



British Fencing Board Minutes

DATE: SATURDAY, 26TH OCTOBER 2013
TIME: 14:00
VENUE: BOA, 60 CHARLOTTE STREET, LONDON W1T 2NU

Present: In the Chair David Teasdale, Directors: Paul Abrahams, Tom Cadman, Clare Halsted, Alp Orge, Graham Paul, John Troiano, Janet Campbell.
Observers: Ray Stafford, Jack Magill.
Apologies: Julia Bracewell, William Pitt, Georgina Usher.

In attendance: Peter King, Penny Moseley, Margaret Nolan, Kim Robinson.

Introduction

Chair welcomed Janet Campbell the new independent Director.

1. New Declarations of interest

There were no new declarations of interest. Janet Campbell confirmed that she had no conflicts; her list of interests is held by Kim with those of other Directors. JT stated that he was no longer conflicted with WCP as daughter Sophie had withdrawn from the programme.

2. New Risk Management

In response to JT's query, PK advised that Risk Management should be reviewed by the Board each meeting. Peter King noted that there was nothing new to report. JT requested that if something had changed it should be noted but if no changes then Risk Management should only be reviewed by the Board every six months, with a formal report from the CEO. This review was agreed, but on the CEO's advice the regular check for new items will remain on the Board agenda.

3. Grow

Margaret Nolan reported on "Grow", following a meeting with Sport England this week to report on the project initiation programme. The first draft of the plan - still considered a "working document" - was given to SE officers for their advice on its further development. MN said there were no initial concerns stated, on the projects or the draft plan, but SE saw a need for more information eg on how we perceived our fencing market. For this MN requested data on public school clubs - Clare Halsted agreed to assist. MN reported that Sport England advised that funding decisions would now await the SE Board's meeting and deliberations on 21 January. BF is asked to make a presentation on the 16th December. DT noted that the delay in decisions presented questions on the CEO appointment schedule, which now needs a Directors' review.

CH asked what progress had been made in measuring participation and what was the process for doing so. MN replied that the regional hubs were involved, but they are

over stretched. Ray Stafford said there were four measures highlighted in the new draft Plan and more may yet be added. Regarding clubs, MN said we can support clubs but cannot give them money. We have sent funding advice to all clubs, so far with little feedback. RS observed that the new membership scheme should resolve many issues with clubs.

MN thanked William Pitt and Georgina Usher for their support with the Coaching Conference. Videos and presentations will be available to members shortly.

On behalf of Katie Dolan, MN asked for the Board's help in getting referees to the Nationals. Board members agreed to give all possible help to recruit further referees for the event, by speaking directly to potential referees who had not responded or by adding further names to KD's list.

4. AGM reflections/actions

In discussion, Board members agreed the AGM had gone well, but there were difficulties in the forum part of the meeting which had prevented discussion around the WCP/international matters questioned, which was highly unfortunate - but following this BF members had stated clearly their support for the Board and executive, which was very positive.

On the Chair's proposal, the Board agreed that we should continue with Gold sections of the Board agenda, at alternate meetings, with AN available for questions and progress reports, and the Board will settle strategic issues or concerns at those opportunities. The Board agreed this proposal, recognising that Directors can ask at any time for further or extra reports. The Board agreed that its support for the programme must also be clear and collective.

On the Finance section, the Directors gave warm thanks to JT for his excellent and effective AGM presentation, which brought reassurance to members. Thanks were given also to PK and to David Moseley for the finance information and for TC for guiding the Board through the resolutions.

PK is to relay the positive membership support at the AGM to management and staff.

5. Board decisions/Actions points - Communication

CH requested this item on the agenda out of concern that Board decisions should be communicated clearly and to agreed people and channels. There was strong discussion about the need for confidentiality with Board discussion. GP noted that rumours and guesses can readily be taken as fact. Janet Campbell asked how are Board decisions communicated. TC replied, as a Board when we take a decision we decide how it should be communicated; he gave the firm view that discussions at the Board must stay "within the Board". The Chair concluded by saying that all Directors, observers and staff are bound by the strict rule of confidentiality with any Board discussion. There could be no exceptions to this vital standard. As a Board we must take special care to agree who communicates decisions and how. The Board must also support the CEO and executive and our agreed strategies and programmes. The Board gave its unanimous approval.

CH felt the Board needed to continue the discussion on communication.; Chair agreed to place this on the next Board agenda.

6. Budgets - update - any new items

PK reported there was no change to budget, save that the last meeting approved extra spend on Safeguarding & Equality work and for the AGM costs. PK also asked the Board to respond more quickly when approval was sought, eg of FIE licences,

when only four Directors gave a view. The CEO also indicated that there would be a further overrun, subject to approval, for phase two of the training work with David Sales, assuming Sport England agreed to fund the main part of the costs (BF will need to cover accommodation, subsistence and travel).

PK stressed that the budget deficit remained closely monitored. JT asked for the Board to review the latest management accounts at its next meeting; PK agreed.

7. Competition programme - update

(Graham Paul left the room as discussion involved Leon Paul).

PK said he remained determined to do better than last year on the competitions programme, keeping costs down. AO requested that at the Nationals BF sell some merchandise, which, although the planned new group is not yet in place, could be sourced in time. He also asked if space could be available and could we make provision for this? PK agreed to consider and would talk further with AO.

For the future competition plans, PA confirmed that he had discussed with Hazel Herbert this week; as the FIE is changing the competitions calendar, there is an opportunity for BF to start from scratch - single weapon events, 4 for junior/cadets, 3-4 for seniors. There would be consequences for 6 weapon opens. PA will draft proposals and then consult. In the first year we should look at cadet/junior events and in the second year look at the senior event. CH said it will be important to involve all parts of the fencing community.

8. AOB or actions online

There were no items under these headings.
