



**Minutes of the UK Sport Board Meeting held  
on 27 June 2018  
at  
UK Sport, 21 Bloomsbury Street, WC1B 3HF**

**Present**

**Chair** Dame Katherine Grainger

**Attendees:** Lis Astall  
Nick Bitel  
Mel Young  
Nicky Roche  
John Dowson  
Sarah Springman  
Annie Panter  
Martyn Worsley

John Steele English Institute of Sport  
Andrew Honeyman DCMS

**UK Sport Staff** Liz Nicholl Chief Executive  
Simon Morton Chief Operating Officer  
Chelsea Warr Director of Performance  
Vanessa Wilson Director of Commercial & Communications  
Jonathan Bennetts Acting Director of Finance, Investment &  
Business Services

Krystle Fonyonga General Counsel

Paul Buxton (Item 8.1 and 8.2) Head of Performance Investment Policy  
Ian Robinson (item 8.2) Head of Corporate Strategy  
Esther Britten (items 8.3 and 9.1) Head of Major Events

**Board Secretary** Jordana Wicks

## **1. Introduction and Apologies for Absence**

**ACTION**

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting, in particular, new member Martyn Worsley, and noted apologies from Sally Bolton.

## **2. Declarations of Interest**

Members were reminded of the need to declare their interest in any items and to remove themselves from such decision making. SS flagged a conflict on item 8.3 regarding Triathlon, JS on item 8.1 regarding Short Track Speed Skating and Bobsleigh, MY on item 8.1 regarding sportsotland and Curling/Wheelchair Curling. NB and AP declared an interested in anything related to UEFA Euro 2020 and UEFA Women's Euro 2021.

## **3. Chair's Introductory Remarks**

The Chair updated that Sport NI and Sport Wales appointees to the Board are still yet to be confirmed by the Secretary of State. At the last meeting, Board expressed discomfort with the fact that these two Home Country Sport Councils (HCSCs) have not been represented on the Board for some time and asked if observer status could be granted in the interim of formal appointment. LN updated that this had been revisited with the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) in the context of the important strategic planning for the Paris cycle, for which full home nation engagement on issues of UK wide strategic interest would be important. DCMS had responded that observer status would not be permitted as it could be seen to undermine the appointment process. It was advised that in the meantime, outreach work should be continued. Board accepted this but requested that representatives are invited to future Strategy discussion sessions (held apart from formal Board meetings) as a way to meaningfully engage them in the interim.

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The Chair went on to update Board on the Public Consultation launch, a Staff Brief Board Panel session planned for 4 September and to remind members of the next Paris Strategy Planning dinner and workshop taking place the following week.

## **4. Approval of the Minutes**

With a minor amendment to be made regarding when a member left the meeting, the minutes of the meeting of 15 May 2018 were approved as a true record of the meeting.

## **5. Matters Arising and Executive Team Report**

JB reported that UKS had sought out 'lessons learned' from a recent cyber security incident at one of its stakeholders and would be sharing these with other stakeholders.

LN referred the Board to the action log and provided updates on the items that were not already on the agenda to be addressed at this meeting. This included confirmation of the Panels that the most recently recruited Board Members had been appointed to; Annie Panter (English Institute of Sport - EIS) and Martyn Worsley (Audit Committee and Eligibility Sub Committee). It was agreed that details of two potential independent members of the Eligibility Sub Committee would be circulated to members after the meeting for feedback and approval.

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LN explained that there had been no Executive Team Report this time

round given the short timeframe since the last one had been produced.

## **6. Updates from HCSCs**

MY (sportsotland) and NB (Sport England) updated on recent progress and challenges.

A concern was raised on capital investment into facilities projects and future planning to reflect the needs of the system.

## **7. Finance Update**

LN gave some context to this paper, outlining UK Sport's current financial position and alerted Board to the fact that budgets are very tight due, in part, to the absorption of critical new areas such as culture, sport integrity and increasing mega event work. LN added that the important outputs from the Mental Health Steering Group would also have resource implications and that she had alerted DCMS.

