



LONDON SPORTS BOARD

MINUTES

Sixth Meeting 2005

Held on Wednesday 30th November 2005 , 09:00 at Sport England, 3rd Floor, Victoria House, Bloomsbury Square, London, WC1B 4SE.

PRESENT:

Chairman
Philip Lewis

Members
Mr Alex Welsh
Prof Steve Hodgkinson
Ms Andree Deane
Ms Rosi Prescott
Ms Ros Potts
Mr Murad Qureshi
Mr Neil Taylor
Dr Colin King
Ms Paula Craig

Regional Director
Matthew Delaney

Officers
Mr Andy Sacha
Ms Melanie Rodrigues
Mr Roger Lewis
Ms Shirley Burgess – taking minutes

1 WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, and as this was the last meeting this year, he hope all would enjoy the festive season.
Apologies were received from Mr Mohni Gujral, Prof Sue Atkinson and Mr Mike McFarlane.
There were no declarations of interest.

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING:

Prof Hodkinson mentioned that the Black Minority Ethnic (BME) Sports Conference held on November 24 was well attended. The conference is to be used as a lead into research on the under representation of BME coaches at level 3 and above across the sector with support from SE (coaching lead officer) and Skills Active. This research will be conducted by the Martin Shaw King trust with funding from SE. It was noted that this is an area of real concern as the Football Association has recently employed 9 regional managers non of whom are from the BME community. Ros Potts raised the point that there was only 1 woman appointed.

Dr King then joined the meeting and mentioned that the conference provided an opportunity for attendees to voice their opinions on the current situation, and expressed his concerns about the development of BME women coaches.

The FA, Walsall Conference on 1st December would be addressing the issues.

London Youth Games: This is making steady and positive progress towards meeting Sport England's objectives.

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

3 Chairman's Report:

The chairman reported that a delegation from Beijing would be visiting us on 12 & 13 December. Members are invited to take part in the presentation and site visits over the two days.

ACTION: Shareena will be circulating the itinerary for the event.

The chairman and Mr R Lewis visited the London Federation for Sport and Recreation. They reiterated Sport England's mandate for community sport. There is a big recruitment drive for volunteers for 2012. They will be linking with our sub regions and promoting links with partners. He also went to CCPR lunch; they were presented with 2 Awards for Volunteering. He attended a dinner hosted by SE for a number of smaller NGBs including Basketball, Volleyball, Lacrosse.

The Chairman and the Regional Director visited the GLA and met with Peter Lewis and Neal Coleman to discuss Sport England's representation on the London Co-ordinating working group. It was proposed that SE would be the lead agency for community sport and the principal the conduit at Local Authority level.

It was suggested that London should have 2 representatives on the Nation and Regions group – 1 from Sport England and 1 from the London Development Agency. The co-ordinators group met on 9th November and was attended by Mr Sacha.

Recruitment for the Sub Regional director posts is underway; interviews are schedule to take place during the next two weeks. The 5 host agencies have been agreed.

4 Regional Director's Report:

The Regional Director reviewed the delivery plan report and reported that most items were on target. He explained that if we were unable to appoint 5 Sub Regional Directors that would impact on the 'fit for purpose' criteria and was red on the report for this reason.

There was some confusion on the targets for Multi Sports Hub, the original target was 1 but we promised to deliver 5, however we have already delivered 4 so are a head of the target at this time.

Restructure: he reported that staff was due for a briefing today at 13:00. He explained that due to the changes in the Sporting Landscape, EIS and Elite Sport moved to UK Sport along with £30m of funding which brought about the need for us to restructure. There will be a reduction of staff and this is anticipated to be borne mostly by the centre. He had been working closely with the action team responsible for ascertaining a consistent regional structure of 16 core staff members with additional staff appointed depending on the size of the region. The regions will have 3 divisions – Investment, Development and Performance & Improvement. Current staff will be matched to new post and where no match can be made that vacancy will go to open competition. Staff will know their individual situation by 15th December. There may be some disruption; hopefully this will be minimal.

ACTION: circulate information to the board including matching process.

5 NATIONS AND REGIONS:

Mr Sacha reported that the Nations and Regions (N&R) group was influential in the pre bid; Charles Allen was an excellent chair and will continue on. SE is concerned that Community Sport is followed through. There is no funding for legacy until after the games. The group met on 4th November, this was an opportunity to reinforce a nation wide way forward. It was agreed that London could have 2 members on the board. Also agreed that London will have a co-ordinator to act as conduit between LOCOG and N&R. Anticipates joint funded post between SE/LDA. There is concern about the number of groups around and the need to co-ordinate them. There is lots of expectation, so we need to shape the benefits of 2012. We should list the benefits for sport and physical activities in the regions and SE need to take a strategic lead on this and start delivering.

The sub regions will establish an initial 1year business plan from April 06 followed by a 7 year plan to take us beyond 2012

The GLA is a key part of the process and will use SE to deliver. SE has clearly stated its interest in legacy and community sport.

Mr Qureshi has agreed to be link between SE and the GLA and will report to the mayors office via Mr Neal Coleman and to the general assembly.

The SE Chair & CEO are currently waiting on the green light from DCMS. It is clear that London can't wait and need to start working on community legacy. SE will be taking the lead from January onwards gearing toward 2020, with the board keeping the strategic lead. Mr Sacha will be making a presentation to 2012 on 16th December.

Dr King queried the terminology in relation to BME and faith communities and asked where it had originated. The terminology was derived from the GLA/LDA community forum.

The Chairman suggested that a consistent message is maintained and we refer to the target group as BME communities in the context of sport.

ACTION: Mr Sacha to coordinate 2012 working group and group to have met before next board meeting.

