

GENERAL MEETING



Thursday 17th September

14:00 – 16:00 Lincoln Rm, Congress Plaza Hotel, Sth Michigan Ave, Chicago.

MINUTES

Present: Andreas Stüven (TRI); Derek Wilson (BAR); Chris Kitchen (NIR); Lochlann Walsh (NIR); Debbie Alexander (RSA); Julia Hawley (BER); Luc Landriault, Treasurer ACT (CAN); Edgar Harper (GIB); Chris Walker (GIB); Tarek Mouganie (GHA); Ian Howard (ENG); Jack Buckner (ENG); Justine Plenkieng (CAY); Jane Noël (GRN); Garry Boon (NZL); Jane Moncrieff, ACT MC (SCO); David Ferrier, ACT MC (AUS); Daniel Sng (SIN); Maria Teh (MAS); Michael Battersby (WAL); Winston Crook (SKN); Jem Lawson, Sec Gen ACT (ENG).

Apologies: Sarah Springman CBE, President ACT (ENG); Alan Beckford, ACT MC (JAM); Sam Wickramasinghe, Observer ACT (SRI); Alain St Louis, Observer ACT (MRI); Dave Dickinson (FIJ); Geoff Stoddart (COK); Craig Waugh (NZL); Mahmudul Karim (BAN); Cyp Dalli (MLT); Lanre Glover (NGR); Renato Bertrandi (ETU Pres).

In attendance: Loreen Barnett, Sec Gen ITU; Bill Walker, VP ITU; Terry Sheldrake, President OTU; Karen Murphy, OTU; Ahmed Nasser, President ATU; Gergely Markus, Sport Director ITU; Zita Csovelyak, Development Manager ITU.

Welcome and Introductory remarks

Jem Lawson opened the meeting. He passed on a message from Sarah Springman CBE regretting that she could not be there, but wishing everyone well and hoping that the meeting would be productive. He welcomed all and expressed delight that so many from ITU and the Oceania and African Confederation Presidents had been able to come and support the ACT through their presence. Renato Bertrandi (President, ETU) had intended being present but had to cancel at the last minute; he also voiced his support. Jem asked David Ferrier to take the chair. David described that some attendees had a double booking and would have to leave early; the order of the agenda would be adjusted so that the meeting could take advantage of the expertise and experience in the room¹. Marisol Casado was briefly in the room and wished the Association well.

[Roll call of members²

The following countries had confirmed membership of ACT to the Secretary General in writing, subject to the demands of the constitution: BAN; BAR; BER; BIZ; CAN; CAY; COK; ENG; FIJ; GHA; GIB; GRN; JAM; MAS; MLT; MOZ; MRI; NGR; NIR; NZL; PAK; RSA; SCO; SIN; SKN; SOL; SRI; TRI; WAL.

29 Nations & Territories]

Identifying NF needs

Jane Moncrieff described the rationale and process relating to the Survey Monkey. This is an audit of circumstances obtaining in the Commonwealth Nations and Territories which will be analysed to

¹ Hence the absence of Agenda item numbers in these minutes

² For information, this item does not form part of the minutes

help give ACT an overview of the situation. Some sixteen NFs had responded and Jane encouraged others to complete the survey by 25th September. After this date the responses would be collated and Scotland would pay for Survey Monkey to provide an analysis of the data.

As part of this item, Terry Sheldrake was invited to describe the development initiatives being undertaken in Oceania. Terry described how development in the confederation, along with the other four continents was a contractual arrangement with ITU, with funding from ITU. The small nations and territories within Oceania are aware of triathlon but, perhaps, over reliant on the ex-pat community. Papua New Guinea had recently hosted the South Pacific Games (SPG). By arrangement with Zita Csovelyak, there was four year funding to provide a Coaching Development Officer from Australia. The starting point was talent id and sixteen athletes had been identified from PNG, SOL and FIJ. TGA will host the SPG in 2018. Training Camps are a regular feature of the programme and Championships within Oceania will develop from these. A key feature is the provision of high quality, well-qualified TOs to run the events. These TOs then work to upskill the local officials. Twenty bicycles have been supplied to the islands.

