Technical Group):

Met for the first time, with Nigel Rowe Chairing the group, the group also consists of the Medical Sub Group.

All Home Countries were represented and work has begun to align race standards across the UK.

A number of changes have been implemented on the runbritain online entry and race licence system.

I presented at Welsh Athletics Race Organiser and Officials Conference in January, covering Event Plans and Risk Assessment.

Endurance Officials:

Notices have been issued regarding undertaking the online Risk Awareness Module before the end of March 2017, or lose your licence. This is causing major concern.

As Risk and Health and Safety are the domains of the **Race Organiser** I would seek again that Race Organisers **are exempt from this process**.

In fact I would ask that this module is withdrawn because there are no requirements for Officials to undertake such training.

Health & Safety Matters:

There is a need to agree a policy to ensure that all H&S matters go through UKA Safety Advisory Group. This should cover any changes or amendments to current rules and policy as well as implementation of new guidelines or material.

Any proposed changes or recommendations should go to the CEO's Forum for approval.

Nigel Rowe MBE
9 February 2017

**Report by Wendy Haxell, Technical Officials representative
UK Members Council Meeting February 2017**

Level 5 meetings

World 2017 and World Para meeting selections have now been sent out along with instructions. I believe there is a 10% young official selection.

Outdoor meeting selections are on the website.

Level 4 and 3 meetings

Meetings are on website.

Regional meetings

Invites have been sent out for these and regions have done their selections.

Club meetings

Officials still need to be developed to a higher standard to meet some of the permitting issues.

Other issues

The website is still not being updated.

Conference details and bookings are on-going. "Broaden Your Horizons" 2 April at Kenilworth

WIWA not part of National Conference but we have been given some dates to keep free for meeting in London at end of May. (19-22 May)

Level 5 course details have been issued with requests for interest to be sent in by 6 February. Dates of course 7–9 April with Exam on 7 May.

The membership of TAG has altered as 3 new members have been invited on as succession planning. Chris Haxell, Alison Jordan and Dean Williams. All of whom have listings on European or IAAF.

After elections Linda Turner is new chairman of TAG. Arwel Williams Endurance and Moira Gallagher Education.

**Wendy Haxell
February 2017**

Scottishathletics

Report to UKMC February 2017

KPI 1: Win more medals to inspire the public

scottishathletics had a great end to 2016 and a great start to 2017. In December all four Scottish athletes (Josh Kerr, Steph Twell, Andy Butchart & Callum Hawkins) medalled at the European Cross Country Championships in Italy with Callum Hawkins (3rd) and Andy Butchart (4th) in the men's race. while, in November, Joasia Zakrzewski confirmed her status as one of the world's finest ultra-runners with an individual bronze at the IAU World 100K. At the Edinburgh International Cross Country Event the stand out performance of the day came from Callum Hawkins who was piped to 1st place on the line but well clear of Mo Farah in 7th place.

Meanwhile on the indoor track **scottishathletics** athletes have been on fire with their performances - In January, there was a UK 5,000m indoor record (14:49:12) for Laura Muir and a 20 year old Scottish indoor 3000m record for Andy Butchart.

February arrived with a bang with Laura Muir breaking the Scottish, British and European 3000m record – 8:26:41 - removing Liz McColgan's 28 year old Scottish record from the books. Meanwhile in New York Andy Butchart won an elite mile race to go second Scot of all time behind Chris O'Hare, not bad for a 5000m athlete. Not to be outdone Callum Hawkins having lost his 60:24 Scottish half marathon best after the Great Scottish Run course was announced to have been 150m short Callum headed to Japan where he surpassed that time and demonstrated his true quality when winning in 60.00. This ranks him second on the all-time British rankings behind Mo Farah and fourth on the European all-time list.

