



BRITISH FENCING

Minutes of the British Fencing (BF) Board meeting held at the BOA, London

Tuesday 13th December 2011 at 18.30

Approved by the Board on the 18th January 2012

Present		
David Teasdale	Director and Chair	DT/Chair
Andrew Brannon	Director	AB
Murray Morrison	Director	MM
Alp Orge	Director	AO
Libby Payne	Director	LP
David King	Director	DK
Penny Spink MBE	Director	PS
Keith Smith	Director (by conference call - part)	KS
Mike Thornton	Director (by conference call - part)	MT
Piers Martin	Director and Chief Executive	PM/CEO

Also in attendance (non-voting)		
Chris Hyde	Scotland Fencing Representative (by conference call - part)	CH
Ray Stafford	England Fencing Representative	RS
Louise Bond-Williams	Athlete Commission Representative	LBW
Alex Newton	Performance Manager (part)	AN
Ben Champion	Development Manager	BC

Apologies for absence		
Bob Turner	Wales Fencing Representative	BT
Jack Magill	Northern Ireland Representative	JM

Ref	Minute	Action
122.	<u>Chair's Welcome</u>	
122.1	The Chair welcomed everyone to the British Olympic Association BOA and noted apologies as above.	
123.	<u>Conflicts of Interest</u>	
123.1	The Chair noted the following conflicts in relation to the Agenda and agreed to manage them as required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DT: Is now spending a period of time helping his old company <i>Goodform</i>, a company which has received payment for services to British Fencing; this is during a transition caused by health issues. - AO: Is an equipment supplier. 	
124.	<u>GOLD Agenda:</u>	
124.1	<u>Senior Selection Policy</u> The Chair noted that AN had circulated the draft Senior Selection Policy for Directors to comment.	
124.2	AN explained that she had received comments from LP and from the athletes through LBW. Amendments had been made and circulated.	
124.3	She added that during the process the athletes had requested reassurance from the Board that the Olympic Selection Panel would be wholly independent, allowing no question of bias or conflict. This was agreed by the Board.	
124.4	The Senior Selection Policy was agreed by the Board.	
124.5	The Chair asked for clarification on how the Policy would be published. AN responded that the	

	Policy would be published on the BF website, the usual social media and through the Athletes representative. The Board agreed for The Chair, AN and DK to arrange for a press release to cover this also.	DT, DK, AN
124.6	<u>Zonal Events</u> AN explained that the Board had requested further clarification for athletes on selection for the Zonal Events prior to the London Olympics. AN presented a document to clarify this.	
124.7	The Chair asked if the athletes were happy with this clarification. LBW replied that they were and the Board approved the document to be published on the website along with the Olympic Selection Policy.	
124.8	<u>Change of Nationality</u> AN reported to the Board that Husayn Rosowsky had applied for change of Nationality from GBR to Egypt and had requested that BF support the expediting of the process with the FIE.	
124.9	The Board noted that the specific athlete had received World Class Programme support, had represented GBR in selection events and the Olympic Test Event and had recently won the British Championships. The Board therefore agreed that they would support this, after the London Olympic Games.	
124.10	<u>Performance Advisory Group (PAG)</u> The Terms of Reference for the PAG to replace the Performance Management Group were agreed.	
124.11	PM reported to the Board that several Directors had proposed people who may be able to assist as Weapon Representatives. It was agreed to put a note on the website to openly recruit and to encourage those proposed to apply, but that this should not prevent the PAG from meeting during that process.	
	<i>[AN left the meeting at this point]</i>	
125.	<u>BF/EF Merger:</u>	
125.1	The Chair reported to the Board that the paper circulated previously and re-circulated before the meeting had received comments; and at a previous discussion there were Board concerns, which had been addressed at a recent meeting of the Home Countries, convened by Ray Stafford.	
125.2	RS reported that a good measure of agreement had been reached, especially on the question of Board representation. On the Chair's proposal, the BF Board agreed that the BF/EF Working Party should resume its work and bring revised proposals back to all the Boards.	
126.	<u>GROW Agenda:</u>	
126.1	BC spoke to the Grow Action Plan circulated and explained that he had received no questions from Directors specific to their Portfolios. No further questions were raised by the Board.	
126.2	BC then gave a Presentation on the England Development Programme to date and the progress on the shifting focus on GROW. He highlighted the following key points: 1. Grow: Participation measured by the Active People Survey shows 13,700 participants who fence for at least 30 minutes once a week. This is a healthy increase from the last Active People Survey (+5,700), but we are still significantly below target. 2. Sustain: (60% of resource) Satisfaction Scores increased by 2.9% in a year. This is predominantly the National Academy Workforce and Club strands. 3. Excel: (25% resource) This is predominantly the National Academy Talent strand. Advanced Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence (AASE) in partnership with Skills Active will increase resources for the Junior element of the National Academy Talent strand by 150%. 4. Change for life: There were now 4,267 new people taking part in fencing with 333 new "Fencing Activity Leaders" and 247 new clubs. 5. GROW plan: A revised Plan is being discussed with Sport England to achieve the targets agreed with Sport England. This will lead to changes in resource allocation from the current Grow (15%), Sustain (60%) and Excel (25%) plan. The new GROW Group set up to advise us has met and is addressing the issues and a revised Plan will be prepared.	
126.3	BC agreed to circulate the presentation to the Board.	BC

