

# South Yorkshire Athletics Network Meeting

12<sup>th</sup> April 2011

3.00-5.00pm

Athletes Study  
English Institute of Sport,  
Sheffield

## Attendees

Ashley Little (AL – SYAN NDO),  
Janette Tomlins (JT- Wombwell SAC & BADG),  
Steve Marshall (SM - HH & SADG),  
Steve Gaines (SG - RH&AC & RADG),  
Peter Moore (PM - Coach sub group) ,  
Marion Harrison (MH – Barnsley AC).

John Howley, (JH - CoS),  
Stuart Rogers ( SR - SY Sport),  
Kev Lincoln. (KL - DAC & DADG),  
Andy Lee (AnL - England Athletics),  
Michelle Dent (MD - FDSO Yorkshire),

## Minutes

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<b>Agenda item:</b>	<b>1. Welcome &amp; Introductions &amp; Apologies</b>	<b>Presenter:</b> SG
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- ✓ SG welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were passed on from:

Roger Blades (RB- SYCAA) & Adam Brown (AB – England Athletics).

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<b>Agenda item:</b>	<b>2. Minute &amp; Matters Arising</b>	<b>Presenter:</b> ALL
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- ✓ SG went through the minutes and action points from the previous meeting. All agreed that the minutes were a true and accurate record of the previous meeting.
  - ✓ SG then asked if there were any matters anyone would like to raise.
  - ✓ SM raised a question on the action point regarding the purchase of electronic timing equipment and EDM with SYCAA. SG said he would follow up the action point, and email the SYCAA to inform them of the proposal which will be made at the next SYCAA meeting. SM is to attend the SYCAA meeting to make propose the purchase of the equipment on behalf of the network, following the email from SG.
  - ✓ SG stated that there were a lot of concerns raised at the last meeting, the main one being about the networks being told what to deliver, instead of the original network ethos of delivering what clubs & coaches want/need. SG informed the group that he had spoken with EA/ AnL and has had it confirmed that the original ethos of the networks is still in place, and that networks should deliver what is needed and wanted on a local level. SG stated that the quad kids rep is not at the meeting, as they are not a network member, and if the network chooses to deliver/run quad kids then they will contact them to attend.
  - ✓ SG said that there have been a few learning points throughout the year 1 period, and to move forward, the network needs to rise above the individual club issues, and push the network forward into year 2, really driving the local development and support available.
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<b>Agenda item:</b>	<b>3. Coach Sub Group Update</b>	<b>Presenter:</b> PM
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- ✓ AL updated the group that the coach sub group had met the previous week to finalise their part of the year 2 plan. Each club had taken on the organisation of a workshop or flying coach visit for year 1 and/or year 2. The coach sub group had decided upon dates for the workshops for year 2 in advance to allow for coaches to get them in their diaries early. The group also worked around when competitions normally run throughout the winter, although are aware that some will clash with fixtures. AL also informed the group that the sub group had decided on the venues & weeks that the remaining 3 flying coach visits will be taking place. The clubs and AL will liaise with EA to arrange the tutors.
- ✓ PM informed the group that he had received a text from Barry Barnes stating he would confirm the arrangements for the workshop Doncaster are organising on his return from holiday.
- ✓ SG informed the group that Shaun Hird had emailed SG & AL about speaking to SM on his attendance at the sub group meetings, and to find another representative from the club. SG informed the group that all clubs (except Hallamshire – who had sent their apologies) had attended the previous meeting. SM stated that it is difficult for people who are working to attend the meeting at 2pm on a Monday and travelling to Doncaster to attend.
- ✓ PM informed the group that the coach sub group had decided to support the coach development day's project which will link in with other networks and the Y&HCC. PM informed the group that the coach sub group had allocated £1000 towards coach development days, with in principle £1000 match funding from Y&HCC. PM is currently arranging a meeting with all networks to discuss the potential of running the delivery throughout the county, and how the remaining money from Y&HCC will be divided as the constitution states that if it was to decimates the money will go to the clubs who have been represented at the Y&H T&F championships that year. PM said that one network had stated they weren't particularly keen on the idea already. PM stated he had tried to seek external sponsorship, however all his proposals had been declined.
- ✓ SG confirmed that the SYAN have confirmed their support in principle, and that he had emailed all other network chairs to discuss it. JT stated all the networks have to commit or none, it's all or nothing. SG informed the group that the pathway should be development at clubs, development at network level, and development at regional level. SG stated he was awaiting feedback from the other network clubs.

