

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Hilton Birmingham Metropole Hotel, NEC,
Birmingham. B40 1PP at 11am on Saturday 17th October 2015**

Present:

Peter King (Chairman)	Chairman, England Athletics
Chris Jones	CEO & Board Director, England Athletics; Associate member Cambridge & Coleridge AC
Tony Shiret	Newham & Essex Beagles; Non-Executive Director, England Athletics; Chairman England Council; Co-Chairman London Regional Council
Karen Neale	Non-Executive Director, England Athletics
Neil Costello	Non-Executive Director, England Athletics; Cambridge & Coleridge AC
Peter Crawshaw	Non-Executive Director, England Athletics; Achilles Club; Co-Chairman London Regional Council
Tim Soutar	Non-Executive Director, England Athletics; Blackheath & Bromley Harriers AC
Sally Hughes	Non-Executive Director, England Athletics; Achilles Club
Bill Adcocks	Coventry Godiva Harriers
Linda Rushworth	City of Sheffield & Deane AC
Denise Lavory	Ellesmere Port Running Club
Ian Cooper	Ellesmere Port Running Club
Laurie Alcock	English Schools' Athletic Association
Andrew Gardner	St Theresa's AC
George Bunner	AAA & Sportshall Athletics
Bridget Cushen	British Masters Athletics Federation
Dave Watson	Woking AC
Susan Deaves	South of England AA
Michael Heath	Enfield & Haringey AC
Dean Hardman	Head of Business Development, England Athletics; Sale Harriers
Andrew Day	Head of Competition, England Athletics; Tamworth AC
Debbie Beresford	Education Coordinator, England Athletics; Manchester Harriers AC
Michael Davis	Company Secretary & Head of Finance & Governance, England Athletics

In attendance – John Devine (Muckle LLP)

The following clubs were present by proxy:

Blythe Running Club

Apologies:

Wendy Sly – Non-Executive Director, England Athletics

Steve Grainger – Non-Executive Director, England Athletics

Mike Harris – Non-Executive Director, England Athletics

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, thanking them for their attendance.

1. Minutes of the AGM Meeting held on 18th October 2014

The minutes of the previous AGM had been made available on the website and hard copies were available at the meeting.

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 18th October 2014.

Proposed: Tony Shiret

Seconded: Dean Hardman

2. Matters arising from the minutes

Bill Adcock commented on the matter of affiliation fees paid by event promoters

CJ confirmed no changes have been made since last the AGM. The matter has been discussed and reviewed, but as part of the consultation process no changes have been agreed.

3. To receive the Directors Report of the Activities of the Company during the year ended 31st March 2015 and to include a report from the directors directly elected by the membership

Chris Jones (CEO) gave a presentation to the meeting covering the organisation's performance for the financial year, the main achievements and the priorities and challenges for the year ahead. A copy of the presentation is available on the website and forms part of the minutes of the meeting

Matters arising from presentation:

Bill Adcocks commented on the change to Athletics and Running, identifying running as separate from athletics, and sought clarification about Parkrun's involvement and input to the sport.

CJ confirmed they do put into the sport, noting Parkrun's reliance on club volunteers and England Athletics' working relationship with Parkrun.

Neil Costello, a member elected director, gave a report detailing:

1. Progress on strategic priorities – we are now thinking about EA priorities ahead of SE agenda, which will enable us to focus on things that are beneficial to the sport rather than being forced into activities we didn't sign up for. We can better align to government initiatives
2. Progress on coaching courses and course development – this is absolutely vital for the future. There has been a huge shift of focus, with agreement from home countries and UKA, to change the way in which the courses are delivered. It's not an easy process but hopeful that it will take effect
3. Board effectiveness – the board is moving forward in being more aware of the needs of the sport; better working with UKA is in progress. UKA is the governing body but EA gives legitimacy to their existence in representing the grass roots.

Overall, reflecting on where we were in 2012 (Alexander Stadium – distrust, anxious, electric atmosphere), things have changed and we are in a more positive environment.

4. To receive and address from the Chairman of the National Council

Tony Shiret, the Chair of the National Council, provided an update, reporting there are 9 regional councils with meetings held during the year. The Chairs of the regional councils make up national council with co-opted individuals

The individuals were thanked for their contribution, particularly Mike Harris (National Council nominated Non-Executive director) who has given considerable support throughout the year

Dean Hardman was acknowledged and thanked for the administrative support he provides to the Chair of the National Council

The England consultation held in the spring covered three particular matters:

1. Area championship funding – surprise at the strength of opinion from consultation. The Council hasn't engaged with area funding to date, but will focus on this in 2015/16
2. Coach education – hopefully there will be progress; need to get UKA to agree to the changes
3. Age group changes – proposed changes will not be taken up if board takes on the advice from TAG. Of the responses received 72% are against the proposed changes. The Council made strong representation to UKA, demonstrating the value of the Council system.

