**GENERAL MEETING**

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**Friday 9th December 2016**

**12:00 – 14:00 Hotel Melia Castilla, Madrid**

**MINUTES**

**Present**: Sarah Springman (SMS - President); David Ferrier [Committee]; Datuk BS Kler (BBSK - MAS); Sam Wickramasinghe (SW - SRI); Jack Buckner (ENG); Lochlann Walsh (NIR); Les Pereira (CAN); Cyprian Dali (MLT); Karen Araujo (TTO); Jennifer Gunn (BER); Daniel MacKay (MRA); Winston Crooke (SKN); Marc DeCaul (MD - GRN); Ben Houston (CAN); Les Pereira (LP – CAN); Howard Vine (GBR); Winston Crowther (WC - SLE); Patty Petty (BER); Darren Treasure (BAR); Jeremy Campbell (RSA); Lori Roach (BAH); Bawah Fuseini (BF - GHA); Alan Beckford (AB - JAM) [Committee]; Chris Kitchen (NIR); Arthur Klap (NZL), Aaron Smith (BER); Tarek Mouganie (TM - GHA); Dr Sikuade Jagun (NGR); Alexis Mbaraga (RWA); Sally Lockyer (ENG); Peter Hedge (AUS); Ian Howard (GBR); Jem Lawson (JL) [Secretary General]

**Apologies**: David Hoong (SIN); Rodrigo Rocha (MOZ); Beverley Lewis (WAL); Chris Walker (GIB); Bill James (ENG); Joe Au Ramasoea (SOL); Lanre Glover (NGR); Dave Dickinson (FIJ); Jane Moncrieff (SCO); Daniel Sng (SIN); Debbie Alexander (RSA)\*; Cheah Choon Nam (MAS)\*; Rami Ramachandran (India); Bangladesh (no name given).

\*present for part of the meeting

**In attendance**: Loreen Barnett, Sec Gen ITU; Bill Walker (BW), VP ITU; Terry Sheldrake, P OTU; Karen Murphy, OTU; Gergely Markus (GM), Sport Director ITU; Chris Harvey (UK Sport); Paul Evens (UK Sport); Lesley Buchanan, Director, ITU Anti-Doping.

1. **Welcome and Introductory remarks**

President Sarah Springman CBE welcomed all those present and thanked them for their attendance on a day during which there would be many calls on their time.

Sarah reprised the place of the Commonwealth as a significant global organisation having influence with about one third of the global population and working to promote the highest ideals in the spheres within which it operates and holding values which underpin those ideals.

Sarah reminded everyone of the role of sport in the Commonwealth and how Triathlon had enjoyed some involvement since being demonstrated in Auckland in 1990. The latest development has been as a ‘compulsory’ sport and we look forward to the introduction of Paratriathlon in the Gold Coast in 2018.

1. **Roll call of members**

The following Nations and Territories were present or had responded to the invitation to the meeting: AUS; BAH; BAN; BAR; BER; CAN; ENG; GHA; GIB; GRN; IND; JAM; MAS; MLT; MOZ; MRI; NGR; NIR; NZL; RSA; RWA; SCO; SIN; SKN; SLE; SOL; SRI; TTO; WAL. The number of ,members present, 29, emphasise both the interest and the strength in a network of Commonwealth nations.

Other Nations and Territories having previously confirmed membership:

BIZ; CAY; COK; IVB; PAK.

1. **Constitutional Amendment**

Proposal from the Management Committee:

To change the wording in Section 6 of the Constitution from:

There shall be an Annual General Meeting every year. The AGM should be convened on the occasion of either of the Commonwealth Games or the ITU World Championship (Grand) Final.

To:

There shall be an Annual General Meeting every year. The AGM should be convened on the occasion of either of the Commonwealth Games or the ITU Congress.

The proposal was carried *nem con*.

1. **Report on Information from the Commonwealth Games Federation[[1]](#footnote-1)\***

SMS opened this item by asking delegates for their recollections and impressions of previous Commonwealth Games. Contributions came from MD, AB, BF, BSK and WS; the over-riding sentiments were that the Commonwealth creates possibilities and the Commonwealth is inclusive.

* The CGF Transformation Plan 2022 had reached conclusions in Auckland (Nov 2015) with the key messages being:
* Inspiring and innovative Games
* Good governance and management
* Strong partnerships
* A valued brand

SMS pointed out that the 70+ CWG Associations have an ability to influence the CGF; an ability not necessarily rooted in performance. We welcome the participation of the smaller nations and will strive to make Triathlon more accessible (see reference to Durban below). Seeing athletes from the smaller nations and territories attain the very pinnacle of personal performance can be enormously powerful for those ‘back home’. Such qualities and sentiments are being represented at the highest level to Louise Martin CBE (President, CGF), David Grevemberg (CEO, CGF) and Matthew Curtain (Director of Sport & IF Relations, CGF).

