



BRITISH FENCING

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

Wednesday 18th April 2012 at 18.00

Approved by the Board on the 19th May 2012

Present		
David Teasdale	Director and Chair	DT/Chair
David King	Director	DK
Alp Orge	Director	AO
Piers Martin	Director and Chief Executive	PM/CEO
Libby Payne	Director	LP
Keith Smith	Director	KS
Penny Spink MBE	Director	PS
Mike Thornton	Director [by conference call]	MT

Also in attendance (non-voting)		
Ray Stafford	England Fencing Representative	RS
Alex Newton	Performance Manager [part]	AN
Alan Rapley	National Academy Manager [part]	AR
Mike Townley	Solicitor	MTo

Apologies for absence		
Andrew Brannon	Director	AB
Murray Morrison	Director	MM
Chris Hyde	Scotland Fencing Representative	CH
Jack Magill	Northern Ireland Representative	JM
Bob Turner	Wales Fencing Representative	BT
Louise Bond-Williams	Athlete Commission Representative	LBW

REF	MINUTE	ACTION
12.	<u>Chair's Welcome</u>	
12.1	The Chair welcomed everyone to the British Olympic Association BOA and noted apologies as above.	
13.	<u>Conflicts of Interest</u>	
13.1	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 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 in which the Chair had no involvement- AO: Is an equipment supplier.	
14.	<u>Minutes of the last meeting</u>	
14.1	The minutes of the meeting held on the 27 th February 2012 were approved.	
14.2	There were no matters arising.	
15.	<u>GOLD: National Academy update</u>	
15.1	AR gave a presentation to the Board on the National Academy (NA). The key points of this presentation were:	
15.2	- His position as NA Manager and his background as Olympic athlete, coach, coaching	

	mentor and high performance consultant.	
15.3	- The purpose of the NA is to deliver the Board's strategy of Olympic Gold medals. Therefore the programme is being designed and developed to provide the World Class Programme (WCP) with athletes who are capable of being truly world class and achieving gold medal success in the future.	
15.4	- The NA had started with a wide brief as was required but was now under GOLD. The focus was now being refined and centred around a smaller number of athletes. This would leave the Regional work to be carried out by GROW.	
15.5	- Funding streams are predominantly Advanced Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence (AASE), Sport England Excel funding, Beazley sponsorship and fencer contributions. The aim was to reduce the fencer contributions and to focus the investment on the right programme not just trips abroad.	
15.6	- The current programme is staffed by Alan Rapley (NA Manager); Neil Brown (Operations); coaches and sport science support.	
15.7	- An Elite Coaching Group (ECG) had been established with coaches who had coached 2 or more athletes at the World or European Cadet and Juniors.	
15.8	- 8 days development had been planned across 4 regions, with Scotland and Northern Ireland joining. AR emphasised that the NA would welcome Wales joining also as the Welsh athletes were currently attending sessions in Bristol.	
15.9	- He had attended the European and World Cadet and Juniors in Porec and Moscow respectively to review the programme and inform how the NA needed to work with the IYC in the future. These trips had reinforced in his mind that fitness, skill and commitment were key to talent development. He explained he believed our young fencers were on an equal footing with foreign competitors but could not sustain at the same level without fitness and commitment. He summarised this as a <i>Medal Winning Process vs Tripping</i> .	
15.10	AN reinforced this message explaining that a huge step change in culture was needed by the sport if the WCP and NA were to achieve the Board's goals. She informed the Board that she had plenty of examples of athletes	
15.11	The Board took the opportunity to ask questions of AR and then thanked him for his update	
15.12	<i>[AN and AR left the meeting at this point]</i>	
16.	<u>Amendments to the Articles</u>	
16.1	The Chair introduced papers on the amendments to the Articles, required to allow the Board Restructure as agreed by the Board and thanked Teddy Bourne, LP and PM for their work on the drafting.	
16.2	The Board discussed the following:	
16.3	A. <u>Board size:</u> The Board propose a Board of 11 Directors, to include 7 to be elected by the membership (currently 8), and 4 appointed, including the independent Chair and CEO (as now) and two new independent Directors.	
16.4	The Board recognised the feeling of some of the membership and agreed to keep the number of elected Directors at 8. The Board agreed to this amended proposal and added a quorum of 8, of which 5 must be elected. With these amendments, the Board agreed to the relevant Article amendments.	
16.5	B. <u>Transitional:</u> The Board propose that in order to achieve the above, transitional arrangements are approved to ensure the current Board can stand down as proposed and a new Board can be elected and appointed. The proposed transitional arrangements allow for the continuance of annual elections.	
16.6	The Board agreed to this proposal and the relevant Article amendments.	
16.7	C. <u>President:</u> The Board propose that the President's role becomes an honorary post, nominated by the Board for approval by the BF AGM each year.	
16.8	The Board agreed this proposal and the relevant Article amendments, noting the progress	

	made on approaching the Royal household regarding this.	
16.9	D. <u>Equality:</u> The Board propose allowing for up to two Directors (in addition to the 11 directors as above) to be appointed where necessary to encourage greater representation of underrepresented groups and to meet public guidelines (which will for example in 2013 require at least 25% of the Board to be of each gender).	
16.10	The Board agreed to this proposal and the relevant Article amendments.	
16.11	E. <u>Technical:</u> The Board making minor amendments to the Articles which help enhance efficiency and clarity.	
16.12	The Board agreed the remaining amendments to the Articles under this section.	
16.13	MTo drew the attention of the Board to the wording of the Articles around proxy voting. LP agreed to liaise with him and Teddy Bourne to amend where required.	
16.14	The Board agreed for DT and LP to liaise with MTo and Teddy Bourne and circulate final drafts of the Articles and EGM notice so they could be circulated in time for the 19 th May.	DT/LP
16.15	<i>[MTo left the meeting at this point]</i>	
17.	<u>Any other business</u>	
17.1	The Chair tabled a report from the Finance Committee Chair (AB).	
17.2	RS queried a statement within the report concerning raising revenues through the GROW department. The Chair agreed to raise this at the next Finance Committee meeting and RS agreed to liaise with Milind Pradhan as a member of that committee.	DT/RS
18.	<u>Date of the next meeting</u>	
18.1	The date of the next Board meeting would be the 19 th May, after the EGM.	
19.	<u>Close</u>	
19.1	The Chair closed the meeting at 21.00.	