

**MINUTES OF THE SECOND
COMMONWEALTH ADVISORY BODY ON SPORT MEETING**

**14 March 2006
Australian Government Offices, Melbourne**

Attendees:

Rt Hon Don McKinnon

Members Present:

Ms Sue Campbell - Chair

Ms Low Beng Choo

Mr Michael Fennell

Ms Moekie Grobbelaar

Mr Desmond Haynes

Professor Denver Hendricks

Dr Bruce Kidd

Dr Robin E Mitchell

Dr Emmanuel Owusu-Ansah

Mr Mark Peters

Mr Justice Lino Farrugia Sacco

Apologies:

Shri Rana Gurmit Singh Sodhi

Advisers:

Mr John Scott (UK Sport)

Mr Martin Niblett (Commonwealth Secretariat)

Ms Penny Crisfield (Apollinaire Consultancy Associates Ltd)

Mr Mike McWhinney (International Sport, Canadian Heritage)

Agenda Item No.1: Meeting opening and welcomes

The meeting was opened by the Chair and began with the approval of the agenda. The Chair then welcomed all members to the 2nd meeting of CABOS, in particular Mr Justice Lino Farrugia Sacco and Dr Emmanuel Owusu-Ansah who were not present at the 1st CABOS meeting in Canada, and invited all those present to introduce themselves briefly.

The Chair then expressed her thanks on behalf of the body to Penny Crisfield for putting together the CABOS report and to Mark Peters and the Australian Sports Commission for kindly hosting the dinner for CABOS members the night before.

Martin Niblett (MN) informed the meeting that the Secretary-General was currently delayed at another engagement but would attend the meeting later on in the morning.

Agenda Item No.2: Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the 1st CABOS meeting held on 7 June 2005 in Ottawa, Canada were approved by the meeting and the Chair expressed her thanks to MN for drafting them.

Agenda Item No.3: Matters arising from last meeting

CABOS and Anti-Doping issues: The Chair invited MN to speak on the anti-doping update report jointly prepared with WADA for the Sports Ministers meeting. MN stated that this report covered the work undertaken on the Regional Anti-Doping Organisations (RADOs) project since the Athens meeting in 2004. He outlined the progress made and explained that the Commonwealth Secretariat-funded experts would shortly be in place in all 3 regions. Robin Mitchell, as Chair of the pilot Oceania RADO Board, then gave a detailed update on the developments of this RADO and the education and testing work already undertaken within the region. He explained that additional resources would be needed for greater levels of testing to be carried out. MN concluded by stating that this was an extremely important project for the Commonwealth Secretariat (ComSec) as it was a sports development programme with dedicated funding attached to it.

There then followed a general discussion on anti-doping issues. John Scott stated that the WADA Board were now looking to build capacity and increase the amount of testing undertaken worldwide; their focus initially had been on education. Mike Fennell stated that the high cost of testing was a big concern for countries and that there needed to be a clearer definition over levels and associated costs of tests. He added that changes in legislation will need to be made for countries to ratify the convention and this required a lot of work to be undertaken by governments. The Chair agreed stating that this was going to be a big challenge for member governments.

CABOS and Major Events issues: MN addressed the meeting on the update report prepared by ComSec for the Ministers meeting which covered the work undertaken post-Athens. He explained that the report contained proposals for Ministers to use ComSec as a facilitating service for the sharing of information and knowledge in relation to major events that exists amongst member countries. He expressed his thanks to John Scott and UK Sport for all their assistance with this and invited John to comment on the report.

John Scott stated that the CGF Transfer of Knowledge Toolkit was an excellent resource which dealt with the transfer of knowledge for the Commonwealth Games and events at the very highest level. He added, however, that the work undertaken by ComSec and UK Sport in this report looked at events at the next level down and the lack of information that both exists and is shared within member countries. He explained that the report proposes that a rolling calendar of events held within Commonwealth countries is maintained by ComSec, who are then used as a facilitating service in order to put one member country that has had experience in hosting a certain type of event in touch with another country that is due to host one. He added though that putting this draft calendar together was very difficult and for it to be complete and regularly maintained would require the full commitment of member governments. He stated that the proposals also looked at making resource materials – such as UK Sport’s Major Sports Events: The Guide – available through the Secretariat and facilitating possible secondments of government staff experienced in the bidding of and hosting of major events. He explained that all these proposals will help to ensure that the transfer of knowledge and experience that exists in relation to events at the lower level occurs amongst member countries.