Bill Walker added that the region predominantly comprised Commonwealth nations so the case for ITU funding is easier; nonetheless there was a significant geographical challenge. He drew attention to the establishment of a Continental Cup (CC) race in FIJ, adding that the OTU Congress would coincide with this event. There was to be another CC race in Tahiti; these events would be associated with development camps.

Jane Moncrieff was mindful of the desirability of establishing realistic needs so that key priorities would give rise to practical steps which would be enlisted to make a real difference.

Ahmed Nasser described the partnership which had been established between ATU and USAT; he acknowledged the help of Marisol in setting up the arrangement. The agreement was to be for five years. He described how the nations within ATU are categorised into four layers. Cat 1 contains those with a well-developed triathlon NF and influential in World Championship events (RSA); Cat 2 comprised nations with Continental Cups; Cat 3 included those holding a National Championship and he described Cat 4 as beginners. Co-operation with the ITU Development Dept had seen an increase in nations participating, from eight to forty two. GBR had been influential in some countries as well.

JL described an article in the premier British triathlon magazine alluding to the inaugural National Championship in GHA. Tarek Mouganie described the event in more detail, a description which the meeting found to be moving and inspirational. The event had been so influential as to attract sponsorship (PlanetX) and the engagement of Spencer Smith as National Coach. In October and November there will courses for coaches and TOs including GHA, TAN and Senegal. The organisers of the GHA Championship are to replicate their work in the Cape Verde Islands next year.

Zita explained that each continental confederation had a budget from ITU of c\$850k. Plans should be in development now, by, and with, each continental development co-ordinator so that allocation of sums can be finalised at the ITU EB meeting in Paris at the end of November. Zita mentioned two coaches' courses in BAR and CAY which will coincide with continental major games. The development focus is directed towards the Youth Olympic Games and the development plans and programmes for 2016 should reflect this. Zita drew attention to the ITU Education Hub, working in partnership with GBR, and with piloting in Africa, the Americas, Asia and Europe. The 'Activator' scheme is guidance towards building a governance structure for new NFs and includes education about administration, legal, commerce etc. TO education, in terms of L1 re-validation, is by means

of webinars and so obviates the need to travel thus saving money and time. The materials have been translated into Spanish and there are further plans for translation into French, Arabic and Mandarin.

Andreas Stüven described good relations between TRI and USAT which have resulted in a Youth Development Camp in conjunction with FRN and [AN Other]. It is hope that this will enable Caribbean athletes to qualify for the Youth Olympics. He emphasised the size of the task for aspiring athletes to achieve elite status and pointed to the slow development of coaching and reliance on the larger NFs citing CAN, GBR and USA.

From ITU, including Towards the Gold Coast

Bill Walker was encouraged by development plans in the confederations. He drew attention to the influence of race format and rules in any perceived success of Commonwealth Triathlon races. It was essential that all competitors should, not only compete, but have the satisfaction of finishing. He was confident that bodies such as CGF and Sport Accord (Sochi) would help us to meet these objectives.

[At this point those members of ITU EB present and Continental Confederation Presidents left the meeting.

Mike Battersby (WAL), Winston Crooke (SKN) and Chris Walker (GIB), having just competed in the AG Sprint World Championships, joined the meeting (Chris to great acclaim as a bronze medallist in his race). Also joining were Daniel Sng (SIN) and Maria Teh (MAS) who had been TOs in the day's events.]

Gergely Markus explained that the two major sources of development resources (funding) sit with the Confederations or Solidarity, which clearly focuses on developing Olympians. ITU is preparing facilitators and officials at the highest level. Looking forward to the CWG in Gold Coast, ITU have a number of events there in the years before 2018 and this will help the development of a top class technical team. The positive after Glasgow was the success of the Mixed Team Relay; the negative was the high number of forced withdrawals in the individual races because of the lapping rule. In explanation, Gergely pointed out that there had been a long interval since Triathlon had been in the CWG and standards at the top elite level had changed.

