

September 2010

Sport England Board appointments

Hugh Robertson, Minister for Sport and the Olympics has appointed six new Members to the Board of Sport England for two year terms starting on 7th September 2010.

Biographical notes

Nick Bitel

Nick Bitel has been the Chief Executive of the London Marathon, the world's most successful city centre marathon, since 1995. The Event has grown substantially in that time and now sees over 35,000 finishers each year who between them raise a world record £50.2 million per annum. Nick is also senior partner in the niche sports law firm, Max Bitel Greene and his major event clients include The Wimbledon Championships and the Ryder Cup. Nick is a Board Member of the Olympic Park Legacy Company and of the London Community Sports Board. He has previously served as a board member of UK Sport.

Clare Connor OBE

In 2006 aged 30, Clare was awarded the OBE after leading England to a first Ashes win in 42 years. Clare retired from playing for England that year with over 100 caps and having led the side for 6 years. Clare is now Head of England Women's Cricket at the England & Wales Cricket Board, driving a highly successful period for the women's game. In 2009 the England team won the ICC World Cup, the ICC World Twenty20, and retained the Ashes. In 2008 Clare was made a Non-Executive Director of Sussex CCC and the following year was appointed to the International Cricket Council's Cricket Committee as its first female member. Clare has enjoyed a dynamic career outside cricket. For 7 years, she combined the challenges of playing for England whilst teaching English at Brighton College whilst also heading up their PR & Marketing Operations. Clare has worked in the cricket media, presenting for Channel 4 Cricket, summarising on Test Match Special and writing a column in The Observer.

Hanif Malik

Originating from a working class/ethnic background and despite achieving moderately at school, Hanif Malik has progressed to become the Chief Executive of the Hamara Healthy Living Centre in Leeds. He has served on a number of strategic boards at a local and regional level and is described as 'a leading community figure in Leeds. Hanif is a strong advocate of the Third Sector and has a keen interest in sport and in enabling individuals and community organisations to be given the opportunity to enhance participation and achieve excellence.

Peter Rowley



Peter Rowley retired as a Director and Chief Executive of Darlington Building Society in 2009 after 17 years in post following a long career in retail banking in banking and building societies at senior levels. Peter has developed strong associations with grassroots sports through his role as leader of a community based financial institution, including longstanding sponsorships of a broad range of sporting leagues, organisations and initiatives. Now an advisor to charities, voluntary groups and social enterprises as Head of Business Support with The Social Investment Business, he is Regional Champion for Community Sport in the North East and holds a portfolio of non-executive appointments in community, public and private organisations. An enthusiastic sportsman, he is a passionate runner, competing domestically and overseas at club level at all distances from 5k up to, and including, marathons.

Sadie Mason

Sadie Mason was appointed as Sussex County Sports Partnership Director in August 2005 and, following its transition to an independent charitable Trust (now known as Active Sussex), is now the Chief Executive Officer with overall responsibility for the Trusts business and financial operations. Sadie leads a team of 8 full-time and 5 part-time professional officers and has a dual role as Company Secretary to the Trust. The role includes working with senior sports development professionals across East Sussex, West Sussex and Brighton & Hove to strategically support and influence the development of local sports policy and partners' delivery plans. Sadie previously enjoyed a seven-year financial services career with NatWest Bank plc up until 1995, has national governing body experience as Basketball Scotland's Director (1996-2000) and is a former basketball international player having represented England and Great Britain at junior and senior levels. Sadie is currently involved in community sport as a regional junior basketball coach and England Basketball tutor.

Peter Stybelski

Peter Stybelski was Chief Executive of Cumbria County Council and prior to that was Chief Executive at Carlisle City Council. Peter has worked for Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council, where he was the Director of Leisure Services and for The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea as Chief Amenities Officer. Prior to that he held positions involving leisure and recreation at Blackpool Borough Council and Oxford City Council.

Background

1. Sport England operates under a Royal Charter and is the Government funded agency responsible for providing the strategic lead for sport in England in order to deliver the Government's sporting objectives.
2. Sport England Board Members can claim an attendance allowance of £218 per day. The Sport England Board meets 6-7 times per year.
3. The appointments have been made in accordance with the Code of Practice of the Commissioner for Public Appointments. Appointments



are made on merit and political activity plays no part in the selection process. No political activity has been declared.