

MINUTES

**Date:** 20 November 2002

**Time:** 9.00 - 12.00pm

**Venue:** Committee Room 1, National Assembly for Wales

<b>Attendance:</b>	
<b>Members</b>	<p>Rhodri Glyn Thomas (Plaid Cymru, Carmarthen East and Dinefwr, Chair)</p> <p>Jenny Randerson (Liberal Democrat, Cardiff Central, Assembly Minister)</p> <p>Owen John Thomas (Plaid Cymru, South Wales Central)</p> <p>Lorraine Barrett (Labour, Cardiff South and Penarth)</p> <p>Delyth Evans (Labour, Mid &amp; West Wales)</p> <p>Alison Halford (Labour, Delyn)</p> <p>Dafydd Wigley (Plaid Cymru, Caernarfon)</p> <p>Glyn Davies (Conservative, Mid and West Wales)</p>
<b>Officials</b>	<p>Margaret Evans (Arts, Lottery and Sport Division)</p> <p>Arthur Emyr (Arts, Lottery and Sport Division)</p> <p>Gwylim Evans (Arts, Lottery and Sport Division)</p>
<b>Secretariat</b>	<p>Julia Annand, Committee Clerk</p>

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**9.00am to 9.10am**

**Item 1: Introduction, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest**

1.1 The Chair welcomed the Committee and members of the public.

1.2 Apologies were received from Rosemary Butler (Labour, Newport West).

1.3 The Chair asked Members for declarations of interest, in accordance with Standing Order 4.5.

The following declarations were made:

- Rhodri Glyn Thomas: member of the Committee for the Cardiff European Capital of Culture 2008 bid and a member of the Hijinx Theatre Company.
- Dafydd Wigley: funding from the Welsh Books Council; married to a prominent member of the arts community; a member of the Hijinx Theatre Company.
- Lorraine Barrett : interests as listed in the Register of Member's Interests.

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**9.10am to 10.20am**

**Item 2: Policy Review on Sport**

**CC 17-02(p.1a)**

**Topic 1 Presentation from Nigel Walker: Head of Sports Department: BBC Wales**

2.1 Nigel Walker made a presentation which included the following points:

- The most important point was that people should feel able to participate in any sport they chose.
- Investment in facilities was needed both at grass roots and elite sports levels.
- The revenue cost of large-scale capital investments was a considerable burden. Success on an international level, such as rugby, was a 'shop window' for sport and should be treated as such.
- The Commonwealth Games Council needed to better organise the fundraising and organisation for the athletes to compete. The CGC should already be preparing for the next Games in Melbourne.

2.2 There followed a question and answer session during which the following points were made:

- There were a number of barriers to success in sport. Problems began at school level with lack of support from teaching staff for gifted sportsmen/women. At present it appeared that where a child

went to school affected its chances of sporting success.

- After school sports activities were an important part of training talented athletes. In many cases, parents did not take an interest and accordingly, many potential athletes would miss out unless they received support from their teachers.
- PE was an essential part of the national curriculum, especially in the case of girls. Emphasising sports in schools ensured that the drop out rate for girls was delayed. However a balance had to be struck between the importance of sport and other studies.
- Competition and training were vital to nurture potential elite athletes. The support and extra training provided by clubs was also important. Sportaid Foundation grants provided recognition of ability and such a boost to young athletes.
- Wales was behind England and the US in terms of providing support and financial recognition of young athletes and considerable progress needed to be made.
- The issue of when to encourage serious training in young people was raised. It was felt that even though specialised training at a young age can be an advantage, sport should be encouraged as a way to have fun for young children.
- A radical overhaul of the organisation behind the Commonwealth Games Council was needed. It was felt that it should be run as a professional body, as in other UK countries, rather than as an amateur association as in Wales. Amateur associations did not have as much knowledge as professional bodies, which made it difficult to select teams. Often activities such as fundraising began too late to be effective. There had been moves to modernise the Sports Council for Wales. It was felt that efforts to change the Council would have more weight if they came from the National Assembly.
- The media played an important role in creating role models for young children and it should be encouraged more to highlight female sporting successes.
- In terms of government intervention in sport there were some situations in which advice and support should be offered to organisations that were in difficulty. The WRU, for instance, might benefit from guidance in reducing its debt of £60 million. Should England bid to host the next Rugby World Cup in 2007, Wales would need to try and secure at least a semi-final game in order to maintain the profile of the sport.