Records are not just being broken by our endurance athletes with Heather Paton equalling the 60m Hurdles national record and Alisa Rees breaking Lynsey MacDonald's 35 year old 200m U17 record – 24.18

KPI 2: Stage Great Events to engage the public

scottishathletics Championship events continue to attract record entries. The U13/U15/U20 Championships have proved as popular as ever with a total of 781 athletes entered across three age groups, a rise of 24% on the figure from 2016. It has been extremely encouraging to notice the rise in entries in the U20 age group where the entry has risen from 114 in 2016 to 247 in 2017!

Not to be outdone the entries for the **scottishathletics** Senior and U17 Championships were also on the rise by an incredible 26.5% in the seniors and a 37% rise in the U17 age group.

Meanwhile there were 110 U12 SuperTeam entries from club team's form all around Scotland including the Highlands and islands. Teams of four boys or four girls compete in four events during the course of the day – 60m, shot putt, long jump and 4x200m relay. This is a development event for our youngest athletes, having fun while learning events and competing as teams within a club framework.

Our National Masters XC held in Dundee in January had the highest number of entries ever in its 19 year history (591 athletes) in January with no fewer than 74 clubs represented. These entry numbers are up by over 200 from the previous year.

What seems undeniable in athletics in Scotland at the moment is that athletes really are being galvanised to compete more often.

KPI 3: Increase participation to build an athletic nation

Facilities – Meadowbank continues to be a challenge and whilst a facility re-development remains on track, there are issues in terms of the size of the indoor athletics space as well as a 3G in the centre of the outdoor track. Put simply, the indoor training centre is inadequate. Redevelopment at Inverness and Dundee has also been delayed.

Jogscotland. We are making good progress with **jogscotland** and a more formalised partnership with the Scottish Association for Mental Health (SAMH). Stage 1 is to move **jogscotland** into charitable status with a view to creating an equal partnership (and MOU) with SAMH. In year 1 (2017-18), we will move the programme under the SAMH charitable partnership with Stage 2 being a separate charity (wider physical activity partnership or just **jogscotland**). Ultimately, we will be conducting a joint venture with SAMH to ensure that **jogscotland** continues in its existing format but will be re-positioned more actively within SAMH and with SAMH as an equal funding partner. The result will be the creation of a physical and mental well-being partnership working as one unit.

Race Adjudicators and Permitting Update. Key steps being introduced to help race organisers are; a) the appointment of race adjudicators (and training of) to lend support to races within Scotland, b) the provision and sharing of resources with Run Britain via our website, c) the delivery of a race organisers course/workshop aimed at smaller and new race promoters and d) the development of an online entry system for all events and disciplines within Scotland that will 'talk' to our membership database. These steps should drastically improve the current offering to race promoters.

KPI 4: Host the ‘best ever’ World Championships to make the country proud

As previously, **scottishathletics** is totally committed to this objective, and to supporting the UK wide drive to ensure this objective is delivered. We see 2017 offering yet another “catalyst” for development impact as well of course as being a huge incentive for elite athletes to compete at a home WC.

Leslie Roy
scottishathletics
February 2017

Welsh Athletics UKMC Report February 2017

1. The four strategic priorities

KPI 1: Win more medals to inspire the public

Commonwealth Youth Games

Welsh Athletics is delighted to announce that it will be sending a team to this summer's 6th edition of the Commonwealth Youth Games in the Bahamas. The Games runs from the 19–23 July 2017, and sees the best under-18 athletes from across the Commonwealth competing in an intensive 5 days of competition. Athletics will join a number of other sports as part of Team Wales in Nassau – the capital city of the Bahamas.

Following the announcement by British Athletics that they will not be sending a team this summer's World Youth Championship event in Kenya, Welsh Athletics will be supporting a cohort of athletes to attend the Commonwealth Youth Games. This will be the first time that Wales has been represented at the Youth Games event since 2011 when the event was staged on the Isle of Man. Although the team size is limited to 5 athletes, Welsh Athletics are confident that they will send a high quality contingent that will be competitive at the event. It should be noted that the qualification deadline for this event is the 14 May 2017.