The meeting agreed that should these proposals be adopted by Ministers then CABOS members will have an important role to play in being actively engaged with their regional ministries over this work as they recognised that this cannot be done by ComSec alone.

There then followed a general discussion on the issue of major events with Mike Fennell commenting on the Transfer of Knowledge Toolkit and the Cricket World Cup in the West Indies in 2007. Bruce Kidd stated that the best time to offer such transfer of knowledge for events would be at the actual bidding stage and suggested that any calendar include events which are at this stage as well as events which have already been awarded. The Chair acknowledged this but added that information on the bidding stages would be very hard to collate and maintain on a regular basis.

Mainstreaming of sport into the Commonwealth Secretariat's activities:

The Chair invited the Secretary-General (SG) to address the meeting on this issue. The SG started by expressing his delight at being present at the 2nd meeting of CABOS and apologised in advance that he could not stay for all the discussions. He stated that CABOS had progressed very well with the publication of its first report and was working on attainable issues and thanked the Chair for all her efforts in moving the agenda forward. He stressed that it is not just Sports Ministers who CABOS should be addressing, but other relevant Ministers as well. He advised the body to target their audiences carefully and set their messages accordingly.

The SG then went on to talk briefly about some of the sports work within ComSec - the anti-doping project, major events work, CHOGM Sports Breakfast – and referred to fact that sport will appear in the new ComSec Operational Plan and Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP) Strategic Plan as part of the mainstreaming process. He added that MN will continue this work with the respective divisions and advised that the CYP Regional Centres are a useful resource for CABOS in promoting youth development through sport and cited the example of the HIV/Aids Ambassadors for Positive Living programme. He stated that the body had his full support and he looked forward to its continued work.

The Chair thanked SG for his comments and agreed that it was extremely important that CABOS continued to look at ways of getting its messages across to different audiences. Bruce Kidd stressed the importance of leaders' representation at CHOGM and the Sports Breakfast. The Secretary-General agreed with this and added that when he was next in Canada, he would meet with the new Canadian Sports Minister to ensure that he was fully connected to the Commonwealth sports agenda.

Action:

- **ComSec to continue working with WADA and other partners to implement the RADOs development project (MN/Robin Mitchell)**
- **Discussions to continue with WADA over other possible ways in which CABOS could assist member countries on anti-doping issues (MN)**
- **ComSec to take forward Major Events proposals set out in its update report to Sports Ministers and adopted by Ministers at Melbourne meeting (MN)**

- **CABOS members to work with their respective regional governments on the Major Events proposals (strategy for this work set out as part of CABOS Work Plan)**
- **CABOS to play a role in other relevant Commonwealth ministerial meetings (see below also under What next for CABOS? action points)**
- **ComSec to continue to mainstream sport into its programme delivery (MN – strategy set out as part of CABOS Work Plan)**

Agenda Item No.4: 2005 CHOGM Sports Breakfast

Mike Fennell presented the meeting with a report on the CHOGM Sports Breakfast held in Malta on 27 November 2005. He stated that it was an extremely successful event despite being logistically difficult; there was a full attendance with speeches from the respective Heads of Government of Malta, Australia, Nigeria & UK. He added that there were some very positive messages about sport from leaders and CABOS now has to be crusaders for sport and take these messages to other Commonwealth ministerial meetings. He expressed his thanks to both Lino Farrugia Sacco and the Chair for their contributions to the Breakfast and looked forward to the next Sports Breakfast in Uganda in 2007.

Agenda Item No.5: Presentations on CABOS 4 Key Sport and Development areas

The Chair stated that CABOS will present its report on the 4 key areas to Sports Ministers at their afternoon meeting so it is very important that the body gets over the right messages on the powerful role that sport can play in development. She expressed her belief that it would be beneficial to have a dress rehearsal of the presentations now so that all members could have an input into them. She explained that she had already consulted with the 4 members in question and it was agreed that each presentation should commence with some background points, then draw out some case studies from the CABOS report, and finish by giving some policy recommendations for Ministers.

The 4 presentations were then given by Robin Mitchell, Bruce Kidd, Low Beng Choo and Mark Peters and fully discussed by the meeting. The presentations were finalised by Penny Crisfield for the Ministers meeting and are attached to these minutes. It was also agreed by the meeting that the amended policy recommendations should form the basis of the Ministers Meeting Communiqué (subsequently agreed by MN with the Australian government).

