

Jersey Athletic Association

General

It is apparent that there are conflicts of interest and independence issues arising out of the use of Jersey Spartan Athletic Club finances, facilities and general resources regarding a number of Athletic matters, but particularly with regard to Jersey teams attending various events, which impinge on club activities. These issues also concern the position of the Athletics Development Officer, who has responsibilities other than club activities and who is not totally under the control of the club, yet is financed by it to the extent of an increasing percentage due to the capping of the contributory element from ESC. With these considerations in mind, it is considered appropriate to form a new governing body for Athletics to undertake the following responsibilities.

Main Objects

- 1) To promote Athletics within Jersey consistent with England Athletics
- 2) To act as governing body of athletics within Jersey
- 3) To select teams to represent Jersey at Athletics at all levels
- 4) To employ the Athletics Development Officer within appropriate financial resources and constraints
- 5) To co-ordinate the coaching and officials education whenever required to do so.

Executive Committee

Chairman

Vice Chairman

Secretary

Treasurer

2 representatives from each member club.

Constitution.

A constitution would be established to reflect these thoughts and designed to be a body that acts mainly to be responsible for Jersey Athletic teams and the body responsible for the Development Officer.

It would be a member of England Athletics, and affiliated to the local organisations, which will require the selection of a Jersey Athletics team.

It would refer any disciplinary matters to the present supervisory bodies that presently undertake such work. However, it would be a source of decision-making for local matters and a point of reference for local disputes if they were any between member clubs.

It could hold Events under its auspices, but this would be an evolving process as the Committee and member clubs saw fit and is not part of the initial plan. There would need to be a discussion regarding whether the present Inter-Insular events remain a club event or if they are elevated to a representation level.

The Position of the Development Officer

1) General

In the absence of any other suitable Athletic body available, Jersey Spartan Athletic Club (the club) took up the mantle of undertaking this appointment together with ESC. If the above proposal is accepted by the majority of Spartan membership, it is proposed that this appointment is transferred to JAA. This will allow the post holder to undertake non-club activities that can and do presently conflict with club activities and club resources. Inevitably that will result in a perceived loss of control over the Development Officer (D.O.) by Spartans, but it is perception only, as these other roles already exist and distract the D.O. from devoting 100% of his time to club matters. The whole role of the D.O. will need discussion with the D.O. himself being a major contributor to this debate.

2) Finance

The original arrangements were for the D.O. costs to be split equally between Spartans and ESC. ESC has now capped their contribution to these costs at £15,000 p.a. even though the employment contract is subject to cost of living increases and they are also no longer contributing to the D.O. out of pocket expenses. They do provide an office for him together with all the other sports Development Officers. If this plan proceeds, the D.O. would be employed by JAA and the present arrangements would be transferred by simply changing the employer. It will require some Regulatory consents to be transferred, but it is not expected that this will be a problem. It will also require the present financiers, Richard Wilkinson and ESC, to agree to this proposal as the post cannot be transferred due to present insufficient funding within JAA. It will remove the direct growing cost of this position from Spartans and push it up to a level, which needs to address this issue and find a way of financing it. (see below)

Jersey Teams

This body would create a process for selecting teams to represent Jersey at recognised International events, which would include team Managers, Coaches and Athletes. It would allow anyone in the island to be eligible rather than the choice being restricted to only Spartan club members, providing selected persons meet the criteria set by the International event itself or standards set by JAA. It would also require this body to arrange the finance for sending these teams and remove that responsibility from Spartans and the consequent drain on club resources. The absence of club coaches for these international trips needs to also be considered as it deprives the club of an important resource for its normal activities. Rather than it be an obligation of Spartans to provide a coach for a Jersey team, a coach would be selected by JAA and the decision to go will be a personal one providing that coach can organise his/her commitments accordingly.

Funding of the Association

The Association would charge its members a nominal membership fee, so it would need to consider sponsorship. Whatever sponsorship is presently obtained through Spartans for Jersey teams could be transferred to JAA and further direct sponsorship would need to be found, which would become a major responsibility for the Committee.

The position of the D.O. has been discussed above and does require detailed discussion, but one consideration is to charge for his services in instances where his 'Development role' is not used. In particular, in this first year it is proposed that Spartans will need to help with the transition and that in 2009 it should pay £10,000 to JAA to help start the new body and give it financial security for 2009 as compensation for use of the D.O. at club nights and other sessions. This financial position will need to be reviewed at the end of 2009 for future years after JAA has been established and future support will be dependent on how successful the JAA committee are in securing sponsorship.

Membership

It has been indicated that there could be at least 5 clubs making the initial membership, namely Spartans, Channel Islands A. C., Hash House Harriers and the two School's Athletic Associations. This body will thus bring together similarly minded entities to discuss common issues.

It is clear that a number of persons may find themselves working with two or more entities that are in the athletic arena, but this will hopefully allow them to

clearly consider about what 'Hat' or role they are playing when deciding on any issues brought at meetings of each organisation.

It will definitely allow the finances of the issues governed by this new body to be properly identified and addressed, so that they do not fall disproportionately on Spartans by default, which is presently happening. Spartans can hopefully then resort back to becoming an Athletics 'club', and devote its resources accordingly, without being distracted on matters that should not directly be its responsibility.

Timing

This draft paper has been prepared as the basis for an open and frank discussion on the whole topic. It is now proposed that a proper debate can be arranged in February at a suitable venue for the numbers and consideration can be given as to how any proposal is to be taken forward. The suggestion is that a representative group of persons could then develop the matter further over the next month or so and come up with a specific agenda for the way forward with firm proposal for early 2009 and possible creation of the JAA by April 2009.

There would be a number of issues that need to be put into place, so preparation is critical for that to happen smoothly. This timetable is realistic, but in the early days of transition to JAA, it is clear that Spartans may have to underwrite items mentioned above until JAA is firmly established.