
Minutes of the 6th Meeting: 13 November 2000

Annual Accounts

- 1 The Council received the annual accounts for 1999/2000. Acknowledging that the presentation of the accounts was taking place later in the year than normal, Members noted that this delay was in part the result of technicalities surrounding the transfer of Lottery funds from the Home Country Sports Councils and the funding of the UKSI team.

World Class Performance Programme reviews

In the aftermath of the Sydney Olympics, a number of reviews of the "world class" performance system are currently underway or planned. UK Sport, in conjunction with the British Olympic Association is conducting an Olympic debrief programme with individual sports. The Government's Strategy Implementation Group is due to report at the end of November, and the Prime Minister has set up an Elite Sport Funding Review led by Dr Jack Cunningham MP. Meanwhile the Sports Cabinet had advised UK Sport to plan on the basis that £25 million pa. would be available for the future World Class Performance Programme, though a decision had yet to be made about precisely how these funds would be delivered.

- 2 The Council acknowledged that a key issue emerging from these and other discussions was that athletes of equal talent should receive comparable support across the UK – an objective which, to be achieved, was likely to require some revisions to the different funding programmes of the individual Sports Councils. Although the Cunningham Review had a brief to address similar issues, Members considered that UK Sport needed to continue as normal while the review was in progress and subsequently agreed a set of principles designed to bring about greater coherence and consistency in the support of UK/GB-level teams and squads, subject to further detail being determined by the Chief Officers of the Sports Councils.

UK Awards Panel: Report of Meeting held on 23 October 2000

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.

- 3 The Council received a report on the completion of the Panel's review, the results of which took into account sports' performance at the Sydney Olympics. Members subsequently endorsed the Panel's recommended new sports prioritisation plan and associated funding allocations for the Olympic sports, while noting that final decisions had yet to be taken on the Paralympic sports, still competing in Sydney at the time of discussions.
- 4 Members endorsed the following Exchequer funding recommendations of the Panel en bloc as a means of assisting the organisation to concentrate on implementing the new Lottery processes and procedures, and developing and assessing programmes with governing bodies for awards from 1 April 2001:

Sport	Next award Period
Archery	01/11/00-31/10/01
Athletics	01/01/01-31/12/01
Badminton	01/04/01-31/03/02
British Blind Sport	01/01/01-31/12/01
Canoeing	01/01/01-31/12/01
Caving	01/09/01-31/08/02
Cycling	01/01/01-31/12/01
Gymnastics (incl BSGA)	01/04/01-31/10/01
Hang/Paragliding	01/01/01-31/12/01
Ice Skating	01/03/01-28/02/02
Judo	01/04/01-31/03/02
Modern Pentathlon	01/04/01-31/03/02
Motorcycling	01/01/01-31/12/01
Mountaineering	01/01/01-31/12/01
Orienteering	01/01/01-31/12/01
Parachuting	01/07/01-30/06/02
Rowing	01/04/01-31/03/02
Sailing	01/04/01-31/03/02
Triathlon	01/04/01-31/03/02
Waterskiing	01/11/00-31/10/01
Weightlifting	01/01/01-31/12/01
Wrestling	01/01/01-31/12/01

- 5 Two separate Exchequer funding awards were also made to the British Deaf Sports Council, one of which represented a contribution towards the costs of preparing and sending a team to the World Deaf Games.

Olympic and Paralympic Anti-Doping Programme

Given its responsibilities for carrying out drug tests "in the public interest", UK Sport naturally attaches great importance to the testing of British athletes in the run-up to the Olympic Games. The Sydney Olympic and Paralympic drug testing programme as administered by UK Sport continued up to the point where athletes entered the Games Village, taking into account reporting times where possible. Members received a report outlining UK Sport's testing programme. It also contained some observations about the overall arrangements and outcomes of the testing programmes undertaken by various other agencies involved during the preparation period for the Games and at the Games themselves, including the Australian Sports Drug Agency and the World Anti-Doping Agency.

- 6 The main issue arising from the report concerned the jurisdiction of certain governing bodies for managing the test results of disabled athletes. There was general concern that some Paralympians who had received Lottery funding did not come within the jurisdiction of the testing programme. Members accepted the report, noting that meetings were being arranged with those governing bodies which had not been prepared to assume responsibility for the testing of disabled athletes. Members also said they expected that the requirements of adherence to the standards in the Council's Statement of Anti-Doping Policy would in any case ensure these types of constitutional issues were addressed by December 2001.

Report of the Major Events Steering Group held on 24 October 2000

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

- 7 Members noted that MESH had recently taken the opportunity to visit some of the new facilities being developed for the 2002 Commonwealth Games and to meet some of the operational Games staff. MESH considers that the Manchester Games, plus the 2003 World Indoor Athletics Championships in Birmingham and the 2005 World (Outdoor) Athletics Championships in London will together demonstrate the extent to which the UK can be regarded as a major player in terms of event organisation and management, and will be keeping a watching brief on the planning of each project.
- 8 Subject to a number of conditions being met, Members endorsed the recommendation of the Major Events Steering Group in respect of financial support for the 2001 World Senior Amateur Boxing Championships (Belfast). They also noted
- 8.1 that an application in respect of the 2001 World Modern Pentathlon Championships (Millfield School) would be considered by MESH in December
- 8.2 that an application in respect of the 2003 Junior European Swimming and Diving Championships (Glasgow/Edinburgh) had been remitted to sportscotland
- 9 In acknowledgement of recent press reports about the financing of the 1999 European Show Jumping Championships (Hickstead), Members were made aware that UK Sport had not yet closed the accounts concerning the event and that the overall level of payment to be made to British Show Jumping Association had not yet been finalised.

Other Business

- 10 Members endorsed the appointment of Paul Pruszyński, former Vice-Chair of the British Olympic Association, to the International Committee.
- 11 Members also reaffirmed that, in the absence of a unanimous view among the five Sports Councils and in accordance with the existing inter-Council protocol, darts was not an activity recognised by the Sports Councils.