



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Company held at The Holiday Inn Hotel, Great Barr, Birmingham at 11am on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2013.

**Present:**

Peter King (Chairman)	Chairman, England Athletics
Chris Jones	CEO, England Athletics
Kevan Taylor	Finance Director, England Athletics
Michael Heath (Vice Chair)	Enfield & Haringey AC; BAL Director; Non Executive Director, England Athletics
Tony Shiret	Newham & Essex Beagles; Non Executive Director, England Athletics; Chairman England Council; Chairman London Regional Council
Nigel Rowe	Non Executive Director, England Athletics
Wendy Sly	Non Executive Director, England Athletics
Karen Neale	Non Executive Director, England Athletics
Andrew Gardner	St Theresa's AC
Barry Parker	Derbyshire AA, Chairman East Midlands Regional Council
Andy Ward	Middlesbrough AC, Chairman North East Regional Council
Alan Edwards	Leamington Cycling & AC
George Bunner	AAA
Susan Deaves	Woking AC & South of England
Dean Hardman	Sale Harriers Manchester
Neil Costello	Cambridge & Coleridge AC
Mike Neighbour	Aldershot Farnham & District, Chairman South East Regional Council, SEAA.
Lawrence Kyd	Royal Sutton Coldfield AC
Lynette Smith (minutes)	Head of Membership Services, England Athletics
Andy Barber	National Communications Officer, England Athletics
Kate Liggins	Finance Manager, England Athletics
Katie Leek	Membership Services Administrator, England Athletics
David Jeacock	Company Solicitor

**Apologies:** Mike Harris, Mike Moss, Niels De Vos, Peter Crawshaw,  
Stewart Barnes and Judith Temperton

The Chairman welcomed all present to the meeting and thanked them for attending

## **1. Minutes of the AGM meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2012**

The Minutes of the AGM Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2012 had been made available on the website. Hard copies were available at the meeting also.

The Chairman asked all present if they accepted the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2012 subject to the matters noted in matters arising below.

Proposed: Mike Heath: Seconded: Wendy Sly. Unanimously accepted by all present.

## **2. Matters arising from the minutes**

Barry Parker raised Cambridge & Coleridge had been spelt incorrectly and Andy Ward raised Middlesbrough was spelt incorrectly too. Both items corrected.

Andrew Gardner advised that he felt that no further progress had been made since last year's meeting with regard to Endurance Officials. He felt that development had not happened; hence opportunities to follow this pathway were not being fulfilled.

Tony Shiret advised England Council is involved with UKA in a working group which is drawing up a broad development plan for officials and Barry Parker was leading on this for England Council. The low numbers of Endurance Officials qualifying was an area that had been recognised and is an area they are working to address.

Nigel Rowe advised if there is interest in a region, a representative should contact Head Office and a course will be set up to suit local needs.

**3. To receive the Directors Report of the Activities of the Company during the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013**

Presentation given to the meeting by Chris Jones and a copy of the presentation is available on the website and forms part of the minutes of the meeting.

Matters arising in the presentation by Chris Jones:

George Bunner observed that people are working together which is great and being appreciated is great too. He said that with regards the Ron Pickering Memorial Fund, Kim who is running it, is doing a great job. There is also an AAA Charity Committee which provides support for athletes. This communicates with the Ron Pickering Memorial Fund to ensure there is not double funding and that the benefits are spread fairly. George stated the AAA is working towards maintaining the history / legacy of the sport and regularly field calls from people asking about the history of athletics and helps them locate records from the sport.

Mike Neighbour drew attention to the work of the English Road Running Association (ERRA) and English Cross Country Association (ECCA) in organising road running and cross country championships. He observed the selection standard for the Commonwealth Games for the women's 5000 metres is harder than for the World Championships [This refers to the A standard]. He said we may not be able to send anyone who can meet the A or B standards. Andy Barber explained that it is possible to select athletes with both A and B standards for events. The standards are also part of a four round selection process and these four rounds of selection will be used to fill the maximum number of spaces made available by Commonwealth Games England. For the Commonwealth Games it is the overall team size that is the limiting factor in selections rather than standards set by the organising committee and we will look to take the maximum number of athletes possible. It is anticipated this will be our largest ever athletics team and the overall aim of the team is to achieve the maximum number of top 8 finishes as stated in the policy.

Chris Jones said that the work of the ERRA and ECCA is much appreciated. He said they are another example of partnership working within the sport and of England Athletics recognising where other organisations are best placed to deliver it should support their work rather than replicating it.

Lawrence Kyd said Royal Sutton Coldfield AC are facing a possible threat with regards to redevelopment of the site of their track which could lead to them losing their facility. He asked if support would be available from England Athletics. Chris Jones committed to England Athletics providing support and suggested exchanging contact details following the AGM to arrange a meeting.

Sue Deaves said the South of England had 12 girls with good results in their steeplechase and hoped that EA will note these results for consideration regarding teams. She also said she was pleased that England Athletics responded and listened and put on consultations following the feedback on affiliation.

Tony Shiret, Chair of – England Council, updated on a number of areas the Council is currently looking at:

England Council focus is on the relationship between England Athletics & UKA – UKA strategy affects the grassroots and they feel that UKA is not particularly accountable for their actions and we want to increase the extent to which England Athletics is involved in deciding strategy.

Although a joint submission, Sport England Whole Sport Plan funding grant is awarded to UKA before it is allocated to England Athletics. The England Council takes the view that England Athletics should be directly funded and not funded via UKA.

