

WORLD ARCHERY MEMBERS OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Meeting to discuss possible action to promote archery in the Commonwealth Games held in Mexico City on Friday, 13 October 2017

Present: Prof Dr Erdener, Tom Dielen, Pascal Colmaire also Susanne Womersley Oceania, Sergio Font, Americas;

AUS – James Larven, Richard Hastie

BAH – David Rhaming

BAR – Celeste Nurse

CAN – Al Wills

CYP – Andreas Theofylaktou, Konstantina Pavlou

GBR – Mark Davies, Neil Armitage, Hilda Gibson

MRI – Yousouf Al Bayjou

NAM – Heidi Reddig

NGR – Baba Mohammed Abdullahi

NZL - Carole Hicks

RSA – Petrus Van Breda

TTO – Gregory Peter Quesnel

UGA – Richard Mcbond Asiimwe

It was noted there are 36 members of World Archery that are members of the Commonwealth (plus the seven Home Countries represented by Archery GB) Archery is an optional sport therefore at the mercy of the prospective host country including archery in its bid to win the Games.

The WA Commonwealth Committee was established to encourage/support cities seeking to host the Games include archery and to raise the profile of archery among the Commonwealth countries through continental championships and other means.

Committee members are:

Susanne Womersley and Carole Hicks Oceania,

Hilda Gibson, Dion Buhagiar, Europe

Anil Kamineni Asia

Al Wills Americas

Selwyn Moskovits Africa

10 Commonwealth countries in Europe, England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Jersey, Guernsey, Isle of Man, Malta, Gibraltar and Cyprus.

Commonwealth Championships for Europe held every year for the last five years. In 2017, in England it included both recurve and compound bow divisions with 50 competitors. Consideration will be given to the dates of the next championships to prevent a clash with the Island Games.

It is important that each WA Member Association has good working relationships with their respective Commonwealth Games Association to encourage them to include archery as a core sport and at the very least to include archery in every bid document. Any information about which country is considering a bid needs to be advised to WA.

We have worked hard to persuade the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) to give favourable support without a great deal of success. We now need to concentrate on the individual countries.

There were possible bids for 2022 from Liverpool which included archery and Birmingham. The latter is now the selected bid city from Great Britain.

Archery GB reported it is working to encourage Birmingham to include archery. It will hold three major tournaments in the city with good TV and other media coverage.

Americas Al Wills noted the distances involved between Canada, St Helena and Falkland Island made things very difficult to hold a regional Commonwealth Championships. Development of archery in the Caribbean is at an early stage.

Tom Dielen noted that it is important to work with the Caribbean countries to participate even with very small numbers as happens in Oceania. Each small country has the same vote as each big country when it comes to selecting host countries.

Sergio Font reinforced the need for the larger archery nations to support the smaller ones. If a bid city thinks its country will not make progress/possible medals in archery it will not include the sport in their bid.

Susanne Womersley noted the 2016 regional Commonwealth Championships at the Oceania Championships in Tonga which included AUS, TGA, FJI, NZL. The other Oceania countries, apart from New Caledonia, almost all of which are Commonwealth members, did not participate. There will be another Commonwealth Championship at the 2018 tournament which will be hosted by New Caledonia.

Asia Anil had suggested to World Archery Asia that there were enough countries within the continental association to include a Commonwealth Championships with the Asian Championships but it was decided there was no room for another title to be completed. Malaysia has in the past indicated a willingness to be involved but not currently.

Africa Carole reported a very recent conversation with Barbara Manning of South Africa. It seems that the level of involvement in any tournament is low outside South Africa and Egypt. Although there are many Commonwealth countries in Africa, archery is not strong and money is short for equipment and travel to tournaments. After Durban withdrew from the Games organisation of 2022, there is little chance of any other city offering in the short to medium future.

It was noted that there are other ways to encourage cities to include archery in any bid. For example, we could work with the companies that assist the writing of bid documents and prepare the advertising, to suggest that archery, being such a great spectator sport live, as well as on TV, should be included.

There was general discussion about ways to strengthen archery in smaller/newer countries. Within continental associations the stronger countries could "adopt" another country to build infrastructure, coaching, etc. Training coaches as well as the archers is critical to raise standards and the costs could be shared between the continental association, WA and the respective NOC.

There could be a strong association "lending" coaches to smaller countries to develop coaching structures and infrastructure.

Hilda noted the importance of letting the Commonwealth Games Association in each country know how strong archery is as a spectator sport and is particularly good on TV. It does not require very expensive facilities but can be used to showcase iconic venues that can help the host country's tourism.

Tom noted that Birmingham is the only bid at present (for 2022) and he has met with their representatives to consider archery. CGF is seeking other bids by end November 2017 with a decision on the 2022 host by the end of the year.

Susanne thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions and urged them to go back to their countries to promote our sport with their domestic Commonwealth Games Associations.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. A. Dick". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "R".