<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Person responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
SG & PM to update group on Y&HCC position & other networks positions	SG & PM	Asap

<b>Agenda item:</b>	<b>4. Upcoming AGM</b>	<b>Presenter:</b> SG
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- ✓ SG informed the group that an AGM will take place so the network can have officers elected, enabling the group to have a bank account, and be fully constituted. SG informed the group that the AGM will take place on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> of June 3-5pm at EIS. SG stated that there had been one nomination for vice chair, Kev Lincoln, however no nominations for a treasurer. SG & AL stated that the treasurers role would be minimalistic as the finance for the 3 year period is being hosted by Barnsley MBC, and AL keeps an accurate budget sheet, so there role would be to oversee the income of the network, and pay in cheques/money.

***NB: After the meeting and after discussions between SG & SM had taken place, SM agreed to be treasurer of the SYAN.***

<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Person responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
AL to look at setting up the bank account, and getting all of the information required.	AL	AGM

**Agenda item:****5. Year 2 Plan – Review & Approval****Presenter:** ALL

- ✓ SG informed the group that he would be going through each project in the plan, and requesting for clubs approval and agreement. AL stated she had collected feedback from most clubs stating their agreement.
- ✓ SG stated that Project 1 flows through year 1 to 3.
- ✓ Project 2 – Coach & Official Development, a discussion on the officials course and the venue for where it could be held was discussed. JT suggested utilising a school; SG said that there is planned activity in Rotherham with two schools (Winterhill & Dinnington) which is part of year 1, which could be developed on for year 2. JT agreed to look into what requirements there are to run the course and the best venue to run it centrally.
- ✓ Project 2 – Audit – SG said this would be covered in a review of the year 1 projects, as Terry Bailey keeps an accurate record of the SY officials, and it would be good to work closely with the county committee. SM stated the audit already exists through Terrys work. SG said the audit would involve a meeting with Terry to link together the network and county committee, and plug any gaps that may be seen. JH stated that there is no point in having 3000 coaches and no officials, as there won't be any events able to run across the area, therefore agrees with the working together, and finalising a database through an audit.
- ✓ Project 2 – Coach Development Programme – SG stated that this section had been agreed at the coach sub group meeting, which takes the lead on this particular section. PM stated his concern about redoing/ repeating workshops/ opportunities that the local coach development programme is delivering. SG understood, however stated coaches struggled to attend with other pre-made commitments, and the dates being organised top down by EA. PM said the network needs to see what is going to happen with the LCDP, and see how the decided workshops fit into it. JT said the LCDP dates clashed with many other events this year. PM stated the training needs analysis workshops ran on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2011 was great for coaches, and those who attended really enjoyed it, however not everyone could attend.
- ✓ Project 3 – Sheffield Hallam Volunteer Database – SM brought this project up at the last SADG, however nothing has taken place since to get the project moving forward. SM informed the group that people from universities and young leaders are making their own way to the club to seek out volunteering opportunities. They have had  $\frac{3}{4}$  in the last 6-8 weeks from no official pathway. However, they will continue to try and drive this partnership forward within year 2.
- ✓ Project 3 – Network Recognition Template – All Agreed with it
- ✓ Project 3 – Schools Volunteers Partnerships – SG informed the group that each borough should have a list of young leaders who want to officiate in sport. SG stated that there had been some helping at this year's SY Indoor competitions. SG stated this project would look at talking to schools and finding those young leaders who want experience in athletics. SR informed the group of the new Sport England Sport makers initiative which will find volunteers across the county, which can be fed into athletics clubs. SR mentioned the network speaking to Simon Pugh, who works within South Yorkshire Sport, as he will be creating links with schools, colleges, volunteers etc. and will be able to direct them (16+) to the network for volunteering opportunities.
- ✓ Project 3 – Club Volunteer Workshop – AL informed the group that this project was to start developing volunteers within the clubs, as well as looking at coach and official development, to start looking at developing the people who are keeping the clubs running. SM stated that volunteering has a wide span within athletics, and the workshops need to be clear on what they are going to deliver and support with. As club audits have been done in the past with nothing happening. KL informed the group that Doncaster AC

