

Minute of the meeting held in the Scottish Parliament.

## PRESENT

Margo MacDonald MSP, Alison Johnstone MSP, John Mason MSP, Tavish Scott MSP, Kim Atkinson, Peter Warren, Oliver Barsby, Dougi Bryce, Diane Cameron, Jane Campbell Morrison, Forbes Dunlop, Stewart Fowle, Stuart Gallagher, Malcolm Gillies, Hugh Hall, Brian Harper, Nigel Holl, Ian Hooper, Grant Jarvie, Rick Kenney, David Laing, Walter Macadam, Judith MacKinnon, David Matthew, Declan McGinley, Deborah McGinniss, Jim McIntosh, Joanna McLaughlin, Alan Miller, Jim Moffat, Dave Morris, Jim Moyes, Peter Nicolson, Stuart Ogg, Steve Paige, Geoff Platt, Charlie Raeburn, Bob Reekie, Roger Scrutton, Ronnie Sloan, Ron Sutherland, Paul Togneri, Gary Watson, Sean Webster, Hayley Wotherspoon.

## APOLOGIES

Clare Adamson MSP, Dougi Arneil, David Arnott, Tom Bishop, Dianne Campbell, Paul Carlyle, John Clayton, Lee Cousins, Geoff Earl, Ian Findlay, Margaret Ann Fleming, Kenneth Gibson MSP, Dr. John Gillies, Duncan Hamilton, Jane Harvey, Scott Hastings, Hugh Henry MSP, Catherine Jamieson, Liza Linton, Linda MacDonal, Charles Mackenzie, Julie Mason, Fiona McLeod MSP, Stuart McMillan MSP, Anne McTaggart MSP, Nanette Milne MSP, Alan Murray, Beth Paterson, Colin Rennie, Brian Samson, Pam Scott, Dr. Richard Simpson MSP, Liz Smith MSP, Stuart Smith, Kenny Stewart, Colin Thomson, David Watt, Cameron Watt and David Webster.

## **Previous Minute:**

Matters Arising – None.

## Round Table Discussion

Margo welcomed everyone to the session, a meeting seeking to discuss Investment in Sport Beyond 2014, in particular welcoming John Mason MSP, Deputy Convenor of the Finance Committee.

**Stuart Ogg, Director of Corporate Services, sportscotland** began by giving his apologies on behalf of Stewart Harris (CEO) who was unable to attend to give the keynote presentation at tonight's meeting. Stuart proceed to present on the investment in sport in Scotland beyond 2014, stating that we need to look at the national perspective and ensure that all parties are committed to the gradual process of ensuring Scotland has a World class sporting system. He made the point that **sportscotland** is more than just a bank and that there is a combination of expertise, partnerships and collaboration that exist to assist and to add value in the development of sport in Scotland.

Stuart outlined **sportscotland's** national investment in sport of approximately £66 million per year, which is guaranteed for a further two years, outlining the specific areas in which this funding has been allocated. He reiterated the power of collaborative working between partners, especially within communities where the power of sport is a dimension he believes we need to substantially build on. Stuart highlighted that such partnerships are particularly pertinent given the local authority/leisure trust annual investment in sport of £656 million per year; **sportscotland's** annual investment is only 10% of the overall spend on sport.

The importance of sustainability of programmes and participation was reiterated as a key focus by Stuart. The priority has to be establishing partnerships which add value beyond investment by working together. In reflecting on a meeting he'd attended earlier in the week, Stuart discussed the numerous case studies presented at the Social Investment Scotland AGM that were sport based and the opportunities presented for clubs to tap into these funding opportunities. A focus is required on creating the system and creating the infrastructure to support the system, therefore, again, the priority remains sustainability.

Stuart highlighted the national investment principles which underpin **sportscotland's** investment, presented the framework that is in place to support these principles and reiterated the sentiment that it is not all about money from **sportscotland's** end; clubs and Scottish Governing Bodies (SGBs) need to investigate other avenues of funding and run on a slightly more enterprising basis. He discussed the long term national investment that is in place in areas such as the **sportscotland** Institute of Sport and Active Schools, through

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which there are over 5 million activity sessions per year and 18,000 connections between schools and clubs. Stuart concluded by reminding those present as to the importance of partnership working in seeking to create a World class sporting system beyond 2014.

