

# Athletics Northern Ireland Management Board Meeting

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2021

## Management Summary

### 1. Finance & Risk Report

Management accounts up to end July were presented with variances to budget explained. The annual accounts for y/end March 2021 have gone to the Hill Vellacott and a draft set expected next week. An external company called Viable has been appointed to conduct a review of our book-keeping and perform both a finance admin and HR advisory role on an interim basis. This contract is open-ended and can be cancelled if these functions are brought in-house once the new CEO has been appointed.

### 2. ANI Restructure

KW departs next week. Shauna will now lead on office operations and IT. Policies will be stored in an edited folder. Company Secretary duties handed over to VMD and new email addresses set up for Company Secretary and CEO.

JN departs this month and has handed over work including the draft Strategy paper and SNI funding submissions to Tom, Laura and Eilish.

### 3. Coronavirus update

Restrictions have lifted to allow events to progress with no upper limit on numbers. ANI's competition and events covid protocols need to be reviewed and updated in light of this. Athletics House is now open to staff. Board members expressed a desire to move from Zoom meetings to in-person meetings.

### 4. Welfare and Safeguarding

No change from last reported.

CD raised a query about a recent change in legislation regarding reporting safeguarding concerns to statutory bodies – link to be shared with VMD as Safeguarding Champion and investigated. DA has raised the overall reporting structure of cases within UKA and the HCAFs to the Chair of UKA, bearing in mind confidentiality but to allow for informed decision making.

### 5. Equality

UKA is conducting research into the area of transgender competition. Their policy will be updated upon completion and ANI's policy will be reviewed at this time.

### 6. Health & Safety

There were two accidents at a recent Level 1 coaching course. UKA and insurers to be informed.

### 7. Anti-Doping

Nothing to report.

### 8. Mary Peters Track Report

Belfast City Council has extended the tender to MPT Limited for a further 12 months (until Sept 2022). The statue of Mary Peter and the area surrounding it to be tidied by the Council.

### 9. UKA Report

UKA is carrying out an asset review within HCAFs to identify marketable opportunities in order to make joint proposals to potential sponsors and commercial partners.

## 10. Senior Staff Reports

JN reported on recent NI athlete performances at the Olympics with Eilish Flanagan running a new NI record in the 3,000m S/C. Our three marathon athletes are yet to compete. Two para-athletes have been selected for the Para Olympics with one more on the reserve list. Two more NI athletes have reached CWG nomination standards. Senior and U20 teams have been selected for the Manchester International as has a team for the Antrim Coast HM. Some good performances came from the U18 international at Franconville with Nick Greggs winning gold, following on from his win at the European U20 Championships. Both the U20 and U23 teams performed well at the European Champs. A para classification day has been held successfully with a goal now of identifying frame running athletes. Startrack programme in ongoing, casual coaches have been recruited and Rising Stars is in the planning stages. Seven clubs have signed up for the Self-Assessment Tool. Coach Education continues to grow as Covid restrictions ease. Run NI series of seminars continues.

KW reported that individual registrations are now at ~90% of what they were at this point in 2019 (pre-pandemic). The NI Senior T&F Championships were held successfully. Planning for the Belfast International EAP meet on Sept 11<sup>th</sup> continues with the children's programme commencing on 14<sup>th</sup> Aug, culminating in a final on Sept 11<sup>th</sup>.

The 10,000m and Relay NI and Ulster Championships will be held in Antrim Forum on Sept 18<sup>th</sup> with an application for funding submitted.

DA and staff members recognised the goodwill of all volunteers and officials involved with events. However, recruitment and recognition of volunteers needs attention and ideas to be submitted through the Chair.

## 11. Governance

A half year report was circulated to Board members immediately prior to the meeting.

## 12. Sub Committee reports

Athletics Ireland: BM reported on the successful delivery of competition in Ulster since early June. One senior event was covered by live TV which was also a test event allowing 400 spectators.

Membership of the Liaison Committee was agreed, with AAI being represented by their President, CEO and Rory Friel, ANI represented by Chair/CEO, John Allen (RR & XC), Joy Alexander (T&F) and Catherine Ashford (Events). Ulster Council's representation tbc.

The Memorandum of Understanding between AAI and ANI requires a review – carried forward.

Mountain and Ultra Running: IT was pleased to report that the NI & Ulster U18 boys' and girls' teams won bronze at the recent UK Championships. The British & Irish Junior Champs will be held next month in NI. Teams have been selected for the Senior Home International and the Anglo Celtic Ultra race. Clarity has been given on mountain running representation with athletes from the three border counties being included for selection to represent NI & Ulster. IMRA are aware of this.

Road & Cross Country: The fixture list is being finalised in conjunction with the Ulster Sports Council, AAI and UKA. JN has offered to support the delivery of the programme in any way she can after her move to UKA.

Track & Field: no report given.

Schools: Little activity at the moment however selection of teams for the London Mini Marathon to be considered in light of this race now proceeding on October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## 13. Any Other Business

Work is progressing with setting up a shared drive on which Board minutes, training notes etc can be stored and shared.

Board members to consider the area of volunteer recruitment and retention. Ideas to be sent through the Chair

An interim CEO will be appointed as soon as practicable. New positions will be advertised widely to ensure the largest pool of applicants.

It was suggested moving the date of the AGM to a later time in the year due to all the recent changes. A date is to be agreed but likely similar to the date held in 2020 which was November 25<sup>th</sup>. The expectation is that it can be held in person, not virtually.

Next monthly meeting will be on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2021 at 5pm.