



Board Update December 2015

The Board met on Friday 5 December in Christchurch, thus allowing the CE to travel through to New Zealand Secondary Schools Championship.

Finance and Membership

The financial statements and the membership income was the main discussion for the Board. The financial statements continue to show that the organisation is behind budget. The CE and staff are ensuring that department spending is fiscally prudent given this forecast. The main impact is the reduction in membership income.

Results of an audit on membership data and declaration showed that all clubs audited did not have full disclosure. It was agreed that further communication go out to the Member Clubs and Centres outlining the need for complete disclosure and keeping membership data up to date. Following this the Board will review what action it may need to take to ensure that membership is declared and that there is an improvement in membership revenue for the 16/17 financial year. Further club audits will continue.

It was also noted that the Sport NZ community funding announcement was due later in the week and we were expecting the continuation of existing funding levels to be very tough. Subsequent to the Board meeting Athletics NZ was advised that this funding would be reduced by \$50k per annum to \$250k per annum over the next four years. Whilst disappointing it was not as tough as experienced by some other sports.

Strategic Matters

Health and Safety

Linda provided an update of the accident that occurred at the NZ Masters Track and Field event on Friday 27 November. Since the Board meeting Bruce Clarke has tragically passed away and our sympathies are with his family at this time.

The Health and Safety Development and Implementation Plan, Framework and Project run sheet had been circulated to the Board. The significant amount of work completed by staff on this project was acknowledged.

Sport NZ have provided a legal opinion which at this stage indicates that jurisdiction will be determined by Athletics NZ's "level of influence" over the activities being undertaken. The CE will continue to explore what this will mean as the work within the Health and Safety Plan is being undertaken. It is expected that a legal opinion specific to Athletics NZ activities may still be required, but possibly once the Act is in place. The Board agreed for this to be a matter of concern until we fully understand our level of influence. Sport NZ is also developing an online tool kit and Athletics NZ has agreed to be one of the NSO's that will be included in a pilot planned for February.

Once we have a firm position, systems established and templates are available, Athletics NZ will need to determine what level of training; who will need to receive this; and the mechanisms for providing evidence that the training has been undertaken. How this will be undertaken is yet to be decided.

Key Initiatives 2016/17

Following the work from the October Strategic review, the proposed key initiatives were circulated to the Board. The CE had indicated their priority in regards to our current strategic plan and the level of work required.

Some initiatives were reprioritised or updated with only a few being deferred to the new Strategic Plan work to be undertaken during 2016. The CE noted that if the Sport NZ community funding reduced, we won't know what initiatives will be funded until next year and this may then impact on the deliverability of some initiatives. Any initiatives that are at risk due to budget constraints will be flagged with the Board at the January budget setting meeting.

Independent Commission Report to WADA

Discussion took place on the activities to date surrounding the independent report, the actions taken by the IAAF (immediate banning of Russian athletes) and their investigation into the Russian doping accusations. There is still a further and final section of the full report still to be released – likely in January. We continue to work with DFSNZ to ensure that our athletes meet their Anti-doping obligations.

High Performance

High Performance Director Scott Goodman attended the meeting and provided a verbal update. He provided an overview of the performance review meeting held with High Performance Sport NZ (HPSNZ) on 4 November. He was also able to advise that earlier that morning, HPSNZ had approved an additional \$75,000 of funding. This money is targeted as campaign funding for athletes seeking selection for the Rio Olympic Games.

Scott advised that we currently have ten athletes qualified for Rio and he estimates we can expect more athletes to qualify. There is the potential for this to be the biggest Olympic team for athletics in some years.

Scott provided the Board with an overview of the MOU with Paralympics and also advised of an increase in funding through Paralympics which will have a positive impact on the Rio campaign. It was noted that four medals were won at the recent IPC Games and that the expectation going into Rio is high for our programme of athletes.

General matters

A number of nominations have been submitted for the Halberg Awards.

Records Noted by the Board

Women National: Hammer 66.26m – Julia Ratcliffe – 17 October 2015, Hamilton
Men U20 National: 5000m Race Walk - 22:01.78 – Jared Free – 31 October 2015, Auckland
Women Resident: Pole Vault – 4.35m – Eliza McCartney – 7 November 2015, Auckland
Women Resident: Pole Vault – 4.50m – Eliza McCartney – 14 November 2015, Auckland
Women National U19: Pole Vault – 4.50m – Eliza McCartney - 14 November 2015, Auckland
Women National U20: Pole Vault – 4.50m – Eliza McCartney – 14 November 2015, Auckland
Women National: Pole Vault – 4.50m – Eliza McCartney – 14 November 2015, Auckland

Regards

Annette Purvis
Board Chair