



## British Fencing Board Minutes

DATE 11<sup>th</sup> December 2013  
TIME 17:30  
VENUE: Schrodgers, 31 Gresham Street, London EC2V 7QA

### Present

In The Chair David Teasdale (DT)  
Directors Paul Abrahams (PA) (by Telephone) (till item 6)  
Tom Cadman (TC)  
Janet Campbell (JC)  
Clare Halsted (CH)  
Alp Orge (AO)  
Graham Paul (GP)  
John Troiano (JT)

In Attendance Peter King (PK)  
Penny Moseley (PM)  
Kim Robinson (KR)  
Margaret Nolan (MN)  
Alex Newton (AN)  
Georgina Usher (GU) - for IT project item ONLY  
Jack Magill, (JM), Northern Ireland Fencing  
  
Ray Stafford (RS), England Fencing  
Peter Smith (PS), England Fencing (for item 6)  
Hilary Philbin (HP), President

Apologies William Pitt (WP)

### Introduction

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked John Troiano for Schrodgers' hospitality. He proposed, and the Board agreed, that items 4 and 6 be brought forward and there be (at Directors' request) an extra item on the British Championships.

### 1. Action points of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2013 and matters arising

CH had some points but agreed to leave until item 9.

### 2. New declarations of interest

There were no new declarations of interest.

### 3. New Risk Management Items

There were no new risk management items.

#### **4. Grow update**

Margaret Nolan reported on the presentation to Sport England, which has been prepared and rehearsed with papers submitted to Sport England in advance, as requested. JT stated that, from watching the rehearsal, the presentation had all that was needed to get across our funding case. CH expressed concern at some figures in the Grow summary circulated by the Chair, who explained that this was done just for the Board, with content from the presentation and MN's draft Plan. To AO questions, MN noted that Neil Brown's part of the presentation will quote the NE and Truro. The Chair informed the Board that we have to wait until January 21<sup>st</sup> for the Sport England result and until February for the UK Sport result.

#### **6. Gold Update**

AN reported on Gold. The recent assessment day was very successful with the overall rating at green. She, the CEO and Chair had presented our funding case for the next three years to the UKS Panel; the UKS trajectory analysis was practically in line with ours; the Panel's feedback was positive; we have reached our milestone targets and made progress against the funding conditions - only one had not been signed off, namely the new Performance Centre where progress is being made on an alternative to Lee Valley which is now not a long term option.. UK Sport asked questions of the Chair about the forthcoming change in the BF management structure and the CEO recruitment. Can these changes affect the WCP? DT explained that he had been able to give positive responses, with the planned appointment schedule and the Board's clear commitment to supporting the programme.

CH asked, how are we managing the change process, with members of the executive leaving at the same time? The Chair confirmed that he and PK had asked those in post to work on if needed. JT stated that the CEO had to be appointed first as you cannot preempt what the new CEO would want to do.

**Back to Gold agenda** - AN expressed her confidence about UKS support and she had asked for additional podium potential places. PK agreed that we are in a stronger place with Gold than with Grow. JT said that the difference is we now have a Pathway - which will have funding and will enable us to bring up other weapons. AN congratulated Kristjan Archeron on his bronze medal at the Leon Paul Cup. CH reported that William Deary has now been ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> on the European Cadet rankings. *PA and AN left the meeting.*

#### **5. IT Project Update**

GU joined the meeting, with PS, for this agenda item. She and Peter Smith briefed the Board on their IT Project, giving a status report (the slides are attached to these minutes). The Board noted that BF was at risk and thus IT should be added to the Risk Register. The Board agreed the GU/PS proposal to go out to tender for a new partner/supplier. PK confirmed that this was also his plan for operational reasons. ACTION: PK, GU/PS.

#### **Extra Item - Beazley British Championships**

Before the Board discussion, GU gave examples of issues at the championships, from an athlete's perspective; she then left the meeting as did PS.

In a broad discussion, several Directors expressed concerns about the Championships. PK commented on the number of pistes not in use. CH said that the major problem was sabre refereeing; there were not enough Sabre referees. JT observed that the Board was aware of significant issues with competitions, we are waiting for PA to do

his report. Chair agreed to check on PA's terms of reference (to make sure the Nationals were included) and timeframe and report urgently to the Board. On PK's advice, it was agreed that the executive, with help from HH and her committee, must manage the remaining events this season.

PK reported that the Eden Cup will make a loss but risk was part of retaining an international event. At DT's request, the Board endorsed the acceptance of the award of this event by the FIE for January 2015. ACTION:DT,PA,PK

**7. Green**

Self Assurance - we have received a Green rating, borderline amber. DT thanked PK and his team and the Board.

**8. Finance**

PK circulated the latest management accounts, advising that the lessons were the same as last month. We are still on target to reach our budget. ACTION: PK

**9. Any actions off line**

The Sword - PK said that he had understood, like the Chair, that the pdf trial run in January was a trial run for future issues but PA has proposed to revert to paper copies after the January issue. JT said the Board should defer Judgment until they knew the budget for next year and after we were able to judge the impact of the pdf version. The Board agreed. ACTION PA, WP, PK.

**10. AOB**

CH - matters arising at the September Board meeting items 20 - there is still no response to the question of ownership of the BF logo. AO will get urgent answers. ACTION: AO.

GP reported that he had a conversation with Liz Behnke on the minimum age limit of referees and was waiting for her to confirm. **ACTION; LB, GP.**

AO confirmed his offer of free kit can be used for plastic or foam fencing. ACTION; AO.

The meeting closed at 9pm. The Chair thanked all present for their input and wished them all a Merry Christmas.

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