

Athletics Northern Ireland Management Board Meeting

Wednesday 16th June 2021

Management Summary

Minutes of Meeting

Minutes from the Board Meeting dated 28th April 2021 were approved.

Director of Coaching & Athlete Development Report

Jackie Newton reported on success at the European Paralympic Championships and on those athletes who would be going to the Tokyo Olympics later this year. With regard to the Commonwealth Games, a number of athletes had either met, or were close to achieving, the required standard. It was agreed that any athlete wishing to represent Northern Ireland at the next Commonwealth Games would need to compete at either the 2021 or 2022 Senior Championships. JN also updated the board on Para Talent ID, Foundation Programmes and Run NI, all of which are going well. Recent research has found that there is gender imbalance in coaching with too few female coaches. ANI to review and propose changes.

The proposal for Development, Talent and Performance Working Groups has been largely supported with the T&F Committee requiring more clarification.

Finance & Risk Report

The variances between the planned and actual income and expenditure were presented and queried. The justification for cyber insurance was discussed and to be costed. A review of data security to be carried out.

Coronavirus update

ANI is still waiting to hear if the upper limit of 500 for races can be removed (subject to a risk assessment).

Welfare and Safeguarding

UKA's Welfare Policies and Procedures have a number of recommendations that ANI is currently working upon. Allister Woods is currently liaising with Paul Stevenson of the NSPCC about ANI's Safeguarding Implementation Plans that need to be completed by the end of the year.

Equality

It was agreed that ANI adds its name to a letter has been written by two young female athletes to the Minister of Sport. This letter asks that a zero-tolerance policy come into force regarding any coach guilty of physical or sexual misconduct, harassment or abuse.

Health & Safety

Nothing to report.

Anti-Doping

There was a Clean Sport Week at the end of May.

Mary Peters Track Report

The track is getting back to normal, although the showers are still closed.

UKA Report

All board members have agreed with the latest proposals regarding changes in membership of UKA and existence of the Members' Council.

Director of Business & Operations Report

Some events were now back up and running again. Pre-registration for these events had increased the workload of office staff. Both the Age Group and Senior T&F Championships are to take place in July.

ANI are currently looking for a new registration system. The English Athletics system looks to be very good, and Welsh Athletics are already using it. It will link into UKA's Trinity system and also allow athletes to register themselves.

ANI is working with Joma as a potential kit supplier. They have a good turnaround time and will accept smaller order quantities. Team kit for the forthcoming Celtic Plate is unlikely to be available. The Ultra Runner logo can be included on any kit for runners taking part in international events.

The Belfast International on Saturday, 11th of September will now take place at MPT.

Prior to the event, there will be a children's summer programme in five different regions in Northern Ireland with a final being held as part of the main event. The Board agreed to accept financial support from the NIO in support of the event.

Governance

The Board received an update on ANI's Memorandum and Articles of Association (M&A). The Board needs to agree on the objects and powers of ANI and then a solicitor will redraft the M&As. They will need to be presented to members at an EGM or AGM for ratification.

Kerry Woods provided an update on the International Representation and Records policy. The grandparent rule is very confusing. Reference was also made to the dual nationality approved under the Good Friday Agreement. The Chair recommended consulting with the Northern Ireland Commonwealth Games Association – to be confirmed.

Sub Committee reports

Athletics Ireland: nothing to report

Mountain and Ultra Running: The 50k and 100k NI & Ulster Championships went well. Selection for the Celtic Plate has taken place. The mountain running season is underway and a junior team event is taking place in the Lake District.

Road & Cross Country: The next event is the Les Jones 5k on the 25th of June. Planning for the XC season is ongoing with a provisional fixture list now drawn up. It is unsure whether the Titanic 10k will go ahead. The Belfast Marathon has been moved from September 19th to October 3rd.

Track & Field: A bench is being installed by Belfast City Council at MPT to commemorate Buster McShane. A Level 1 officials' course has been held. The Antrim track is in the process of applying for TrackMark. Concerns were raised about the Bangor Track. Guests will be allowed at ANI's Senior Championships, but only after giving local athletes a week to enter.

Schools: No schools track and field events will be taking place in NI this season.

Any Other Business

The Belfast Milers Meeting has received a European permit. Thanks were recorded to the Officials who helped out at short notice.

Chair's Proposal to the Board

Following a discussion, the Chair's proposal was approved by the board. This included the approval of VM, who had been briefed the day before. The board also approved the use of external advisers, as necessary.

The next meeting will be on 4th August 2021 at 5pm.