## **Topic 2 Presentation from the Wales Region of the British Sports Council for the Deaf**

**Presenters: Glyn Rosser (Chairman) and Dennis Harris (President)**

3. The following points were made:

- The BSCD was founded in 1930 and had been run by volunteers to organise sporting activities for the deaf ever since.
- Deaf competitors should be entitled to participate in sport regardless of hearing impairment. However lack of funding was a barrier. For instance, each competitor had to pay £750 travel costs to represent Great Britain at the last World Deaf Games in Rome. The BSCD sent a squad of 85 to the Games and received funding of £60,000.
- The closure of residential deaf schools made it more difficult to locate and therefore select deaf athletes.
- The whole UK organisation received £42 000 per annum. Funding would be withdrawn from the British Deaf Sports Council in December 2002. Unless pressure could be placed upon UK Sports to retain funding, the BDSC would cease to exist.
- The BDSC felt that integration with the Paralympic Association was not appropriate, as they would

lose their identity. UK Sports had criticised the BDSC for not integrating more with hearing sportsmen, however this was not considered practical as hearing impaired sportsmen relied upon interpreters to participate.

2.4 There followed a question and answer session during which the following points were made:

- Deaf children had fewer opportunities to take part in sport following integration into mainstream schools. Often extra tuition in other subjects took place during scheduled sports lessons and therefore deaf children missed out. An emphasis on encouraging children who excel at sport could tend to disadvantage deaf children.
- There were no barriers to deaf people using facilities such as leisure centres. However, deaf people were more likely to use facilities if they felt accepted and usually needed to be accompanied by a hearing person. In South Wales there were 6 or 7 deaf sports clubs affiliated to the Welsh branch of the BDSC which try and encourage children take part in sports.
- The Deaf Sports Strategy Group was funded by UK Sports and the BDSC felt that they were in a less advantageous funding position than DSSG.

### **Action Points:**

- The Sports Council for Wales to be asked to address directly the points made in the presentation by the BDSC when they make their presentation to Committee on 16 January 2003.

### **10.20am to 10.30am**

### **Item 3: Forward Look**

3.1 The Committee agreed the forward work programme as at CC 18-02 p2. The Sports Review would continue until March 2003.

### **10.30am to 10.45am**

The Committee agreed to break for 15 minutes

### **10.45am to 11.30am**

### **Item : 4 Arts Council of Wales (Regional Distribution of Funds)**

**Presenters: Peter Tyndall, Chief Executive and Francis Medley, Chair**

1. Peter Tyndall made a presentation to Committee, on the ACW corporate plan priorities, which included:

- Promoting mainstream and community drama and dance;
- funding the changes needed for venues to comply with the new Disability Discrimination Act;
- maintaining revenue to major capital projects.

1. Mr Tyndall explained that other important initiatives included:

- seeking commercial sponsorship for the successful Collectorplan scheme;
- taking an active role in the Cardiff 2008 for European Capital of Culture bid;
- improving the economic stability of art projects in Wales;
- working with the reduced lottery funding forecasted due to declining ticket sales;
- bidding for an increased share of lottery funding given that the rate was currently determined on a per capita basis.

