

Minute of Meeting held at the Scottish Parliament

PRESENT

Margo MacDonald MSP, Alison Johnstone MSP, Elizabeth Smith MSP, Peter Warren, Allan Alstead, Dougie Arneil, Kim Atkinson, Kris Barnett, Oliver Barsby, Diane Cameron, Paul Carlyle, Michael Cavanagh, Michael Chisholm, John Clayton, Jamie Corr, Lee Cousins, Jon Doig, David Dundas, Laura Forster, Jim Gunn, Hugh Hall, Duncan Hamilton, Susan Jackson, Grant Jarvie, Kim Karam, Rick Kenney, David Laing, Charles Mackenzie, Jim McIntosh, Joanna McLaughlin, Declan Mc Ginley, Matthew Millar, Fiona Muir, Robert Pickles, Charlie Raeburn, Colin Rennie, Ronnie Sloan, Kenny Stewart, Dr. Brian Walker, Michael Watson, Cameron Watt, David Webster, Sean Webster, Dr. David White, Justin Wollin and Hayley Wotherspoon.

APOLOGIES

Clare Adamson MSP, James Kelly MSP, Tavish Scott MSP, Duncan McNeil MSP, Dr Richard Simpson MSP, Mark Griffin MSP, Bob Aitken, Liza Baillie, Caroline Bascombe, Jane Campbell Morrison, Ian Crawford, Forbes Dunlop, Geoff Earl, John Gillies, Malcolm Gillies, Kirstine Hale, Brian Harper, Edith Macintosh, Tracy McGarry, Mark McGeachie, Fiona McNeilly, Alan Millar and Alan Murray.

**Introduction to AGM**

Margo MacDonald MSP welcomed speakers and guests to the 14<sup>th</sup> AGM of the CPG and thanked everyone who has made a contribution to the success and positive benefits of the Group, noting that the CPG on Sport was the longest standing continuous CPG. She paid further tribute to the 6 CPG meetings held over the past year since the last AGM and recognised how this CPG has been heralded as one of the best and well received CPGs in the Parliament; in 2012-13 the Group has had between 35-50 attendees and 5-10 MSPs in attendance at each meeting, with over 80 formal Registered Members of the Group. Moving forward Margo stated that we should keep the Commonwealth Games firmly in our vision as it approaches next year.

**Minutes**

The minutes from the 2012 AGM were approved by Alison Johnstone MSP and seconded by Hayley Wotherspoon.

**Election of Office Bearers**

*Convener*

Margo MacDonald MSP (Independent) was nominated to continue as Convener, which Margo accepted. No other nominations were received and Margo was duly appointed.

*Deputy Conveners*

The following were all nominated and subsequently appointed as Deputy Conveners:

- Clare Adamson MSP (SNP)
- Mark Griffin MSP (Labour)
- Jim Hume MSP (Liberal Democrat)
- Alison Johnstone MSP (Green)
- James Kelly MSP (Labour)
- Tavish Scott (Liberal Democrat)
- Liz Smith MSP (Conservative).

Margo informed the Group that a written nomination had been received from a non-MSP member for a Deputy Convener, but she clarified that an individual must be an MSP to hold a Deputy Convener post.

*Group Officers*

One MSP had expressed an interest in registering as a Group Officer which was accepted:

- Fiona McLeod MSP (SNP).

*Secretariat*

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Margo proposed that the current arrangement of a joint-secretariat between her office and the Scottish Sports Association (SSA) be continued and confirmed that this was the only written nomination to have been received. The co-secretariat between the office of Margo MacDonald MSP and the SSA was approved by the Group.

**CPG 2013-14**

Margo proposed a draft schedule of dates for the forthcoming year. She clarified that these had been set in advance due to pressures on meeting room availability within the Parliament. Following feedback from MSPs and Group members the majority of the meetings will be held in evenings.

Margo closed the AGM and moved to the round table discussion.

**Round Table Discussion**

Margo introduced and welcomed Michael Cavanagh (Chairman) and Jon Doig (Chief Executive) of Commonwealth Games Scotland (CGS). Michael thanked the Group for inviting them along to its AGM. He would talk broadly about the role CGS will play in delivering the Games in 2014 and how they are involved in the progress, selection and success of Team Scotland as the host Commonwealth Games Association (CGA).