Welsh Athletics will endeavour to provide specific under-18 competition opportunities (specifically in the throws and hurdles events), in conjunction with the other home countries, prior to the nomination deadline.

Celtic Cross Country International

The Celtic Cross Country International took place within the British Athletics Cardiff Cross Challenge on Sunday 22 January.

The first race of the day was for U17 Women where Mia Roberts (Deeside AAC) claimed a bronze medal in the Celtic International and the race outright. Wales finished third behind winners Ireland and runners-up Scotland.

The U17 Men's race was similarly won by Ireland but with Wales in second this time, led by James Penrose (Cardiff Archers).

Cari Hughes (Menai Track & Field) has won in Cardiff twice in the last three years but this time finished third in an U2 Women's race won by Scotland's Anna MacFadyen (Forres). Her team were also third with Ireland taking another team victory.

The U20 Men's race saw last year's U17 Celtic Champion, Oliver Barberesi (Menai Track & Field) finishing sixth on his first attempt in the age-group. His Wales team finished third behind Ireland and Scotland respectively.

With the first four Celtic races having been won by Ireland, Scotland were able to upset the balance in the U23 races taking both victories. Kate Seary (Cardiff AAC) was the first Wales scorer in the ladies edition in seventh place and James Hunt (Cardiff AAC) was first home in the Men's equivalent in fourth place.

Dewi Griffiths (Swansea Harriers) successfully retained his Cardiff Cross Challenge title with clubmate Kristian Jones a comfortable second. This inevitably meant that Wales won the Senior International held against Ireland.

Griffiths spoke about his triumph saying "I made an honest race of it early on and could see Kris going back slightly on the third lap so I had to just keep pushing. The distance (ahead) at the end probably flatters me."

The visitors however were comfortable winners in the women's Senior match led by the Irish Champion, Shona Heaslip.

A team of 11 Welsh athletes will travel to Armagh, Northern Ireland to compete in the prestigious international road running race on the 16 February. 8 men will compete in the Brooks Armagh 5km, and 3 women will compete in the Intersport 3km. The event is being used as a development opportunity for some of Wales' brightest young talent and the team includes recent U20 GB cross country representative Cari Hughes, European Youth 1500m Champion Jake Heyward and World U20 mountain running bronze medalist, Bronwen Jenkinson.

Welsh Athletics Indoor Track and Field Championships

Welsh Athletics indoor season opened in style at the National Indoor Athletics Centre in Cardiff on Saturday 28 January with some excellent athlete performances on display at the Welsh Championships.

All eyes were on David Omoregie in the senior men's 60m hurdles. The Cardiff AAC athlete was up against training partner and Olympian Andrew Pozzi (Stratford-upon-Avon / Bristol Uni) and British indoor bronze medallist David King (City of Plymouth / Bath Uni). It was Pozzi who took the win opening his season with a world leading time of 7.56 in his heat and 7.57 in the final to which Omoregie responded with a PB of 7.63. Omoregie was happy with his performance and said there was "more to come". In the women's hurdles, it was Cardiff AAC's Lauren Evans who crossed the line in PB time of 8.89 for the Welsh win.

Paralympic gold medallist Aled Davies (Cardiff AAC) was crowned Welsh Champion for the first time in the shot put with a distance of 14.95. Davies said after that being crowned Welsh Champion was something else he could now "tick off his bucket list". Commonwealth silver medallist Sally Peake (Birchfield Harriers) claimed a championship best in the pole vault clearing 4.15. Cardiff AAC's Jessica Abraham cleared 3.85 to achieve a PB and a silver medal.

There was competitive field in the senior men's 60m which made an excellent watch. Leon Reid (Birchfield Harriers) was the triumphant athlete in 6.85, followed by Ronnie

Wells (Yeovil Olympiads AC) in 6.86. Anax Dasilva (Cardiff AAC) was the first Welsh finisher clocking 6.89.

