

MINUTES OF THE 82nd SPORT AND RECREATION ALLIANCE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at the Guildhall, 71 Basinghall Street, London, EC2V 7HH

Tuesday 12 September 2023 at 2.00 pm

In the Chair HRH The Duke of Edinburgh KG GCVO
President of the Sport and Recreation Alliance

Alliance Chair Dame Janet Beer CBE
Chief Executive Lisa Wainwright MBE

Members and Guests:

Sean Barnes	Air IT
Andrew McLellan	Air IT
Eleanor Kelly	AoC Sport
Sue Storey	Badminton England
Dominic Jordan	BASIS (British Association for Sustainable Sport)
Carrie Green	Breast Cancer Now
Jon Dutton	British Cycling
Jaime Dieguez	British Dance Council
Diana King OBE	British Gliding Association
Henry Dixon-Clegg	British Horseracing Authority
Sarah Finney	British Inline Puck Hockey Association
Andrew Scoular	British Judo
Karen Tonge OBE	British Para Table Tennis
David Clarke	British Paralympic Association
Jess Huxtable	British Paralympic Association
Gary Harris	British Rowing
Alan Meegan	British Rowing
Hamish McInnes	British Shooting
Mary Tetley	British Sub-Aqua Club
Craig Anthony	British Wrestling
Kevin East	Canoe-Camping Club
Keith Bottomley CC	City of London
Charles Edward Lord OBE	City of London Corporation
David Bean	Countryside Alliance
Dan Field	Dallaglio RugbyWorks
Martin Talbot	Dame Kelly Holmes Trust
Emma Reed CBE	Department of Health and Social Care
Chris Jones	England Athletics
Barbara Taylor	English Pool Association
Lise Meyrick	Flying Leaf (Corporate Queer Invite)

Emma Butterworth	Gateley Plc
Matthew Holt	GB Boxing
James Southwood	Great Britain Savate Federation
Tim Lamb	Guest
Rajveena Kandola	Guest
Melanie Doubleday	Guest
Ellie Doubleday	Guest
John Ollard	Honorary Member
Richard Baldwin MBE	Honorary Member
Andy Goulbourne	Howden Insurance Brokers Limited
Jayne Pinfold	Howden Insurance Brokers Limited
Anna Hall	Hurlingham Polo Association
Maggie Killingbeck	Laban Guild International
Isabelle Michelson	Lawn Tennis Association
Harvinder "Babs" Kandola	Leamington Community Boxing Club
Mark Ormerod	Leap
Chris Smith	London Federation of Sport and Recreation
Tracy Levy	Margaret Morris Movement International
Natalie Wale	Marsh Sport
Madeleine Pearce	Marsh Sport
Lipa Nessa	Muslimah Sports Association
Annette Hufton	National Association of Teachers of Dancing
Pam Burrage	National Council for School Sport
Juliet Harrison	National Field Archery Society (NFAS)
Anne Thompson	Northern Counties Dance Teachers' Association (NCDTA)
Lynda Williams	Panathlon
Alan Spelling	Panathlon
Alex Daniels	Photographer
Natalie Justice-Dearn	Rounders England
James Stockdale	Royal Academy of Dance
Jonathon Glass	Royal Navy Sport
Nicholas Langley	Rugby Football Union
Richard Shaw	SAPCA
James Hope-Gill	Skateboard GB
Molly Hartill	Sport and Recreation Alliance
Alex Wilkinson	Sport and Recreation Alliance
Kate Lawrenson	Sport and Recreation Alliance
Amie Mills	Sport and Recreation Alliance
Max Nicholls	Sport and Recreation Alliance
Will Spendlove	Sport and Recreation Alliance
Deana Levy	Sport and Recreation Alliance
Martin Lindsey	Sport and Recreation Alliance
Alex Sexton	Sport and Recreation Alliance
Ricky Boardman	Sport and Recreation Alliance
Harry Osborne	Sport and Recreation Alliance
Serena Mahandru	Sport and Recreation Alliance
Karis Longden	Sport and Recreation Alliance
Cameron Yorston	Sport and Recreation Alliance
Vijaya Panangipalli	Sport and Recreation Alliance
Leigh Thompson	Sport and Recreation Alliance