Action:

- **CABOS report & Sports Ministers Meeting Communiqué to be posted onto CABOS webpage (MN - see below also What next for CABOS? action points)**
- **Secretary-General to write to Commonwealth Heads of Government enclosing CABOS report and Sports Ministers Meeting Communiqué and asking for appropriate action (MN/Chair)**
- **CABOS members to follow up this letter and appropriate action with their respective regional governments (strategy set out as part of CABOS Work Plan)**

Agenda Item No.6: What next for CABOS?

The Chair began this item by saying that she wanted an open discussion on the future role for CABOS following today's meetings. She stated that whilst the CABOS report was a good start for the body, there had clearly been difficulties in obtaining the necessary case studies from all of the members. She added that CABOS needed to be a body that was fully representative of the Commonwealth with all members contributing equally to its work; therefore, everybody present needed to be committed and happy with the proposed future direction of the body. MN followed this by stressing that proper lines of communication had to exist within the body which would enable it to function effectively outside of the annual meetings. The Chair then invited comments on these issues, CABOS's future advocacy role and possible expansion of its development work

Bruce Kidd stated that CABOS must advance the mainstreaming of sport and physical education into government policies on overseas development assistance, and both he and Low Beng Choo stated that CABOS needs to have in place a clear lobbying strategy and must advocate strongly to other relevant Commonwealth Ministerial meetings. Mark Peters stated that the body should explore additional resources in the future, including through the private sector, to further progress some of this existing work and possibly look to develop a co-ordinating body. He agreed that in the meantime CABOS should continue to advocate strongly and provide further case studies to share throughout member countries. John Scott suggested that CABOS could be connected to the Value of Sport Monitor through its case studies evaluation. He added that CABOS should be involved in upcoming international conferences such as the Commonwealth Sports Development Conference in Glasgow and Next Steps, as well as regional conferences/events which should be the responsibility of each member to identify and determine.

Bruce Kidd added that sport should feature in all of ComSec's initiatives and highlighted the CYP Ambassadors for Positive Living scheme as an example. Moekie Grobbelaar also highlighted the IPC's website as an excellent resource for case studies and the work currently being undertaken in disability sport.

The Chair thanked everyone for their contributions. It was then agreed by the Chair and all members present that the best way forward for CABOS was to:

- **continue and develop its strong advocacy work;**
- **address relevant Commonwealth ministerial meetings and other appropriate meetings on the value of sport;**
- **develop the CABOS webpage to incorporate and categorise all the current case studies included in the CABOS report;**
- **obtain and develop further case studies in these areas for the webpage;**
- **explore further investment possibilities for CABOS over the course of the next year to allow the body to progress its development work.**

Action:

- **Chair to write to Secretary-General requesting that CABOS plays a role in all relevant forthcoming Commonwealth ministerial meetings (Chair/MN)**
- **All members to be invited to Commonwealth Sports Development Conference in Glasgow on 14 & 15 September 2006 (Chair/MN)**
- **Members to identify regional meetings/events for CABOS participation**
- **Develop CABOS webpage to include and categorise all the case studies & examples included in the CABOS report along with providing the opportunity for people to add their own case examples (MN/Chair – details set out in CABOS Work Plan)**
- **Members to continue to identify further case studies from their respective regions for inclusion in the CABOS webpage**
- **Investment opportunities to be explored over the next year to allow CABOS to expand its international sport and development work (Chair/MN)**

Date for next CABOS meeting

MN advised the meeting that the next CABOS meeting should be held in 2007 and members were invited to express an interest in hosting the meeting in their respective countries. He added that this would involve funding both the meeting and dinner costs; members' travel and accommodation costs were met by their respective governments. The Chair stated that the UK would be prepared to host the meeting but invited other countries to do likewise before any date and location were fixed.

Action:

- **Members to notify MN by 30 April 2006 if their country would like to host the next CABOS meeting in 2007**
- **Chair/MN to then notify all members of date and location of next meeting.**

Any other business

MN brought members attention to the minutes of the International Disability in Sport Working Group meeting and also the draft UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities articles relating to sport. He stated that he had been in recent touch with the IPC and had enclosed the papers for members' information and possible discussion. After some short discussion, it was agreed that Moekie Grobbelaar would continue to work with the IPC and MN over possible ways in which CABOS could advise and assist member governments over the sport articles in the draft Convention.

Finally, the Chair thanked all members for attending the meeting and for the informative discussions and expressed her thanks to MN for all his support work with the body.

**Martin Niblett
CABOS Secretariat
30 March 2006**