

**Minutes of the UK Members Council Meeting
Saturday 16 February 2008
City Inns, Brindley Place, Birmingham**

Present:	Lynn Davies	Chair
	Lynette Harris	Welsh Athletics
	Roy Corry	Northern Ireland Athletics
	Stan Burton	Officials Representative
	Bill Adcocks	Clubs Representative
	Keith May	Clubs Representative
	Mike Harris	Coaching Representative
	Graham Jessop	Off Track Representative
	Chris Cohen	IPC Representative
	Michael Squires	Representative
	Helen Clitheroe	Athlete Representative
In attendance:	Niels de Vos	UKA CEO
	Charles Bartholomew	UKA Company Secretary & Finance
	Jon Ridgeon	Fast Track Managing Partner (part)
	Mike Summers	England Athletics CEO
Apologies:	Ed Warner	UKA Chairman
	John Graves	England Athletics
	Mark Hollinshead	Scottish Athletics
	Lord Sebastian Coe	IAAF Representative
	Jonathan Edwards	EAA Representative
	Mike Winch	UKA Vice President

- 1 LD welcomed everyone to the meeting, with a particular welcome to Helen Clitheroe who had joined the council as the athlete representative. Mike Summers was attending the meeting as John Graves was unable to attend and Mike would be taking up his post of England Athletics Chief Executive on the 3 March.
- 2 Minutes of the previous meeting of 1 December 2007 were approved and accepted.
- 3 **Matters arising from previous minutes**
 - a. CA to contact Helen Clitheroe and invite as Athlete Representative – ACTIONED
 - b. Selection procedures on UKA website – ACTIONED
- 4 **Presentation by Jon Ridgeon – Fast Track Managing Partner**

Fast Track has been the exclusive Marketing agency to UK Athletics for the past 10 years, covering Commercial Sponsorship and TV Events delivery. Fast Track also act as consultants to athletics and place athletes in meets abroad to enable other competition and ability to get championship qualifying times plus Ian Hodge as a statistician sits on the GB selection panels.

In 1998 UKA had £1million commercial income with 4 televised events which was then broadcast on Channel 4, 10 years later its evolved to £12million of commercial income and 7 televised events and moved on to the BBC. Athletics is one of the most successful sports in terms of Commercial income. However, much of the commercial income is actually tied to activity and therefore not free cash for UKA to spend on what they want. Fast Track receives a commission on any TV Events commercial income and on non TV Events, plus a management fee. Fast Track has a contract with UKA to 2012.

The IAAF's view of the televised events in Britain is that they are the best events in the world and these are all delivered by UKA's in house competition team and Fast Track. Fast Track has a team of 18 people who work with UKA. Since 1998 there have been 16 world records at UKA televised events with athletes from all over the world wanting to compete in them. HC agreed that the British meets are the best to compete in with only Brussels' Golden League on par.

The priorities going forward for Fast Track are:

- To find a second premier partner to sit alongside Norwich Union and
- To ensure revenue after 2012 for the premier Olympic sport.

The challenges however are; to turn around the publics' perception that athletics is full of drugs; have improved GB team performances and 2013 – although this is helped by Glasgow hosting the 2014 Commonwealth Games. Great Britain needs to have a successful Olympics in 2012.

LD thanked JR for the presentation to the council which was useful for them to understand fully Fast Track's role.

MS asked that due to the concern for the funding of the sport post 2012, if the Council could have regular feedback on the post 2012 situation.

5 Presentation by Niels de Vos on HiPAC's

NdV explained that currently there were 4 HiPAC's – Lee Valley, Brunel, Birmingham & Loughborough, 4 EIS Centres – Sheffield, Gateshead, Manchester & Bath and 1 Academy based at UWIC in Cardiff. There was a possible additional "centre" in Scotland. The locations of the HiPAC's were based on where the elite coaches and athletes could make best use of the facilities. Moving forward it was NdV's aim to integrate these 8 centres into sub elite athletics and the delivery of Home Nation development programmes (alongside elite WCPP)

Looking ahead with the academies there is a possibility of them becoming competitive units with each city (where the academies are based) hosting one event per year.

LD asked the members to endorse the plans. The meeting gave its unanimous approval and asked NdV to continue to pursue the strategy presented. HC stated that the athletes would welcome the proposals.

LD thanked NdV for his presentation.

6 CEO update

NdV updated the Council on the restructure at UKA since the last Council meeting in December. Due to consultation, the changes were now only just being implemented but that many staff who were no longer part of the new structure had opted to leave immediately under voluntary redundancy terms with almost all the balance leaving towards the end of February.

MH asked about the position of Strategy Head of Coaching & Development and his concern that nobody had yet been appointed. NdV responded by saying that this post was one of the most important posts to be appointed for years, and that he would like to appoint the best person in the world rather than the best person immediately available. NdV felt it was right to wait to get the right person. Action: SH to circulate Strategic Head of Coaching & Development job description to the Council with the minutes.

NdV confirmed that Elevating Athletics had now been completed and had been endorsed by NASUWT. The pack would be given away free to every school in the UK using the network of School Sport Coordinators. The teaching of teachers will be pushed out to the Home Countries for them to deliver.

NdV gave UKA's stance on the recent drugs issues and Dwain Chambers. NdV stated that DC had not had out of competition testing in the past 12 months, and that was why UKA was so strong in their stance about not wanting DC to compete and the further damage to the sport. Going forward, Dame Tanni Grey-Thompson is going to carry out a review on doping offences and hopes that Tanni would be able to give the parameters of her review to UKA Board on the 19 March for approval.

The Council supported NdV's views and would endorse publication of test results.

7 IAAF / EAA Reports – No reports were received.

IPC Athletics report – Chris Cohen

A report was presented to the Council.

36 places in the GB team for the Paralympics in Beijing. China taking a team of 80 athletes, which is the maximum. 15,000 performances reached the A or B standard.

Oscar Pistorius is challenging the IAAF in the court of arbitration

Following Paralympic World cup in Manchester, suggestions as to the integration of able bodies and disabled combined in one national championships.

8 Home Country reports

Wales

- Successful Indoor programme including Indoor City Challenge and Celtic nations Championships
- Undergoing own competition review
- Initiatives with Welsh School – linking talent academy with schools, based on P10 rankings

Northern Ireland

- Successful Challenge on the 5 January in very poor weather
- Irish Indoor Championships
- HiPAC manager left and in the process of replacing, however, sports council dictate terms
- Happy to be included in RRLG but would need to be bench tested before rollout.
- Happy to cooperate with UKA on home country delivery however concerns over funding
- AGM 19 March 2008

Scotland – Apologies from Mark Hollinshead

England

- Mike Summers as new CEO starts 3 March
- Moved into new offices on Business Park close to Birmingham Airport
- Key priority once starts new role is the vision strategy. MS will circulate once finalised towards end of March
- Working with NdV at devolved responsibility and meeting on 19 February 2008

LD and the council congratulated MS on his appointment and wished him well.

9 Any Other Business

Communication of information from UKMC meetings to the sport, it was agreed that the minutes should be published on the UKA website for all to see with a summary of minutes to be included in the UKA Board reports.

10 Date of Next Meeting

Saturday 12 July – Birmingham Alexander Stadium 10 am

Topics to be included:

CEO Update

UKA Budgets 2008/9

Officials' presentation – Stan Burton

Tanni Grey-Thompson review – process explained?