
Minutes of the 4th Meeting: 8 May 2001

Culture Media and Sport Select Committee – Third Report: Staging International Sporting Events (UKSC 23 2001)

- N- Parliamentary Select Committees keep a watching brief on the work of individual Government departments. The Select Committee for Culture, Media & Sport has shown a keen interest in major international sports events in recent years. The Council noted the report arising from the Committee's latest inquiry into the subject.

Minutes of the MESG (UKSC 24 2001)

2001 Commonwealth Target Shooting Championships

The Major Events Steering Group (MESG) has responsibility for considering and making recommendations to full Council on major events policy and applications to the Lottery-funded World Class Events Programme

- O- Acknowledging the importance of holding test events ahead of major Games or Championships, Council endorsed the recommendation of MESG to make a conditional award of up to £34,342 towards the 2001 Commonwealth Target Shooting Federation Championships.
- P- Council also
- PKN- endorsed the MESG's recommendation about the funding of a major research project being undertaken by UK Sport to evaluate the sports development impact of the 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester; and
- PKO- approved the appointment of Gavin Fletcher of the Lawn Tennis Association as a new MESG member.

Women in Sport

All five Sports Councils in the UK are committed to the development of sport for women. While the Home Country Sports Councils tend to focus on grass roots sport in this respect, UK Sport is primarily concerned with the needs of women athletes at the high performance end of the spectrum. It also coordinates the UK's important contribution to the international women and sport movement.

- O- The Council considered a progress report on the Women and Sport Action Plan it had originally adopted in July 1999. In particular Members agreed to establish a UK Co-ordinating Group on Women and Sport, with representation drawn from across the sporting community to develop and monitor the implementation a UK wide strategy and to provide leadership and facilitate co-ordination across the home countries.

UK Awards Panel (UKSC 21 2001)

The UK Awards Panel has responsibility for considering and making recommendations to full Council on governing body funding policy and related applications for both Exchequer and Lottery grants. Over recent months the Panel has been undertaking a comprehensive review of the way in which it invests its funds in support of sports governing bodies and athletes. At the February Council meeting, four-year World Class Performance Programme awards were agreed for UK Sport's four Priority 1 sports – athletics, cycling, sailing and rowing. At the March meeting, Members agreed a range of awards for sports in the Council's Priority 2, 3 and 4 categories – and for the Paralympic sports. The Panel has also started to make awards from new funds provided by the Government specifically to support the "modernisation" of sports governing bodies – in other words, to ensure that governing bodies are operating on the basis of a sound policy framework and in accordance with the principles of effective corporate governance.

- R- In the light of the forthcoming Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, Members endorsed the recommendations of the Panel for packages of Lottery and Exchequer funding to:
- British Bobsleigh Association and the British Bob Skeleton Association (BBSA) (for the period 1 October to 30 September 2002)
 - British Ski and Snowboarding Federation (in main through to to 30 September 2002). This award included support for a customised programme for the outstanding British slalom skier, Alain Baxter.
- S- Council also agreed awards to
- British Badminton Olympic Committee for the period 1 April 2001 to 31 March 2005 (Lottery).
 - British Paraplegic Shooting Association for the period 1 July 2001 to 31 March 2002 (Lottery).
 - British Association of Sport and Exercise Sciences (BASES) for the period 1 April 2001 to 31 March 2002 (Exchequer)
- T- In respect of UK Competitors (UKC), the umbrella athlete representative organisation set up two years ago with UK Sport support, the Council rejected the Panel's recommendation of an award of £60,000 for Year 3 of UKC's operation plus a planning figure of £60,000 per annum for years 4 and 5. Members did not question the need for athletes to be empowered, or for a support structure to achieve this; rather they expressed doubts as to whether UKC represented the most cost-effective way of providing this support and suggested there might be scope for the kind of responsibilities being exercised by UKC to be taken up within existing structures. A Year 3 award for of £20,000 – as originally planned – was therefore approved, with the Chairman, Chief Executive and Director of Performance Services being mandated to meet with representatives of UKC to discuss the organisation's future role and funding needs.

Financial Arrangements for Anti-Doping

- U- Members considered a number of issues currently affecting the anti-doping programme, including:

=

- The escalating cost of test analysis, which is primarily the consequence of an increase in the number of substances on the IOC prohibited list
- The precise role and remit of an independent sports drug agency, the establishment of which had been strongly supported by governing bodies at a recent Anti-Doping Policy Governing Body Conference