



BRITISH FENCING BOARD MINUTES At Beazley Head Office 19 December 2012

Present; David Teasdale (Chair), Julia Bracewell, David King, Alp Orge, Graham Paul, William Pitt, John Troiano, Georgina Usher.

In attendance; Peter King (CEO), Jack Magill, Penny Moseley, Ray Stafford – plus Helen Nicholls, UKS, and Rich Beer, SE.

MINUTES

1. The minutes of the meeting on 15 November were agreed, with no matters arising.

APOLOGIES

2. Apologies were received from Murray Morrison and Libby Payne (Board members) and from Chris Gill, Chris Hyde and Peter Stewart.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

3. There were no new conflicts of interest to be registered.

FUNDING FOR 2013-17 - SPORT ENGLAND

4. Rich Beer explained the process followed by SE in reaching their decisions on fencing and the monies offered. He stressed the SE support for growing fencing participation in England; this is a sport that can help SE's strategy by reaching new people. SE also supports strongly the new BF Board and its leadership. However, there remained some concerns about governance and that there was only an interim CEO and no full time Development Manager - hence the requirement for further approval of detailed plans in year one, before SE commits finally to the four year funding provided for fencing.

5. The Board discussed the three key milestones from SE, covering pilot projects directed at young people, the need for a clear geographical picture of the BF plans and the Board signing off a clear, new Talent Pathway. All three were agreed to be practical and important targets. In discussion the following points were noted;

- BF needed to develop its own measurement;
- there had been SE frustration over the lack of perceived progress with the academy as a Talent Pathway;
- it was important for BF to set realistic objectives and programmes;
- SE saw advantage for BF in having this initial year to plan and prepare effectively, including necessary resourcing;
- England Fencing supported the proposed strategy and welcomed the SE funding package.

6. The Chair set on record the new BF strategic goals, agreed at the recent weekend session. This new strategy could now be launched by the new funding provision.

7. Helen Nicholls of UK Sport congratulated BF on achieving increased funding for its world class programme (WCP), when some other sports had lost support. Fencing was one of only two sports actually to move from basic to full funding. UKS based its offer on the belief that by Rio our podium athletes could reach 4-8 places but not medals; by 2020 our WCP could produce medal fencers. BF can make further bids in years two and three of the cycle if we can justify medal potential for Rio. Regarding the one year review, Helen stressed that the

questions were about the BF Board's desire - can we protect the WCP, against the complaints and criticisms from parts of the membership? Was there real commitment to the Gold aims?

8. In discussion the following points were made;-

- quality coaching support would be critical to the WCP;
- BF had to agree new KPIs with UKS, early in 2013;
- the one year review would concern the WCP development, the athletes and the support from the Board and within the sport;
- some Directors believed that teams were a key route to success;
- decisions on athletes, selection policy, coach appointments, etc, UK Sport left to BF;
- the UKS offer fitted the Board's new 2014 goals;
- it would be important for the Board's long term strategy to reflect the commitment to all three weapons.

9. The Chair led the Board in stating BF's full commitment to the WCP and in developing winning, world class fencers. He asked Helen to carry this clear message back to UKS.

10. The Board thanked both Rich and Helen for their very helpful explanations and advice on behalf of Sport England and UK Sport. The Board welcomed the funding offers from both bodies; they agreed to formally accept the offers, with the conditions and milestones stated.

TALENT PATHWAY

11. AN took the Board through the new Talent Pathway, as presently developed. There were comments and questions from Board members and observers. This remains a draft in progress, of great importance to the sport and to our partners; this latest version will now be circulated to all present for comment/suggestions before a wider consultation is undertaken. A final Board decision is required before March 2013 for submission to Sport England.

FINANCES

12. The CEO spoke of the latest management reports, given to Board members at the meeting. The reports showed a likely year end deficit. There would be financial difficulties in delivering Grow objectives this year, which Rich Beer noted, observing that planning ahead was the key need. There were questions about the next year budget; PK agreed to have the first draft ready for the January 28 Board meeting. It was noted that the impending "losses" were in the Green section. The Board noted that membership income was time related - and provision for direct debit and electronic payments were part of the new membership scheme. The Board welcomed the clear presentation of the management accounts.

BOARD ELECTIONS

13. The Board agreed the timetable proposed and the arrangements now envisaged. The questions posed by T Bourne were to be answered urgently by e mail; and the nomination form would be redrafted for Board agreement by DT and JT. It was noted that the governance action plan would be ready for decision at the January 8 meeting.

AOB

14. The Chair thanked all present for their contributions to a key Board meeting; and thanked Beazley for their hospitality. The next Board meeting is on January 8, to be at Beazley.