LN updated on discussions regarding funding for British Basketball with DCMS. A member expressed concern around the channelling of such funds through UKS and this was acknowledged by AH.

Discussion was had on the UKS staff pension scheme and JB advised that at present, any potential future change is just at an exploratory stage with LPFA.

### **8.1 Beijing Investment**

JS temporarily left the meeting during a discussion regarding Short Track Speed Skating and Bobsleigh owing to conflicts.

MY temporarily left the meeting during the discussion on Curling on the basis that SportScotland is currently the award recipient of the Curling and Wheelchair Curling WCP.

CW and Paul Buxton guided Board through this item, in which they were required to make decisions on the recommended Beijing Investment levels. Following lengthy and very detailed discussion, scrutiny and challenge on each area, Board agreed investment in line with the published policy i.e. investment in Priority Band 1-3 sports, proposed transition arrangements for Priority Band 4 sports and a Medal Support Plan as follows:

- Based on assessing future medal potential, World Class Programme (WCP) investment to be made into the three Olympic sports of Ski and Snowboard (WCP award of £5.25m and Athlete Performance Awards (APAs) with an approximate value of £1.5m) Skeleton WCP award of up to £6.4m and APAs with an approximate value of £0.8m) and Curling (WCP award of £5.05m and APAs with an approximate value of £1.3m) and the Paralympic sport of Para Ski and Snowboard (WCP award of £2.5m and APAs with an approximate value of £1.0m)). Board approved the recommended investment into Skeleton (subject to further budget scrutiny) but did not reach a decision on the organisation through which the funding for the WCP should be routed. Board provided feedback on the proposed reform of British Bobsleigh & Skeleton Association (BBSA) and it was agreed that an options analysis be progressed by the Executive for further consideration by the Board. Thereafter, a conference call will be scheduled to enable the Board

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- to discuss and agree the investment route
- As Priority Band 4 sports are currently unaffordable (based on the total available budget across the Summer and Winter sports), the world class programmes of Bobsleigh, Figure Skating, Wheelchair Curling and Short Track Speed Skating will be transitioned off funding. Board agreed that an investment of £1.19m should be set aside to fund an extended transition phase for these sports, and delegated the responsibility to the executive team to determine how this budget would be allocated. Sports would be given the opportunity to make a case for support during the annual review process should there be an improvement in their performance levels.
- Short Track Speed Skating world champion Elise Christie to be offered a Medal Support Plan (MSP) with the investment managed by the EIS (given her significant and consistent world level success in the PyeongChang cycle). This is consistent with the approach applied to the summer sports of Badminton, Climbing and Karate for Tokyo 2020. The executive were asked to work through a proposal with Short Track, seeking opportunities to reduce the proposed award amount.

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The plans for handling the communication of these decisions was then outlined.

## **8.2 Paris Planning**

Ian Robinson and Paul Buxton reminded Board of where they are on the timeline for Paris Strategy Planning and referenced the Strategy dinner and workshop taking place the following week. This was in addition to key activity taking place over the summer including workshops, think tanks and athlete engagement. Board requested that they are advised of any emerging themes from these.

LA left the meeting.

## **8.3 Recommendations of the Major Events Panel**

SS left the meeting owing to a conflict on Triathlon.

Board considered recommendations on three Triathlon events as part of the Performance Events Programme:

- World Triathlon Series 2019, Leeds (£300k)
- World Triathlon Mixed Team Relay 2019, Nottingham (£150k)
- World Triathlon Series 2020, Leeds (£294k)

Esther Britten summarised the Major Event Panel's recommendations (including confirmation that the proposed investments were in line with strategy and budget, and had performance merit). Board discussed a range of issues connected principally to the proposed investment levels, sustainability, and the commercial performance of the events.