Moli Jones (Colwyn Bay) earned her Welsh Championship title in the 60m running a PB of 7.71, she ran alongside Maltese Olympian Charlotte Wingfield (Cardiff AAC) who finished in 7.44.

In the senior women 200m Melissa Roberts (Cardiff AAC) broke her own Championship Best with a time of 24.56. Katie-Jane PRIEST (Swansea Harriers) took second place in 25.39 followed by Hannah Williams (Bristol & West AC) in 25.87.

In the senior men's 200m race, Cardiff Archers Ben Paris ran a fantastic PB of 22.30 to steal the win, he was followed by Kane Densley (Tamworth AC) and Cardiff AAC's Iwan Robinson-Booth.

Alex Coomber (Cardiff AAC's) started fast and held his pace for the win in the senior men's 800m, he was followed by last year's Welsh Champion, Tom Marshall and Paralympian Steve Morris who was the 3rd Welsh athlete over the line. Naomi Reid (Cardiff AAC) took her first senior title in the women's 800m's in 2.13.84.

Swansea Harrier Joe Brier had a fantastic run in the senior men's 400m's. Finishing in a time of 48.96 - just outside the Championship Best Performance time of 48.39 set by Cardiff AAC's Gareth Warburton in 2005.

Becky Owen (Brighton and Hove) took the Welsh Championship title in the senior women's high jump clearing 1.68 for a PB. Becky also took silver in the senior Women's shot put.

Osaze Aghedo (Swansea Harriers) achieved a championship best performance in the senior men's triple jump with a distance of 15.13, Thomas Walley (Wrexham AAC) took second place in 14.72 and Navid Childs (Thames Valley Harriers) finishing 3rd with a PB of 14.58.

In the junior events, all medallists in the under 17 men's 400m achieved PB's, 1st place finisher Seth Kelly (Cardiff AAC) finished in 52.19, Harvey Reynolds (Cardiff AA) in 53.14 and Steffan Jones (Aberdare) in 53.83.

Cardiff AAC dominated the under 17 men's shot put with Thomas Hanson claiming the win with a distance of 14.98. Both Jay Morse and Harri Wheeler Sexton achieved PB's to take silver and bronze respectively. In the girls event Newport Harrier Caitlin Arnold secured the win with a PB of 12.06.

Macey Morris (Newport Harriers) achieved a Welsh record in the under 15 girls 300m category, with a PB of 41.51.

The top 3 finishers in the boys 300m all achieved a PB'S in a close race which saw Cardiff AAC's Carter Staples crowned Welsh Champion in 38.78 with and Ben Hillman close in 39.00.

Away from the action at the Welsh Indoor Championships, a number of Welsh Athletes continued to shine.

Vienna Indoor Gran Prix, Vienna

Laura Maddox (Colin Bovell) started her indoor season in positive fashion with victory in the 400m in a time of 53.37.

Combined Events International, Prague

There was a new senior Men's Welsh Indoor Heptathlon Record for Ben Gregory (Aston Moore) in the combined events International in Prague. GB Team Captain Ben scored a total of 5770, which included PB's in the 1000m and Pole Vault, where his height of 5.20, was just 10cm shy of the Commonwealth Games B standard.

City of Manchester Open

Eli Kirk (Steve Vernon) was just .59 of a second outside the European Indoor qualifying mark, as she dominated the women's 3k, running 9.00.59. Behind her, promising youngster Cari Hughes (Andy Walling) clipped a mammoth 26 seconds from her lifetime best, running 9.29.77.

Cardiff Met GP3: Non-Thomas Open (inc South West of England & Welsh Masters Championships)

Ieuan Thomas (James Thie) joined a very exclusive club becoming the first person to run a sub 4-minute mile indoors in Wales clocking a time of 3.59.29.

