

Sport England Main Board

MINUTES

Fifth Meeting 2005

Held on Monday 5 September 2005 at 12.30 pm at Victoria House, Bloomsbury Square, London WC1B 4SE



SEMB(05)
Fifth Meeting

PRESENT

CHAIRMAN

Lord Carter of Coles

MEMBERS

Mr Michael Farrar

Sir Andrew Foster

Mr David Geldart

Mr David Ross

REGIONAL SPORTS BOARD CHAIRS

Mr Tim Cantle Jones (North East Regional Sports Board Chair)

Mr Philip Lewis (London Regional Sports Board Chair)

Mrs Mary McAnally (South East Regional Sports Board Chair)

Mr Andy Worthington (North West Regional Sports Board Chair)

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Mr Roger Draper

DIRECTORS

Mr Stephen Baddeley – Director of Sport

Mr Ian Fytche – Director of Operations and Performance

Mr Clive Heaphy – Director of Finance

Mrs Joanna Robinson – Director of Regions

Ms Kate Wallace – Director of Communications

Mr Paul Clipson – Head of Human Resources

OBSERVER

Mr Tim Lamb – Chief Executive, CCPR

OFFICERS

Ms Christine Blah – taking minutes

1 APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Patrick Carter welcomed everyone to the meeting, and in particular Tim Lamb who was attending as an observer in his new capacity as Chief Executive of the CCPR. Apologies for absence were received from Karren Brady. David Ross declared an interest in Wembley National Stadium.

The Sport England Main Board (SEMB) noted the highlights of an exciting summer for British sport, most notably the successful bid to host the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games in London. It was hoped that this would be followed by success for the England Cricket Team in the final test of The Ashes.

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 4 July 2005 were agreed as an accurate record.

3 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S UPDATE AND REPORT

The SEMB received paper SEMB(05)5.1, Chief Executive's report September 2005. Roger Draper reported on regional and national delivery issues, and continuing efforts by Sport England to seek sign-off of Whole Sport Plans by the 'big four' NGBs. Disappointment at the poor performances by the British teams at the recent world championships for swimming and athletics was noted, as were concerns at the weak and poor quality management within the Commonwealth Games Council for England in advance of the Commonwealth Games 2006 in Melbourne. It was noted that recruitment for Chief Executive positions at England Netball and Badminton England was underway.

Roger Draper gave an update on the Audit Committee meeting held that morning. He reported on the appointment of Bentley Jennison as Sport England's outsourced internal audit team; Angela Amadi would be joining Sport England as Legal Services Executive in mid September, and she would be working closely with Field Fisher Waterhouse, who had been appointed as legal advisors to Sport England. The Audit Committee had received a presentation from Wembley National Stadium Limited, and David Ross reported to the SEMB that a decision on whether or not the 2006 FA Cup Final could be held at the stadium would be made in October.

With regard to ex gratia payments, which had led to Sport England's accounts being qualified, it was noted that discussions were being held with Treasury and DCMS on this issue. The SEMB expressed its concern at the costs that were involved in taking legal advice on this issue, which could potentially exceed the actual cost of the ex gratia payments.

Mary McAnally asked for a breakdown of the costs of consultants engaged by Sport England, which Clive Heaphy agreed to provide.

Mary McAnally referred to County Sports Partnerships and Community Sport Networks and lines of accountability. Joanna Robinson reported that guidance had been prepared that set out the cascade of responsibility, which would be circulated to Board members and RSB Chairs for information.

Andrew Foster gave an update on issues in athletics, particularly resistance to change within the Amateur Athletic Association of England. The British team's results at the World Athletics Championships in Helsinki had been disappointing, however a new Performance Director had been appointed, which it was hoped would bring improved performances and results. Andrew Foster suggested that funding should be moved to the new athletics body from April 2006. The SEMB fully supported this proposal to redirect funding, and requested sight of Sir Andrew's paper and recommendations.

