

Board Update January 2015

The first Board meeting of the New Year was on Friday 28 January. It was a busy meeting with HP Director Scott Goodman joining the meeting along with Alex Baumann Chief Executive High Performance Sport NZ. Mark Brent, the new Commercial and Marketing Manager, was also in attendance during the lunch break for an informal discussion and introduction to the Board.

High Performance Update

Scott provided an overview of where the HP programme was tracking, with a significant goal being becoming a tier-one HPSNZ funded programme. Discussion took place on what would be required for Athletics to become a multi medal winning sport. Being a tier-one sport would see considerable increased investment. The importance of the lead up to Rio and the need to focus resources on the Rio campaign was highlighted. The board reinforced its support for the current strategic approach by the HP team and the current HP philosophy.

Scott talked to the new targeted area for developing athletes that sits outside the HPSNZ funding. The HP team can only provide limited support to this and therefore the initial focus is to identify the key initiatives and the resources needed to support this area. The possibility of an Asia/Pacific/Oceania U23 competition was highlighted as being strategically important for developing athletes.

The board congratulated Scott on the success the programme is experiencing under his leadership. It is exciting to see the depth of talent that is coming through.

Alex Baumann joined the meeting and highlighted the main pillars of the HPSNZ strategic plan. He advised that the area of talent identification is an area that HPSNZ believe could be improved on to allow NZ to obtain a competitive edge over other countries. Already others are looking at what NZ does in the high performance area. Alex explained the increased funding for the ANZ HP programme was in talent identification area with the employment of a HP Athlete Development Leader.

Alex expressed HPSNZ's confidence in Scott for his ongoing work within the ANZ HP programme. This confidence and current performance was a factor in Athletics NZ receiving increased funding.

Levy Review and Feedback

On the 14 December the Board met by teleconference and agreed the recommended membership bylaw changes along with the membership fees. Following feedback on price sensitivity a social membership was included for those members that do not compete in interclub events. The Championship fees were capped and the Road Relay fee charge left for later agreement. This will be discussed at the February meeting with board members asked to seek feedback from various parts of the membership.

Linda has responded to the Levy Feedback on an individual basis, answering and addressing specific questions rather than one generic email to all.

It is accepted that in the first year of the new model we are likely see some 'teething issues'. At the end of the first year, a review with recommendations on addressing any on-going problems that do arise will be undertaken.

There have been requests for clarification on the definition of Social Member. This was defined as "A Club Member that only participates at Club Nights and Club Runs and this generally does not include competitions offered through their Centre or Interclub Competitions". It was agreed to review the definition of a Social Member after the winter season and gather member's feedback on how this has been implemented through Clubs.

The Rules Committee provided a recommendation on Administration By-Law A4 (Centres) and this was accepted by the board at the January meeting.

Finance and Risk

The organisation continues to operate within its budget and work is ongoing to refine our financial reporting.

The draft 2015/16 budget was presented. This draft budget reflects the challenge that changing the membership model will have on income and cash flow. As Athletics NZ is taking on the risk with the change in the collection model it has agreed to a conservative budget with a minimal surplus. The budget still allows enough funding to support meeting agreed initiatives and associated KPIs, as we are still focused on improving our value to the sport.

Promotion of the model will be essential in ensuring the risk is minimised and the opportunity to increase membership realised. A stakeholder engagement plan forms part of the 2015/15 strategic initiatives.

The Finance Manager role had been advertised and the recruitment process is expected to be complete by mid March. A contractor has been secured to provide support in this area in the interim.

A recent incident at the Capital Classic that resulted in a head/neck injury to an official was raised, particularly in relation to the changes under the revised Health and Safety legislation. We agreed that we need to better understand our obligations and in particular which events fall under the ANZ jurisdiction and then develop a policy that governs this area of health and safety.

As a minimum, there should be a requirement to report any accidents and critical incidents. It is important that all event organisers, officials and clubs understand their obligations and that we provide support to improve understanding. The Audit and Risk Committee will work with Linda to consider recommendations for action.

Strategic Plan

The key strategic priorities for 2015/16 were presented and agreed by the board with just minor alteration ahead of finalisation at the February Board meeting. Operational reporting requirements were also agreed along with department managers presenting to the board at regular intervals on their performance against key initiatives.

Oceania/IAAF

Athletics NZ nominated Mariah Ririnui for the inaugural OAA Future Women Leaders Scholarship and Raylene Bates for the inaugural OAA Women's Award. Both the Scholarship and Award will be announced at the OAA February Congress.

The IAAF Vice President Lord Coe is to visit Auckland ahead of the OAA Congress. His manifesto in regards to his bid to be IAAF President was circulated to the board. Both Linda and I have a meeting scheduled with him and a range of topics including Olympic events, regional Under 23 competitions and hosting World Championships will be raised as discussion items.

Regards
Annette Purvis
Board Chair