127.	<u>Minute of the last meeting:</u>	
127.1	The minutes of the meeting held on the 22 nd November were agreed.	
128.	<u>Membership Review:</u>	
128.1	The Chair noted that there had been a break in the work of the Membership review Group due to HC concerns. These had also been addressed at the recent RS meeting with other HC representatives and the Group had been reconvened to pick up the project with pace. A provisional launch date of 1 July was now the target - so that a new and much improved member offer could be part of the planned 2012 legacy: two potential ingredients were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensuring the membership grew, was cheap and provided individual options to bolt on. - Clubs and Coaches could benefit from commission. 	
128.2	The Board noted the importance and urgency of this work, with the HCs. The Chair invited any interested Directors to join the Working Group, now meeting again in January.	
129.	<u>Chair's Report</u>	
129.1	<u>King Review</u> The Chair and CEO reported that Peter King (supported by Penny Moseley) had started the HQ review and would be making preliminary reports back before Christmas.	
129.2	<u>Committee Review</u> Both a Review of the existing Committee structure and a proposed structure had been drafted and the Working Group (DT/MT/LP/PM) would report back at the next meeting.	
129.3	<u>Events Portfolio</u> The Board agreed for AO to take on the Events Portfolio.	
130.	<u>Any other Business</u>	
130.1	<u>Heather Hyman</u> The Chair noted the response to the Board's correspondence on the Cuba Men's Foil trip. The CEO would discuss with AB and update the Board.	
130.2	<u>Competitions and Calendar Committee</u> The Board noted correspondence from AO and KS and the subsequent replies from Hazel Herbert, Chair of the Competitions and Calendar Committee.	
130.3	<u>2011 Congress</u> DK updated on the FIE Congress attended by him, Steve Higginson and Peter Jacobs. Hilary Philbin also attended for LOCOG.	
130.4	<u>Congress 2013</u> The Board discussed the possibility of bidding for the FIE Congress 2013. DK explained that the French Federation had already proposed to hold the congress at the same time and venue as the inaugural meeting. The Board recognised that this would be a strong emotive bid, however noted that an expression of interest was all that was required at this time. The Board agreed for PM, DK and Peter Jacobs to discuss with UK Sport (meeting fixed for the following day) and, unless major issues were raised, to send an expression of interest to the FIE by the deadline - mainly to establish our future interest.	
130.5	<u>Linda Strachan</u> The Board noted correspondence from Linda Strachan in response to the letter sent from the Board regarding the Bratislava Junior Foil trip in 2010. The Board reaffirmed their position on the incident and agreed to take legal advice on the matter before responding.	PM
131.	<u>Date of the next meeting</u>	
131.1	The date of the next Board meeting: 16 th January 2012.	
132.	<u>Close</u>	
132.1	There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 20.45.	