6 Investment Sub Group:

Mr Sacha thanked the investment sub group who had met on the 24th and also Jonathan Bruck for putting the papers together.

The strategy presented to the board last meeting was adopted by the sub group subject to change as organisation policies changed.

The group discussed funding applications and all decisions agreed.

All papers will be circulated to board for comments prior to the sub group meetings. Applications have to be turn around in 8 weeks instead of the original 12 weeks so this will affect meeting schedules.

The board noted the significant investment into coaching through the Community Sports Coach Scheme and the excellent work by Mark Curtin the Community Sports Coach Scheme, Project Manager at London Active Partnership.

However, the position is that the Government Treasury department has changed its financial 'end of year flexibility' rules. This has had implications for the scheme particularly as coach appointments from recruitment do not all have April start dates.

As a result Sport England has been in the process of reviewing targets and budgets to liaise with DCMS as to what CSCS can now deliver to stay in the budget available. This was necessary due to DCMS rejecting Sport England's End of Year Flexibility (EYF) claim for 2003/04 and 2004/05. In order to retain financial control on an ongoing basis we will have to assume that EYF will not be available in the future. London region has been working with colleagues in finance to provide the necessary financial information.

Anne Green, National 'Sport England CSCS Project Lead' has put the current position to Regional Directors. This was signed off and subsequently has been sent to DCMS for consideration and sign off following reference to the Minister – Richard Caborn.

Demand has been high for the Community Sports Coach Scheme and we are currently looking at how we can build on this growing demand for coaches working in the community through alternative route.

We hope to have further guidance in December to confirm the regional position and an update from DCMS on the national target. This will affect our regional target.

This will be communicated to the board members through our regular email update.

7 Volunteering:

The Volunteering Infrastructure Development Paper was presented to the board and its contents noted

Members identified Rosi Prescott as the Champion to support the forthcoming consultation process on the "National Framework for Volunteering in Sport to 2020" and to support Sport England - London Region in preparing the way forward in terms of engaging key partners to steer the regions sport contribution to the Volunteer Hub work on the Volunteering England Regional Development Assemblies (yet to be established) through the establishment of a 'regional strategic steering group for sports volunteering' in London

8 Facilities & Investment Team Update:

Land Use Planning. We have a major issue in terms of resources. We cannot be pro active in order to attract investment.

Building Schools for the future programme will impact greatly on the regions resources. It was mentioned that at the recent BISL Conference – Minister Richard Caborn expressed his views in favour of losing grass to gain astro turf. It was also pointed out that SE is very important in the consultation process and carries weight among consultees.

Mr Qureshi mentioned that he was undertaking scrutiny of London Playing fields and would quite like some input from the board.

ACTION: Andy to arrange to meet with Murad regarding playing fields

Mr Sacha also reported that we had promised to deliver 5 multi sport hubs and have already delivered 4.

London Youth Games: have developed a good working relationship. Making progress although it's quiet slow.

Facilities brochure: Will be launched in the New Year.

9 Development Team Update:

Ms Rodrigues reported on:

Sub regions: A lot of work has gone into this area of delivery and thanks were expressed to all involved. 5 host agencies have been established and we are now in the process of recruiting the partnership directors. 22 applicants have been short-listed and there is a good mix of candidates. Interim chairs and host agencies will sit on the panels.

Advisors have been meeting with partners and the local authorities – the response has been positive. SE has engaged on a Pan London basis with NGBs and Youth Sport Trust, partnership development managers.

Board Representation

It is anticipated that there will be a quorate of 5 members to include (a neutral chair, LA, SSCO & NGB), then skills based members. Interim chairs are: Prof Hodgkinson, West; Ms Prescott, Central; Mr Welsh, East; Ms Potts, South and Mr Goulding, North (due to resign because of family commitment). Interim chairs term to be flexible to ensure stability and enable the sub regions to develop their profile and credibility. Once a suitable chair has been appointed a London Sports Board member will become an observer and work in partnership with the incoming chair to support the development of the board and partnership. Neil Taylor will take up the position of the Interim Chair for the North as of January 2006, to replace Ken Goulding.

The board would like to formally thank Ken and his commitment to establishing the sub regional partnerships particularly the North.

ACTION: Mr Sacha to organise meeting between Neil Taylor and Ken Goulding re handover.

Health: John Harkin, the 5 Olympic park borough physical activity coordinator has recently produced a report entitled 'you are here' which will be present at the next regional sports board meeting. Both the Co-ordinator for the Carphone Warehouse and the North Central Strategic Health Authority are due to take up their positions in December.

ACTION: MR to circulate contact names of newly appointed coordinators.

Local Gov performance agenda: Ian McNichol has delivered a series of workshops on the comprehensive performance assessment/culture block and the future impact on Local Authorities to Chief Leisure Officers. The sessions were also attended by the Sub Regional Sport and Physical Activity Advisors, to inform partners of the current development.

Equality Standard: The London Regional portfolio was provisionally assessed in October. The feedback was very good and will be used as a model of good practice for other regions. It is a requirement for the portfolio to profile both regional staff and RSB members.

ACTION: Members to return their equal opportunities questionnaire by the 23rd Dec.

The question was raised regarding the Race Equality standards and the targets that had been previously set for the NGBs. The new Standard is generic and will incorporate all target groups (disable people, women and girls and BME communities) it has emerged from the Race equality standards and will fall in line with the National proposal to develop one organisation to provide integrated equity support. NGB through their whole sport planning process will be expected to achieve The Standard and evidence provided can be no older than 1 year.

10 Any Other Business:

There was a general discussion regarding requests for information, meetings and training dates from the regional office and members were unsure as to whether they had responded

ACTION: Shareena to develop a weekly spreadsheet on the information required and an updated list of members who had responded.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed.