

Summary Minutes of a Meeting of the UK Athletics Board of Directors

2 March 2022 at Ambassadors Bloomsbury London/Teams, commencing at 11am

Present:	Ian Beattie (Chair) David Abrahams (DA) Peter Crawshaw (PC) (Teams) Mark Munro (MM) Marilyn Okoro (MO) Steve Perks (DSP) Wendy Sly (WS) Anne Wafula-Strike (AWS) Mike Whittingham (MW)
Observers:	Andy Heyes (AH) Jason Gardener (JG) (Teams)
In attendance:	Cherry Alexander (CA) Liz Birchall (LB) Kate Bradley (KB) Lee Dakin (LD) Mark Draisey (MD) Gurpreet Dulay (GD) (BDO) Angus Mcdonald (AM) (Teams - for Agenda Item 8) Chris Moss (CM) Ryan Murphy (RM) Aaron Winter (AW) (BDO) Tommy Yule (TY)
Apologies:	Stuart Cain (SC) David Ovens (DO) Jennifer Thomas (JT)

1. Welcome and Attendees

Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and welcomed WS and MO to their first meeting. Chair also noted that BDO were in attendance as part of the current governance audit on behalf of UK Sport (UKS).

Chair asked everyone to introduce themselves.

2. Apologies

There were apologies from SC, JT and DO.

Business Items

3. Declarations of Interest

No additional declarations of interest were raised.

4. Minutes

Previous minutes were approved.

5. CEO Report

CEO Report

MM led the Board through the CEO report included in the Board pack including:

- Recent recruitment
- Performance Centre in Birmingham
- London Stadium
- Executive action plan including recruitment of Technical Director

6. Governance

a. Board appointments

Chair noted the formal appointment of WS and MO.

Chair also confirmed he had reviewed the existing sub- committees of UKA. Audit Committee is already in place and working well. UKA has a Nominations Panel but Chair asked for Board approval to develop terms of reference for a new Nominations Committee which would also incorporate the existing RemCo. This would be presented back to Board for approval. It is proposed that JT would chair the new committee once formed but would join RemCo during the interim period.

Chair noted that he had been appointed to Chair the Standards, Ethics and Rules Committee (SERC) in the short term but that it is proposed JT takes over as Chair in the medium term and MO joins this Committee to become Chair longer term. Chair also asked for Board approval to review of the terms of reference for SERC to ensure Board has access to specialist advice and guidance on a range of issues relating to standards, ethics and rules. Board members asked if the existing terms of reference allowed for members to be co-opted and Chair confirmed it did.

Board approved the creation and review of terms of reference for the Nominations Committee and SERC but asked for an updated governance diagram.

b. Election Regulations

MD updated Board on proposed changes to Election Regulations.

7. Finance

a. Loan Funding Application

- CM presented the paper on the Loan Funding Application for a new Coaching Learning and Development Framework which was included in the Board pack for discussion and approval.
- MM asked for Board approval of the strategic approach to the new framework and approval to progress to full approval of a detailed delivery and payback model at the Board 22/23 budget meeting on 23 March.
- MM noted that the Learning and Development Framework was a key goal within the Operational Plan and within the Coaching Strategy, published in October 2021.
- Board has previously approved the Coaching Strategy and new Learning and Development Framework as a key strategic project within.
- Board has previously approved the principle of loan investment in strategic projects aligned to the Operational Plan, subject to business plan approval on a case-by-case basis.
- Board requests a detailed delivery and payback model and evidence of affordability and demand for presentation on 23 March.

Board approved this.

8. Performance

Performance

TY delivered a presentation on the following and explained that a more detailed Performance Strategy document would follow.

- a. Performance Management Group – in place until a Technical Director is in post.
- b. Performance staffing structure – the updated organisational chart is included in the Board pack.
- c. Plans for Eugene/Para Plans – a timeline of key competition and training camps before the World Championships.

TY confirmed a priority is to identify domestic and international competition opportunities for para-athletes due to the cancelled World Championships. Board recommended TY and the team consider the Swiss Grand Prix.

Board noted the build up to a major championship as a critical time and excellent communication and engagement with athletes and personal coaches must be in place. TY agreed that the focus is on understanding the preparation and performance of each world class programme athlete during this build up and that a KPI is to increase the conversion rate of finalists to medalists.

9. Finance

- a. Management Accounts/Financial Performance to date

MD delivered a presentation on the Management Accounts/Financial Performance to date.

b. 2022/23 Budget Progress Update

MD updated that the 2022/23 budget process is on track. There is an Audit Committee meeting on 16 March to review a first draft and a Board meeting on 23 March for final approval.

10. Safeguarding

AM joined the call to provide an update on safeguarding.

11. Events, Competitions and Commercial

a. Competition and Events Update

CA delivered a presentation on competition and major events to date this season including World Indoor Tour in Manchester, DNA in Glasgow, Muller Indoor Grand Prix and UK Athletics British Championships including Para participation.

This was followed by a summary of the 2022 outdoor season plans, planning for 2023 and the outline of a longer-term strategy to 2031. Core cities will be invited to a planning session soon to discuss partnership opportunities.

MM updated Board on a possible bid from the UK to stage the European Championships in 2026. UKA has been discussing the opportunity with Birmingham who are very interested in hosting the event. MM will provide more information to Board and seek approval to progress to formal bid stage within the next two weeks.

12. Governance

a. CEO Recruitment

Chair updated on the process for the CEO recruitment which closed at the end of February. An external recruitment firm was used to support the recruitment process and UK Sport will attend the final interview as an observer. It is hoped that an outcome will be reached within the next 4 weeks.

- b. UK Sport
- c. Change Plan/UK Members

13. Any other business

Honours Nominations

Chair said that athletics should improve the process of recognition of individuals across the sport, including through the Honours system. UKA would like to work jointly with England Athletics to identify individuals and encourage nominations and there are already processes in place in Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

14. Next Meeting

25 May 2022

The meeting closed at 15:15.