**ACT Committee Meeting** 

**Wednesday 24 May 2017**

**20.30 BST via Skype**

**Present**

Sarah Springman (SMS - President), Les Pereira (LP - Committee), David Ferrier (DF - Committee), Helen Wyeth (HW – Secretary General)

**In attendance**

Gergely Markus (GM - ITU)

**Minutes**

1. **Welcome and introductory remarks**

SMS welcomed all to the call and HW to her first meeting. She thanked GM for also agreeing to join the call and update the committee on several matters, particularly since he attended Sport Accord in Denmark recently.

1. **Qualification**

GM advised the following:

*Paratri:*

GM confirmed that paratriathlon’s debut at the Commonwealth Games will include races for PT1 classification with a maximum of 10 men and 10 women per field and a maximum of 2 athletes per any individual Commonwealth Games Federation. The race is scheduled for 7 April on the same day as the mixed relay. A full field is expected for the men’s race, whereas it may be more challenging for the women’s.

*Sprint:*

In the elite field, a sprint race will be held with a maximum of 3 men and 3 women per Commonwealth Games Association (CGA). No additional eligibility or qualification criteria ([http://www.triathlon.org/uploads/docs/Athlete\_Allocation\_Systems\_(PACK)\_March\_2017.pdf](http://www.triathlon.org/uploads/docs/Athlete_Allocation_Systems_%28PACK%29_March_2017.pdf) page 8) are sitting alongside this. It is anticipated that the field sizes will be similar to Glasgow 2014. It is also anticipated that CGAs will be able to send the number of athletes they wish, due to the reallocation process of athlete places, which will manage this. National Federations must iterate with their own CGA and request their entry numbers accordingly.

In addition, and following the test event earlier this year (Gold Coast WTS), the course has been modified to ensure there will be no lapping out, as there was in Glasgow 2014. The new layout will allow enough space for athletes to ride alongside and not through transition, allowing an athlete to be 1 or 2 laps behind, if necessary. This is a significant improvement that contributes to both excellence, universality while paying full attention to the safety of the athletes and officials. SMS thanked GM and the support of technical officials to allow this improvement.

It was also noted that, as the elite race is over the sprint distance, this will reduce significantly the time gap between the first and last finisher and therefore the medal ceremonies are expected to be concluded promptly. The men’s and women’s sprint races will take place on 5 April.

*Mixed Relay:*

There will be one free day between the sprint race and the mixed relay. There will not be any separate qualification process for the mixed relay. Each CGA may enter 1 team of 2 women and 2 men in advance. Whereas all teams that wish to race will be allocated a start, approximately 10 countries are expected to enter the mixed relay, as per Glasgow 2014. A significant change, however, is that athletes will not be obliged to compete in the individual race in order to qualify to race in a mixed relay team. The race is scheduled for 7 April on the same day as the PT1 races.

1. **Technical Officials (TOs)**

GM confirmed TOs had now been appointed from NF nominations. Each NF had the option to put forward a maximum of 4 officials with a 2:2 gender split. GM confirmed 55 male and 45 female TOs had been selected on merit – this is an improvement against Glasgow 2014 towards the equal gender split, where there had been 66 male and 33 female TOs. 10 officials have been selected from Australia and Officials have been selected from 15 other nations. Technical Delegate Shanelle Barrett is now in charge of the allocation of TO roles.

1. **Event details**

GM advised that the event will be on day 1 and 3 of the Games. The women’s sprint will be the first medal of the Games, which is a great honour and excellent for the profile of the sport.

The venue is near to, but not the same as, the 2009 Grand Final venue. It is flat with a technical bike course. The new improved course will also have less traffic impact than previous course on the Gold Coast.

* Elite Sprint: 1 lap swim, 4 lap bike and 2 lap run.
* Paratri: 1 lap swim, 4 lap bike, 2 lap run
* Mixed Relay: 1 lap swim, 2 lap bike and 2 lap run

Both World Triathlon Series and World Cup races will be scheduled to fit around the Games dates with the likely scenario being:

* Four weeks before a World Cup in Australia;
* Two weeks before a World Cup in New Zealand;
* Three weeks after the first World Series race of 2018.

In addition, GM is in contact with the Super League group to help ensure there is no clash in major triathlon events around the Games dates.

DF advised the group he was no longer a member of the Commonwealth Games Association in Australia and thanked GM for the event update.

1. **Ancillary events**

GM advised the athletes village will be 1-2km from the triathlon event location, adjacent to the University of the Gold Coast.

All officials will be located in a nearby hotel.

SMS confirmed there will need to be an ACT meeting in the Gold Coast including election for posts for the next four-year cycle. GM confirmed he currently felt the best time for this would be on the day between the two triathlon events and that he anticipated that a venue/room would be able to be found. He agreed to assist with this (Action: GM/HW/SMS)

1. **Commonwealth Games Federation matters**

*Commonwealth Games 2022*

GM advised that following the withdrawal of Durban 2022, there had been an invitation process for expressions of interest. There are currently four bids being evaluated: Australia, Malaysia, Canada, England. It is anticipated that the outcome will be announced within the next six months.

