

**UKA Members Meeting**  
**Friday 17 December 2021 – 12.00**  
**via Teams Call**

**Present:** Jason Gardener – President  
Stefanie Reid – Vice President  
Steve Perks – Welsh Athletics Chair  
Ronald Morrison – Scottish Athletics President  
Gary Shaughnessy – England Athletics Chair  
David Abrahams – Athletics Northern Ireland Chair  
Grace Hall – Track & Field Club Representative  
Julian Starkey – England Club Representative  
Arwel Williams – Officials Representative  
Andrew Heyes – Chair of the Athletes Commission  
Roland Gibbard – Road Running Representative

**In Attendance** Ian Beattie – UKA Chair  
Mark Munro – Interim UKA Chief Executive  
Mark Draisey – UKA Chief Financial Officer and Company Secretary

**Welcome and Apologies**

The President welcomed those attending the meeting. Apologies were received from Mike Leonard, newly appointed Coaches Representative, who was unable to attend due to a personal engagement

**1. Minutes of the previous meetings and actions**

***Members meeting 25 June 2021***

The minutes of the meeting and been previously circulated for comment and were duly approved

***Matters arising***

Logo size, it was noted that action had been taken in respect of logo size for use in the British Championships but that there should be a strong recommendation to World Athletics and European Athletics to update the logo rules to be more in line with other sports. This would provide more commercial opportunities for athletes and clubs. MM agreed to review and report back – **Action MM/JS**

JS raised the question on the correct terminology to be used for his role title compared to the role used for the recent election and subsequent of appointment of GH. MD to review and make a proposal at the next meeting – **Action MD**

***EGM 17 September 2021***

The minutes of the meeting were duly approved.

**2. President's update**

The President noted the continued pressure on the organisation from UK Sport and noted that

this would be discussed in more detail during the update from the UKA Chair. The President also noted the change in leadership, thanked both the UKA Chair and Interim CEO for their work to date and noted their previous involvement in the sport over a number of years

### **3. Vice Presidents update**

The Vice-President agreed with and supported the comments from the President.

The Vice-President also noted the continuing challenges faced by Para athletes in being able to secure meaningful competitive opportunities. This would be further challenged by the rumoured cancellation of the World Para Championships in Kobe later in 2022 and the impact on athletes focus as a result.

### **4. UKA Chair Update**

The Chair opened by stating that he was pleased to be in post and joining the Members for their meeting. He noted that in the last number of years the sport has not helped itself by how it has been perceived and that there had been direct impacts on UKA as a result. As Chair he was keen for the organisation to operate with its Members in a supportive, respectful and constructive environment with a focus on supportive challenge and for things to be shared knowing that they will be treated confidentially. The focus for all involved in the organisation is to put personal interest to one side and work to achieve what is best for the sport.

An outline of the key areas of focus from UK Sport was provided, these were detailed as follows:

- a. Leadership/Governance – impact of a number of CEO and Chair’s in a short time frame
- b. Board effectiveness – focus on strategic not operational activities
- c. UKA Members – lack of progress in implementing reform of the UK corporate membership as set out in the change plan and reinforced in a letter from the UK Sport CEO received prior to the meeting and that meaningful steps are expected to take place before the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022.
- d. Integrity & Safeguarding – vital that the work already done in this area continues, and the Chair stated that our focus in this area has been reaffirmed to UK Sport
- e. Positive culture and ethical decision making
- f. Performance plan
- g. International events strategy and relationships with UK Cities, World and European Athletics

It was confirmed by one of the HCAF representatives that the points outlined were consistent with the messaging that they have been receiving from their relevant sports councils and that the councils and UK Sport are closely aligned on the areas of focus.

The meeting then focussed on the next steps required to address lack of progress on the corporate membership.

A number of views were expressed on the result of the EGM and why different perspectives had been taken following the Members meeting in June 2021. There was agreement that a way forward needs to be agreed and implemented.

There remains ongoing uncertainty amongst many of the sport's stakeholders over the role of UKA and the roles of the HCAF's both at a strategic level and operational level. There was also broad agreement that the Membership of UKA needs to have clarity on what the Members are responsible for delivering/achieving, how work to achieve that and how the membership is structured.

It was agreed that a smaller group of Members led by the UKA Chair and UKA President would meet early in the new year to review the proposals presented to the EGM, identify changes/next steps and bring these back for further consideration early in the New Year to meet the timeline as set out by UK Sport. **Action JG/IB**

## **5. UKA CEO and CFO Update**

The CEO and CFO provided an overview presentation to the Members on current operational activity covering the following areas. Members have been provided with the detailed slide deck:

- a. Planning & Governance – including an update on working groups – it was noted that there was a lack of gender balance in the Commercial group, this was recognised but was a factor of the post holders across the various HCAF's. MM agreed to feedback for the Commercial group to consider further. **Action MM**
- b. Development – with updates provided on safeguarding, coaching and officials development, clean athletics, facilities (Tack Mark) and Rules
- c. Performance – with updates provided on GB&NI teams ahead of a busy 2022, activity within the world class performance programme and the changes in the talent programme
- d. Major Events & Competition – with updates provided on domestic calendar & licensing, UK National Level Events, International & Major Events
- e. Commercial – with updates provided on the activity with existing and potential new sponsors and broadcast activity
- f. Financial – with updates provided on the current year and the budget timetable for the 22/23 financial year

## **6. Home Countries update**

No specific matters not covered elsewhere were raised.

## **7. Volunteer Reports (where specific item raised)**

- a. Road Running
  - i. The delivery of road races continues to be challenging and guidance on what should be done (particularly with reference to the new variant) would be welcome. MM confirmed that he would expect specific guidance to flow from sports councils to the HCAF's for them to apply to their specific country.
- b. Clubs
  - i. Continues to be frustration with the level of communication being made to clubs and there continues to be a lack of understanding on what the framework agreement means to clubs along with the overall lack of engagement by clubs.

- ii. Clubs are expecting 2022 to be a better year (Covid variant depending) but there remain ongoing challenges with coach and official numbers as well as facility requirements and access.

- c. Coaches

- i. The challenge with coach numbers was acknowledged. Some good news was noted in respect of off track and the uplift of officials attending courses for these disciplines.

8. Any Other Business

No further business was raised.

The meeting closed at 1.50pm

END

### Summary of Actions

Point	ACTION	Responsible
1	MM and JS to discuss the lack of guidance/clarity from WA and EA and seek to make a strong recommendation to World Athletics and European Athletics to update the logo rules to be more in line with other sports.. Report back at next meeting	<b>ACTION: MM/JS</b>
1	MD to review and update on role titles to ensure consistency between JS and GH	<b>ACTION: MD</b>
4	Smaller group of Members led by the President would meet early in the new year to review the proposals presented to the EGM, identify changes/next steps and bring these back for further consideration early in the New Year to meet the demands of UK Sport.	<b>ACTION: JG/IB</b>
5	MM to feed back to Commercial working group on lack of gender diversity in group membership	<b>ACTION: MM</b>