

Minutes - February Board 2017

Date of Meeting	22/02/2017
Location	Eversheds
Present	Chair, P Abrahams (by phone), T Cadman, J Campbell, C Halsted, G Palmer, A-C Sallaba, B Speight, J Troiano, P Wedge
In attendance	CEO, D Moseley, K Robinson, M Liston (by phone), J Magill

1. Introduction

Apologies received from Caryl Oliver.
There were no new Declarations of Interest.

2. Finance

Part 1. 16-17 Q3 Management Accounts

Highlights of Q3 management accounts show a time-adjusted result at the end of Q3 with a deficit of £22,500, which is a significant positive variance of £45,500.

WCP – currently shows a large surplus. All costs out of transition funding will be part of the under spend. Talent - has an under spend, a fair amount of the expenditure will go to the European and World Championships. Both are expected to be on budget (which is net zero) by year-end

Development - shows an over spend of around £37,000 at the end of Q3, this is a zero budget, development department are aware and have taken steps to address this in Q4.

Commercial – shows a surplus of £51,000, which is a positive variance of £17,000.

Two items to note, 1. the release of AASE income and 2. admin fees of DBS and licence fees. AASE has a surplus of which £10,000 has been released into the commercial department.

There is a positive variance against sponsorship. We are able to recognise the entire amount this year.

Events – events shows a negative variance against budget. Camden has a comparable loss as last year and the same with the Eden Cup. Both results are inline with previous years. We are working with the Events Manager to write the 17/18 budget.

Corporate Services – better than budgeted. Membership income is much better than budgeted. When you strip out the Home Country recharge it is a net surplus against budget of around £29,000.

There is a positive variance in insurance and legal costs.

There is a large negative variance against IT costs. We are implementing a new finance system with costs of just under £14,000 which we intend to write off this year. The new system will make a great difference to the Development team from a reporting point of view.

[REDACTED]

CH asked for a breakdown in categories. DM ran through the breakdown.

JT reported that for the full year it looks like we are well ahead of where we expected to be. At the start of the year we agreed to have a deficit to reflect the fact that we had lost our sponsor. We are likely to come out near break-even for the year, as a result of the membership increase and where we are now, which is a positive and welcome result. We are not running down our reserves as budgeted. In general our mandate is to not generate a surplus.

DM - We are estimating a break even or a moderate deficit of around £5,000.

Board thanked and congratulated DM.

[REDACTED]

Part 2. 17-18 Budget

The 2017/18 budget had been presented to the AGRC before the news from UK Sport which meant the budget had to be re-written to account for the £108,000 loss of funding for Corporate Services.

The deficit budgeted for next year is £7,858 for the entire organisation.

Talent and Development are zero budgets.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Commercial has a surplus of £46,000, which is the same as the previous year however, in the previous year there was £24,750 income (surplus of £12,000) from sponsorship. The new money is replacing sponsorship with additional commercial income.

Events – few changes including the removal of Camden International, which was discussed at the Away Day, and the removal of involvement from the UK School Games which transfers to the Home Nations. The budget for Events is achievable.

Corporate Services - have used actual membership figures from April-December, January is an actual and for February-March taken an uplift of 5% on last year's budget. The £349,000 is very much achievable.

JT – there is a small deficit based on a budget prepared on a conservative basis and CEO and DM have produced a budget that allows continuation commercial and corporate services at similar resources levels to last year.

Chair – we need to monitor commercial and development budgets.

Board thanked DM and JT

3. Information and Discussion

UKS Representation

Chair gave a verbal update on the UK Sport representation highlighting the following points:

- The final outcome had been circulated to the Board
- Representation was based on additional information that could be supplied that would effect how we were perceived in the meritocratic table. There were two items; 1. will Men's Foil discipline come back into the Olympic programme, 2. Corrections of the documented perception around the refereeing for the team match.
- In addition we spoke about the background of the sport, the programme and the athletes and why we believed we should get UK Sport funding
- We were given the time to put our points across, it was a full meeting

The meeting between UK Sport and BF resulted in no change in the funding decision.

Chair thanked all those involved in the organisation of the representation meeting.

