



**Minutes of the UK Sport Board Meeting held
on 13 February 2024
Hilton Canary Wharf, London**

Present

Chair Dame Katherine Grainger

Attendees: Mel Young
Chris Boardman
Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson
George Lucas
Sally Bolton
Annie Panter
Martyn Worsley
Ismail Amla
Rachel Baillache
Fatima Jalloh Board Apprentice
Anna Watkins CEO, British Elite Athlete Association (item 9.1)

Observers: John Dowson UK Sports Institute
Ben Dean DCMS

Apologies: Chris Pilling
Rupen Shah
Simon Morton

UK Sport Staff: Sally Munday Chief Executive
Esther Britten Head of Events (Deputising for Simon Morton)
Sophie Du Sautoy Director of Business Services
Kate Baker Director of Performance (virtual)
Naomi Angell-Hicks Director of Engagement and External Affairs
Ian Robinson Deputy Director Strategy & Operational Excellence
Krystle Sargent General Counsel
Nigel Holl Project Lead, Sport Org (item 8.1)
Joanna Jones UK Sport Coaching and Athlete Support Lead (item 9.1)
Alex Stacey Head of People (item 9.2)
Trixie Marchant Senior EDI Advisor (item 9.2)

Board Secretary: Jo Curtis EA to CEO
Jordana Wicks EA to Chair (minutes)

1. Introduction and Apologies for Absence

The Chair formally opened the meeting.

Apologies were noted from CP, RS and SMO. EB joined the meeting on behalf of SMO.

KB joined the meeting virtually.

The Chair gave a particular welcome to Ben Dean (Director, Sport and Gambling at the DCMS) who is to attend meetings whilst Adam Conant is on parental leave and to Fatima Jalloh, who joins as a Board Apprentice for the year through the Levelling Up Department's Boardroom Apprentice Programme.

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 when required.

The following additional conflicts were noted beyond the usual conflicts that have been formally declared.

- AP – item 7.1 concerning the European Athletics Championships 2024

3. Chair's Introductory Remarks

The Chair formally opened the meeting and her introductory remarks included updates on:

- Recent annual Chair appraisal with DCMS
- The Secretary of State's recent visit to Bath's Elite Training Centre
- The first meeting of the EDI Advisory Panel
- Confirmation that CP and IA have been granted a second term on Board
- Confirmation that MW will be taking on the role of Board Welfare and Safety Lead.

Board approved the annual reviews of the:

- **Board Terms of Reference**
- **Group Audit and Risk Committee Terms of Reference**
- **UK Coaching 2024/25 award**

Board also approved the NGB status of British Biathlon Union.

4. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 13 December 2023 were approved as a true record of the meeting.

5. Matters Arising and Executive Team Report

SMu introduced the Executive Team Report, with the following updates given verbally on:

- Commonwealth Games 2026, with BD giving a DCMS update
- An Eligibility case regarding Toni Minichiello, where UK Sport had convened an appeal panel to consider whether TM should be eligible to receive Public Funding and/or Publicly Funded Benefits. KS gave Legal context and a view
- Notification of an ITV documentary being aired on Gymnastics
- Culture updates on some sports.

6. Updates from HCSCs, DCMS and UKSI

The Wales, Northern Ireland, England and Scotland HCSC Chairs and UKSI and DCMS Observers gave updates from their organisations.

7. Inspire Positive Change

7.1 Major Events Panel Recommendations

AP left the room for this item owing to a conflict of interest.

EB explained the rationale for recommending a UKS contribution to a 'rescue funding package' for the European Athletics Championships 2026, representing £250k of Major Event funding in the 25-28 cycle and a marginal increase in resource commitment. UKS has already committed £3m to the event.

The Major Events Panel Chair, SB, gave some additional context and a view.
Board discussed this (particularly around Local Authority investments generally) and approved the further UKS investment.

A member requested that the Board be advised of any other potential risk exposure with regards local authority investment into future events.

UKS

8. Keep Winning and Win Well

8.1 Sport Org Operations Plan

Nigel Holl (Sport Org Project Lead, seconded from British Curling) joined for this item aimed at helping Board to prepare for a final decision in March regarding the formation of Sport Org and ahead of investment decisions in December.

Board asked questions based on the paper that had been provided and had an in-depth discussion on various aspects of the operations plan. This included feedback on any major concerns with the positions that have been reached and anything missing that they would want to see in order to make a decision at the March Board meeting.

NH left the meeting.

The Board discussed whether they would be open to mandating routing future funding for a sport through Sport Org if there were not alternatives. It was agreed that decisions would need to be taken on a sport by sport basis.

9. Grow a Thriving Sporting System

9.1 BEAA Annual Report to UKS Board

Joanna Jones, UK Sport Coaching and Athlete Support Lead, joined the meeting and gave an update on the journey to date with the Athlete Support Strategy, as well as on UKS' relationship with the BEAA, to provide context to the BEAA's Annual Report.

The Chair then welcomed Anna Watkins (British Elite Athletes Association CEO) to present the BEAA's Annual Report. Key themes were around progress to date and a forward-Looking Strategy. Board asked questions around where the BEAA sees itself in 5 years' time, independence, assurance, what is being heard from athletes and some athlete transition opportunities.

9.2 UK Sport Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan

Alex Stacey (Head of People) and Trixie Marchant (Senior EDI Advisor) joined the meeting for discussion on UKS' updated Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) 2024/25 for Board approval, as mandated in the Code for Sport Governance.

They talked through areas of focus, progress so far and a timeline for next steps.

Board praised the clear and focused format and offered some challenge and suggestions before approving the DIAP.

IA reported on the first meeting of the EDI Advisory Group, which he Chairs. IA spoke of the need to shift the dial in this important area and for this group to lead on trying some things to make this happen.

10. Minutes and Information Papers

Board noted following minutes from the most recent Panel meetings:

- GARC – 4 December 2023
- MEP – 18 January 2024

11. Any other business

No further business was raised.

Date of next meeting: 20 March 2024