4.3 Mr Tyndall further explained that:

- There were currently £23 million worth of capital projects in the pipeline against a forecasted budget of £29 million.
- The principal objective of the Council was to promote the role of the arts in broader communities and ensure that those living in Wales have access to an arts venue.
- The Council was doing what it could to reduce the "cold areas" in Wales in terms of funding. In Merthyr Tydfil, for instance, there were plans for funding an arts centre. There were also plans for providing an art gallery in Pembrokeshire.
- An example of an important grant scheme was the funding of arts officers for all local authorities. This aimed to build a sustainable base for the arts by encouraging the local authorities to develop culture strategies and arts forums internally.
- The Council was beginning to analyse where grant money was being spent throughout Wales. A large proportion of the money had gone into arts centres which included multi art forms.

4.4 There followed a question and answer session during which the following points were made:

- The Arts Council was liaising with the WEC offices in Brussels to take advantage of the funding opportunities from Europe that had previously not been exploited.
- The ACW funded music initiatives, supporting both amateur and professional musicians. While there were opportunities for young people, the ACW was looking to create more opportunities for the music industry in Wales. People left Wales to gain access to studios, copyright lawyers etc and the ACW was looking to enable Welsh bands to stay in Wales.
- The ACW had asked organisations that require funding to make a case to them. It would be impossible to fund all requests but all applications would be considered. An open, objective, transparent system was in place for sifting funding applications.
- The Millennium Centre was part of a range of projects throughout Wales. Thanks to the Minister's commitment to arts outside Cardiff, a balance would be ensured between Cardiff and the rest of Wales.
- The biggest impact of the reduction in lottery funding would be the rate at which projects in Wales could move forward. The whole range of projects funded could be affected.
- Marketing conferences were held annually throughout Wales to raise the profile of the arts.

- The ACW wished to raise the profile of theatre in south west Wales. It was hoped that the Welsh Language National Theatre would raise the profile of Welsh theatre as a whole.

## 11.30am to 12.00pm

### Item 5: Minister's Report

5.1 The minister presented her monthly report, and highlighted the following points:

- The Network Q Rally would now be called the Wales Rally Great Britain. It was funded by the WDA and represented excellent sponsorship and value for money and would considerably raise the profile of Wales as a sporting venue.
- The Pickets Lock Legacy money, available for athletics, had originally been intended for distribution throughout the whole of the UK, although the money was ultimately given to Sport England. As such, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland were to receive additional funding over the next 5 years for athletics. Wales would receive £175 000 per annum.
- The Minister drew attention to the update on the budget position within the report.

5.2 During the subsequent question and answer session the following comments were made:

- The figure of £42 million represented the amount of money that would be generated by the Wales Rally GB and not the amount of money paid in sponsorship as reported on Radio Cymru.
- The money from the Pickets Lock legacy could be accessed via UK Athletics to the Athletics Association of Wales.
- Women's football was increasing in popularity and accordingly the development of women's football formed an important part of the forthcoming Football Action Plan.
- The Minister confirmed that local authorities no longer made any contribution to the Welsh Books Council. The Welsh Assembly Government had met the difference in funding and provided substantial additional funding. The funding would now be simpler and more transparent thus freeing up staff time.
- The Minister has written to Dave Collins of the FAW asking him to consider increasing the amount of money being invested in youth development, in light of the more favourable financial position they found themselves in. This is due to the improvement in performance of the Welsh football team.
- The FAW had decided not to appeal against the FIFA ruling that excluded some players from taking part in international matches. The WAG could not step in and appeal on their behalf and had no access to the evidence needed.
- KPMG were currently working on the business case for the National Botanical Gardens, which would be with officials shortly. The Minister believed that there were lessons to be learned from the way in which the Millennium Commission awarded the money to the project.
- The Department of Trade and Industry had issued a consultation on the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs. As the UK was the second largest exporter of services in the world the WAG could be contributing to the consultation and the response would be made public.

## 12.00 to 12.05pm

## **Item 6: Minutes of the last meeting**

### **CC 17-02 (min)**

6.1 The Committee approved the minutes of the previous meeting

### **Any Other Business**

7.1 The Chair informed the Committee that he was due to give evidence to the Richard Commission and invited members to suggest topics he should raise. A member asked if the arrangements for reporting by task and finish groups could be dealt with.