Inter Varsity Meeting

Swansea Harrier, Hannah Brier (Steve Fudge / Neal Merry) opened her 2017 season with a fantastic 7.38 run in the 60m – just shy of her 7.37 PB. Hannah will be looking to retain her Welsh Champion status at the Junior Championships in Cardiff this weekend.

IAAF World Indoor Tour Karlsruhe, GER

David Omoregie (Benke Blomkvist) equalled his PB of 7.63 in the 60mH, his training partner Andrew Pozzi pulled another World Lead time out of the bag with a PB of 7.44.

KPI 2: Stage Great Events to engage the public

Cardiff University/Cardiff Half Marathon officially recognised as leading global race

The Cardiff University/Cardiff Half Marathon, Wales' leading mass participation event, has officially been recognised as one of the leading road races in the world by the IAAF.

Each year the IAAF – the world governing body of athletics – awards Gold, Silver and Bronze Labels to leading road races around the globe. In 2016 the Cardiff University/Cardiff Half Marathon became one of only five events in the UK to be granted a Label of any colour when it was awarded a Bronze Label.

In 2017 the race has gone one better with the awarding of a prestigious Silver Label. Cardiff now joins the ranks of the London Marathon – the only event to hold a Gold Label in the UK – as it becomes Britain’s only IAAF Silver Road Race Label event.

The Silver Label will provide enhanced international media coverage and the ability to attract an even stronger elite field in the future.

Matt Newman, Chief Executive of race organisers Run 4 Wales, commented: “We are thrilled to be recognised in this way by the IAAF. It’s a huge tribute to the hard work that goes on behind the scenes but also to the tens of thousands of runners who have helped turn the event into such an amazing spectacle.

“The Cardiff University/Cardiff Half Marathon has grown in stature not only as a major competitive athletics event, but also as a community occasion for Wales, and that would not be possible without the tens of thousands of participants and spectators.”

Legendary Welshman Steve Jones, former world record holder at both the half marathon and marathon distance, commented: “The Silver Label gives the race enhanced status around the world and will help to encourage more top athletes to take part.

“It was marvellous to see Geoffrey Kamworor and Mo Farah slugging it out in the rain around Roath Park last March at the IAAF World Half Marathon Championships, but fantastic to see the standard of racing in the annual October Cardiff Half Marathon improve too.

“I’ve competed in most of the major road running events in the world, and to have Cardiff able to rank alongside them makes me proud to be Welsh!”

Organisers are expecting to push towards the 25,000-entrant mark for the 2017 race, which returns on Sunday 1 October. BBC Wales has confirmed live television coverage of the event in 2017.

KPI 3: Increase participation to build an athletic nation

Key Performance Indicator	Actions / Progress / Comment
Membership	
Increase membership by 10% each year. 2016/17 target of 10,358 members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current membership figure: 10,431 (1 January 2017). • Year on Year club membership is up by 8.8% (from 9586, 1 January 2016)
Club Numbers	
Target of 100 affiliated clubs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The total number of affiliated clubs with registered athletes is 99.
Volunteer Numbers	

