

**ENGLAND ATHLETICS NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING
OUTCOMES**

24th February 2021

11:00am – 2:30pm Via Microsoft Teams

Present:

Members of the National Council (NC):

David Lodwick (DL) - Chair
Ellie Brown (EB)
Jon Clarke (JC)
Tim Cook (TC)
John Deaton (JD)
Moirá Gallagher (MG)
Janice Kaufman (JK)
Richard Llewellyn-Eaton (RLE)
Myra Nimmo (MN)
Stuart Paul (SP)
Clive Poyner (CP) (items 9,10,11 only)
Julian Starkey (JS)

England Athletics Officers:

Chris Jones (CJ), CEO
Sam O'Shea (SO), Board and NED Secretary

Emma Davenport (ED), Head of Club Support & Participation (item 8)
Martin Rush (MR), Head of Coaching and Athlete Development, (Item 9)
Sarah Friday (SF), Club Support Manager (item 10)

Other Representatives:

None.

1. Apologies

Dan Isherwood (DI), Head of Operations

2. Update Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Council reviewed the minutes.

DL updated NC that new councillors would receive a diversity survey to complete. This survey will help us to understand who is represented on

England Athletics Regional Councils and to take positive action to improve representation

Resolved and Actions:

- 1.) National Council agreed that the draft minutes were an accurate record of the meeting.
- 2.) Provide a copy of the minutes for signature by the new NC Chair.

4. Actions/Matters Arising

The action log was reviewed.

Comms channels: CJ reported that the Comms T&F group would be reporting to Board in March. This would then come back to NC in April.

Councillor branded kit: The kit bundle has been prepared and has been budgeted. Branded clothing will provide further opportunities for engagement when councillors are at athletics events.

Licenced officials: This will be discussed further in April.

Work was being done around licencing, including different requirements for different levels of competition. EA will feedback on the UKA criteria list.

Resolved and Actions:

- 1.) None

5. National Council Chair's report

Although the landscape was looking more positive, capacity was still likely to be an issue. There will be a need to balance requests from the numerous promoters who will want to organise their own events once restrictions are eased.

6. CEO report

Route out of lockdown

The competition calendar already aligns well with the Governments key dates for the route out of lockdown. EA has posted a holding statement and a detailed step by step guide will be published today.

Affiliation fees

Comms regarding the fees were due to be sent to Clubs by 26/2 and to registered athletes w/c 1/3. Payment would be permitted up to end of August. NC was asked to feedback on the draft comms by close of today.

Club Support Grants

The 2nd wave of the Club Support Grant has been announced. These small grants up to £500 have been opened up to competition providers too. Next week the facilities grants (up to £5k) would go live.

SEAA

EA will be writing to SEAA again to restate our position. In the meantime, some positive discussions have been taking place with competition providers including National Athletics League, Areas Leagues (North, Midlands and South) English Schools and other members of the newly formed Association of Athletics League.

EA Board Chair

The recruitment window had now closed. Chair recruitment ongoing. The Nominations Committee is leading this process led by the Senior Independent Director

7. UKA led cross country consultation

EA supported UKA by circulating the survey to England clubs which has taken up a lot of EA resource. A meeting is taking place tomorrow with UKA and HCAF representatives. UKA are likely to communicate the output in May. This would be discussed further at the April meeting.

Resolved and Actions:

1.) None

8. Traffic Management

Run Britain have confirmed that not all local authorities request race personnel to be trained/accredited. As this is fragmented, EA will explore potential partnerships with an organisation which provides qualification / accreditation that is recognised by all local authorities across the country.

Resolved and Actions:

1.) ED will explore cost-efficient options and timescales.

9. Competition / guidelines

NC were conscious that not all venues would feel safe to open their facilities in time for the clubs to return. Clubs who manage their own venue were in a much better position and EA's messaging to clubs will be sensitive to this difference. An update would be provided for NC including a letter template for clubs to use when writing to facilities providers.

With regard to 5,000 and 10,000 metres, EA is drafting updated guidance, to put to DCMS, suggesting allowing up to 20 athletes.

The Government Covid guidance states travel should be minimised until 17 May, but for some athletes, travelling across a county border could be a very short distance. EA would obtain clarity on the definition of 'local'.

Resolved and Actions:

- 1.) MR will seek clarity on the Government's definition of 'local' and communicate to NC.

10. Volunteer Awards feedback

NC discussed the recommendations for 2021 and made some suggestions.

Resolved and Actions:

- 1.) NC approved the recommendations.

11. Regional Councils

26 nominations have been received for 40 vacancies. Voting this year will be electronic.

Regional Councils should convene meetings to vote in their Chair, well in advance of the NC meeting on 21 April. It is recommended that these meetings are held *without* co-opted members present. Co-optees will not automatically continue to the next period. The new regional council should decide, based on a skills and diversity audit, if their council would benefit from co-opting individuals.

EB announced that she had decided not to put herself forward for election as the last year had been a challenging time with competing priorities. DL and NC thanked EB, and CP who was also stepping down this year, for their time and support.

A discussion took place regarding the challenge for some regional councils in obtaining nominations. It could prove difficult to obtain the required 2nd and 3rd names of support for a nomination (as required by the Articles of Association), especially if someone hasn't yet made sufficient connections with other clubs. There will be an opportunity to discuss this issue, along with any others, when the Board looks at updating the Articles in time for the October 2021 AGM. If changes are made, they will be set in place ready for the 2023 elections. Governance Committee may wish to input. SO will note NC suggestions to inform the Board.

Resolved and Actions:

- 1.) Inform the Board of NC's suggestions.

12. AOB

Coaching courses

Face to face coaching courses (the next level up from LiRF) are being looked at and the backlog was likely to be actioned from May.

Consultation on UKA membership

A consultation was being finalised by each of the home countries to engage their members on UKA membership. It is due to be sent out next week and there will be a webinar in early April for members to join to find out more. The consultation will ensure EA can provide clear feedback to UKA on the recommendations of its members. This will then be put to the existing members of UKA to decide via an EGM in the summer. Therefore, the preferred choice of EA members *may not* be the eventual option that is decided upon by UKA. Some members of NC provided further feedback on the consultative document before and after this meeting.

Strength of councils

NC suggested that a structured promotional approach including webinars and open forums held by regional councils 2-3 times a year is extremely beneficial. This shouldn't be too onerous now that we can do so much online. The more that regional councils communicate, the better. They thanked the EA comms team for their excellent work and support in this area.

Resolved and Actions:

- 1.) None

Next meeting: 21st April 2021 via TEAMS

Meeting closed at 2:30pm

.....Chair