had held a meeting with parents on a club night, whilst their children were training, and got many of them signed up to be team managers for this year. SG asked the group whether it may be worth running the workshop for team managers, where the role can be explained and where people can share concerns & good experiences and ways of working. SM stated the idea is to start off with a volunteer coordinator, but clubs don't have one, as they have few people doing many jobs as it is. KL informed the group that the new club mark requires a 3 year volunteer plan; therefore clubs should already have a volunteer coordinator & be doing this anyway. JT said that she had recently attended a valuing your volunteers workshop which was really good, but did highlight that few people are doing too many jobs. SR informed the group that there will be a volunteer workshop ran as part of the sport maker's programme, and maybe the workshops delivered could be linked in with other sports to provide income generation. All agreed for it to be in the plan, but the exact area to be looked at to be agreed at a later date.

- ✓ Project 4 – Sheffield Hallam Project – SM stated it happens currently and will keep on in the future.
- ✓ Project 4 – Run England / Running Sub Group – SG informed the group that the running sub group launch is taking place on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> of April 2011, with all running clubs across the county being invited to attend. PM noted that it is now Run England not Run in England. SM stated his concern about how park runs were developing in the Sheffield as the focus has gone from getting people involved in running to semi competitive races. SM stated they are now being attracted to young people, with 12 year olds competing in the 5k races against adults and winning. SM is concerned they are not doing what they were originally set out to achieve, and stated 12 year olds shouldn't be doing 5k runs, as it may put other people off. MH said she regularly does park runs in Barnsley and feels they are great, children take part in the Barnsley ones and are doing well, and it is the 12 year olds who are the future of athletics. SM stated that they are diverting club athletes towards competing in something not for club athletes. MH stated she disagreed with SM. SM said there are numerous events coming up and people aren't interested in them as they can get a free 5k. SG stated he will raise it at the next Run Sheffield Meeting.
- ✓ Project 4 – Sportivate & Gold Challenge – SG provided the group with information on sportivate & gold challenge initiatives, where the network can deliver some additional projects utilising network coaches, and gaining external income for the delivery. AL stated SG & AL have a meeting with SR the following week to discuss the networks proposal. SG stated he had emailed an outline on sportivate & gold challenge out, however is concerned about the amount of projects the network can take on, and how much network coaches may be asked to do. SM stated many coaches would like an athlete 16+, however is concerned about how the projects will attract these. SR informed the group that there are two challenges with sportivate, one to get them to the sessions, and one to sustain them, ensuring that there are pathways for them to feed onto after the 6 week sessions have finished.
- ✓ Project 5 – Competition Calendar – SG stated this will be created to link together the schools sub group, and their competitions in with the SYCAA.
- ✓ Project 5 – Quad Kids – SM enquired how this would differ from the SY T&F Leagues. AL said that the idea of the virtual league was for the 4 events to be measured by coaches during training sessions in the summer time. Once athletes have completed all 4, the club can then send the information to AL who will compile each clubs results, and will create a league table, which will enable clubs, coaches, parents & athletes to compare themselves to other athletes in the area, increasing the competitiveness within athletics, as currently within athletics clubs, many athletes do not want to compete for their club. This may begin raising the competitiveness of club athletes.
- ✓ Project 6 – Support for schools XC & T&F championships – All agreed.