* There had been a successful meeting in April including CGF, GOLDOC and ITU in Lausanne.
* Paratriathlon was to make its CWG debut in Gold Coast thanks to Commonwealth Games Australia, Triathlon Australia, GOLDOC, ITU and, not least, Australia’s multiple world paratriathlon champion, Bill Chaffey. This will feature 10 women and 10 men in the former PT1 (now PTHC) category.
* There will be 6600 travel grants (TG) issued in respect of the Gold Coast Games, 4550 of which would be for athletes. There was some clarification of eligibility with respect to TGs.
* The Durban Games in 2022 may see a different format for Triathlon with semi finals over the super sprint distance and the final at the sprint distance.
* Attention was drawn to the Commonwealth Youth Games, comprising nine sports and about a thousand young athletes. The next Games will be in BAH in 2017. The 2021 venue will be Belfast (NIR). SMS had made a novel proposal to include triathlon in Belfast which she had communicated to the Belfast authorities and the CGF. She went on the describe the significant impact which NIR had made in the early days of the sport. Action: SMS to follow up further.
1. **Activities from CW Federations, inc Olympic and Paralympic Triathlon[[2]](#footnote-2)\***

SMS described the enormous success of Commonwealth Nations in the Olympics and Paralympics in Rio de Janeiro.

One of the most notable success stories of a triathlete from a smaller nation has been that of Flora Duffy (BER), who was prominent last season in winning the ITU WTS.

A most successful L1 Coaching Course had been held in South Africa in March 2016. Coaches came from RSA, ZIM, MRI and NAM. This was a joint venture between ITU Development and the British Triathlon Federation (BTF). A similar course is to be run in TTO in March 2017. These courses also give participants access to the BTF on-line coaching hub.

TM and BF from GHA described the rapid progress of the Ghanaian Triathlon Association. They had met their targets to increase participation in events and increase the number of events. They will introduce electronic timing at the next event and have been able to attract a five year sponsorship deal. The Association has engaged former British World Triathlon Champion, Spencer Smith, to help with coaching and he will race in Ghana in March 2017. The race in question will be used as a basis for qualification for Continental, Commonwealth and World events. TM and BF mentioned the help given by Zita Csovelyak from ITU Development as well as from IH and JB from the BTF.

AB mentioned that Marc Jenkins, a former GBR Triathlon Olympian, is working with a promising junior Jamaican triathlete on a *pro bono* basis. (The contact was made through SMS.)

1. **a) Business from the ITU Congress with impact on ACT**

SMS briefly took the delegates through the Congress agenda and AB drew attention to his contribution on the Audit Committee.

This Congress, at the end of the current Olympiad, is particularly significant in that elections will be held. Tributes were paid to SMS and BW who, in deference to good governance, were standing down from their roles as ITU Vice Presidents.

Many in the room were standing for election; those standing for a position as Vice President or as an ITU Executive Committee member were given a short time to address the meeting, and those standing for positions on the various ITU committees were mentioned. It was, however, emphasised by SMS that it was important to think of good governance when selecting representatives and that there should be diversity across the bodies working as volunteers for ITU over the next 4 years.

 **b) Development Opportunities and Resources**

* GM was given the floor. He described how the ITU Development Programme had funds devoted to it which were channelled through the regions and how the programme was delivered by Continental facilitators. He drew attention to the ‘Education Hub’, which was developed by BTF and worked in partnership with them.
* Materials were in process of being translated, primarily into Spanish, but also French.
* There is a number of ‘Direct Projects’ based on a four year targeting on Olympic Games. This is dependent on largesse distributed by the IOC at the end of each Olympiad. Part of this will be directed to bringing new (Triathlon) flags to the Games through the device of assisting particular athletes at World Cups and planning scholarships.
* Other opportunities may be accessed through Olympic Solidarity. An amount of $500m is available, though this covers all sports and all countries, but calls for close links between NFs and their NOCs.
* ITU is seeking to appoint a part time coach, whose role will be to engage with NFs to mentor and enhance NF programmes.
* GM emphasised Zita Csovelyak’s role as a first point of contact for NFs and Continental Confederations.
1. **There was no Item 7** (Apologies for this mistake from the Secretary General)
2. **Financial Considerations and Election of ACT Treasurer**

SMS reminded the meeting that this would be a brief item since there were no affiliation fees for ACT members and that the Association had no funds and relied on the generosity of others to cover what small costs accrued.

However, the position of ACT Treasurer had been vacant since the resignation of Luc Landriault, through pressure of work, since the last AGM. After some discussion, Les Pereira (CAN) was duly proposed and seconded. In the absence of any other nominations, **Les Pereira was elected by acclamation**.

1. **Towards Gold Coast**

Progress towards the Triathlon Event at the Gold Coast in April 2018 is good. JL referred to an optimistic and reassuring presentation he had seen at the recent AGM of Commonwealth Games England.

There is a necessity to reduce the numbers of ‘forced retirals’ during the bike leg, though lapping, in the individual events. To this end, the races will take place over the sprint distance and there will be consideration given to increasing the length of the bike lap, commensurate also with safety and optimal spectator viewing. The maximum number of competitors from each nation/territory would be three in each of the women’s and men’s races. The Mixed Team Relay would not be limited by having to select from individual race competitors. It was confirmed that, since it was a Sprint distance, then competitors as young as fifteen could be considered.

The significant feature of the 2018 Games will be the introduction of Paratriathlon for the first time with ten women and ten men competing (separately) in the PT 1 category.

1. **Open Forum**

Time for the meeting had run out, and SMS invited everyone to take further conversation and questions into the buffet kindly provided by the British Triathlon Federation.

In closing the meeting, SMS informed those present that Jem Lawson would be stepping down from the position of Secretary General. She thanked him for his contribution to the Association since its foundation. The position of Secretary General is an appointment by the President of the Association and she will be making enquiries of possible candidates.

The ACT General Meeting closed at 14:05.

Jem Lawson, Secretary General ACT

1st January 2017

1. \* Agenda items 4 and 5 were reversed in the meeting. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. \* Agenda items 4 and 5 were reversed in the meeting. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)