**Nigel Holl, CEO, Scottish Athletics** presented two specific case studies linked to Scottish Athletics, jogscotland and Club Together, with Scottish Athletics' aim that athletics clubs should be at the heart of communities in Scotland.

Club Together is an athletics programme that seeks to utilise partnerships between key agencies in communities to promote sport and the wider impact it can have in the community; the high retention rates demonstrated are fundamental to the success of the programme. Clubs are planning for legacy through preparations supported by the Club Together programme. The Club Together model was based on a pilot enabled through CashBack for Communities investment in Scottish Athletics.

Club Together officers engage with parents and get them involved in the programmes to show them what is going on and to essentially create a culture change where sport and physical activity participation is the norm for families. The key here is a friendly face to club development. Club Together is about culture change but through a focus on club needs - increasing and retaining members, club capacity and volunteer recruitment etc. Future developments are focused on business development regarding increasing sustainability and providing seven days per week opportunities to take part.

Secondly Nigel discussed the jogscotland programme, giving a brief background to the well-established initiative, now in its 10<sup>th</sup> year, with approximately 28,000 members active in the programme each week, 72% of which are female. There are over 2,400 jog leaders trained and delivering opportunities every week throughout Scotland. Nigel pointed to the success of athletes in Masters championships who started off through jogscotland networks. The life-changing aspect of the jogscotland programme was highlighted following feedback from participants who've started out walking and ended up as National Masters Champions! An annual investment of £130,000 per year into jogscotland supports 28,000 people to be active each week across Scotland – undoubtedly a fantastic return on investment. Nigel concluded by noting the recent £2 million investment into the Run England programme.

At this stage Margo thanked the presenters and everyone for attending and apologised that she had to leave due to a prior engagement at this time. Alison Johnstone MSP was invited to chair the remainder of the meeting as Deputy Convenor in Margo's absence. Alison thanked Margo and moved to the panel discussion aspect of the meeting. Alison thanked Stuart and Nigel for their contributions and invited Alan Miller (**sportscotland**) and Ian Hooper (VOCAL and Glasgow Life) to the panel. Alison invited Ian to give a brief introduction to the panel discussion.

**Ian Hooper** discussed the view from a local authority perspective and made an initial point that alternative delivery models, such as trusts, are increasingly being investigated. Demonstrating sports' contribution to wider social, health and other agendas was described as essential in enhancing investment in sport. Ian supported earlier statements regarding the increasing requirement for collaborative approaches between multiple parties in attempting to achieve their wider aims; Ian referenced partnerships within Glasgow Life to the Glasgow Housing Association, youth organisations and regeneration organisations. There is an increasing priority within local authorities to enhance the capacity within the voluntary sector with a need to have a volunteer development programme approach. In addition to this, the benefits of the Club Together, Active Schools and other programmes are becoming increasingly realised throughout the VOCAL network and there is strong support for a continuation of investment into the Active Schools programme within PEPAS (PE, Physical Activity and Sport).

Ian continued by highlighting access to the school estate as a priority, with a focus on quality of access for local communities and for voluntary clubs.

In providing further context to the forthcoming panel discussion, Ian highlighted a few other current local authority priorities:

- Increasing participation, therefore more active lifestyles

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- Challenging the barriers which exist in manifesting a 20% difference in participation rates between individuals in the least and most deprived areas
- Sustaining existing facilities, through new models of provision, maintenance and increased access.

Alison thanked Ian for this thought-provoking introduction to the panel discussion. She reflected that clubs are fantastic community assets and that access to the school estate would be the topic of discussion at the next Cross Party Group on Sport meeting. Alison opened the panel discussion by welcoming questions and comments.

Diane Cameron (Senscot) asked how much were Scottish Athletics involved in the recruitment and development process for Club Together officers and about the challenges that may exist in recruitment and retention for part-time local clubs within the voluntary sector. Nigel responded pointing out that Club Together officers are a joint recruitment with partners and once an individual was in post they are given a lot of one-to-one time and support via regional managers.