A change to the format is envisaged and is being investigated, with a S/Final; Final composition thus, possibly, leading to A and B Finals (as in rowing). This would be a combination of Super Sprint heats and Sprint finals but may not happen in time for Gold Coast. However it is likely that the race distance for individual races will be Sprint. David Ferrier interjected and explained some of the critical limitations in place there eg individual races restricted to one day. Gergely also pointed to athletes in Glasgow who did not have a realistic chance of finishing the swim leg. NFs need to impose entry standards* and this will be encouraged by the CGF. It may be that the ITU Coaches' Committee can give guidance on realistic entry standards. Gergely opined that there should be more Mixed Relay teams, though this ought not to detract from the primacy of the individual races.

Andreas Stüven asked for clarity relating to eligibility and whether those competing in the Relay needed to have been competitors in the individual races. The answer was that it was not the case that Relay competitors have to race in the individual events. It was also pointed out that, with a change to Sprint distance, younger age groups would be eligible for entry.

*see below for Chris Walker's comments.

Gergely pointed out that at the recent CGF General Assembly, Triathlon had been accepted as a core sport and that Paratriathlon would be an optional sport. David confirmed that there would be one male and one female Para category in Gold Coast.

Jane Moncrieff reported that David Grevenberg (CEO CGF) had indicated that acceptance of triathlon as a core sport and paratriathlon as an optional sport would not safeguard places in the pantheon of Commonwealth Games forever, but that ITU and CW NFs would have to ensure that the sports continued to deserve the showpiece of the CWG.

Luc Landriault thought that a parallel could be drawn between the experiences of athletes in Glasgow and those competing at Pan American Games.

It was held that Durban 2022 would be in a better position to negotiate optimum formats for Triathlon and Paratriathlon.

[Gergely Markus and Zita Csovelyak left the meeting]

From CGF

Core and Optional sport status has been noted already. It was reported that Louise Martin (SCO) had been elected as President of the CGF.

Strategic Intent

Jem Lawson hoped that members had been able to look at the Strategic Intent document. He described its gestation and briefly took members through some of the salient features and asked for support from the members present so that the strategy of the Association could be adopted and developed. Jack Buckner hoped that the document would align with work being undertaken on the five continents and within the ITU and CGF. Anything ACT wanted to do should complement these other groups. ACT needed to be seen to apply a 'light touch' and be willing to step back when others were applying good principles to achieve positive change. One thing was to examine any alternative routes to funding and to encourage collaboration between the significant players.

Jem emphasised that ACT was a lobbying and networking organisation and pointed to some successes achieved thus far.

Garry Boon also indicated support for the document.

The Strategic Intent document was adopted.

*Chris Walker wanted to make a contribution to the 'standards' discussion. GIB had spoken with IOM about standards for entry to CWG and opined that, for Standard Distance, a two hour total time with a swim of 20-21 minutes would be appropriate. He emphasised the importance of being granted access to a Continental Cup event in the run up to a Games in order to achieve such standards.

Financial Considerations

Luc Landriault reminded members that ACT was an organisation with no subscription and no funds. He thanked ITU for its generosity in sourcing the room for the meeting. There will always be small

running costs; he suggested the possibility of asking members for contributions on a voluntary basis which he would manage within Triathlon Canada and perhaps open a non-registered company under the regulatory framework of the Province of Quebec.

Ian Howard counselled against this approach suggesting that for such small amounts as are envisaged, the association should continue to ask for contributions on an 'at need' basis from the larger NFs. GBR, for example, had paid for the Secretary General to attend the meeting.

It was agreed that the *status quo* should obtain.

Open Forum

David opened the meeting for comments and questions from the members. Daniel Sng pointed out that at the Inaugural Meeting in Glasgow (July 2014) many representatives were TOs and were not post holders, he asked that efforts be made to communicate with table officers within NFs. He also described the need for Paratri classifiers and hoped that paratriathletes would be able to take part in Continental Cups.

David and Jem thanked everyone for being at the meeting and for interesting and informative contributions. The meeting closed at 15:55.

Jem Lawson, Secretary General ACT

18th September 2015

5