



British Fencing Board Minutes

DATE 14th November 2013
TIME 17:30
VENUE: Beazley, 60 Great Tower Street, London EC2R 5AD

Present

In The Chair David Teasdale (DT)
Directors Paul Abrahams (PA)
Tom Cadman (TC)
Janet Campbell (JC)
Clare Halsted (CH)
Graham Paul (GP)
William Pitt (WP) (by Skype)
John Troiano (JT)

In Attendance Peter King (PK)
Penny Moseley (PM)
Kim Robinson (KR)
Margaret Nolan (MN)
David Moseley (DM)
Roy Clarke (RC), Scottish Fencing
Ray Stafford (RS), England Fencing

Apologies Hilary Philbin
Julia Bracewell
Alp Orge
Georgina Usher
Jack Magill.

Introduction

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced David Moseley.

1. New declarations of interest

There were no new declarations of interest.

2. New Risk Management Items

There were no new risk management items.

3. Grow update

Margaret Nolan reported on "Grow" with the emphasis on the presentation to Sport England, now fixed for 13th December. Sport England (SE) had asked her that BF's forward Plan be "brought to life" at the presentation, which should deal with four key points; a) BF's progress in the last year; b) results against milestones set; c) what we know about our markets; d) delivery plan for next year and our vision toward 2017. Sport England do not need to see a complete plan, for the presentation. MN

reported that SE advised the presentation should be rehearsed. She pointed out that she will not be at the presentation due to other commitments that day.

MN hoped to bid for more money, to deliver more activity, but the indication was that SE will not increase the current funding provision. BF is asked to show how it will spend development money and what results are anticipated. Regarding our market, MN seeks more data, the club survey has gone live and so far 177 clubs have already completed it; she asked Board members to encourage more to take part.

WP asked MN to remind the Board of the milestones. MN explained that they were part of a broader aim of development, delivery of the pilot programmes, staff, welfare, AASE, Fala - all that sits within development. Pilots are not about increasing participation directly but about learning (and demonstrating) if we can deliver projects. We may be forced to stop doing some things in order to focus on increasing participation; and for example we have had to stop the competition project.

RS stated that the website should be a portal to the sport to get people involved. PA explained that he and WP hoped for a website with an initial landing page with two sections - 1. I want to fence and 2. I already fence, so the fencer would click on either one and not have to wade through the whole website to get the information needed. RS said that a wider discussion was needed at his next EF Board meeting (the following Sunday). The SE presentation has to take priority but we must keep the EF/BF plan going, this was key to the MOU.

JC asked if there was an opportunity to go back to Sp England and re-negotiate the agenda. We must present our case the best possible way we can, using the four headings as guidelines. DT said that the feedback we are getting leads us to be optimistic. He felt that it was still for BF to decide how best to present its case, within the outline given to us. Discussion concluded with the Chair summarising that the Board was concerned that all effort should be made to both make a strong case in presentation to SE and also put together a Plan that will facilitate the early signing of the MOU with EF. He and PK will urgently discuss and agree the best way to fulfill both tasks effectively, which included reviewing how best to make the crucial presentation in December. ACTION: CHAIR /CEO/MN

4. Board Appointments

DT confirmed JB's resignation, which he and the Board greatly regretted. This left a vacancy on the AGRC committee - CIH had been proposed in writing as an addition to the Committee and the Board had agreed. The Chair also announced that the Board had agreed in writing that it wished WP to continue as the "Appointed Director" until, at least, the end of the Beazley contract, but this will need to be approved at the next AGM. WP was pleased to agree to continue. Chair noted that (also in writing) the Board had approved for JC to join the Nominations Committee.

Chair reported that JB's resignation takes effect now. He had circulated a proposal to replace her after agreeing with TC there were four options;-

1. to coopt a Director to serve until October next year and have an election for a role;
2. Coopt a Director for a shorter period of time ;
3. Not coopt and hold an election for a Director in the run up to next year's AGM;
4. Not coopt but hold an election sooner than October.

After a short discussion the Board agreed to postpone a decision at least till January, when the Nominations Committee should consider and make a recommendation to the Board. ACTION: CHAIR

5. Board Communications

DT asked CH to take the Board through her paper and the issues causing concern. She noted a comment in writing from Hilary Philbin that BF was not good at deadline management. CH discussed her own points, including the interaction with BF Committees, where in future the Board's representative must have a key role in improving communications. DT asked JC to highlight anything she sees in terms of communication that needs to be addressed. CH agreed to circulate a list of points, actions and deadlines for the minutes.

As part of this, the Chair asked JC also, from her initial experience, and using her professional insights, to advise the Board on the areas CH had covered but also the Board's operation and administration. This task was agreed by JC and the Board.

ACTION: CH/JC

6. Committee Review

The Chair noted this had been a long standing Review, some two years old, which now needed to be completed. DT sought the Board's approval for, and comments upon, the recommendations, and then he would consult the Chairs before bringing the paper, as amended, back to the Board.

The Board reviewed as follows;-

- Armoury Committee - agreed, no need for a Standing Committee;
- Competitions/Calendar Committee - draft agreed;
- IRC - the draft TOR was received from P Jacobs after discussion with his Committee. DT to discuss with the Chair/Committee;
- IYC - CH to advise on the draft TOR;
- Rules - proposal agreed;
- Safety - proposal agreed;
- Four year member terms agreed
- co-opting members - raised by GP; agreed that Committees could co-opt up to two members, serving one year terms. CH offered, and the Chair and Board agreed, for her to tidy the draft and send back to DT. ACTION: DT/CH

7. Finance

JT led by saying that the report presented by DM shows we are on track to make the budget discussed. We will need to confirm the Memorandum of Understanding with EF if we are to release the flow of funding from EF to BF for development purposes.

Costs within the first half of the year have been controlled within budget. The provisional budget for the next and two subsequent years showed significantly increasing deficits, largely driven by excess spending proposals in corporate services and unrealistic levels of confirmed core funding from Sport England. ACTION:PK

In a brief discussion about the Sword, it was noted that the last edition had stated that another paper edition would follow the pdf edition in January. But there would be no further editions and costs in this year, in which PA anticipated there would yet be savings. ACTION: PA/WP

8. Any Actions offline

There were no actions offline.

9 Any matters arising from the minutes of 16th and 23rd September and the 26th October meetings; CH pointed that AO's investigation of the use of the BF logo had not yet been reported on. Chair agreed to remind AO; he confirmed that AO was moving forward with setting up the planned Merchandising Group. ACTION: DT,AO

10. AOB

GP raised the referee minimum age limit, noting that if a referee was under 16 he/she should always have an adult present to supervise. TC asked if the Welfare Officer had been consulted; GP to check. ACTION: GP

PK said that "Gold" would have been on the agenda if Alex had been available. He reported that the assessment day with UK Sport at Lea Valley had been very successful. The Chair asked him to pass on the Board's thanks to AN and her team. PK also noted that our "Green" self assessment was completed, we awaited the results.