Dougi Bryce (Judo Scotland) asked what strategy sport should be taking post-2014 in looking more at working with other departmental budgets, such as the health budget. Ian agreed that there needs to be further work with the NHS and to lever investment in regarding GP referrals. He pointed out that there are so many programmes but we need to find a way to make these sustainable and that even small shifts in the health budget towards preventative spend programmes would make a huge difference. Nigel also agreed and stated that we would get payback but that the greatest payback would be after one electoral cycle and therefore it is a long game but the research is there and community development and quality of life should be central. Sport needs to be better at making its case regarding the physical and mental health benefits but Nigel questioned as to whether sport has made the most of this financial case.

Alan joined the debate stating that some of this is already happening, such as Active Schools which was originally health money and is now part of **sportscotland's** core grant money. There is often a mix of budgets brought together in facility developments and funding organisations need to be better at working in partnership and supplying voluntary clubs in sustainable ways. It is not about sport raiding other budgets but about working in partnership, we need to talk to these partners and get us all working together. Stuart supported this, suggesting using Active Schools and other figures to help to demonstrate this point. Ian highlighted the real appetite within the NHS for partnership working and dialogue on the prevention agenda as there is recognition as to the cost, and the increasing cost, of physical inactivity to health therefore there is an open door here. The NHS is now approaching Glasgow Life on these issues.

Dave Morris (Ramblers Scotland) asked the panel how long is legacy to last? He stated that to change culture there needed to be change in travel in Scotland – walking and cycling and the infrastructure to enable and encourage this. There are issues regarding paths and balancing of relationships regarding walking and cycling and motor transport. Can we set a timeline of 10 years and aim to put pressure on politicians? Nigel responded by stating that legacy is a catalyst opportunity and that the real legacy is what we should be involved in developing every day. These major events need to be used as the catalyst to speed up the development of sport, not to base the development on. We should not be changing strategy but use this as a springboard to achieve a high level of ambition and targets. Legacy has started already but there is still time to do more. Stuart responded stating that the importance is the direction of travel and a common ambition across the sector. We all need to move in the same direction and need the foundations to underpin legacy and have that high level of ambition. Alan stated that legacy started the day we won the bid and **sportscotland** need to use this to accelerate their plans to develop a World class sporting system. Alison added that we need to be looking at child development and the inactivity of today's children; we need to be investing more in active travel – 40% of the population of Copenhagen cycle to school or work.

Ron Sutherland questioned the debate and whether or not we were discussing investment beyond 2014 and asked why funding is often cut when governing bodies are not meeting targets and need it most? Stuart reiterated his earlier points that the current budget is for a further two years. With regards to the lottery funding it is unknown and that is the nature of that funding; we need to look at opportunities for new funding and partnerships to make sport more sustainable. A longer term Scottish Government commitment would further enable best practice for sport in seeking to create a World class system. In terms of SGB funding, it is allocated via how they have developed, their governance practices and performance. We look at each sport, develop plans with them and look at these plans when determining funding and support. Nigel stated that SGBs

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would love the assurance of funding long term but we need to be realistic; all governing bodies work closely with **sportscotland** regarding funding and planning. SGBs priority is to deliver against its own plans therefore there is confidence that we can make a strong case to **sportscotland**. Nigel confirmed that he has no issues regarding how the system works and that SGBs are not all totally reliant on **sportscotland** funding and is striving to reduce the percentage of funding through increasing other income streams.

Charlie Raeburn agreed that there were lots of good news stories and case studies and questioned the increased spending on performance rather than participation, poor measures regarding participation rates and the high cost of facility hire for clubs. Can we identify minimal cost opportunity for everyone and make sustainability key? Alison reflected on comments of the former CEO of Edinburgh Leisure who stated that if 1% of the health budget was allocated to sport it may throw open doors and may not cost what we think. Ian pointed to the differing ways of engaging non-participants therefore new approaches of innovation are needed and questioned where we invest post 2014. Do we invest less in facilities and more in people to get more people involved in sport and physical activity? We need to have a flexible approach to sport – not everyone is “clubbable”; we need to be increasing the accessibility of sport. Stuart stated that investment in Community Sports Hubs (CSHs) is supported through lottery funding and told the group that Stewart Harris recently presented to the Commonwealth Games Conference regarding CSHs, which generated lots of interest worldwide. Alan stated that research shows that participation levels are static but there is an increased frequency of participation with research showing that costs are not the main barrier to participation but availability of time to access facilities.

