

Minute of the meeting held in the Scottish Parliament.

**PRESENT**

James Kelly MSP, Alison Johnstone MSP, Mark Griffin MSP, Paul Wheelhouse MSP, Kim Karam (office of Tavish Scott MSP), Sarah Knox (office of Richard Lyle MSP), Peter Warren, Kim Atkinson, Lee Cousins, Daniel Gray, Mary Blackford (office of Margo MacDonald MSP), Alan Milliken, Peter Faassen De Heer, Stuart Gallagher, Colin Rennie, Ron Sutherland, Ronnie Sloan, Charlie Raeburn, Brian Robinson, Stew Fowlie, Alan Miller, David Laing, Tracy McGarry, Fiona McNeilly, Sharon MacDonald, Nigel Holl, Hugh Hall, Harry Garland, Stuart Smith, Maggie Murray, John McNiven, Frank Etherson, Tom Bishop, Kenny Stewart, Euan Miller, Louse Tobin, John Keogh, Jim McIntosh, Allan Alstead, Pam Scott, David Heggie, David McColgan, Joyce Hunnam, Mike Whittingham and Michael Cavanagh.

**APOLOGIES**

Margo MacDonald MSP, Clare Adamson MSP, Sarah Boyack MSP, Jim Hume MSP, John Mason MSP, Nanette Milne MSP, Drew Smith MSP, Liz Smith MSP, Humza Yousaf MSP, Bob Aitken, David Arnott, Oliver Barsby, Dougi Bryce, Diane Cameron, Jane Campbell Morrison, David Carey, John Clayton, Sharon Clough, Jackie Davidson, Helen Ford, Jim Gunn, Duncan Hamilton, Jane Harvey, Stuart MacKenzie, Judith MacFarlane, Gareth McKenna, Anne McLaughlin, Gavin MacLeod, Torquil MacLeod, Anne Smillie, Brian Walker and Mark Wotte.

**Previous Minute:**

Matters Arising – None.

**Round Table Discussion**

In Margo's absence, James Kelly MSP convened the meeting, opening the meeting by welcoming the guest speakers: Mike Whittingham (Director of High Performance at **sportscotland**) and Michael Cavanagh (Chairman, Commonwealth Games Scotland). He confirmed this topical session would focus on: High Performance Sport – Preparations for London 2012 and Glasgow 2014.

Mike opened proceedings by providing an introduction to **sportscotland**, the National Agency for Sport, and the work it does through the **sportscotland** Institute of Sport (SIS). Through the Institute **sportscotland** provides high performance sports programmes as well as operationally managing specialist support services for athletes across 32 sports. **sportscotland**'s corporate vision is for the 'development of a World Class Sporting System'. Specifically for performance sport the corporate plan targets are:

- 2011-2015 is the most successful 4 year cycle for Scotland in terms of performance outcomes (London 2012, Sochi 2014 and Glasgow 2014)
- All SIS supported performance athletes are the best ever prepared for all targeted events through the provision of quality services
- An increasing number of Scottish Governing Bodies are fit for purpose and fit for performance.

The SIS's strategic high performance strategy goals are focussed on London 2012, Sochi 2014, Glasgow 2014 and Rio 2016. Their operational performance goals focus on programme management, athlete management and environmental management.

Performance sports are grouped around:

- Winter Olympic Sports 2014
- Sports of significance to Scotland (golf, rugby, tennis, women's football)
- Paralympic/ParaSports 2012, 2014
- Commonwealth Games Sports 2014, 2018
- Summer Olympics 2012, 2016.

**sportscotland**'s investment principles and decisions for 2011-2015 will focus on 32 priority high performance sports and athletes in the World top 200, via:

- Scots winning medals at the Winter/Summer Olympics/Paralympics 2012, 2014, 2016
- Scots winning medals at Commonwealth Games in 2014
- Scots gaining top 8 or top half of the field at the Commonwealth Games in 2014
- Scots succeeding in sports of significance to Scotland in targeted events, such as 6 Nations, World Cup, Majors, Grand Slam, Davis Cup, Federation Cup etc

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- Scottish sporting programme with a track record of feeding a winning British World Class podium/development programme
  - Opportunity through Glasgow 2014 to grow and establish new programme due to new facility.

Mike outlined the UK sporting landscape in performance terms, clarifying that some sports only compete as Team GB, some compete as both Team GB and Team Scotland and some only compete as Team Scotland (ie home country only). The manifestations of the elite performance pathway from 'Talent and Confirmation' to 'Potential' to 'Podium' through the performance pyramid were explained, including the contribution of a wide range of competitions, including: Junior Europeans, Youth Olympics, World Juniors, UK Senior Championships, GB Under 21s and Under 23s, Senior Europeans, Commonwealth Games, Senior Worlds, World Cup and Olympic Games.

The major headline performance goals for **sportscotland** within 2011-2015 are:

- Winter Sochi 2014 Olympics/Paralympics: 1-2 medals, 38% of Team GB
- Summer London 2012 Olympics/Paralympics: 7+ medals, 45-50 Scots on Team GB
- Summer Glasgow Commonwealth Games: 33+ medals.

UK Sport has targeted 4<sup>th</sup> on the Olympic medal table for the 2012 Olympics, which will require approximately 19 gold medals (Team GB won 16 golds in Beijing).

The SIS provides high performance expertise and services in relation to: performance management, performance planning and GAP analysis, performance coaching, sports medicine, physiotherapy, strength and conditioning, physiology, skill acquisition, psychology, performance analysis/biomechanics, performance lifestyle and performance nutrition.