Tim Cattle-Jones highlighted issues of accountability, and the apparent leverage of funding by the 'big 4' NGBs and the Rugby Football League. Roger Draper replied that this was a result of the Government allocating the National Sports Foundation funding of £27.5 million to the five governing bodies during the General Election campaign. Further discussions on this issue would continue with the DCMS.

4 SPORT ENGLAND'S DELIVERY PLAN 2005-08

4.1 FIT FOR 2012

Roger Draper gave a presentation on Sport England's work and role in making London 'fit' for the 2012 Olympics. The organisation had committed £155 million up to 2009 to fund the development of the aquatics centre and velopark, and to support community investment through the Olympic Legacy, legacy plans, and the regions and nations group chaired by Charles Allen. A further £130 million would be committed between 2009–2012. He gave a macro view of governance issues and the health check of the bid document to ensure that it was deliverable. The SEMB noted the partnership summary from the Commonwealth Games 2002, and the need for a less cluttered 'landscape' to deliver the 2012 Games. Current partnerships, and the DCMS's proposed staging structure were also noted. Roger Draper outlined the work that needed to be undertaken to support the bid, which was being supported by a strong team within Sport England.

David Ross asked how many athletes were part of the Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme for 2012. Roger Draper confirmed that 180 athletes were part of the scheme, covering a wide range of age groups and sports.

Andrew Foster suggested that there should be a strategy for Great Britain's medal tally, and that a position target should be set. David Geldart felt that consideration should be given to the costs of achieving that target, preferably in a medal-winning position, which should then be submitted to Government for financial support. He felt that Sport England was in the best strategic position to make this request. Stephen Baddeley reported UK Sport had been asked to prepare a cost plan to achieve overall fourth or fifth place in 2012. Michael Farrar suggested that a strategy and tactics should be considered at the Main Board away day later in the month.

Tim Cattle-Jones stressed the importance of setting bold, winnable targets based around school sport. Linked to this, Andy Worthington referred to the need to galvanise people to get involved in sport, and to get money into grassroots sport.

Philip Lewis stated that the regional network should be used to decide what Sport England wanted to achieve and how it wanted to achieve it. The Sport England regions should be a key link with local authorities, especially with regard to what

would happen after 2012. It was important to engage with local government. Mary McAnally stated that the regions were already a conduit for local authorities, and that Sport England would have a major role to play as a conduit for rebuild of facilities.

David Ross emphasised the need to stimulate debate and get processes and actions moving immediately.

Patrick Carter thanked everyone for their contributions to this important debate.

4.2 STOP, CHECK, MOVE FORWARD

Roger Draper gave an update on the Stop, Check, Move Forward project, the recommendations of which would be presented to the Board and RSB Chairs away day later in September.

Paul Clipson referred to the need for the organisation to be fully in command of its resource base in order to assess if it was fit for purpose and make changes where necessary. Staffing costs were currently covered by vacancy savings. The main issue highlighted so far through the progression of the project was tension between the regions and centre regarding information requests, and the executive therefore wanted to get the balance between 'central control' and regional independence right.

Mary McAnally suggested that as part of the project, Sport England should contact the RDA Secretariat at the DTI to discuss how their own such project had worked, particularly in addressing similar tensions.

Andy Worthington felt that tensions were inevitable, but a way through would be found. It was important to recognise the need for flexibility at a local level, which would help to relieve tensions by skewing resources to support this, however he recognised the conflicts between the centre and regions over targets set and demanded by DCMS.

Michael Farrer advised the organisation to be clear about roles, and give people clarity about what was required of them.

Patrick Carter thanked Roger Draper and Paul Clipson for their update, prior to the report to the away day later in the month.

