

ENGLAND ATHLETICS ENGLAND COUNCIL MEETING OUTCOMES

23rd February 2022

11:00am – 3:30pm Via Microsoft Teams

FINAL

Present:

Members of the England Council (EC):

Julian Starkey (South East) (JS), EC Chair
Jon Clarke (North West) (JC)
Matthew Dalton (East) (MD)
Adrian Day (London) (AD)
Moirá Gallagher (Yorks & Humberside) (MG)
Janice Kaufman (North East) (JK)
Richard Lewellyn-Eaton (South West) (RL)
Stuart Paul (West Midlands) (SP)
Jane Pidgeon (East Midlands) (JP)

England Athletics Officers:

Emma Davenport, Head of Clubs and Participation (ED)
Martin Rush, Head of Coaching and Athletic Development (MR)
Melanie Bickell, EC Secretary (MB)
Tracey Francis, Participation Programme Manager (item 7 only) (TF)
Nicola Kellett, Digital Projects Manager (Item 10 only) (NK)
Emma Hurst, Club Resources Manager (Item 10 only) (EH)
Nichola Skedgel, Competitions and Innovation Manager (item 10 & 11 only) (NS)
Richard Ayling, Club Support Manager (item 13 only) (RA)

Other Representatives:

John Deaton – South West Member

1. Apologies

Gary Shaughnessy (GS)
Chris Jones (CJ)
Dan Isherwood (DI)
Devonte Casely-Hayford (Diversity Champion) (DCH)
Liz Purbrick (LP)
RLE gave his apologies that he would have to periodically leave the meeting and Richard Deacon was in attendance to note take on his behalf during his absences.

2. Declarations of Interest

JC declared his is now Vice-Chair of BMAF

3. Draft minutes of 20 October 2021 meeting

Resolved and Actions:

- 1.) EC agreed that these were an accurate reflection of the meeting.
- 2.) Provide a copy to the EC Chair for signature. Action: MB

4. Actions / matters arising

- **Officials Development** – see item 10
- **Branding of U13 competition to CWG** [NS/CJ] – ongoing
- **EC Diversity Champion** [JS] JS to arrange an informal meeting
- **Talent Pathway and hub update** – see item 12
- **UKA rules and Northern Athletics (NA)** – see item 11
- **Clubs** – see item 10
- **Affiliation Fees** [DI] - information needs to be collated into a paper to share to inform affiliation fee discussions in 22/23.
- **Email Functionality** [DI] - Functionality now complete and tested. – Action to be closed
- **Officials Liaison / CofSecs** [MG] – A meeting has been held with the regional reps and we are liaising with the regional officials. Action to be closed.

Resolved and Actions:

- 1) Speak to NS re the potential with linking the branding of Under 13 Competition to CWG – Action: ED
- 2) To meet with DCH to explore support to facilitate inclusion in EC meetings – Action: JS

5. EC Chair report

- Post Quinlan the approach to Safeguarding has been revised and a project around Club Standards initiated to help clubs renew and refresh their working practices and remind members of how they should act with others.

Resolved and Actions:

None

6. CEO report

CJ submitted a report in his absence

- EA are applying to Sport England for a specific grant to support legacy activities in the West Midlands and Birmingham area to roll out the funetics programme in clubs and communities at little or no cost during 2022.

England will be taking a lead in the coordination of the annual domestic fixture calendar setting process from 2022 onwards (on behalf of the UK).

- Technical Officials Development Manager appointment is forthcoming, which will help up develop the area of officiating across England.
- Work is taking place with UKA to influence the conversion of the Coaching Assistant qualification to a solely online course effective from the early summer.
- EA have achieved the Investors in People Silver level accreditation which we will “keep” for 3 years from the point of award.

- More work is required in the coming months working in partnership with the EC and its Diversity Champion.
- Cyber security remains a key focus for us, and we will work towards certification in this space during 2022 in partnership with UKA.

EC asked ED to look at issuing a 'thank you' to all licenced coaches/officials and welcoming them back for 2022, requesting a response to confirm they are still 'active'.

12:25pm RLE left the meeting

Resolved and Actions:

- 1) DI to be asked to attend EC meeting 20th April 2022, to present the Dashboard and provide clarification and explanation on its contents – Action: MB
- 2) ED to arrange the new postholder to send a thank you communication to licensed officials for 2022 welcoming them back and asking for confirmation of their active status – Action ED

7. Annual rolling agenda

7.1. EC approved the rolling agenda as it stands and agreed to review annually.

7.2. CWG Legacy

TF reported that the Birmingham 2022 launches on the 28 July, with Athletics / Para-Athletics in stadium commencing Monday 1st August and is a 6-day programme. Work is being undertaken to recruit, retain, and retrain participants, volunteers and coaches.

EC agreed to ask TF to feed back to ED and Scott Grace their request to be involved in the writing of the job descriptions for the RCCLs, prior to their finalisation

Resolved and Actions:

TF to feed back to MR and Scott Grace, EC request to be involved in the writing of the job descriptions for the RCCLs – Action: TF

8. England Council & EA Board Partnership

Resolved and Actions:

EC agreed that the EC Chair should engage with Council members as regularly as possible rather than hold annual one-to-one evaluations

9. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

In her absence, LP provided a report that the Diversity Action Plan has 3 main objectives:

- i. Recruitment-
- ii. Engagement.
- iii. Progressing talent from within

One action specifically considers representation from young people through the possibility of the creation of a young person observer role/programme aiming to

increase recruitment of young people onto regional councils but also to ensure a positive experience and development opportunities.

Resolved and Actions:

Add to April EC agenda

- 1) EC regional councils to determine areas of focus and then work with DCHLP to consider possible actions to address change with EC suggesting ambitions around minimum representation and what role EC would like DCH to take in this and how and when should progress be communicated – Action: All EC
- 2) EC Council to consider the Young Person Observer role, and how well are younger people represented in club leadership currently? Do we need to address this before recruiting people for council? Could we link to club leaders programme? How do we ensure these young people have a positive experience? Should we test first in 2-3 councils? Action: JS to provide EC feedback to LP/DCH

10. General Club Support

10.1. My Athletics Portal

online digital platform to allow individual athletes, coaches, officials and volunteers to manage their personal details and enable affiliated organisations to manage their members and administration effectively.

10.2. Club Hub

can be found on the main EA webpage, digital club support that helps affiliated club volunteers learn, develop and solve a problem.

those regions that have not done so are to submit their responses directly to DH via email.

- i. What are the general thoughts about Club Hub?
- ii. How can the councils use Club Hub to support Clubs in their region?
- iii. Do the councils feel there is an opportunity to contribute towards Club Hub content?

10.3. Club grant process

We are in the process of writing to clubs with about 30 K of investment into clubs before the end of March and we will then launch the next round late March or the start of April for club support fund and the Facilities Improvement Fund.

10.4. Officials Development

actively looking at and reviewing the licensing procedure for both cross country and track and field. UKA have set up a licencing subgroup looking at consistency across the whole of the sports

10.5. Domestic competition licensing/fixtures calendar setting process

there is a fixtures conflict resolution procedure paper and once that's been signed off, Regional Council have access to it

11. UKA rules and Northern Athletics (NA)

the Northern Regional Chairs have written to NA and received a reply from Tony Wood, which had been circulated to EC members,

Chris Moss, the interim Development Director with UKA advised EC that the Rules and Regulations group were not able to interpret the rules but merely to construct them.

Resolved and Actions:

- 1) EC agreed to try to obtain a definitive interpretation of the Rules – Action: MG
- 2) EC agreed to reply to Tony Wood (NA) thanking him for his reply and seek answers to the points raised by EC – Action: JC

12. Talent pathway and hub update

- we are negotiating with Sport England, as to future talent funding to support the talent pathways of athletics in England.
- Reflecting the Athletics Unified Strategy, Sport England Investment from April 2022 will now come directly to EA for the whole of the pathway Agreement is in place to ensure that UKA disability programmes are progressively aligned with EA activity on the talent pathway. This will enable EA to achieve its talent goals.
- UKA have agreed to transfer the management and funding of the Youth Talent Programme (to EA from April 2022. This will enable EA to appoint a Youth Talent Programme Manager and Talent Pathways administrator by end of April 2022

Resolved and Actions:

Determine how feedback from the assessment sessions could be shared with participating athletes, and improve the briefings around subsequent days to enable greater transparency between athletes, parents, coaches and assessment teams

13. Volunteer Awards

over the next few weeks planning for 22/23 would commence. This year is very much moving back to face to face awards evenings.

A varied approach will be important to recognise new volunteers, those who have provided service for a long period and also those who work in different areas of athletics/running.

Resolved and Actions

MD and AD to work with RA on refining the awards

14. AOB

Future agenda topics

EC members to notify the Chair and EC Secretary of any future agenda topics as soon as possible

Whole Council Conference followed by Hall of Fame Awards

15th October at the Hilton Metropole, NEC, Birmingham B40 1PP.

Facilities/Competition/Licensing

officials' courses were only being offered virtually and when a course was fully booked it 'dropped' off the website making it appear as though no courses are being offered and no further date options were being published.

Resolved and Actions:

EC Chair to compile the feedback on availability and structure of training and send to CJ for consideration – Action: JS

Meeting closed at 3:35pm

Next Meeting: 20th April 2022 – venue HQ Birmingham 11-3pm

.....Chair
Approved 20/04/2022