Michael began by outlining the role of CGS, discussing briefly who they are and how they function for athletes and as a host association. The role and focus of CGS is in preparing the team to come together as a team and to compete as a team – helping athletes to perform and to win medals. He went on to discuss CGS's partnership areas and how they use these partnerships to influence and steer how the preparations for the Games are progressing. CGS has 27-28 member sports (from those which are Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) sports) and currently 5 staff. Half of the CGS Board is skill-based with the other half elected by members.

The primary focus of CGS is Team Scotland. 2 CGS Board members are on the Glasgow 2014 Organising Committee (Louise Martin and Michael) along with an athlete representative. The Strategic Group meets every 6-8 weeks and is chaired by Michael. The Glasgow 2014 Sports Advisory Group also contains representatives from: **sportscotland**, EventScotland, Glasgow Life and UK Sport. CGS has also been involved at every stage of the development of the Games venues as many Games venues are also training venues.

Michael confirmed that the registration for tickets will open on 19 August 2013. Michael also discussed the Queen's Baton Relay, which will be launched in October at Buckingham Palace, and the importance of this event in visiting not only all 71 CGAs but also every one of the 32 local authorities in Scotland over 40 days prior to the Games.

Michael continued by praising the 50,811 people who applied for volunteer positions at the Games and reiterated the vast knowledge that will be at the disposal of CGS including from those who have been involved in previous Commonwealth Games. He reaffirmed the point that the importance for CGS was Team Scotland, their performance and wellbeing.

Jon Doig followed Michael discussing this role that CGS has with Team Scotland; how it selects, prepares and manages the team ensuring that they raise the profile of the athletes and focus on the performance of their athletes and outlining that their 2 key values are 'prepare' and 'inspire'.

In terms of team selection, CGS is looking not only at having as many home athletes competing as possible but ensuring the integrity of the competition by selections being mainly performance driven. The General Selection Criteria has already been agreed and approved along with Sport Specific Selection Criteria for each sport. CGS has guaranteed each sport a minimum of 3 participants per sport (not per event). The selection focus will remain on meeting the selection standards and not filling spaces – ie a top 8 or top 2/3 finish remains the key target. They estimate approximately 250 athletes in Team Scotland for Glasgow (there were 218 in Delhi). The pre-Games preparation camp for Team Scotland will take place at Stirling University.

CGS undertakes a review after every Games, to review developments, progress, opportunities and lessons learned and has spent time with the British Olympic Association (BOA) to understand the lessons they learned following the 2012 home Olympic and Paralympic Games.

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In terms of the athlete village, Jon reflected on the progress of the development and that, at the present time, most of the village is complete and operational and will be handed over to Glasgow 2014 in January 2014. Within the village there will be over 250 Scottish athletes with over 125 staff (through 47 partner organisations) allocated to them, so a ratio of almost 1 staff member for every 2 athletes. Jon discussed the location and running of 'Scotland House' which will be based in central Glasgow during the Games and the strict rules around access ensuring that the athletes are ideally prepared to complete.

The Achieve programme will continue in Glasgow as a focus for aspiring athletes; 4 athletes and 2 coaches have been identified per sport, with a further focus on female coaches. Jon discussed CGS's role, through this programme, in addressing future athlete and coach development and talked of the arrangements that will be in place that will allow junior athletes access behind the scenes and to tour venues and accommodation with current and ex-athletes in seeking to provide them with an experience that they can take forward to future competitions and Games. He further reiterated the support networks that will be in place for competing athletes and discussed the joint partnership with **sportscotland** who will provide staff for preparation camps and who will facilitate one-to-one meetings with CGS and individual sports.

In discussing broadcasting issues surrounding the Games, Jon pointed to the arrangements in place to have a studio in the athlete village so as athletes will not have to travel far for media commitments and interviews. He assured the Group that everything that CGS does is governing body and athlete centred and pressed the role of CGS in assisting athletes to win medals and ensuring ultimate performance levels. At Games time the role of CGS is in helping athletes to ensure that everything is in place at the right time for athletes and in dealing with any challenges/situations that may arise.

