



PRESS RELEASE

10TH October 2018

BAC WELCOMES DR. RODERICK JAQUES AS NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON THE BOARD



As the British Athletes Commission (BAC) looks to reshape its board in line with its new strategy for the future, it has appointed Dr. Roderick Jaques as a Non-Executive Director. Dr. Jaques is currently the Director of Medical Services at the English Institute of Sports (EIS) and will bring significant insights and three decades of experience in sports medicine to the BAC.

Having worked with various organizations in the high-performance British sports system, Dr. Jaques will also bring a particular interest and expertise in mental health, which directly aligns with the BAC's vision of supporting athletes in this area.

Victoria Aggar, Chairman of the BAC, said: "The need to support mental health of British athletes is becoming more prominent and has been top-of-my mind for the BAC for some time. Now with the latest government mandate and UK Sport strengthening their agendas on mental wellbeing, we are keen to build on our existing capacity and services to address this issue head-on. Dr. Roderick will help us to do just that and more. As we celebrate World Mental Health Day around the globe, we wanted to voice our commitment at BAC to safeguarding our athletes' mental health and working to shift the sporting culture towards embracing mental health as a positive."

Dr. Jaques, said: "The reality is that there is still some stigma associated with mental health in the sports industry. In this high-performance system, athletes are perceived to be mentally tough and no-one wants to admit to having any kind of weakness. We need to become better at recognising the early signs of mental illness to allow athletes to perform at their best and prevent athletes from reaching a crisis point. We need to make support

The British Athletes Commission is a company limited by guarantee, number 05014388.

Registered Address: 122 Feering Hill, Feering, Colchester, Essex, CO5 9PY.

© The British Athletes Commission 2018 - www.britishathletes.org



systems easily accessible for athletes and we need to remove the taboo around seeking help. I am very excited to join the BAC in its efforts to addressing the mental health problem and finding tangible solutions for athletes.”

Dr. Jaques has been involved in sports medicine over the past 30 years. He has held multiple roles with a variety of sports and medical organizations over his career, including - Medical Advisor to the British Triathlon Association (1989-2004), British Olympic Medical Centre (1998-2001) and most recently President of the Faculty of Sports Exercise and Medicine UK (2012-2015). He has attended the Atlanta, Sydney, Athens, Beijing and London Olympics with Team GB, and the Kuala Lumpur and Manchester Commonwealth Games with the England Team in a clinical capacity. Currently, at the EIS (since 2003), Dr. Jaques has both clinical and management responsibilities, and has most recently assisted in developing a strategy for mental health in the high performance system. In 2017, he was made a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in London and was awarded the Sir Robert Atkins award for services to sports medicine in the UK.

- END -

For more information please contact us at media@britishathletes.org

About the British Athletes Commission (BAC)

The BAC is the independent members’ association for elite athletes in over forty sports – including Olympic, Paralympic and Commonwealth sports. The BAC has four core objectives:

1. World class advice and support
2. Interests of athlete at heart of decision making
3. Valued and Respected Reputation
4. Uphold strong Governance & Leadership

The British Athletes Commission is a company limited by guarantee, number 05014388.

Registered Address: 122 Feering Hill, Feering, Colchester, Essex, CO5 9PY.

© The British Athletes Commission 2018 - www.britishathletes.org