In relation to the matters raised at last year's AGM in relation to the Youth Development League (YDL), the Council was asked by participants to investigate areas of change in relation to travel time/distance. The council has worked extensively with YDL, but there is no strength of confidence anything is going to happen. The YDL committee have not been responsive to any of the proposals being put forward.

The National Council has been more effective in encouraging the EA board to be more responsive to the issues that exist within the sport, and has been proactive in challenging the right individuals to be more accountable.

For the future there needs to be greater focus on growing and developing strategies for the future of the sport, e.g., Schools, Disability, Athlete Retention, Ageing Officials, Volunteers rather than merely mending issues.

The National Council will continue to drive these initiatives through the board

Matters arising from the report given by Tony Shiret:

Mike Heath confirmed, the last round of discussions about 2016 rule book is taking place. It is important that EA put a number of proposal to the rules advisory group about making life easier for clubs, e.g., reducing issues about permission to have a sponsor. There are rules out there for consultation, people should take the opportunity to make their suggestion. A number of things EA has put forward are being accepted so a good step forward for EA.

Tim Soutar referred to the matter of competition stating people should be aware that UKA have a competitions strategy group. Tim Soutar confirmed he is a representative on the group with the aim of ensuring club interests are taken into account. There should be consultation on the various matters in the coming months. We have to start providing competition which will attract people back into the sport

Peter Crawshaw noted that the rules changes for consultation are on the UKA website; foreign athlete registration, which is effectively discriminatory, is a proposed change which came out of consultation process; guidance on permitting went out without any consultation (as did the renumbering of officials' levels, which seemed to be slipped in without notification). Concern was expressed about the communication process

Susan Deaves asked if there is anyone on the competition advisory group who knows anything about running a meeting (competition)?

Mike Heath confirmed there is

Mike Heath commented on the matter of permitting, stating that UK members' council (Nigel Holl) committed to a review of the process regarding permitting to ensure transparency of process. 'Permitting' must be treated on the same level as 'rule book'.

Tim Soutar noted Grace Hall is a member of the competition strategy group and has experience of running meetings as does Graham Williams from Welsh athletics

George Bunner stated he was encouraged by progress being made by the National Council and member representative report, but expressed concern about the statement that UKA operate without question; noting the Foster review didn't mention these matters and querying why UKA were able to operate without being answerable?

Conversations ensued regarding operation of UKA and the relation to the home countries and the democratic process

Peter King clarified the differences between the England Athletics democratic structure and UKA, which is responsible to the UKMC, encouraging all to ensure the senior democratic body (UKMC) does the job it was set up to do.

Peter King informed the members of planned meetings between the Chairs and CEOs of UKA and EA, stating the need to influence at all levels to ensure accountability and democracy

Susan Deaves confirmed the acknowledged difference between EA and UKA is becoming more widely known and is heartening to hear, noting that England has always been the leading force in influencing UKA

5. To receive a presentation of the Company's Financial Statement for the year ended 31 March 2015

Michael Davis (Company Secretary and Head of Finance & Governance) presented a summary of the company's financial performance as detailed in the annual financial statement for the year end 31st March 2015, detailing a comparison to previous year and to budget. The presentation also included a summary of the annual budget for 2015/16 and the current projection for 2016/17. A copy of the presentation is available on the website

Bill Adcocks sought clarification on the membership fees and the insurance costs incurred during, which were duly answered

6. To appoint the Company's Auditors for the year ended 31st March 2016 and delegate agreement of their remuneration to the Board

Peter King detailed the recommendation of the Directors to appoint Haysmacintyre as the Company's auditors for the year end 31st March 2016 and agreement their remuneration be delegated to the Directors to determine

Proposed: Peter Crawshaw

Seconded: Mike Heath

The decision was agreed unanimously

7. To receive notification of the membership of the England Council

It was proposed and agreed that the membership of the England Council is made available on the website

8. Special Resolution – Amendment of the Articles of Association

Peter King invited Karen Neale to summarise the background to the proposed amendments to the Articles of Association.

Karen Neale gave a brief summary of the background to the changes in response to the pro-bono work carried out by Allen & Overy as part of the Governance Committee's activities and referred the members to the details provided in the AGM notice

Proposed: Karen Neale

Seconded: Tim Soutar

The proposed amendments to the Articles of Association were agreed unanimously

Peter King clarified the review of the Articles of Association and the governance aspects of the Company is an on-going process of continuous improvement

A vote of thanks was given to Allen & Overy for the pro-bono work and an acknowledgement given to Muckle LLP for drafting the changes

AOB

Tony Shiret expressed a note of thanks to Peter King for his shepherding process in leading the Board of England Athletics