In concluding, Jon asked Group members to aid the promotion of the Go Scotland Campaign ([www.goscotland.org](http://www.goscotland.org)). CGS is keen to encourage wider community involvement and support for Team Scotland, whilst also raising awareness of individual athletes as performers and role models and ensuring that Team Scotland has a distinctive share of the voices in the run up to Glasgow 2014. He pointed to the documentary efforts of BBC Scotland in putting together a series of shows profiling the progress of athletes in the build-up to the Games in seeking to raise the profile of the individual athletes, all 17 sports and the Games.

Margo offered thanks to the guest speakers from CGS, Michael and Jon, and praised their presentation and their role in the delivery of a successful Commonwealth Games in 2014 for Team Scotland. She then opened the floor to questions and discussion.

Charlie Raeburn asked how would qualification for Team Scotland work in terms of the dates that targets had to be met especially, for example, for swimmers where their dates of qualification events may now change in the lead up to the Games. Jon pointed out that CGS has to set a deadline of 6 weeks prior to the Games for qualification in order to ensure that there is enough time to ensure optimum performance. He requested any specific query surrounding qualification dates be sent to either that sport's governing body or to CGS directly. While athletes will meet selection criteria, selection and approval by CGS is required before individuals can be confirmed as members of Team Scotland.

Cameron Watt (SFA) requested clarification about volunteer recruitment for the Games; with over 50,000 applications for around 15,000 positions, he was curious as to what happens to the 35,000 disappointed people who are looking to volunteer in sport. Kim Atkinson responded, in her capacity as a member of the Glasgow 2014 Strategic Volunteer Forum, assuring the Group that when hopeful volunteers filled out Games applications they had an option to have their details passed on to Volunteer Development Scotland (VDS) post Games. VDS will hold a database of information as to individuals who are interested in learning more about other volunteering opportunities after the Games. Margo reiterated the importance of volunteers in sport and the importance of directing those who were unsuccessful in Games applications into valuable volunteer streams.

Paul Carlyle (SACU) raised a concern about how to maintain the enthusiasm for volunteering, competing and watching sport after a home Games. Michael stated that this 'change' in enthusiasm was not inevitable and that we should hope for and work collectively towards a positive performance from Team Scotland's athletes and push for a sustained investment in sport from the Government. Go Scotland presents an opportunity from which to build on in this regard. Margo reinforced that importance be placed not only on sporting success but that we need to ensure that the Games are a

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commercial success also. Michael assured Margo that CGS continues to work with sponsors to extend current relationships beyond 2014.

Jon Doig highlighted that the period between the end of the Games and the beginning of 2015 is vital in engaging people in sport and physical activity and ensuring that this involvement is continuously sustained over the following months and years. Margo reminded the Group that we need to guarantee investment in sport to sustain any success from the Games and with finance and investment hard to come by we must ensure sport is in a position to compete for this investment.

Kim Karam made the point that there may be issues around political questioning of athletes and indeed CGS with specific reference to the Independence Referendum and asked how we focus on sport and do not politicise the Games. Michael responded by initially making the point that CGS is, of course, an apolitical organisation and assured the Group that while all athletes are of course individuals with their own opinions, they will be thoroughly briefed prior to the Games on these and other issues.

Justin Wollin suggested that there was a need to make an effort to put in place an athletes' tour/parade after the Games where athletes might visit clubs around the country. Jon pointed to the Queen's Baton Relay prior to the Games as a good opportunity for the promotion of athletes in attempting to raise their profile and as a great opportunity for club involvement. This was reinforced by Michael who suggested that some athletes would be delighted to be part of this kind of tour to raise their profile, particularly those athletes who do not get a lot of high profile coverage, and that CGS would be happy to look at this if such an opportunity was raised with CGS.

Margo closed the meeting and extended her thanks to those who attended and offered further thanks to Michael Cavanagh and Jon Doig from CGS for presenting and fielding questions from the Group. Margo reminded Group members to back the bid for Glasgow to host the Youth Olympic Games in 2018 by visiting the website.

*The next CPG on Sport meeting will be on 17<sup>th</sup> September in Committee Room 4 at the Scottish Parliament.*

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