Association of Commonwealth Triathlon

Minutes

Meeting Management Committee (MC) (by Skype)

Date 20 October 2014

Attending Sarah Springman (SMS), Jem Lawson (JL), Luc Landriault (LL), David Ferrier (DF), Alan Beckford (AB), David Sales (DS) (First Ascent).

Apologies Jane Moncrieff (JM), Sam Wickramasinghe (SW)

Not attending Alain St Louis (ASL)

Mentioned Loreen Barnett (LB), Zita Csovelyak (ZC), Gergely Markus (GM)

1. Introductions

For the benefit of all, particularly DS, each person on the call said a few words of introduction. SMS thanked DS for his attendance; his knowledge and expertise would facilitate discussion.

1. Purpose of these calls

SMS described the series of two or three calls is to put together a strategic plan. There is work to be done and this will be allocated to small groups from within the MC. Each group will consult and submit notes before the subsequent call. DS confirmed the object of reaching agreement on progress by instigating a series of short, achievable actions by the next call (26 November).

1. Matters arising from the Constitution

JL noted (Art 2 Membership, section 3) that each NF should confirm its membership in writing with the Sec Gen. MC was relaxed about this and Sec Gen would seek to canvass such confirmations over time and liaise with the ITU as memberships were confirmed to that body in 2015.

DF referred to Art 2, section 1 where is listed the events that will be promoted, viz Triathlon, Duathlon and Aquathlon. DF noted that list should be expanded to include Cross Triathlon.

1. Proposed process for setting ACT objectives and timescales

The basis for this substantive item was the mindmap formulated by SMS. There are eight key areas:

* Governance
* Development
* Performance
* Relations to ITU/CGF
* Strategy development
* Operational delivery
* Events
* Finances\*

\*A ninth key area was subsequently identified during the meeting; this does not appear on the mindmap within the papers, but had been identified by SMS. This area is **National Federations**.

All present agreed that these were appropriate areas for consideration. It was suggested that each area be assigned to a small group. The groups would bring more detailed thought to the respective areas and submit these before the next meeting in the form of notes varying from a number of paragraphs to some pages.

The areas were taken in no particular order, starting with:

**Strategy development**: this is described as ‘what we will do’ and will incorporate a purpose and vision which answers the questions who, what, how and when. The overarching aim is to guarantee Triathlon in the Commonwealth environment.

 Group: **JL will lead with LL**.

**Governance**: ACT itself must be subject to good governance and must be able to encourage such in all member NFs by disseminating and sharing good practice.

 Group: **DF will lead with SMS and JL**.

**Finance**: planning for the future; there are currently no funds and no money raising objects.

 Group: **LL will lead with AB**.

**Development**: this area must relate to development within ITU which has its own well-established programme. It should also relate to development work currently in place in the regions.

 Group: **AB will lead with DF, SW and ASL**.

**Relations to ITU & CGF**: These are the key groups and we must foster good, two-way relationships.

 Group: **SMS to lead with JL**.

**Performance** AND **Events**: the opinion of the MC was that these two are inextricably linked, though a reason for separation would be around talent progression. Remembering that the main event will always be the Commonwealth Games, there are other levels at WCS, WC and Continental Cup levels which cater for talent progression. The issue of ‘lapping DQs’ was mentioned and the possibility of sprint, or even super sprint qualifiers at a CWG. Inclusiveness should be a feature of all levels of events, at the appropriate level of performance, so that a clear ‘event pathway’ is evident.

 Group: **JM to lead with DF and AB**.

**Operational delivery**: this was deemed to be a feature of the next stage of discussion and was deferred.

**National Federations**: the late-added ninth area. There should be a needs analysis for different categories of NFs; crudely categorised as large, medium and small. These terms need to be described. Partnerships could be encouraged within and across the categories.

 Group: **LL to lead with JM, SW, AB and ASL**.

The next Skype call is scheduled for 21:00 (WEST) on 25 November. The lead from each group to submit a report to JL by 18 November so that all reports can be circulated in advance of the call.

JL will contact ITU (LB, ZC) to find out whether there may be useful templates for such reporting which we could use. If templates exist and are circulated we should not be constrained by the form they take. We need to consider inviting GM in future calls.

1. Initial thoughts on what smaller nations may value and what larger nations could offer

A brief discussion about wants and needs. AB drew attention to a recent conversation he had conducted with Claire Barrell, the International Development Advisor from UK Sport, and described her as a valuable contact. Paul Moss, BTF Coaching Manager, was mentioned in connection with the work undertaken by him and validated by ITU.

1. Agree next steps

Process of reporting before the next call described above.

1. AOB

LL mentioned a conversation he had conducted with the CEO of CG Canada and highlighted that a subject for discussion at the CGF AGM in September 2015 would be in relation to expanding the list of permanent (core) sports in future CWGs. It was suggested that a key part of ACT strategy should be to ensure that Triathlon is included in the expanded list.

It was further suggested that other Sports’ Commonwealth Associations held their own Championship events eg rowing (not in CWG since 1986). Despite the programme challenges this might present this might be a consideration for the Performance and Events group.

JL drew attention to a new multisport, four yearly Games in Europe, with the inaugural European Games to be in Glasgow in 2018. Whilst this would not impact with the 2018 CWG in the Gold Coast it could not be guaranteed not to affect subsequent quadrennials.

The Youth Games in Samoa in 2015 will not include Triathlon; we should start lobbying for inclusion in St Lucia in 2017. SMS/JL to take forward.

Call concluded at 22:00 WEST