Independent Appeal

We have put our notice in to Sports Resolution. All relevant documents and notes have been collated.

We have to go back to Sports Resolution for clarity on the date (last notification stated 20th March to notify)

The appeal is about challenging the process

Board agreed to appeal on the proviso that there was no additional spend and no significant resource necessary

Transition / WCP

The next phase will deal with relevant staff leaving and Athletes coming off APA's.

Transition funding is not available from UK Sport to athletes just to prolong the programme, 2 athletes will be given additional financial transitional support under relocation support – one athlete who has located to the USA and another who deferred his university place to be on the programme.

The WCP Programme will formally come to a finish on the 1st April.

Board agreed the policies, procedures and process for selection will stay in place for the 16/17 season.

Once the season is complete we will then have to look at them.

SE Funding Decision and Talent Update

CEO reported formally that we have received SE notification of funding for talent. We are now starting work to determine what the new performance pathway will look like and how it interfaces with the Talent programme.



Talent team will put together proposals on how the system will work with coaches.

4. Safeguarding

The CEO reported a very positive conversation with the BAF regarding Safeguarding policies and procedures and the role of BF and the BF register.

The Board was asked to endorse the existing policy of requiring fencing coaches of affiliated clubs to be on the BF register.

The Board agreed to endorse the existing policy.

5. Output from Away Day - Part 1 BF VMOS and Performance Pathway VMO

Chair took the Board through BF VMOS with the following points

- CEO circulated the presentation
- Progress made in taking BF from top down in terms of vision and mission
- Identified a number of key strategies for the coming year
- Update of two of the objectives
- A new performance pathway framework that includes talent
- Stronger empowered community
- Looked at number of the strategies (leadership, governance)
- Need to get closer to breakeven in BF Events
- Strategy to look for smaller amounts of sponsorship for particular events
- New strategy stream, events, competitions and calendar has a number of initiatives one which was agreed at the away day to review the competition lead calendar
- Agreed that a key strategy is to implement a new competition categorisation and fencer grading system – one of the results is an updated ranking system



- Clubs ensuring that their members become BF members
- Regularly need to review the key initiatives which form the backbone of what we are doing

Board approved the VMOs

BREAK

6. Output from Away Day - Part 2 Board Strategy & Tactics Priorities

CEO took the Board through a series of slides focusing on:

- Objectives
 - New Performance pathway that consistently delivers international success
 - Establish a performance pathway framework for all 6 weapons and embed into that the culture and learning from Fencing's What It Takes To Win model
 - Supporting creation of resilient, independent and self-sufficient fencers
- Philosophies that underpin the implementation of the performance pathway framework
- Summary agreed vision mission objectives

There was a brief discussion regarding the money already raised through the campaign. JT – money should go directly to the fencers, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Board agreed to put out communication to the membership within the next 2 weeks.

7. Board Priority Strategies and Tactics

CEO gave a brief update on the following areas

Performance Pathway Framework

This was covered earlier in meeting

Events Update

Camden International – currently in discussion to transfer to Ronald Velden.

School Games – plans underway to transfer to two HCWG nominated people in England and Scotland

England Fencing pistes and hire – ML reported no change to EF position as it is more beneficial for EF to retain the current arrangement, both financially and in support of regions.

Governance Code

We have the 1st draft of the Communications Strategy, we will send it to the Board for review when available.

Commercials Products and Services

Slide shows proforma of how we will be going forward

Looking to put in place on the 1st April

Close to launching the Rules app

Currently the Board has agreed the sponsorship approach of donations attached to event entries.

A competitions review has been undertaken.

Club & Membership

Many actions are being built into the Sport80 system ie automatic rankings, event licensing.

Regular communications are being sent out to clubs.

8. CEO information items

Q3 balance scorecard. We have covered anything we need to cover – if anyone has questions on the measures and data please contact CEO.

9. AOB

[Redacted text block]

Board noted the issue

Chair ask the Board to lead by example on the Crowd Funding campaign.

BS agreed to send around suggestions on types of information on the campaign that could be sent to club secretaries/chairs.

The meeting closed at 19:59