With regard to volunteer representation within the system there are the England Council and Regional Councils which have increasingly fed into the decision making process. However England Council believes it should be involved in the sign off of decisions. England Council also believes the structure should be extended so that the Celtic countries are covered to enable representation at UK level.

Coaching capacity: England Council have had a proposal accepted to reduce the cost of Athletics Coach and CiRF education courses from £325 to £250. Content of courses is currently being looked at. There are still differences of opinion on how they should best be amended but the England Council are pushing to have these courses made much friendlier to users.

There are some areas that are not covered by England Athletics' current strategy and England Council would like to see funding identified that could address these. England Council would like to see more done for schools athletics. England Council also wants to look at what is available to clubs. The Networks are supported now at lower levels than recent years but nothing is budgeted for in 2 years' time. England Council feels ways to support these areas need to be identified.

**4. To receive a presentation of the Company's audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013**

Presentation given to the meeting by Kevan Taylor and a copy of the presentation is available on the website and forms part of the minutes of the meeting. The presentation also included a summary of the 2013-14 Annual Budget in comparison to the 2012-13 financial year.

Matters arising in the presentation by Kevan Taylor:

Alan Edwards asked how runbritain's income was included.

Kevan Taylor responded that Road Race Licensing income is included net of costs in the accounts of England Athletics. Nigel Rowe confirmed the income from road race licensing fees does get transferred across to England Athletics net of direct costs. However from 2014-15 onwards it is planned that gross income will be received directly by England Athletics and the costs of activities will also be borne directly.

Tony Shiret asked what amount funding was currently retained by UKA. Kevan Taylor responded that £1.4m of Sport England funding will be retained by UKA for Coaching and Development activities in 2013-14, Power of 10 and the Youth Development League.

Chris Jones advised that the financial picture for 2014 – 15 and beyond may look very different due to structuring of Sport England funding which decreases over the four year period of 2013-17 and in light of the recent affiliation fee pricing decisions.

**5. To appoint the company's auditors for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014 and delegate agreement of their remuneration to the Company Board**

The Company's Auditors recommended by the Directors were haysmacintyre and they are to be appointed as auditors for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014 and agreement of their remuneration is to be delegated to the Company Board.

Proposed: Nigel Rowe: Seconded: Kevan Taylor. Unanimously accepted by all present.

**6. To receive notification of the appointment of directors by the England Council**

Tony Shiret advised that two Directors have resigned, namely Graham Jessop and Mike Moss. He has been appointed from the England Council, together with Mike Harris. Tony has also been elected Chair for England Council and it has been agreed that his position will be subject to a performance review after one year. On behalf of England Council, Tony thanked Stewart Barnes who stood in as England Council representative at the Board in the intervening period and Nigel Rowe, who is also an England Council member, who is on the England Athletics Board.

**7. To re-elect Christopher Jones as a director of the Company**

Proposer: Tony Shiret; Seconded: Wendy Sly. Unanimously accepted by all present.

**8. To receive notification of the directors of the Company**

Kevan Taylor presented details of the Directors including appointment dates and end of current term dates.

**9. To receive notification of the membership of the England Council**

Tony Shiret presented details of the England Council members and noted no co-opted Disability Athletics representative has been appointed at present.

Tony Shiret reported that he is happy that they are directly helping and impacting on the sport.

Kevan Taylor advised there was a summary available of all Regional Council members at the meeting and on the company website.

A number of Councils are inviting Counties to be included into their meetings, not all Counties are taking this opportunity but Councils will continue to invite them and include them in future meetings.

**10. The following will be proposed as a Special Resolution: That the draft regulations produced to the meeting and initialled by the Chairman for the purposes of identification be adopted as the Articles of Association of the company in substitution for and to the exclusion of all the existing Articles of Association**

Kevan Taylor drew the attention of the meeting to the booklet detailing the Articles of Association and a summary sheet of changes which had been available at the meeting and on the company website.

Kevan Taylor reviewed the changes, 22 in total, and he gave explanations of the salient items.

Peter King advised that we cannot take any amendments to these Articles unless they are extremely minor.

Proposer: Karen Neale; Seconded Tony Shiret. Unanimously accepted by all present.

Kevan Taylor thanked Alan Edwards, Neil Costello and Peter Crawshaw for the detailed work that they had done in moving the Articles forward.

Susan Deaves welcomed the Counties being included in Regional Council meetings and asked if next year could the Area Associations be involved in these meetings too.

Tony Shiret advised Susan Deaves that the South of England AA is welcome to attend London's meetings and he will invite her accordingly. Susan Deaves thanked Tony and advised that she thought it was important that the Areas are involved.

**Peter King asked for questions from the floor:**

Neil Costello thanked England Athletics on how he thought the staff and volunteers have turned England Athletics around from where he thought it had been last year.

George Bunner advised that the AAA had been worried about democracy within the sport following the Foster Review. He said he feels the Regional Councils are moving in the right direction, was very encouraged by what Tony Shiret had said about the work of England Council, and congratulated Tony Shiret on the work he and the Councils had done.

Peter King reiterated his belief that clubs and athletes own the sport of athletics and that England Athletics welcomes their involvement and views. He said we must continue to move forward together for the betterment of our sport for the long term.

Peter King closed the meeting and thanked all for attending.

Meeting closed 12.55pm