Toby Flannigan	Sport and Recreation Alliance
Kenny Baillie	Sport and Recreation Alliance Director
Rupinder Bains	Sport and Recreation Alliance Director
Jack Baker	Sport and Recreation Alliance Director
Richard Gray	Sport and Recreation Alliance Director
Dave Strain	Sport and Recreation Alliance Director
Andy Reed OBE	Sport and Recreation Alliance Vice President
Michael Power OBE	Sport and Recreation Alliance Vice President
Robert Pettigrew MBE	Sport and Recreation Alliance Vice President
Bridgid Simmonds OBE	Sport and Recreation Alliance Vice President
Margaret Peggie OBE	Sport and Recreation Alliance Vice President/Flexercise
Hilary Weedon BEM	Sport and Recreation Alliance Vice President/The Medau Society
Hitesh Patel	Sport for Development Coalition
Paul Owen OBE	Sport in Mind
Samantha Vincent	Sport:80
Jon Holmes	Sports Media LGBT+
Mark Lawrie	StreetGames
Jane Nickerson MBE	Swim England
Robert Oxley	The R&A
Graeme Collins	Trail Riders Fellowship
Fiona Freund	WeAre (Corporate Queer Invite)
Lisa West	Women in Sport

1 Welcome and House Rules

The Chief Executive, Lisa Wainwright (LW), welcomed everyone to the Guildhall for the Sport and Recreation Alliance Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2023 and thanked the City of London for their hospitality and hosting of the event.

Housekeeping items were discussed including the rules for photography and the alarm and safety procedures. LW introduced the President, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh.

2 President's Remarks

The President welcomed everyone for taking the time to attend the AGM although he was aware that there were key people unable to join the event this year having lost Richard Doubleday, the previous senior technical advisor of the CCPR 1985 – 1998, Cedric Selby previous Board and Honorary Member and David Oxley CBE, Alliance Vice President and previous Chair of the Alliance 1997 – 2001. Shortly following last year's AGM, Her Majesty The Queen had passed away and The President took the opportunity to thank everyone for their kind messages and letters. The Queen had been Patron of the Alliance 1952 to 2017 and The President asked for a minute's silence in remembrance of all those that had passed since the last AGM.

HRH commented that sporting fixtures appeared to be more packed than ever before now that the pandemic was properly in the past and he hoped that this was truly reflected with an increase in attendance figures. He also wished that the increase was reflected in the recreational and clubs' activities whilst reflecting that for single sports there might have been a less dramatic decline and hopefully these were able to continue in some form throughout Covid. It was hoped the team sports had fully recovered but he felt the membership would know better than him what the current position was. He had certainly seen more people in the countryside than before.

The President congratulated everyone involved in managing major events over the past year, especially on top of running their own sport/national governing body – already an achievement – to then successfully put on a major event was extraordinary and he thanked members and everyone involved.

The President continued by thanking everyone for doing their best to make sport and recreation more inclusive and accessible. He referred to three examples:

- The Camping and Caravanning Club had launched the Outjoymnt Report – a major study which revealed how camping and the outdoors improves people’s wellbeing and mental health.
- Paralympics GB had launched Every Body Moves – the ground-breaking initiative empowers disabled people to become active in a way that is right for them, and its platform features more than 7,000 inclusive sessions.
- British Cycling had launched the Limitless programme – a game-changing programme for disabled cyclists; over the first four years of the programme, the national governing body aims to provide opportunities for 5,000 disabled riders to participate in club activity, deliver 50 new competitive para-cycling events, and support the development of five riders who will go on to represent ParalympicsGB at the Los Angeles 2028 Paralympic Games.

The Government’s new Strategy *Get Active* had recently been launched and the sector would no doubt watch to see how that developed.

