

## **SPORT MATTERS IMPLEMENTATION GROUP (PERFORMANCE) MEETING**

The minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Performance SMIG held on Wednesday 27 May at 1.30pm in the House of Sport.

### **PRESENT**

- Danny O'Connor (Sport Northern Ireland)
- Roy Millar (Northern Ireland Sports Forum)
- Dr. Eugene Young (Gaelic Athletic Association)
- Elaine Reid (Disability Sports Northern Ireland)
- Paul McDermott (Irish Sports Council)
- Peter Eszard (Sports Coach UK)

### **In attendance:**

- Dr. Paul Donnelly - Sport Northern Ireland (Secretariat)
- Dr. Shaun Ogle - Sport Northern Ireland

### **1. APOLOGIES**

- Apologies were received from Liz McLaughlin (Student Sport Ireland), Jerry Bingham (UK Sport), Michael McGeehan (Coaching Ireland<sup>1</sup>), Michael Black (Irish Rugby Football Union – Ulster Branch), Ian Taylor (SkillsActive) and Stephen Martin (Olympic Council of Ireland)

### **2. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

- 2.1 The Chair welcomed members to the 9th meeting of the Performance SMIG and thanked everyone for their attendance. Following a short introduction from all Members present.

### **3. REVIEW OF MINUTES OF THE 8<sup>TH</sup> PERFORMANCE SMIG MEETING HELD ON 27 MAY 2015**

- 3.1 The minutes of the previous meeting were considered and approved by all in attendance.

### **4. MATTERS ARISING**

- 4.1 The Chair reviewed the actions from the previous SMIG meeting and asked members to update on their respective actions:

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<sup>1</sup> Coaching Ireland is now integrated with Irish Sports Council



*Action 1 (point 2.2): All Performance SMIG Members congratulated Sport NI and the NICWGC for their efforts [including the athletes/teams that attained medal success/personal bests during the event], and queried the current status of 2014 Commonwealth Games Review that is currently being undertaken Sport NI. SO confirmed that the Review has been initiated and the he would be more than willing to present some key findings at the next meeting on the Performance SMIG in April/May 2015 (COMPLETED)*

*Action 2 (point 2.2): All Performance SMIG Members congratulated Sport NI, governing bodies, athletes and others involved in the development of this great initiative, but did highlight that there is some confusion in the sector with regards to who is responsible for identifying and managing the use of Sport Ambassadors. For example, the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) has made use of a number of sporting heroes to promote various events, but there seems to be no obvious link to athletes involved in this initiative. The Performance SMIG Chair agreed to clarify this issue with relevant staff/officials within DCAL and Sport NI (COMPLETED).*

- 4.2 EY thanked PD for the update, but requested further consultation with relevant governing bodies in relation to the process for identifying Sporting Ambassadors.

**Action 1: Sport NI and DCAL to consult with governing bodies of sport in relation to the process for identifying Sporting Ambassadors.**

*Action 3 (point 5.1): IT to provide SMIG Members with further information/details relating possible EU funding opportunities (COMPLETED).*

- 4.3 PD confirmed that he was able to access information relating to the EU funding opportunities referred to by IT at the previous meeting and informed Members that Sport NI is currently working on an 'EU Funding & Sport' information document for wider circulation to the sports sector.

**Action 2: Performance SMIG to raise the issue of EU funding opportunities and the need for a conference/seminar on the subject at the next meeting of the SMMG.**

*Action 4 (point 7.1): Performance SMIG Members agreed to complete and return the Action Planning Template within the specified timeframe (COMPLETED).*

- 4.3 The Chair thanked all members for their contributions to Matters Arising.