Subject to the conditions outlined in the paper, Board approved the proposed funding to British Triathlon for the World Triathlon Series 2019 and the World Triathlon Mixed Team Relay 2019. Board supported the aspiration to support the World Triathlon Series in 2020 but this would be subject to further review by the Major Events Panel after the 2019 events.

SS returned to the meeting.

## **8.4 UK Sport Group Annual Report and Accounts 2017/18**

JB stated that Board is required annually to approve the Annual Report and Accounts for the past financial year and confirmed that they should be approved by the Chair and CEO. He confirmed that the UKS and EIS reports and accounts had already been approved by the UKS Group Audit Committee and Yorkshire 2019's by theirs. He also confirmed that, in line with normal practice, Ministerial clearance has been received in advance. With some suggested minor amendments and comments for the future acknowledged (including Board having sight of a draft version at an earlier stage), Board approved the Annual Reports and Accounts.

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JD (Chair of Audit Committee) placed on record his thanks to the finance team and to JB in particular for his excellent work as Acting Director of FLIBS in what could be his last Board meeting in this capacity.

It was noted that the UK Sport Group Annual Report and Accounts would be published by the National Audit Office on 12 July 2018.

### **8.5 UK Sport KPIs with DCMS**

LN referred to a paper Board had received outlining the provisional UKS/DCMS 2018/19 KPIs. It was explained that these reflected what has typically been agreed with DCMS for previous years, with an additional KPI added on culture. Following some discussion and feedback on certain areas, Board agreed the KPIs.

### **8.6 UK Sport Group Audit Committee Annual Report and Terms of Reference 2017/18**

Board were asked to note the UK Sport Group Audit Committee Annual Report and approve the Terms of Reference for 2017/18, which they were content to do.

### **9.1 Growth of UK Sport's Events Role**

Esther Britten returned to the meeting for this item focussed on how UK Sport's role has been evolving as the agency responsible (to DCMS) for bidding and hosting international sporting events. In particular it was noted that the size and scale of events that UK Sport has been supporting has been increasing, especially with regards to 'mega events'.

An initial and positive discussion was held to explore the Board's view on the future direction of this work, particularly in light of parallel discussions regarding future high performance strategy.

AH stated that DCMS recognises the expertise within UK Sport's Events Team, and would welcome a discussion on formalising the relationship and ways of working together around mega events, in addition to considering how any spending review submission might more visibly reflect the future opportunity to host events. Nicky Roche (Chair of Major Events Panel) expressed that it would be good to involve the Panel in future discussions on this subject.

### **9.2 Strategic Communications Planning**

VW updated Board on the Media Day on Culture and Duty of Care (16 May 2018) and on the launch of the Public Consultation on future strategy. VW reported that around 1000 responses had so far been received and gave a snapshot in time of the current high level findings around some of the questions posed.

VW went on to present the media analysis from the period, which included volume, favourability and reach of UK Sport's media coverage, as well as an 'end of year report' on the Public Attitudes Tracking work that the team had commissioned comparing trends over the last 12 months.

## **10. Information Papers**

The Chair referred Board to a list of information papers they had received and members were given opportunity to raise any questions on these papers:

- UKSINFJUN181 – VMOST Mission Control
- UKSINFJUN182 – EIS and Yorkshire 2018 Annual Report and Accounts
- UKSINFJUN183 – UK Sport Risk Register – it was agreed that this should be reviewed by Board at least once a year
- UKSINFJUN184 – International Relations Investment Annual Review
- UKSINFJUN185 – Major Events Update

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Minutes:

- Major Events Panel – 13 June 2018

Wholly Owned Subsidiary Minutes:

- EIS Board – 3 May 2018
- Yorkshire 2019 Board – 8 May 2018

AP left the meeting.

## **11. Any other business**

With no other business, the meeting ended at 16.00pm.

**Date of next meeting: 26 September 2018**