<p>Target of 200 new volunteers trained in introductory workshops / courses per year.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently 182 new volunteers trained since April 2016 across 13 courses (Leading Athletics and Assistant Officials). • National Clubs Conference held in November. • Welsh Athletics Service Awards confirmed at the Welsh Athletics AGM – presentation of awards ongoing and regularly featured on the Welsh Athletics website. • ‘Inspired by 2017’ programme launched at the start of the month looking to capitalise on the additional enthusiasm and attention that there will be on the sport in 2017.
<p>Officials Numbers</p>	
<p>Target of over 250 course attendances and 30 courses delivered each year.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welsh Athletics Officials Mentoring Programme progressing. Currently 749 Officials on the database (Licensed Officials: 370, Unlicensed Officials: 379). Note: Trainee officials now included in count. • 25 courses have been run since April 2016 (10 Track & Field, 8 Health and Safety, 3 Endurance, 11 Risk Awareness) 152 attendees. • Welsh Athletics National Officials and race organisers Conference held on Saturday 7 January 2017 with a range of education and training opportunities throughout the day. • FOC officials education being offered as part of ‘inspired by 2017’ programme
<p>Coach Education</p>	
<p>Target of over 250 course attendances and 20 courses delivered each year.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total of 1078 licensed coaches on the database. • Full formal coach education calendar complete until April 2018. • 22 courses have run since April 2016 with 299 attendees in total; 6 x Coaching Assistant (60), 1 x CiRF (16), 1 x AC (20), 14 x LiRF (203). • Current review of formal Coach Level qualification with a UK wide steering group is ongoing.
<p>Facilities Update</p>	
<p>Ensure that over 90% of the 23 track facilities in Wales are accessible for training and competition.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 95% of all facilities in Wales are accessible for training (non accessible are Cardiff Met outdoor facility and Sobell Sports Centre (see comments below). • The UKA competition certification system for track and field facilities will be enforced and fully operational for the 2017/18 season. • Welsh Athletics has provided support to facility projects in Brecon (re-marking, survey), Cardiff (cage), Newport (PV area), Wrexham & Swansea (PF network installation), Bangor (cage) • Sobell Sports Centre (Aberdare) facility development has been delayed due to issues on site – awaiting

	<p>update. Cardiff Met outdoor track works ongoing – on schedule for summer 2017 completion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new Facilities Grant Scheme has been established to support developments at key facilities across Wales. • Scoping project underway to look at new facility developments in key areas.
Budget	
Remain within budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All budget items remain within budget. • Education income up 4%, expenditure down 11%.
Sport Wales	
Preferred Way Forward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A consultation for a new framework / model to map the sporting pathway is currently ongoing – submission made to Sport Wales addressing the ‘4 worlds’ model**. • Papers and Mapping documents have been produced to demonstrate the level of activity across the sporting pathway – these have been submitted to Sport Wales for consideration with a strong expression of interest to be an ‘early adopter’ of the proposed changes. • **As previously reported, as a sport we are in a strong position to deliver against the Sport Wales strategic aims currently outlined.

KPI 4: Host the ‘best ever’ World Championships to make the country proud

Welsh Athletics continues to support the delivery and legacy projects for London 2017.

2. The 2 Key ‘Philosophies’

All strategic decisions should be driven by the support of the Athlete Development Model.

Welsh Athletics is working with the Welsh Schools Athletic Association to explore the rationalisation of the current competition programme.

To be Britain’s best Olympic and Paralympic sport in everything we do.

Welsh Athletics is focused on a modernisation programme, with the primary aim of building a sustainable environment for athletics to thrive. This work will result in a high performing national governing body, a motivated and highly-trained workforce, a modernised club environment, increased engagement with schools, a sector-leading social running programme and a clear pathway for progression through our sport.

The sporting landscape is currently going through many changes, as public sector strategies and funding are realigned to the health and activity agenda. Welsh Athletics

has demonstrated an ongoing commitment to the wider strategies established by Welsh Government and Sport Wales and to a set of strategic objectives articulated by UKA on behalf of the national governing bodies of the four home nations.

We are therefore aware of the important role that athletics plays in the development of physical literacy, in creating a more active nation through engagement with sporting communities, in nurturing talent and in succeeding on the international stage.

However, as we progress through this next chapter, the key activity for the athletics community in Wales is to be clear about the role of Welsh Athletics in supporting athletics in Wales. We plan to consult widely on the next four-year strategy and also seek a longer term vision for athletics in Wales. The strategy will be created by the athletics community for the athletics community.

