

# Board Minutes – June Board 2014

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<b>Date of Meeting</b>	17/06/2014
<b>Location</b>	Beazley
<b>Present</b>	Chair, CEO, P Abrahams, T Cadman, J Campbell, C Halsted, A Orge (by phone), G Paul (by phone), W Pitt (by video link).
<b>Absent</b>	J Troiano.
<b>In attendance</b>	J Magill, H Philbin, K Robinson, P Smith.

## Introductions & Apologies

1. The Chair thanked everyone for attending and welcomed Peter Smith from England Fencing and Jack Magill from Northern Ireland Fencing. He thanked Beazley and WP for the hospitality. Apologies were received from John Troiano.

The Chair spoke of a “very special week” for all at British Fencing, and the whole fencing community, with a spectacular and joyful European Championships with James Davis winning our first European Gold medal; this was followed by our best ever “Grow” figures from Sport England’s Active People survey. On James’ performance he had received congratulations from all partners, with a particular and personal message from Liz Nichol, UK Sport CEO. The Board was unanimous in congratulating James Davis and all involved in the Gold and Grow programmes.

## Declarations of Interest/Risk Management/Catch-up

2. There were no new Declarations of Interest.  
There were no new Risk Management items.  
There were no catch up items.

## BF Finance

3. GU reported that there were no major risks at present and the accounts are within budget. But the finance team has a very heavy workload. The Chair noted that, as agreed with the Board, management accounts would now be presented to the Board quarterly instead of monthly, with the next update presented in line with the audited accounts.

## CEO Report

4. The CEO briefed the Board on the key points in her May CEO Operational Report.  
*Development Director:* Final interviews are scheduled for Monday June 23<sup>rd</sup> with two candidates making the final interview. In the absence yet of a new Development Director, a contractor had been recruited to head up the development of two projects, East End London and Tribal.

*Disciplinary:* The disciplinary process has been reviewed and there will be discussions by the CEO with the Disciplinary Group. On JC’s query, the CEO agreed to review references to cases on the website to ensure they are up to date.

*Audit:* BF has received notice that the Sport England/UK Sport audit for this year will be an off line audit with the onus on the Board to be accountable for auditing the executive and itself. Initially GU and David Moseley will gather the information needed which will be reviewed with the Chair with findings to be put to the AGRC who will then present to the Board in October. The final report to SE and UKS should be at the end of October.

*BYCs:* “Tribal” statistics to be shared with the Board later in the year. The data will be discussed with the Grow Group.

*Sword:* The Sword continues to be published electronically. There is a proposal for members/non members to be able to purchase a hard copy of the Sword. There is also an advert on the website for a new editor for the Sword. PA noted that the Board had raised expectations there would be another paper edition, which was unfortunate.

*International Referees:* In the light of the Team Foil event at the Europeans, GU proposed a review of BF’s strategy for developing both international referees and a presence on the FIE Referees Commission. HP expressed strong support, the Board gave the CEO the go ahead.

*Membership:* GU and PS are having discussions on membership fees and what the membership fee covers.

*WCP/Lee Valley;* Board to agree date for visit to Lee Valley.

#### **Grow update**

5. GU drew the Board’s attention to the Sport England award conditions. She informed the Board that, on the decision of the Grow Group representatives (DT, TC, PS), the Market Map Analysis was awarded to Deloitte.

*Proxy Measures:* GU presented the idea of a BF rewards scheme, which will be piloted with the Tribal and East London project. The Board supported the initiative.

#### **International Report**

6. Hilary Philbin reported on her time in the post as President. She had attended the UK Sport international leadership programme and had recently returned from the EFC Congress in Strasbourg. There were many changes taking place in the FIE’s structure, mostly driven by concerns about fencing staying in the Olympics. HP herself features in new FIE posts on the website, but that information is inaccurate, although she does expect to be offered a formal FIE role, shortly. In keeping with raising the profile of GB and women in fencing, GB will host a reception for Women in Fencing at the Kazan World Championships. The Baku European Games are looking for countries to host the qualifying events, GU is putting together a proposal.

HP noted that BF does not yet have an international strategy as such; CEO agreed to discuss this further with her.

#### **Communications Strategy**

7. PA presented his draft communications strategy and summarised where we are and the issues, which includes resources and the varied membership perceptions and needs. He proposed as a next step that he and GU should run a workshop to consider the right BF strategy, messages and resources. The Board agreed, thanking PA for an excellent presentation.

#### **Any Actions Off-line**

8. There were none to report.

#### **AOB – Matters Arising**

9. **Honours:** The Chair had been approached by a member asking for a return to the old Honours Committee, which the Board had wound up over a year ago with the Nominations Committee, part of the wider governance changes, taking that responsibility. Currently the Nominations Committee is considering names eligible for the Queens Honours award or the BF Honours award. In discussion, Board members felt that there were advantages in sensitive Honours issues being considered outside the Board; but it was also important to maintain the governance structure which was part of our new “Green” status. It was agreed to be important to have a wider group of people considering these matters, than was now possible with the Nominations Committee itself. The Board agreed there should be an Honours Committee as a sub committee of the Nominations Committee. The Chair and TC will come back to the Board speedily with recommendations and procedures for agreement in writing in advance of the AGM.
10. **Elections:** The Board approved the updated election schedule circulated, with time taken to review the communications.
11. **Suspension of Athletes:** GU set out her concerns at the number of fencers in debt to BF from trips; she said the sanctions seemed insufficient. The Board agreed for remedies to be taken forward by the CEO, taking legal advice from TC.
12. No other AOB matters were raised. There were no Director comments on the listed Matters Arising.

**Date of next Board Meeting – 14<sup>th</sup> August, at Beazley, at 5pm**