## 5. MEMBER UPDATES

- 5.1 The Chair asked Members to provide a verbal update on significant actions that have been undertaken (since the last meeting) by each of the representative organisations which contributed to the implementation of Sport Matters.
- 5.2 Members heard of a range of initiatives and areas of progress, such as:
- a. High Performance Sub-Committee established and policy paper approved. Focus on developing M&E Framework, ISC merger with National Sports Campus (Irish Sports Council);
  - b. PerformanceFocus Mid-Term Review, Promotion Active Warm-Up, Anti-Doping education, Strategy, Strategy Review (Ulster Council GAA);
  - c. BOCCIA Development and progress of local athletes to GB Paralympic Team; Wheel Basketball, Active Clubs (Disability Sports NI);
  - d. Board Members Skills Audit, Female Sports Forum established as a sub-committee; All Party Working Group on Sport (Northern Ireland Sports Forum);
  - e. Inaugural European Games 12th -28th June in Baku involving a athletes and support personnel from Northern Ireland. See links for further information <http://olympics.ie/european-games/12636-team-ireland-athletes-european-games.html> (Olympic Council of Ireland, provided by email); and
  - f. Integration of Sport Institute NI into Sport NI, 2014 Commonwealth Games Review (Sport NI); and PerformanceFocus Review (Sport NI).
- 5.4 EY congratulated Kelly Gallagher (MBE)<sup>2</sup> and Kelly Fay on their recent involvement at the Northern Ireland Branch of the British Psychological Society (NIBPS) [together with School of Sport at Ulster University and Sport Northern Ireland] public lecture celebrating the work of Sport and Exercise Psychologists with Paralympic Athletes in Northern Ireland. EY highlighted that the event provided all in attendance with an opportunity to see how sport psychologists work closely with athletes to enhance performance through motivation, goal setting, confidence building and mental skills training.

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<sup>2</sup> Kelly Gallagher won Britain's first ever Winter gold (Paralympic or Olympic) Medal on 10th March 2014, during the Winter Paralympics in Sochi, Russia. She finished first in the visually impaired Super-G competition along with her guide Charlotte Evans. In preparation for the Winter Paralympics Kelly has worked closely with her Sport psychologist Kelley Fay (Sport NI). You will have an opportunity to hear first-hand the experiences of the Paralympics from Kelly followed by a question and Answer session with her Sport Psychologist.

- 5.5. The Chair acknowledged to good work and contribution of all members to the implementation of Sport Matters. In particular, the Chair focussed on the update from PMcD (Irish Sports Council) and asked if it would be possible to receive a presentation on their work at a future meeting of the Performance SMIG.

**Action 3: PMcD agreed to deliver a presentation on the work of the ISC, particularly in relation to high performance sport, at future meeting of the Performance SMIG.**

## **6. SPORT MATTERS ACTION PLAN (2015-2019)**

- 6.1 The Chair highlighted the Sport Matters Action Plan 2015-2019 which will outline organisation's commitment to informing the Sport Matters targets. The Chair asked members if they had any comments to make concerning any of the targets relation to the Performance. The Chair highlighted in particular, Target *PE19b* "**By 2018 to win at least XX medals at the Commonwealth games**" and asked Members to briefly discuss.
- 6.2 SO highlighted that it would be difficult to set a medal target for the 2018 Commonwealth Games at this earlier stage as Northern Ireland athletes are very much focussed on Rio 2016 and Sport NI is not in a position to speculate on the number of Northern Ireland athletes that likely to continue and/or progress with training and preparation for the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games. SO indicated that the reasoning behind this position (e.g. retirements, injuries etc.) will be covered in more detail in his 2014 Commonwealth Games Review presentation.

**Action 4: Performance SMIG Members agreed the draft Sport Matters Action Plan, subject to inclusion of further to information/actions by a number of SMIG members.**

## **7. PRESENTATION BY DR SHAUN OGLE - SPORT NI**

- 7.1 SO provided Members with a detailed presentation on the process and findings from Sport NI's 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games Review. A copy of the full presentation is available at

<http://www.sportni.net/about-us/sports-strategy/>

- 7.2 The Chair thanked SO for his presentation and congratulated the Northern Ireland Commonwealth Games Council and Sport NI on their efforts in



creating an effective sports development system in which Northern Ireland athletes can compete and succeed at the highest level.

**8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

8.1 No other business was recorded.

**9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

9.1 The Chair advised that dates for the next SMIG meetings will be confirmed following the Sport Matters Monitoring Group meeting in August 2015.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_