In summary, HRH commented on forthcoming sporting events and, among others, noted the Canoe Slalom World Championships, Trampoline Gymnastics World Championships, Wheelchair Fencing World Cup and the 2024 World Athletics Indoor Championships. He had also noted that there would be two new sporting federations - World Para Athletics and World Para Swimming – to be established in Manchester.

For him personally, the change of title to Duke of Edinburgh was something that he was still trying to get used to and he thanked members again for their letters and good wishes.

3 Minutes

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday, 6 September 2022 were approved and signed by the President as a true record of the meeting.

4 Annual Report

Dame Janet Beer opened her comments by stating that the Alliance was midway through the *Support. Recover. Achieve.* strategy and it was entirely fitting that the people who had worked alongside the organisation to make it real had joined the Meeting today. Much had been delivered over the last twelve months and she felt that a great spirit of collaboration had underpinned all of the shared successes. To demonstrate this further, a short a short video looking back at some of these achievements was played to the meeting and can be found on the Alliance website.

Janet outlined some of those accomplishments in a bit more detail as follows:

V4V

In April 2022 the Alliance hosted UK partners from the V4V Project in London for the first face-to-face workshop on sports volunteering.

A variety of local and national organisations, including a number of Alliance members, were invited to hear about the first findings from the European Skills Survey on Sports Volunteering. This would inform the development of a new sport volunteering toolkit, which will be available to members in the near future.

APPG for Sport

Last winter, it was confirmed the Member of Parliament for Batley and Spen, Kim Leadbeater, was the new Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Sport. With a wealth of experience within the

sector, prior to her election as an MP, Kim had chaired the group with immense passion and enthusiasm in the months since.

Cost of Living Report

In 2022, the Alliance published a groundbreaking research report titled '*The Cost-of-Living Crisis: The impact on grassroots community sport and recreation*'.

It was one of the first reports to really outline the dramatic impact of the cost-of-living crisis and the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on grassroots sport – amongst other things – and it demonstrated that a third of the sector's clubs were facing severe financial difficulty.

This research was vital in helping to build the evidence which underpinned the Alliance's campaign to secure extra support for grassroots sport and recreation clubs from Government, and less than a month after this report was published, the Government announced details of the new Energy Bill Discount Scheme, to replace the Energy Bill Relief Scheme in March 2023.

However, this was still insufficient to mitigate the challenges the sector faced and the Alliance therefore worked with members and partners to call for further action from the Government, securing over 200 signatories from organisations and individuals from across the worlds of sport, recreation and physical activity and impressed upon the Prime Minister the need for additional support. A few weeks after this letter was submitted, the Government announced that leisure centres with pools would be eligible to receive extra funding to support their operations.

It is because of the people who were at the Meeting, that this was able to happen, and that these precarious facilities were able to survive.

Janet stated that the unity and togetherness on display during those early months of the year were so powerful – it really showed the sector at its very best, but also what was capable of achieving together.

Transgender Inclusivity

At the request of CEOs from our NGB members, the Alliance brought parts of the sector together by convening a closed-door session to discuss transgender inclusion policies.

It was important for all of us that as many people as possible were able to benefit from sport and recreation, and that sport and recreation, from the grassroots to the elite level, was accessible, inclusive, safe and fair. The feedback received was that the event had been a helpful forum as members continued to develop their own policies and procedures on this issue.

Community Sport and Recreation Awards (CSRAs)

2023 also saw the return of the Alliance's flagship CSRAs. With a record number of nominations, the awards were the biggest ever celebration of grassroots clubs, individuals and organisations - who all contributed so much to the sector. While all the finalists would have made incredibly worthy winners, the Alliance was delighted to recognise eight winners, and to do so at the iconic sporting venue of Twickenham Stadium.

Social Value of Movement and Dance

The Alliance also spotlighted its Movement and Dance Division at a special Parliamentary event to mark the launch of its 'Social Value of Movement and Dance' research report – outlining the immense social value of these activities across the country.

