

Minutes of SASP Executive Board meeting held at Somerset County Cricket Club on Friday 14th December 2007.

1. **Present:** Kevin Freedman, Colin Johnson, Veronica Fairbairn, Andy Lees, Andy Martin, Tony Sloley, Hayley Bullock, Angie Singleton, Colin Christmas, Irina Holland, Phil de Glanville, Tim Nightingale (for SASP Trust item).

Apologies: Trudi Grant, Chris Frost, Colin Barrell, and Steve Hughes.

2. **Minutes of last meeting were approved as a correct record.**

3. **Matters Arising**

- a) **SASP Constitution** – The SASP Constitution was signed by the three parties mentioned – Sport England (Phil de Glanville), SASP (Kevin Freedman) and John Kirby (Somerset County Council CYPD).

- b) **CSN Action Plans** - The Board approved the Taunton Deane action plan and the release of the Active Somerset funding. It was agreed that a standard traffic light system, as adopted by South Somerset, should be used as the standard format by all CSNs from March 2008. Irina Holland to lead on this on behalf of the Partnership and the quarterly electronic reporting as requested by Sport England.

Phil de Glanville confirmed that a further minimum 65k was available for Somerset CSNs up to 31st March 2008 when priorities may change. CJ to look into countywide bid for increasing adult participation in sport and joining clubs as a follow up to the Active Somerset project. Inventive sources of matched funding would be investigated.

Angie Singleton reported on good progress with the South Somerset plan and many new programmes had started. Hayley Bullock reported that the Mendip group had met twice and Active Somerset programmes had begun. Colin Christmas reported that the West Somerset CSN had retained its initial membership and enthusiasm but had concerns regarding WSDC involvement due to the current cut back in staffing. Sedgemoor CSN may also suffer if proposed cuts went ahead in the New Year. Two swimming pools (Minehead and Burnham) were under threat of closure in the New Year.

- c) **SASP Trust**

Tim Nightingale updated the Board on the current position of moving Somerset County Council dual use sports centres into the SASP Trust. So far 12 of the 17 sites had approved the move with several others still not decided. The target date was 31st March 2008 but this may be a little ambitious. The facility arm of the Trust would be independent from the current SASP operation with separate Boards. Colin J said that it would seem sensible for the current SASP

operation (hosted by CYPD) to continue until at least March 2009 when future funding streams and direction from Sport England would be known.

Tim Nightingale stated the main reason for moving to Trust status was savings on business rates and securing external funding for investment. Angie Singleton queried whether it would be possible to separate finances of the two operations. Andy Lees asked for a concise diagram for the next meeting. Tony Sloley agreed to do this. Tony also pointed out the Board responsibilities would be very different in a full Trust situation than currently.

Recommendation: That an up to date report be brought back to the next Board meeting in March 2008, setting out pros and cons of the current SASP structure moving to full Trust status including financial implications and Board responsibilities.

d) Accountability of the Board

Kevin Freedman introduced this item as he felt it was important that as a relatively new Board that members were clear on their responsibilities.

It was generally felt that the title 'steering' or 'advisory' group would be more appropriate as the Board did not have any Executive powers.

Kevin felt that the function of the group was to advise and support SASP on direction (as set out in the annual business plan) and be aware of Sport England requirements of SASP and ensure that core duties were carried out.

Angie Singleton asked about the responsibility of the current members to the current SASP Trust. Tony said that only a small project - Active Exmoor Sports Tourism was run through the Trust (The project employs 3 staff and has annual budget of approximately 100k – its first annual accounts are due in January 2008). Only three current Board members were signed up a Trust Directors. Tony, Andy Lees and Chris Frost. If SASP moved into a full Trust operation then all Board members would need to be full Directors with very different responsibilities.

4. Business Planning and Award Process 08/09

Members noted the contents of the enclosed paper and that the next timetabled Board meeting on the 4th March should fit within the proposed Sport England timescale for a draft 08/09 Business Plan to be presented at the meeting prior to going forward for Regional approval.

5. SASP Delivery Plan

Colin J presented the updated plan and Q3 budget position. The outturn financial position at the end of March 08 should be neutral although any

overspend could be corrected in July 08 when all 50 coaches contracts were due for renewal. Management team contracts currently expire on March 2009.

Colin J also explained the complexity of the £1.6m coaches budget, which had 24 separate funding streams. It was planned to reduce this to a smaller number of key contracts within the next 12 months.

Year end delivery plan update would be available at the March 08 meeting.

6. Andy Martin – Presentation on his role in LOCOG (London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games)

Andy Martin, SASP Board member outlined his new role (which he had started earlier in the week) on the main Board of LOCOG. The role had two main strands.

- i) Promoting the education opportunities of London 2012
- ii) Developing volunteering opportunities

Andy would update on progress at future Board meetings.

7. Items for Next Meeting

Colin J stated that the SASP club development plan would be available for discussion at the March meeting. Jane Knowles is leading on this and would be meeting with Andy Lees (as Board member with lead on club development) in the New Year. Andy agreed to advise on this item.

8. Information Items

Somerset 500 Club – First applications had been received. Trustees appointed through Somerset Community Foundation. First approval by the end of December. Application packs widely available in January 08. 40k so far raised from Somerset businesses and Trusts. The idea was to support talented young sportspeople in Somerset to enable potential to be achieved.

Somerset 2012 Strategy

Consultation in early 08 with key partners on putting together delivery strategy around education, business, culture, sport, tourism, skills and training. Delivery would involve engaging lead partners and individuals in county on a 'leadership journey' through 2008.

Somerset 5 Hour Offer – Somerset had been asked to pilot the scheme in the South West. First meeting of likely partners held on 7th December. 70k exchequer funding available p.a. for 3 years to enable more young people aged 5 – 19 to take part in 3 hours of sport and physical activity outside the school curriculum.

Sport England Quarterly Report / Secretary of State Speech – included for information

Kevin asked Phil de Glanville for some clarity on the recently announced change in direction for Sport England. Phil said that the new Secretary of

State had announced a much narrower focus for Sport England on community sport rather than physical activity. A small executive group had been tasked to put a new draft strategy together by January 08 with a focus on sport development, community sport and talent ID. Other Government Departments were being asked to lead on Health and Wellbeing. Phil still felt that CSPs should stay with the whole spectrum. We should carry on with current delivery plans until notified otherwise.

9. Any Other Business – none tabled

10. Dates of next meetings 2008

Tuesday 4th March 2pm at Taunton Vale Sports Club

Friday 20th June 2pm at Taunton Vale Sports Club

Tuesday 23rd September 2pm at Taunton Vale Sports Club

Friday 12th December 2pm at Taunton Vale Sports Club