



ENGLAND ATHLETICS BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday 21st May 2026 10:30am to 1:40pm

British Olympic Association (BOA), 101 New Cavendish St, London & Teams

Present: (*Quorum is 5*)

Gary Shaughnessy, Board Chair (GS), from Item 5.5, chaired from item 6

Adetunji Akintokun, SID (AA). Chaired Items 1 to 5

Lorna Boothe (LB)

Jim Buckle (JB)

Matthew Dalton (MD)

Adrian Day (AD)

Connie Henry (CH)

Janyce Holmes (JH)

Chris Jones (CJ)

Clive Poyner (CP)

In attendance

Gabriel Akin-Odujobi, Board Observer (GA)

Sarah Benson, Talent & Performance Director, (SB)

David Bull, Head of Commercial Partnerships (DB)

Emma Davenport, Clubs & Development Director (ED)

Gemma Gillespie, Head of Finance (GG), via Teams

Dan Isherwood, Operations Director (DI)

Jon Mulkeen, Board Observer (JM)

Sam O'Shea, Board & NED Secretary (SO)

Part attendance

Scott Grace, EA CWG Team Leader (Item 11 only) via Teams

Dean Hardman, Track & Field Project Manager (Item 9 only), via Teams

Ed Hunt, Facilities & Planning Manager (Item 8 only) via Teams

External attendees

FMG, Facility strategy consultations (Item 8) via Teams:

- Kevin Gooden (KG)
- Louise Thompson (LT)
- Beatrice Wheatley (BW)

Apologies

Helen Kendall (HK)

1. Welcome and apologies

AA chaired the meeting temporarily in Gary's absence.

2. Declarations of interest

- 2.1 CP declared his conflict in Item 9 (Vision pilot hubs) as Vice Chair of Eastern Athletics Association
- 2.2 CJ declared his appointment as Chair of the NGB CEO Forum.

Resolved and Actions:

- 1.) Record the declarations. Action: SO

3. Draft minutes of the previous meetings

Resolved and Actions:

- 1.) The Board agreed the minutes were a true reflection of the meeting.

4. Actions/matters arising

The Action log was not discussed.

5. CEO and Dashboard

- 5.1 Feedback from the sport suggests the new age groups are bedding-in well.
- 5.2 There could be a potential period of SE roll-over funding for at least 6 months into next year.
- 5.3 Josie Sandringham joins as Board & Council Secretary on 25th June and the new CSMs commence in July.
- 5.2 DI confirmed that following the digital deep dive session at Audit & Assurance, a focussed discussion was scheduled for September Board. No firm date for the PO10 user group has been confirmed to date.
- 5.3 Dashboard
Additional measures have been added, and the direction of travel arrows have been removed.
- 5.4 Masters athletics and running review Terms of Reference
This work aligns well with EA's strategic priority to improve competition improve system cohesion. This could be used as a blueprint for other event specific reviews with third party organisations.

Gary Shaughnessy joined the meeting.

- 5.5 Commercial Advisory Group Terms of Reference

- The group should have an overview of sustainability and should meet more frequently than 2-3 times per year.

Resolved and Actions:

1.) Subject to the above edits, the Board approved the Commercial Advisory Group Terms of Reference.

Gary Shaughnessy took the Chair.

Some topics were discussed in a different order to that stated on the Agenda.

6. Anti-Bribery, fraud and corruption policies (Agenda Item 10)

The following policies had been reviewed by Audit & Assurance Committee:

- Zero tolerance to bribery statement
- Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy
- Anti-Bribery Policy

Resolved and Actions:

1.) The Board approved the above policies

7. 2027 Council election documents (Agenda item 11)

The documents listed below had been reviewed by England Council:

- Code of Conduct (RC And EC)
- Terms of Reference (RC and EC)
- Councillor Role description
- Regional Council Chair Role description
- England Council Chair Role description

Resolved and Actions:

1.) The Board approved the above documents

Ed Hunt and FMG consultants (Beatrice Wheatley, Kevin Godden and Louis Thompson) joined the meeting.

8. Focused discussion: Facilities Strategy consultation

8.1 BW shared some slides detailing the 4 phases of the work and summarised what had already been completed in Phase 1.

LT explained in more detail the network mapping (appendices) which included the travel distance between facilities. The next steps will be to include some scenario testing to understand the resulting impacts.

8.2 Comments from the Board included:

- The mapping should include track opening times as many tracks and should be overlaid with public transport information during scenario testing.

- The next phase will also include investment and funding scenarios.
- Differentiation between full indoor facilities versus a 100m track should be made.

Ed Hunt, Beatrice Wheatley, Kevin Godden and Louis Thompson left the meeting.

Dean Hardman joined the meeting.

9. Regional Track & Field Vision Pilot hubs (Agenda Item 7)

- 9.1 DH updated the Board. Taking into account the Vision group principles, the first 3 regional hubs are likely to operate differently to account for differing focus areas. CSMs in those regions will be closely involved alongside Councils.
- 9.2 CJ noted the Board's commitment to provide one-off seed funding to each pilot hub to support start-up and partnership working.

Dean Hardman left the meeting.

The Board discussed funding levels and agreed that hubs should be aware that they have to be self-sufficient in a year, and should present a business plan as to how this will be achieved. Additionally, SLT should consider contingencies should this not be achieved.

Resolved and Actions:

- 1.) The Board approved the allocation of £25k for the 3 hubs, on a one year only basis and hubs should provide a business plan as to how they can be self-sufficient.**

10. Finance report (Agenda item 6)

GG provided a summary of the regular Board report circulated

Scott Grace joined the meeting.

11. Commonwealth Games update (Agenda item 9)

SG presented some slides summarising the ambition, athlete numbers and the staff team. Operational planning is now taking place to understand athletes' particular needs and training/accommodation preferences. Regular comms including webinars will continue up to the event.

The Board thanked SG for this helpful update and wished him well with the CWG.

Resolved and Actions:

- 1.) None

Scott Grace left the meeting.

12. AOB

- 12.1 GS informed the Board that, following discussing with AA, he has made the decision to step down before the end of his 2nd term due to health challenges and reduced capacity to give the role the focus it warrants and deserves. A thorough, open and transparent recruitment process will take place led by Nominations & Remuneration Committee, led by AA as SID.
- 12.3 As this was SO’s last Board meeting, the Board thanked her and wished her well in her new role in PBF.

MEETING CLOSED AT: 1:40pm

Next meeting: Thursday 6th August 2026

Additional documents saved within the Board’s SharePoint site:

Not in the Paper Pack. Instead, saved in the Board’s SharePoint site for information	
1. For information	Committee/Council minutes: • Appendix 1: Audit & Assurance (March) • Appendix 2: Athlete Panel (April) • Appendix 3:England Council (April) • Appendix 4: Athlete Panel (May)
2. For information	Governance Handbook (Governance Handbook)

SECTION 2 Topics discussed/agreed outside of the main meetings.
Any information was initially recorded on the agenda for the Board’s information.

None

Signed by:

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Chair