Matt Newman CEO

ENGLAND ATHLETICS UKMC – HEADLINE REPORT

PERIOD: January-February 2016

General Strategic & Operational Overview

- EA awarded the maximum available (£7.3m) from Sport England towards delivery of its core strategic priorities as an organisation. We are hoping for a further £150,000 and £99,000 towards Commonwealth Games preparation and London 2017 Inspiration Programme delivery. This funding comes in addition to the December announcement by Sport England to invest £4.725m into talent activities delivered through a joint approach between EA and UKA. This is over £12,000,000 investment into athletics in England from Sport England for the period 17-21.
- EA is going through a period of operational reorganisation considering the production of a new strategic plan and considering a changing financial model. Our income will go down because of a changing relationship with Sport England. This reorganisation will hopefully be complete by the start of the new financial year (1 April)
- Membership numbers continue to grow with 159,000 registered athletes and 1,600 clubs and organisations comprising the EA Family. The number of people running twice a month, according to Sport England, totals 6.75m and the long-term growth trend is a positive one and there are 2,800 road races licensed (200 more than in 2015) and at least 8m people having run at least once in the last 12 months.
- How we support and invest in our member clubs (particularly off-track clubs that comprise the majority share of the EA family) is a subject that EA is considering at length at present.
- Regional Council elections are taking place during March.

KPI 1: Win more medals to inspire the public

- Commonwealth Youth Games. CGE has agreed to our request to nominate an initial team on 8 May, with a FINAL selection 19 June. We will not contact athletes until after 19 June.
- 7/8 January Indoor Combined Events held. Numbers increased on 2016
- The Nitro Team have competed in Melbourne during February as part of this inaugural series as guests of Athletics Australia. This is a 3-year partnership and this has been an invaluable learning experience with 12 months until the 2018 Commonwealth Games in the Gold Coast. Discussions with New Balance have begun with a view to extending our 3-year partnership.
- Various teams have represented England during this period across the domains of indoor track/field, jumps, combined events, road running and cross country including events in Vienna, Bratislava and Melbourne.

KPI 2: Stage Great Events to engage the public

- The Manchester International will take place again on 16 August this year
- Just under 1m children took part in the UK School Games L1-4 programme in England during 2016
- The EA is supporting primary school's cross country championships takes place on 25 March this year in Leicestershire with big LED screens, drones and ambassadors present to award trophies.
- Early discussions with Saracens and Shaftsbury BHAC about initiating a festival of athletics and running during August 2016 including a second home country international fixture.

To grow opportunities for everyone to experience athletics and running, to enable them to reach their full potential

KPI 3: Increase participation to build an athletic nation

- Satellite Clubs - We currently have 675 active clubs against a revised yearend target of 707 by the end of March 2017. We now have just over 29,000 participants who are, or have been engaged in satellite clubs
- Work is continuing to embed a RunTogether widget in every Race for Life in England individual event home page. In addition to the widget, we are working with Cancer Research UK to develop a year-round engagement programme for Run Leaders.
- Run Together is now part of National Trust core running offer, acting as the entry point into running for National Trust properties. In 2017 we are planning on doubling the number of National Trust properties which offer RunTogether.
- The RunTogether public launch in early January received significant national media traction from this launch on major channels such as BBC1 and Radio 5L, Sky Sports and major broadsheets. There are currently 900 RT registered groups and 14,000 registered RT runners with 19k twitter followers since the programme launched. Our Club Run and Marathon Series concepts aimed at supporting off track clubs have gone down well with those clubs involved. We have plans to expand this programme in the next 4 years.
- The new Run Jump Throw app will be available to download from the end of January 2017
- 37 Sight Loss Awareness and Guide Running workshops have now been delivered in the 2016/17 operational year.
- 257 Mental Health Ambassadors are now in place from 185 different clubs/groups
- There are now 490 licenced guide runners to date (423 on the Find a Guide database).