Tavish Scott MSP asked the panel should there be more spend directed towards covered facilities due to the often unpredictable Scottish weather to help to increase participation in the younger population. Nigel pointed to the new Emirates arena as a good start to increasing quality indoor facilities but we do need more indoor facilities for a range of sports. However, we also need to recognise that good coaches/leaders make sport fun in all weathers and this is where we need to concentrate efforts. Alan stated that there is a good programme in place regarding indoor facilities in places such as Toryglen, Ravenscraig, The Peak, Aberdeen Sports Village and the 2014 facilities with future funding into tennis creating the opportunity for a refurbishment of local authority tennis facilities and four new indoor tennis centres.

Rick Kenny pointed to the level of spend that is in the control of local authorities at 80-90% but sport is ever more reliant on voluntary input. Sport is not a statutory service therefore it has challenges when there is budgetary scrutiny. He asked how does the voluntary sector get mobilised more to influence local authorities and trusts to ensure a continuous or increased investment in sport in challenging times. Nigel responded stating that the proliferation of trusts is a major challenge facing sport in Scotland that we need to tackle, the principle challenge is challenging real community engagement when it often appears that the bottom line comes first. This is not good for society and sport with clubs facing challenges to be listened to; sports development support doesn't make money. Ian noted the difficult balance for local authorities who are genuinely facing difficult budget savings with often political pressure regarding closing facilities, maintenance services and opening hours. Therefore the choice can be to open to arms length or increase in charges (which haven't increased as much as they are perceived to have) but that decisions have to be made and budget pressures will force prioritisation, although sport is not being treated differently than other services within local authorities (VOCAL Sport Survey 3 years ago). Leaders in sport within local authorities are influential in demonstrating the value of sport to politicians with regards to the budget setting and there is a balance needed that if you can afford it you should pay and if you can't you should get help. Ian also noted that some trusts do have social outcomes; they are set up by local authorities who pay a service fee therefore should dictate the policies and outcomes.

Stew Fowlie (Scottish Student Sport) asked how we can challenge the difficulty in retaining young people in sport after the leave school. Can we turn this into an opportunity? Nigel responded that if individuals were not in clubs by the stage they are leaving school that is the real challenge and there is potentially a challenge for clubs to keep contact with those who move away after they finish school. This is all part of the landscape of challenges and opportunities to improve coaching and clubs to prevent earlier drop off. Stuart stated that it is justifiable to focus on schools to get young people onto a pathway, providing a competitive environment to move into if they wish. If school relationships are not being tested then this message is a huge opportunity.

Malcolm Gillies (Inch Park Community Sports Club) outlined that they are a small community sports club that generate their own capital and develop and build capacity in their community through interaction and

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partnerships. There is a full time youth officer funded in the community therefore it's not all about cash. Ian praised Inch Park as a fantastic example of sport and club reaching into the community.

**John Mason, MSP and Deputy Convenor Finance Committee** provided his reflections to the group, outlining the fact that he was there wearing two hats (Glasgow Shettleston MSP and as the Deputy Convenor of the Finance Committee). John stated that the Finance Committee hears a lot from other bodies regarding what increased finance can do for them but the frustration is when there is no suggestion where the money can come from, and offered his thanks to Alison Johnstone for suggesting that it could be 1% of the health budget for sport.

Sport will have to fight its own corner and make a better case than other groups to the Finance Committee and Scottish Government; need to invest in areas making a sustainable and measurable impact. There is a need to set priorities and challenges and balance these out. John reflected on the current prevention challenge of bodies trying to 'outbid' each other with Social Return on Investment savings. The key challenge, however, is the making of longer term savings.

John reflected on the reality of the school estate challenge for some groups/individuals. Clubs are challenged to fund facility access while young people can be causing nuisance in their areas which would be assisted if there was the provision of sporting opportunities at an accessible rate for these young people. Having been a local councillor there is recognition of the need to spend money to maintain local facilities.

There is a need to go beyond the statutory side of things and show how we can benefit other areas such as developing partnerships with the NHS. There is a need to get more money in sport in order to get more people active.

Alison Johnstone thanked each of the speakers again and all for attending, offering particular praise to the Cross Party Group for the ongoing strong attendance and thoughtful contributors that were at this and all meetings of the group.

**The date of next Cross Party Group on Sport is 29<sup>th</sup> October where the programme will discuss the opening of the school estate with presentations from sportscotland and Barry White, Scottish Futures Trust.**

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