APPG for Sport Chair, Kim Leadbeater, as well as numerous other MPs, and Strictly Come Dancing Head Judge, Dame Shirley Ballas, alongside professional dancer Marius Lepure, attended and all were passionate supporters of the report and the opportunities that movement and dance provided more broadly.

The Alliance planned to build on this report with the Division to showcase the power of Movement and Dance to more and more people.

Concussion in Sport

Finally, in collaboration with the Government, the Alliance published the first ever UK-wide *Concussion Guidelines for Grassroots Sport*, to help players, coaches, parents, schools, National Governing Bodies and sports administrators to identify, manage and prevent the issue of concussion.

The Alliance led the development of the guidelines, with the strapline '*If in doubt, sit them out*', alongside an expert panel of domestic and international clinicians and academics in neurology and sports medicine. This report received widespread national coverage. This document and more information are available on the Alliance's website.

Looking Ahead

Janet stated that whilst the Alliance had accomplished a great deal, but – excitingly and importantly – there was much more to come.

The organisation would continue to work hand-in-hand with its members and partners; helping them to thrive and improve. It would continue to be a champion for the sector, playing a leading role on cross-cutting issues and ensuring that as many people as possible could enjoy the benefits of accessible, affordable and sustainable sport and recreation.

Acknowledgements

The AGM also provided a chance to show our gratitude to those who had served the Alliance, and the sport and recreation family.

Janet thanked Helene Raynsford for her unwavering support, professionalism, and commitment, after she left the Board in February 2022 for new pastures. This departure left the Alliance with two vacancies on the Board, and Janet was pleased to welcome Dame Sally Dicketts DBE to join the organisation – Dame Sally formally started at the Board meeting on 25 July – together with Rupinder Bains - who formally started her term on the Board with effect from today's AGM.

Divisional Elections

2023 saw the Divisional Elections take place and Janet thanked the departing Divisional Chairs for their immense contribution to their respective divisions.

Gary Harris, British Rowing, had completed his six years as Chair of the Water Recreation Division and Janet thanked him for all the leadership he had demonstrated.

Also, the Major Spectator Sports Division Chair, Jane Nickerson MBE, was stepping down and would also soon retire from her role as CEO of Swim England. Jane had been a tireless advocate for the power of sport and recreation, as well as a fantastic ally for the Alliance over many years, and the Alliance wished her all the best in her retirement.

Janet also thanked the remaining Divisional Chairs and Deputy Chairs for their continued work for their Divisions, and the newly appointed Chairs and Deputy Chairs for all their work to come:

- Re-election of James Hope-Gill and Karen Tonge as Chair and Deputy Chair of Games and Sports Division.
- Re-election of Simon McGrath and John Richardson as Chair and Deputy Chair of Outdoor Pursuits Division.
- Ben Seal, as newly appointed Chair and re-election of Siobhan Thomas as Deputy Chair of Water Recreation Division.
- Newly appointed Chair Annette Hufton and Deputy Chair Ginny Brown of Movement and Dance Division.
- Newly appointed Chair Philip Brownlie and re-election of Deputy Chair Hannah Murphy of Major Spectator Sports Division.

The Alliance was appreciative of all the work the Divisional Chairs and Deputy Chairs undertook on behalf of the organisation. Their work and energy shaped the discussions and the strategy delivered together, and Janet and the Board thanked them all.

Bereavements

HRH had mentioned this in his opening remarks and Janet also took a moment to remember those in the Alliance family we have lost since our last meeting.

The Alliance family were saddened to hear of the passing of former Senior Technical Officer Richard Doubleday, as well as Honorary Member Cedric Selby, and Vice-President David Oxley CBE. All three of them played enormously significant roles at the Alliance, and the organisation sent condolences to all of their family and friends again. It was an honour to be joined by Richard's wife, Mel Doubleday, as well as his daughter Ellia, and his PA, Jayne Pinfold; Janet thanked them for attending the meeting.

Thanks to Alliance staff

As with any organisation, there was always a fantastic team working behind the scenes to drive and deliver the work, and to support all its members and partners.

The Alliance's staff had again been crucial to the success it had seen over the past year - and on behalf of the Board, Janet thanked them all for their continued brilliant work and peerless spirit.

Finally, Janet thanked everyone for attending today. Over the past twelve months, the Alliance had seen so many fantastic examples of the work being done to improve the lives of the people they served and would work side by side with members over the coming year to ensure we can build on those improvements together.

Janet then handed the meeting to Dave Strain for the financial accounts.

5 Annual Accounts

Dave Strain, Independent Non-Executive Director and Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee presented the statement of Accounts introduced himself to the Meeting.

He explained that his role was to present the statutory accounts for the year ended March 2023 on which the auditors UHY Hacker Young had issued a clean, unqualified report. Attention was drawn to the few notable points from the accounts.

The Alliance's largest source of funding continued to be contractual income from Sport England. As many of the members were aware, this contract between the Alliance and Sport England was signed in 1972. In return for transferring ownership of some sporting properties, Sport England agreed to fund the reasonable costs of the Alliance in perpetuity. In the year to March 2023, the funding under that contract remained the same as the previous year at £1.25 million. Our level of Sport England funding had also been confirmed, in principle, at the same rate of £1.25 million per year for the next four years.

In terms of other income, the Alliance was successful in securing £573,000 of project and event income during the year which included the hosting of the Sport for Development Coalition and the International Working Group on Women & Sport, our involvement with the Erasmus+ funded project on sports volunteering, concussion protocols funding from Sport England and six research consultancy projects.

The Alliance continued to keep a tight control on other costs during the year, and overall, we finished with an operating loss for the year of £184,000 (before interest) but this did include increased notional pension service and administration costs of £325,000. The year closed with a healthy cash position of £1.4 million.

The other point to raise was concerning the pension fund. The Alliance was obliged by accounting rules to present this in a particular way, which typically created a negative net asset position on the balance sheet. However, after a successful challenge to the Alliance's risk categorisation and an improvement in market conditions, this year the actuarial calculation of the pension liability was a surplus of £686,000 compared to a deficit of £2.6m last year. As the pension surplus was notional this had been recorded as nil in the accounts leaving the balance sheet with net assets of £1.4m. The triennial valuation completed in 2022 by the fund's managers showed the Alliance's pension fund in a healthy position, carrying a surplus of £1.8m.

Looking forward the Board had approved a break-even budget for 2023-24 and would continue to actively monitor the risk that a flat level of funding might have over the coming years with the current rate of inflation.

There were no questions and Dave handed the Meeting back to His Royal Highness for the next agenda item.

6 Ordinary Resolution to Re-Appoint Auditors

The President read out the Ordinary Resolution, "To consider and, if thought fit, resolve by ordinary resolution that UHY Hacker Young LLP be re-appointed auditors of the company to hold office from the conclusion of this meeting until the conclusion of the next general meeting at which accounts are laid before the company, at a remuneration to be fixed by the Directors".

There was no indication that anyone wished to vote against the resolution and, with a show of hands that indicated a majority of those voting members were in favour, the resolution was passed.

7 Board of Directors – Notification of re-Election/Appointments

The meeting noted the outcome of the appointment of Dame Sally Dicketts and Rupinder Bains in accordance with Article 27 of the Articles of Association, for the two-year period 2023-2025.

The above Directors will join those already in place on the Board:

Kenny Baillie
Jack Baker
Dame Janet Beer
Adrian Christy
Katie Fawkner-Corbett
Richard Gray
David Strain
Hamid Vaghefian
Lisa Wainwright MBE
Caroline White

8 Awards

Dame Janet thanked HRH and reminded the Meeting that at each AGM the opportunity was taken to present awards to the sport and recreation community for long-standing and excellent contributions to the sector.

The Alliance recognised the incredible work of its volunteers with the newly renamed Spirit of Sport and Recreation Award - formerly the Emeritus Award - and thanked those who had contributed to the success of sport and recreation with the Arthur Bell Trophy.

8.1 Spirit of Sport and Recreation Award

Lisa Wainwright introduced the Spirit of Sport and Recreation Award which recognised volunteers in the sector who had dedicated their lives to helping to get the nation active.

Volunteers who, for many decades, have been the basis for the great successes and experiences that we've had in sport and recreation, be that in our parks, on our streets or in our stadiums.

Harvinder “Babs” Kandola had been involved in volunteering for over 35 years, working constantly in the community to ensure that young people had the opportunity to benefit from the power of sport and recreation.

Over the years, Kandola has been involved in countless programmes and initiatives and in the 1980s he set up the town’s first Asian football club, Khalsa under 9s. The club had grown and grown and now fields sides in all age groups from 9 to 16 years of age. They practiced the Sikh belief of ‘Seva’ which translated to ‘doing things for goodwill’. He also arranged an annual charity cricket match, which honours Conrad Lewis – one of his youth footballers who was sadly killed in Afghanistan in 2011 – to financially support returning soldiers. Realising that his skills set could transcend different sports, in 2014 Kandola turned his attention to boxing.

Over the last 5 years he has worked alongside established coaches at a local club and secured his England Boxing coaching badges. In 2019, he began the process of setting up the new Leamington Boxing Club and spent the summer refitting the new headquarters. Countless volunteer hours from the local community and tradespeople made this possible.

The 2023 winner of the Spirit of Sport and Recreation Award was Harvinder “Babs” Kandola and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh presented his Trophy.

8.2 Arthur Bell Trophy

The Arthur Bell Trophy was presented to an individual or organisation that was deemed to have made a phenomenal contribution to the development of community sport or recreation. As the nation, and our sector in particular, made a recovery from the pandemic, this award represented the perfect opportunity to recognise the outstanding work taking place in our communities and celebrate.

Dame Janet read out the citation for double Olympic Champion Col Dame Kelly Holmes MBE who was one of the UK’s most popular athletes, respected throughout the world as a role model and an inspiration.

Setting and still holding the British records in the 800m and 1000m, Kelly was an Olympic, Commonwealth and European champion that had achieved seven Gold, eight Silver and four Bronze medals throughout her career. This included her double win in the 800m and 1500m at the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, becoming the first Briton in over 80 years to do so. After her Olympic success, she won BBC Sports Personality of the Year, European Athlete of the Year and was honored with a Damehood from the Queen in 2005 and, in 2008, founded the Dame Kelly Holmes Legacy Trust. The charity helps guide disadvantaged young people, getting their lives back on track by using world class athletes to engage, enable and empower, attitudes they need to fulfil a positive life. She encourages the same philosophy that she lives by; nothing is impossible.

In 2018, Kelly was appointed Honorary Colonel of the Royal Armoured Corps, marking her return to the army. The accolade was approved by Her Majesty the Queen, making it the first time an individual has been appointed Honorary Colonel to a regular unit. In June 2022, Dame Kelly came out publicly as a gay woman, in an emotional and powerful documentary called Kelly Holmes: Being Me, where she explains how after 34 years of fear, she finally feels free to be her authentic self and wants to use her voice to educate and inform on diversity and inclusion matters.

The 2024 winner of the Arthur Bell Trophy Award was Dame Kelly Holmes MBE and HRH the Duke of Edinburgh presented the Award.

8.3 Community Sport and Recreation Awards

The President congratulated the richly deserving winners and stated that it was with pleasure that he was able to confirm that the Community Sport and Recreation Awards would once again return next year as the sector came together to celebrate the incredible people and organisations that made grassroots activity happen.

Nominations would be open across eight different awards categories as the Alliance was set to deliver the biggest ever ceremony in the Award's history.

He would encourage all members to share this across their network of clubs and volunteers to make sure that your hardest working community groups receive the recognition they deserve and nominations would remain open for six weeks, so please do put your local clubs forward for an award.

Following this confirmation, the President confirmed that this concluded the AGM.