*Commonwealth Youth Games 2021*

GM advised that there is currently an ongoing assessment of the sports that fit best within the Youth Games, including infrastructure requirements, pathway to Commonwealth Games, smaller nation involvement. Triathlon is currently viewed positively as a core sport and more information will come out shortly on the application process.

SMS shared (attached) an email she had send to the Northern Ireland Commonwealth Games Committee regarding the great opportunity to include triathlon in the 2021 Youth Games. She has received no answer.

*ITU and ACT support*

## In March, British Triathlon and the International Triathlon Union joined forces with UK Sport International Development to deliver a coaching programme to the African Triathlon Union, in a bid to grow the sport across the continent. A team of British Coach Developers successfully delivered the programme; committed to ensuring that the sport of triathlon thrives in emerging and developing countries around the world.

*Funding opportunities*

SMS raised the issue of the potential need for financial assistance to smaller nations to enable them to support younger athletes develop. She asked that if there was any specific need or knowledge of where any support could help it would be good if ACT nations could pass this back to HW/SMS.

GM advised on the ITU team/support in Asia. Currently two young athletes receive support to compete in the appropriate level of races for their own development and there is the opportunity for other nations to apply for support. ITU is currently collaborating with continental confederations but this is not necessarily successful. Should any ACT member be aware of an athlete who could benefit from support from this project, please advise GM as the ITU are positive about supporting good potential athletes.

SMS advised that there may be other funding support opportunities for similar objectives.

1. **Any Other Business**

It was agreed the ACT Management Committee should now endeavour to meet via call monthly in the run up to Gold Coast 2018. HW will set up a doodle poll.

**End**

Attached email from SMS to Northern Ireland Commonwealth Games Committee:

**From:** Springman Sarah
**Sent:** Sonntag, 4. December 2016 13:13
**To:** robert.mcveigh@nicgc.org; terry.crothers@nicgc.org
**Cc:** president@thecgf.com; admin@act.triathlon.org
**Subject:** Commonwealth Youth Games

Dear Colleagues

I would be delighted if I could share with you my delight that Northern Ireland will be hosting the Commonwealth Youth Games in 2021, the prior important role Northern Ireland played in the growth of our sport, and why I think triathlon could be a wonderful choice as one of the sports for young people at your event.

1. Northern Ireland was the host of the first formal European Triathlon Championship, ever, in 1984 and it was mixed relay (3 men, 1 woman) - this was absolutely visionary.

2. There were several triathlon World Cup events in Portaferry in the early 90s, in which the athletes swam the Lough.  The race was very popular with the elite athletes. I remember Secretary of State Brookes attending in Portaferry.

3. Northern Ireland subsequently hosted a triathlon World Cup event in Londonderry (1995) as part of the peace initiatives, funded by the prime Ministers special fund, the Northern Ireland Sports Council, the NI Tourist Authority (not sure the exact name) and a company, Fruit of the Loom (each£25k). It was a great success and some of the international athletes spent time visiting schools on both sides. I remember attending the press launch with Secretary of State Mayhew in Hillsborough for the Londonderry event.

Today, Triathlon is a thoroughly modern swimming-biking-running event that can be tailored for any group. It is ideal for young people because it encompasses a range of sporting skills that are beneficial and accessible. We have clear structures and rules about youth and junior age group competitions, and have been present as a sport in both Youth Olympic Games, with individual events and the mixed team relay. We also gave an extensive development programme to help the smaller nations to grow the sport.  I would be happy to supply more information if need be.

Your Commonwealth Youth Games would be a first opportunity in this event for our sport. We are very keen for our commonwealth athletes to have the opportunity to join this great event. In trying to find out a bit more about the background, I explored ideas with the CGF President about an individual event but also a team event in which individual swimmers, cyclists and runners could join in (from the other parts of the games) for fun and to bring in a teamwork component. Teams could be nationally, geographically or otherwise based. We operate regionally in the YOG with team 1 Europe/Africa/Asia etc. In this case on could suggest Teams of four with 2boys, 2girls, 2 from triathlon, 2 from other sports. This could be a unique feature, it is thinking out of the box for us, and would promote teamwork, communication, engagement, and be a lot of fun for all.

I realise that this email is already becoming very long. I would love to explain why I am so convinced we could add to your event but I do not wish to add a huge biographical part about why I am the person advising this, as well. I am currently the 1st Vice President of ITU (until I step down in a week) but I am and will remain President of the Association of Commonwealth Triathlon (ACT) National Federations.  I have been part of all the events mentioned above and believe that NI triathlon has a fantastic range of events today too and is very active in our sport.

Thank you very much for considering these ideas

Yours sincerely

Sarah Springman

Professor Sarah Springman CBE
1st Vice President of ITU
President of the Association of Commonwealth Triathlon (ACT) National Federations.