KPI 4: Host the 'best-ever' World Championships to make the country proud

- Kerry Marland came through a very competitive recruitment and selection process for the new EA Volunteer Manager role. This post is being funded via the "Spirit of 2012" funding we have secured as part of the 2017 Inspiration Programme. The purpose of this important role is to lead the execution of the Volunteering strand of the 2017 Inspiration Programme and to lead the longer-term EA national volunteer recruitment and retention strategy for the sport across England. Kerry joins us on a 3-year contract and started on 30 January from Marie Curie where she has been their National Volunteering Project Manager.
- EA is likely to recruit 3 fixed term project coordinators in London in the lead towards the 2017 champs to embed the inspiration programme locally.
- GLA has announced a pot of £400k for clubs and community organisations to pitch into under the auspices of 2017 Inspiration.
- The Team Personal Best campaign is now being promoted.

Athletics Northern Ireland – HCAF Report February 2017

KPI 2.1: Win more medals to inspire the public

Paul Pollock finished 18th in the Beppu-Oita Mainichi Marathon in Japan in 2hours 15mins 30 secs. This is a qualifying time for both the World Championships and the Commonwealth Games.

Ben Reynolds ran a time of 7.77 in the 60m Hurdles at the AAI Games in Dublin. This is a qualifying time for the European Indoors.

Sixteen year old Sommer Lecky jumped 1.80m in the High Jump again at the AAI games. This is a Commonwealth Youth Standard and is also very close to the Commonwealth Standard for Gold Coast.

Coaching Courses 1 September to 11 February 2017

Course Name	Number of Courses	Number of Participants
Coaching Assistant	1	24
Leader in Running and Fitness	2	40
Athletics Coach	1	16
Coaching in Running & Fitness	1	17
Integration Days	3	12
Athletics 365 Workshop	1	10
Annual Conference	1	102

Our Director of Coaching and Athlete Development left at the end of January for a new, more lucrative post in Qatar. He leaves with our best wishes and recruitment for a replacement is under way.

Sport Northern Ireland funding for the next 4 year cycle (April 2017 to March 2021) was announced in December. Athletics has received a significant uplift in funding when compared with the previous cycle (ending in March 2017).

Our annual awards evening was held on Wednesday 25 January at the Titanic Building in Belfast. It proved to be a very successful evening and was attended by UKA Chair Ed Warner and the Lord Mayor of Belfast.

KPI 2 & 3 – Stage Great Events to engage the public/ Increase participation to build an athletic nation – January and February 2017

The annual IAAF permitted Antrim International Cross Country (incorporating the UK Cross challenge) was held on Saturday 14 January at Greenmount College near Antrim. The event proved to be very successful with a significant rise in both participants and spectators over recent years.

In addition we held our Masters and Intermediate Cross Country Championships in Derry on 28 January. The event was very successful with a slight rise in participants from the previous year.

Our under age indoor T&F championships were held over 2 days in Magherafelt on 4 & 5 February. Participants and Spectators were on a par with previous years.

Athlete Membership to Athletics Northern Ireland

The new registration year commenced on 1 April and at present we have 7,879 registered and paid up athletes. This means we are already 1,403 (21%) ahead of last year's final total of 6,476 (on 31 March). We are continuing to get a number of new clubs (mostly running clubs) affiliating. Our running participation officer (Alistair Woods) is continuing to help newly formed clubs to affiliate and to ensure they meet the necessary requirements as a bona fide Athletic Club.

We are also working with a number of local councils in Northern Ireland to implement the recently inaugurated "Everyone Active 2020" scheme funded by Sport Northern Ireland. We now have 4 members of staff working on this programme. We have also recently appointed an Athletics Development Officer to work at the University of Ulster. This post is jointly funded by the University and is aimed at developing athletics among the student population and encouraging wider use of the University's athletics facilities among the wider population.

Athletes Registered	Male	Female	
U13	472	586	
14-15	398	541	
Age 16+	2,846	3,036	
Total	3,716	4,163	7,879