- ✓ Project 6 – Sports hall – All agreed to try this project with sports hall associates for one more year to try and raise the profile of the competition amongst U11s. SM stated the contrast between the sports hall numbers and the SY indoor league was unbelievable, SG stated that athletes within SY are uniquely fortunate to have EIS, which may be the reason why Sports hall athletics is unpopular in the area.
- ✓ Project 7 – SG informed the group that the disability sub group is growing and will enable a wider network focus. SG stated there will be representatives from both Rotherham & Hallamshire at the next meeting. MD said that the local disability officers will also be attending the next disability sub group meeting. SM said he was new to disability and there are so many different strands to disability, that it can be quite costly to develop your coaching knowledge in specialist areas. SM stated that the network bursaries should be able to use on disability courses. SG asked who the NGB was. MD replied in athletics it would be Shelley. MD also informed the group that there are opportunities in wheelchair sport and visual awareness courses which are accredited courses, and are being run at a discounted rate for this year. SM said it is the learning difficulty and hyperactive children in athletics who are attending clubs in significant numbers, and would be interested in one of those courses. AnL stated that as long as the courses show an impact and are fully justified then the course is able to run using the disability projects underspend.
- ✓ All agreed on the information in the year 2 plan, and for it to be submitted by AL on the 27<sup>th</sup> of April 2011.
- ✓ Year 1 Underspend – AL informed the group that due to the network getting good deals on venue hire and purchasing equipment, there has been an underspend to date of £5120. However, this includes the £2000 allocated to coach bursaries. SG read through the up to date coach bursary sheet for the SYAN clubs, and confirmed the attendance record. JH informed the group that City of Sheffield had someone attend a coaching assistant course 2 or 3 weeks ago, and would provide AL & SG with the details. SG stated the bursary sheet totalled £2325 with courses back dated, if all the projected courses take place (totalling £920), providing a total of £3200. SG proposed a 60% bursary cost for coaching courses that have been completed or proposed by clubs. All agreed.
- ✓ AL & SG asked what projects the group would like to spend the remaining £3120 on. SG informed the group that the running sub group launch had not been costed out, and would be coming out of the underspend. AL proposed running a learning difficulty/disability course with the disability project underspend, all agreed. The group agreed to purchase 14 more athletics 365 packs, as they had become really popular within clubs, however only having 1 has provided difficulty in coaches sharing. By increasing the number to 3 per club, more coaches can utilise the resource.
- ✓ SG asked the group whether it would be worth purchasing weather-proof clipboards as a recognition reward for officials in the network, which will have the SYAN logo on. JH said he had seen a good one with a track logo on the back. JT stated she had one of those clipboards, and could show it to the group. SM said weather puts new officials off, and it may be an opportunity to put some information on the network in. All agreed to purchase some with the underspend.
- ✓ SG proposed the purchase of start and finish vertical banners, to add to the XC equipment already purchased, as these can be rented out with the gantries. All agreed.

***NB: After the meeting AL, SM & SG discussed the potential of using some of the underspend to purchase mile &/or km markers, similar to the 3-2-1 kit that was going to be purchased.***

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
SG to speak with Terry Bailey on working together on the audit	SG	29/04/11
SG to raise the park run issue at the next Run Sheffield Meeting	SG	Next Meeting

**Agenda  
item:**

**6. AOB**

**Presenter:** ALL

- ✓ MD informed the group of the upcoming Special Olympics that is to take place, and for any more information, to contact her.
- ✓ AL informed the group of the website developments, and being almost completely finished. AL also informed the group that all the previous workshop resources have been uploaded on to the website, and are available for download. AL is currently waiting for the S&C cd resource, which will be distributed to those who attended the coach development day.
- ✓ AnL said the network is progressing well especially since the meeting he had attended at Christmas. He stated that there are always periods of activity that keep pushing things along. AnL informed the group that the interviews for the new SY & Humberside CCSO was taking place on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April.

**Next Meeting: SYAN AGM: 14<sup>th</sup> of June 2011, 3-5pm, Athlete Study  
EIS, food to be provided.**