Flexibility is key to the SIS's services to athletes, hence athletes can be supported through a range of high performance management options:

- Fully managed programmes
- Jointly managed programmes
- Targeted athlete programme
- Outsourcing placements
- Initiatives
- Innovation and special projects
- Institute and network support services.

James thanked Mike for his presentation and welcomed Michael Cavanagh to provide an update in relation to the work of Commonwealth Games Scotland.

Mike informed the Group that Commonwealth Games Scotland (CGS) is a member of the Commonwealth Games Federation – one of 71 member Commonwealth Games Associations. CGS consists of 26 member Scottish Governing Bodies (SGBs) who represent the 26 sports recognised by the Commonwealth Games Federation as potential sports for inclusion in any Commonwealth Games or Youth Commonwealth Games.

The role of CGS is to select and take teams to every Commonwealth Games and Youth Commonwealth Games – branded as 'Team Scotland'. CGS's aims for Team Scotland for 2014 are for Team Scotland to:

- Perform with distinction
- Win highest number of medals ever at a Games (more than 33 in total and more than 11 golds)
- To maximise the opportunity of a home Games.

The latter of these aims has led to a significant CGS selection policy change for Glasgow 2014.

Mike outlined the partnership between CGS and **sportscotland**, confirming that there has been significant lottery investment in performance sport and athletes since the mid-1990s. For example, at the Kuala Lumpur Commonwealth Games in 1998, only a few years after lottery funding started, Scotland won a total of 12 medals. In the next 3 Commonwealth Games the medal tallies were: 2002: 30 medals, 2006: 29 medals, 2010: 26 medals.

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CGS and the SIS have a joint planning group, established prior to the 2006 Games in Melbourne, to ensure that planning targets are aligned as much as possible. In addition to this, it is vital that a number of different roles are clearly understood to aid team preparations and performance at a Commonwealth Games:

- SGBs lead their performance programmes
- The Institute network provides integrated support aimed at improving performances (more medals)
- CGS selects and takes one team from 17 sports aimed at meeting the overall medal target.

In relation to the Team Scotland selection policy, Michael confirmed that this is a CGS responsibility. CGS has had a general selection policy in place for Glasgow 2014 since November 2011, following consultation with member SGBs – specifically those 17 sports in the Glasgow 2014 programme. A copy of this can be downloaded from: <http://www.cgcs.org.uk/commonwealth-games/glasgow-scotland-2014/selection-policies/> The next stage is for sport specific policies to be developed and agreed between CGS and each of the 17 SGBs, which follow the selection principles contained within the general selection policy.

The significant change in CGS selection policy for 2014 is that for the first time since criteria were put in place for the 1998 Games, CGS will ensure that all sports are represented within Team Scotland by a minimum of 3 athletes. This has meant that CGS has guaranteed to accept all host nation places in the 3 team sports, with a proviso that these sports are targeting a top 8 placing. CGS standards have always been about raising standards not lowering the bar. This has resulted in improved medal performance since this approach has been adopted, in parallel with the development of a performance sport system and increased funding for SGB performance programmes in Scotland.

CGS will confirm the final medal target for Glasgow 2014 when the team is announced. That decision will be based on the best information available about our selected athletes and the standard of the competition they will face in every event. CGS is confident that Team Scotland will deliver the highest number of medals ever won by Scotland at any Commonwealth Games.

James thanked Michael for his presentation and opened the floor for questions and discussion.

In the discussion and questions that followed, both Mike and Michael confirmed that performance sport, and their respective organisations, are highly dependent on SGBs to lead and govern their sports and that SGBs are vital partners in performance programmes.

In reflecting on the proposed merger between UK Sport and Sport England Mike confirmed that progress in this regard had been postponed until after the Olympics. Regardless of this, Scottish sport continues to work to develop a world class sporting system at all levels.

Alison Johnstone MSP raised a query in relation to potential tensions between the closure of local sporting facilities and the development of elite sporting facilities. How do we ensure everyone has access to the facilities, while maximising opportunities for both? Mike confirmed that **sportscotland** and the Scottish Government are working towards 150 Community Sports Hubs and are supporting facilities through their PE, People and Partnerships system. Coaching remains a priority to ensure that athletes get the required coaching support. However, the reliance of sport upon volunteers remains and Glasgow 2014 presents a great opportunity to involve even more volunteers in sport. Michael added that **sportscotland** has increase investment in technical officials to ensure that more Scottish technical officials are involved in 2014, reaffirming that legacy is about everything we do.

Following a question on the potential for inclusion of transplant sports in Glasgow 2014, Michael informed those present that there are strict regulations for 2014 and the Commonwealth Games and, therefore, that this is a challenging request. CGS and the Commonwealth Games Federation are both very proud of the inclusion of parasports; there were 3 parasports in previous Games and will be a record number of 5 in Glasgow: athletics, swimming, paralifting, bowls and track cycling. There will be 20 parasports events as part of the main programme for Glasgow 2014.

Michael responded to a question in relation to a legacy for target shooting from 2014 stating that the CGS position on this is clear that they support the aspiration for a legacy venue. However, the challenge for this is funding. A clear distinction must be made between a legacy venue and a venue for the Games because of the restrictions in where Games shooting can be held. A legacy opportunity for shooting remains an option in relation to shooting equipment.

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James thanked Mike and Michael as the guest speakers and all those for attending for a lively and positive discussion.

The meeting closed at 2.10pm.

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