5 MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS

The Board received paper SEMB(05)5.2, Management Accounts July 2005. Clive Heaphy reported that income was currently £3.5 million ahead of target, however there was an ever-present risk that lottery sales might fall, and there could be an impact on lottery income when the Olympic lottery game went live. Overall, costs were under control, and it was noted that awards overspend related to the four-year funding to NGBs for Whole Sport Plans. Operating costs stood at £1.9 million, a positive variance that was due in particular to vacancies that were currently being held in the organisation. Balances currently stood at £2.02 million.

6 GRANT AWARDS

The SEMB agreed grant awards, as set out in paper SEMB(05)5.3. Members were asked to note progress on the Springhill Sports Complex grant application, which had been circulated under separate cover from the Board papers.

David Geldart referred to the Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme and Talent ID. He suggested that the Talent ID system should be rationalised and that funding for this should be requested from DCMS. Mary McAnally requested a greater level of regional involvement in the TASS.

In response to Mary McAnally, Clive Heaphy and Ian Fytche agreed to review issues relating to the grant award to MK Dons as part of the Football Youth Development Programme.

7 DIRECTORS' REPORTS

7.1 SPORT

The SEMB received and noted paper SEMB(05)5.4, report of the Director of Sport. Stephen Baddeley updated the SEMB on the two main issues that the 'big 4' NGBs were presenting regarding sign-off of their Whole Sport Plan contracts:

7.1.1 – Anti-Doping. Whilst the four NGBs were committed to the ideal, they were not willing to sign up to commitment to the WADA Code. The Code was currently a protocol and would become a legal commitment by Government from October 2005. UK Sport had laid out the position on the WADA Code in great detail, however the four NGBs intended to raise this issue direct with the Minister for Sport.

7.1.2 – The four NGBs had issues regarding Sport England's ability to vary payment if lottery receipts fell, and in the event of this happening, wanted Sport England to pick up any costs they might incur, eg redundancy costs etc. Stephen Baddeley confirmed that Sport England was not prepared to compromise on this issue.

7.2 REGIONS

The SEMB received and paper SEMB(05)5.5, report of the Director of Regions.

7.3 OPERATIONS AND PERFORMANCE

The SEMB received and noted paper SEMB(05)5.6, report of the Director of Operations and Performance.

7.4 COMMUNICATIONS

The SEMB received and noted paper SEMB(05)5.7, report of the Director of Communications. David Ross referred to the Everyday Sport campaign, and asked how the impact of advertising and media would be monitored. Kate Wallace confirmed that 10% of the campaign budget had been allocated for this purpose. Sport England would be working closely with the Department of Health on this and would be looking for evidence of increases in participation and awareness.

7.5 FINANCE

The SEMB received and noted paper SEMB(05)5.8, report of the Director of Finance.

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 BUCKMORE PARK

David Ross asked if any other Sport England lottery funded projects would be exposed to the same risks of failure as the Buckmore Park project with regard to security of tenure of site. Clive Heaphy reported that Sport England was not aware of any such possibilities, however this would only come to light if a project failed.

8.2 YOUTH GREEN PAPER

In response to David Geldart, Ian Fytche confirmed that Sport England had been working alongside DfES to influence the Youth Green Paper. A Sport England response on the Youth Green Papers was being co-ordinated for submission to DfES in November.

8.3 WEST YORKSHIRE CSP

Joanna Robinson invited members to join a visit to the West Yorkshire CSP on Wednesday 14 September.

8.4 LONDON ACTIVE PARTNERSHIP

Philip Lewis referred to issues regarding retrieval of Sport England funding from the London Active Partnership, and asked Clive Heaphy to assist the London Region in this matter. Clive Heaphy agreed to liaise with the London Region Director, Matt Delaney, on this issue.

8.5 CCPR

Tim Lamb informed the SEMB of his plans in his new role as Chief Executive of the CCPR. He referred to the role of the Sports Councils, the British Olympic Association and the CCPR; he hoped that the various bodies would work together to avoid overlap and duplication.

9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday 28 November 2005 at 12.30 pm at Victoria House.

C Blah
September 2005