



Minutes of the UK Sport Board Meeting held on 6th September 2006 at UK Sport

Present

Chair Sue Campbell

Attendees: **Members**
Nick Bitel
Julia Bracewell
Philip Carling
Chris Holmes
Rod Carr
Eric Saunders
Louise Martin
Nigel Walker

UK Sport Staff John Steele Chief Executive
Liz Nicholl Director, Performance
Neil Shearer Director, Corporate Services
John Scott International Director, Director
Drug Free Sport
Tim Hollingsworth Director of Policy &
Communications

In attendance Nicky Roche DCMS
Peter Smith Policy Advisor (Item 10.2)
Debbie Lye International Manager (Item
12)
Will Calvert Finance Manager (Item 11)

Board Secretary Aimee Wells UK Sport

1. Introduction and Apologies for Absence

Action

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

Chair extended a warm welcome to Nigel Walker who has joined the Board and thanked him for his presence at recent UK Sport events. Nicky Roche of DCMS was also welcomed to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Lord Patrick Carter and the Chair advised that Lord Carter would be leaving Sport England at the end of September. Nicky Roche commented that a recommendation for the replacement Chair was likely to be announced in the next 2 weeks.

2. Declaration of Interest

Members were reminded of the need to declare their interest in any transactions requiring a decision and to remove themselves from such decision making.

No conflicts of interest were declared.

3. Approval of Minutes

A Member had given advance notice of a re-wording of Item 8.5 to reflect the discussion and therefore the following amendment was inserted into the minutes.

'Members discussed the recent media reports focusing on the athletes from athletics who had not signed the Athlete Agreement introduced by their sport. Members supported the concept, it having been reported to the Board in 2004 that work was underway on NGB/Athlete Agreements, but it was noted the detail had not been shared with the Board and Members took issue with some of the Athletic specific amendments made by UKA'

Members asked for correction of typographical errors on Item 9.3 and Item 11.2, 1st paragraph.

Members queried whether the wording of Item 7 was sufficient to address the level of concern expressed regarding the BAC initiatives. Liz Nicholl advised she had already met with BAC to discuss the points raised by Board. She would be keeping in close touch with BAC planning and would update the Board accordingly.

The minutes from the meeting 25th July 2006 were then approved as an accurate record.

4. Matters Arising

No matters reported for discussion.

5. Executive Team Report

John Steele tabled the Executive Team Report and in particular highlighted the submission to DCMS by UK Sport of a report outlining our views on the role and positioning of the London Olympic Institute (LOI) beyond 2012. The Chair then advised that in order to ensure that this position properly reflected the opinion of all the Sports Councils, a new version of the document would be circulated to HSCSs for approval prior to being submitted to DCMS and also direct to the ODA (following a request from its CEO).

Board members requested to receive the report for information. It was also suggested that the consultants working on the LOI project (on behalf of the BOA) should speak directly to the Performance Directors for Olympic sports to get their perspective.

Performance

- Liz Nicholl explained that the TASS consultation on future strategy would be circulated to stakeholders in October and submitted as an item for the November Board agenda.
- The Performance Team has been working with EIS Regional Managers and sports to identify the additional sports science and sports

medicine services needed to support their performance programmes. As more sports request more sport specific services the funding model is moving to a full time equivalent basis. An EIS charging structure has been agreed and UKS is managing the funding adjustments required between sports and EIS.

- The UK Wide Talent Strategy group meets again this week. This group is in place to ensure strong connectivity and coordination of various “talent” initiatives across the sporting landscape.
- Four new Talent Identification (TID) positions are being created as part of UK Sport’s Fast-track/Intern programme for Sports Scientists to upskill them to fill the gap in expertise within the performance system.
- R&I – The work on developing a relationship with EPSRC (Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council) has finally come to fruition. EPSRC will be providing funds of up to £1.5M to support these initiatives over the next 2-3 years. The Chair added that a meeting with the Chair of all five Research Councils is scheduled for 3rd October.

Communications and Policy

- Tim Hollingsworth reported that, following its investigation into three complaints received from athletes regarding UK Sport’s response to the Data Protection Act, the ICO has concluded its enquiry. While it has found that UK Sport is likely to have contravened the Sixth Data Protection Principle it has accepted that there were mitigating circumstances and the Act needed clarification. The ICO believes that all complainants have now been sent the personal data they are entitled to, and is adequately assured of UK Sport’s procedures and does not intend taking further action.
- Virgin Flying Start Programme – Tim Hollingsworth advised that 395 flights had been booked since the partnership began with 75% receiving upgrades and 75% being granted lounge access. This represented a total saving of c.£200,000 to Olympic and Paralympic sports. The sport with the largest use of the discounts was sailing. Members queried why only 75% had lounge access and were advised UKS would look into this.

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6. Board Events Calendar

Members noted paper UKS 51 2006.

7. Performance

7.1 2012 Update

Liz Nicholl tabled an update showing Olympic sport performance against 2006/7 targets to date. Discussion focused on those sports that had missed their medal or top 8 targets.

Shooting missed its medal targets but achieved a record number of quota places. A programme and athlete review is underway.

It was noted that a review of the trampolining programme is also underway to address performance concerns.

Judo narrowly missed its 4-8th place target but achieved the medal target. The main challenges for judo are coaching and the relocation of its main training base.

Triathlon whilst only having 1 finish in the 4-8th place positions, they did

achieve their medal target by winning gold in the mens elite race, In addition they won gold in all both U23 and junior male age groups at the World Championships.

Wrestling failed to meet its top 4-8 target but there are signs of performance improvement. They have recently appointed a new Performance Director and have a new 2012 plan in place.

There are still governance issues with weightlifting and basketball.

Chair queried how proactive the sports were being in seeking to recruit quality coaching staff and Liz Nicholl reassured Members that the Performance Team was supporting sports with World Class recruitment and examples of good practice were being shared.

Members expressed concern that although a sport like Athletics achieved its met medal targets, the public perception was that the overall performances were poor and so questioned whether the targets were too easy. Liz Nicholl advised that this was a 'stretch' target and the annual targets for all sports were shared with the Board in July. They have to be stretching, realistic and show progress towards the Beijing goals and then on to 2012. Athletics was a sport still 'suffering' from high profile retirements and a limited throughput of talent. There are however signs of young talent coming through – indicated by the average age of the strong performers at the European Championship and the results at the World Junior level.

Members queried whether athletes who cannot take place in the 2012 Olympics should be included in the annual targets. This, and related funding policies, would be reviewed and brought to the next meeting for discussion.

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Members noted that the report was very useful and it was agreed that this format should be used for updates at each Board meeting.

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A similar reporting process will be introduced for Paralympic sports from next year though it must be recognised that international competition results are a limited measure of progress towards medals in Beijing.

7.2 SDRP

Liz Nicholl took Members through paper UKS 52 2006 advising on the status of SDRP to date.

Members noted the report, expressed support for the SDRP concept as a national mediation and dispute resolution service but questioned the extent of their relationship with athletes and Governing Bodies and their ability to deliver.

Liz Nicholl advised that SDRP have been challenged by staff changes but now under the leadership of the new Executive Director there was an opportunity for it to consolidate and develop its role. The purpose scope and positioning of the research project, previously reported to Board, aimed at helping SDRP define its future priorities would now be revisited. Members requested, and it was confirmed, that the review would address value for money.

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7.3 UK Sport CPD Programme

Liz Nicholl introduced paper UKS 53 2006.

Members debated the initiatives detailed in the paper and noted that they were significant pieces of work.

Acknowledging the accelerated level of recruitment to existing and new World Class programmes, Members supported the proposed World Class Orientation programme and the employment of a HR Advisor to support NGB's. Concerns were however expressed about the proposed appointment of consultants to undertake a strategic assessment of the deployment, development and management of human capital within the UK high performance system. It was also felt important that any intelligence gathered from this project would remain the intellectual property of UK Sport.

The possibility of employing an in-house HR specialist in addition to the previously mentioned was debated and Members agreed this would be the preferable option. Liz Nicholl agreed to carefully consider the Board preference when progressing the project. Philip Carling, Julia Bracewell and Rod Carr offered to be sounding boards in taking this forward.

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8. Drug Free Sport

8.1 Athlete Whereabouts System

John Scott verbally updated members on this item due to the recent media interest following a high profile athletics case. He noted that this area of the Anti-Doping code is open to interpretation with variations across sports in both sanctions and the period for which missed tests stand. For example, the IAAF interprets this rule as 3 missed tests over 5 years whilst the majority of IFs and UK Sport adhere to 3 missed tests over an 18 month period. As governing bodies are expected to fall in line with their International Federations this creates some discrepancies in sports and can deem the system unfair.

John Scott thanked the Board for their strong support of the policy and noted that the media had endorsed our approach very positively. In the 5 days following the recent media coverage, there was a 300% increase in athletes updating their whereabouts on the system. Members queried the process for reporting missed tests and were informed that both the athlete and the governing body are informed of a missed test. Although UK Sport is working with sports to educate athletes, the responsibility also lies with the governing body to monitor their performance and use their influence to remind and chase athletes to update whereabouts. Members felt that governing bodies should take on a more active role in supporting their athletes with the system.

Members questioned the appeals process after 3 missed tests and under what circumstances 'exceptional circumstances could be applied to not counting a missed test. John Scott outlined the process that was followed. It was also suggested that UK Sport use the current high profile momentum to follow up with athletes and governing bodies on the importance of taking whereabouts seriously.

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It was noted that for a first and second sanction for a missed test violation funding was suspended for the period of suspension. If an athlete had a third violation for missed test then a lifetime ban ensued

Members expressed concern that athletes banned from Olympic representation were contributing to medal targets through World and European events and asked Performance to review this for future discussions.

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9. International / Major Events

9.1 Major Events Panel Minutes

Members received paper UKS 54 2006 and approved the following recommendations:

2008 ICF Flatwater Racing World Cup

That UK Sport provide in-principle support for the BCU's application for the Flatwater Sprint World Cup 2008, with the following conditions added:

- ***Before the BCU proceed to bid, they should obtain UK Sport approval of the event budget.***
- ***In-principle support was not given for the event in 2009.***

2009 Modern Pentathlon World Championships

That UK Sport provide a grant contribution of up to £664,000 towards the staging of the World Modern Pentathlon Championships 2008, with the following conditions added:

- ***£107,000 is to be held as a contingency which can only be drawn down against eligible items of expenditure with prior approval from UK Sport.***
- ***A further £115,000 is to be held as a ring fenced contingency, and only to be used if the Electronic Shooting Range becomes an absolute requirement of UIPM. The pulley system is to be used in all other circumstances.***
- ***Written confirmation must be received that the event is underwritten by MPAGB or other body approved by UK Sport.***

Members also noted the following awards made by authority delegated by the Board:

- ***that UK Sport provide a grant of up to £75,000 towards the staging of the World Track Cup Classic 2007.***
- ***that UK Sport provide a grant of up to £90,000 towards the staging of the World Cross Country Championships, 2008.***
- ***that UK Sport provide a grant contribution of up to £113,000 towards the staging of the World Olympic Taekwondo Qualification Tournament 2007 (with £20,000 of the award to be ringfenced for WTF flights and accommodation).***

Members were also informed by the Chair of the Major Events Panel that UK Sport had lost its recent bid for the World Triathlon Championships to Budapest.

9.2 UK Sport Policy on Multiple Home Country Bids

Nick Bitel took members through paper UKS 55 2006. He advised that current policy is that where there are competing bids from more than one home country for an event, UKS does not support any bid. However, this could harm the chances of home grown talent winning medals at UK based events. Following a review by officers, the Major Events Panel has recommended a change to the current policy. Members were reminded that there needed to be a policy in place regarding supporting Major Events as it concerned the distribution of lottery funding.

He highlighted point 23 of the paper where if more than one bid meets the quality threshold set in place by the Major Events Panel, there is no strategic reason why multiple bids cannot be supported. The new policy reflects the sport focus of the WCEP and the current strategy.

Members supported the recommendations in principle but asked that the Panel revisit some of the practicalities of its implementation. Further, Members noted the concern from SportScotland that bringing major events to Scotland is high on the political agenda. It was felt that any change in policy needed to be shared with EventScotland and the Scottish Executive to ensure the relationship with UKS and Scotland is maintained.

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10. Policy

10.1 Commercial Sponsorship & 2012

Members received paper UKS 56 2006. Before discussion, Nicky Roche highlighted the Department's satisfaction with UK Sport's active and creative engagement so far in considering ways to raise the additional £100 million for 2012. She also stressed that, while it was necessary for UK Sport to input into consideration of any sponsorship solutions prior to the Chancellor's pre-budget report in November/December, and that any proposals taken forward to the Treasury would be in a joint report from DCMS and UK Sport, the ultimate responsibility to raise the money would not rest with UK Sport. It was not our role and the Department was anxious not to dilute our performance responsibilities.

Having been appraised of the current sponsorship situation, Members debated the three 'creative' options put before them for raising £100 million, recognising the need for them to remain confidential at this stage. While there was general support for all three options, a number of significant caveats were raised on all three, and in particular Option 1, with one member wishing to record that he would not be content if it were pursued. Another member stated clearly that he would not support any option if it were to become the case that UK Sport were asked to manage or run them.

On this basis, the Board agreed that all three options should be moved forward to the next stage of development by DCMS, subject to the caveats raised and with the objections of specific members as registered above.

10.2 Independent Appeals Process

Tim Hollingsworth outlined the items for decision in paper UKS 57 2006 and Members agreed the following recommendations.

- ***that the Board endorse the policy on appeals***
- ***that the Board endorse the SDRP as the provider of the independent Chair of the appeals panel on the basis of one lead person appointed for a fixed term to provide some security of tenure***
- ***that the Board endorse the SDRP providing the administrative service with the appeals panel to comprise nominated Sports Council members with an SDRP recruited independent chair:***
- ***that the Board endorse the additional ground of appeal for***

UKNADP based appeals

- *that the Board endorse the respective grounds of appeal – Annex 1*
- *that the Board endorse the creation as required and at short notice of a three-person UK Sport appeals panel to consider appeals against decisions made by UK Sport officers under delegated authority.*

11. Corporate Services

11.1 Finance Report

Will Calvert presented an overview of Paper UKS 58 2006 for information. Members noted the information.

A presentation was then given to members regarding risks to national lottery income and UK Sport's reliance on these funds.

12. International Relations Presentation

Members received a presentation from Debbie Lye on UK Sport's International Relations work.

13. AOB

Board meeting dates for 2007 were discussed and Aimee Wells is to circulate these for agreement.

Details of training courses for Board Members received from CIPFA (Chartered Institute for Public Finance and Accountancy) were circulated. Members are to advise Aimee Wells if they wish to attend.

It was agreed that the next meeting on November 21st would be extended to an away-day to be held at an external location, with the possibility of presentation/visits from external key partners. Details to be circulated to members.

As there was not further business the meeting closed at 1320

14. Date of Next Meeting

The next Board meeting will take place on the 21st November 1000-1600 at a venue to be decided.