



BRITISH FENCING

Minutes of the Board meeting held at Sport England, London, on Wednesday 30th March 2011 at 18.30
Approved by the Board on Thursday 5th May 2011


Present		
David Teasdale	Director and Chair	DT
Andrew Brannon	Director	AB
Ismay Cowen	Director	IC
David King	Director	DK
Murray Morrison	Director	MM
Libby Payne	Director	LP
Keith Smith	Director	KS
Penny Spink MBE	Director	PS
Mike Thornton	Director (via conference call)	MT

Also in attendance (non-voting)		
Piers Martin	Chief Executive (CEO)	PM
Ray Stafford	England Representative	RS
Bob Turner	Wales Representative	BT
Solmann Kiket	Finance Consultant (part)	SK
Richard Beer	Sport England Relationship Manager (part)	RB
John Timms	Sheffield 2011 Event Director	JT

Apologies for absence		
Chris Hyde	Scotland Representative	CH
Jack Magill	Northern Ireland Representative	JM
Alex O'Connell	Athletes Representative	AO

Ref	Minute	Action
	Before the meeting started, the Board was introduced to the Sport England CEO, Director of Sport and the British Fencing (BF) Relationship Manager. The CEO, Jennie Price, gave a short speech of welcome, to which PS made a gracious response.	
28.	<u>Chair's Report</u>	
28.1	Opening the meeting, David Teasdale said that it was an honour and privilege to be the BF Chairman. He thanked Directors for their individual conversations with him and advice, so far. He had taken the opportunity to review the BF business and tabled a note showing the income breakdown into main "products", being participation, performance and events. The first two were clearly the key missions for BF – but, so far, he noted that we were not hitting targets. On participation we were failing against our plans agreed with Sport England, according to the Active People Survey results; on performance, there seemed little medal expectation. Also, in governance terms we remained on "red". Chair also noted that 53% of BF income came from public and lottery funding.	
28.2	DK queried both the "red" rating and the Active People survey finding; and it was clear in discussion that Board members were surprised on both points; and there was little knowledge of the significance of the AP Survey and how it worked. RS added his surprise on participation, as he had understood BF was making good progress. KS was concerned that the governance rating had not yet improved.	
28.3	Chair said that he was determined that BF should within a reasonable period turn these results around. But we could only do so with a real team effort, starting with the Board. Directors and observers agreed that such a team effort was required. It was also agreed that the Board	

	would get regular reports and briefings on participation, performance and governance, as these were of overriding importance.	
29.	<u>Declarations of Interest</u>	
29.1.	The following Declarations of Interest were raised and minuted:	
29.2	LP: The firm for which she works, Olswang LLP, has in the past undertaken pro bono legal work for BF. She is also an athlete.	
29.3	IC: Her husband is an England Fencing Director.	
29.4	RS: Is the parent of a GBR athlete.	
30.	<u>CEO Report</u>	
30.1	PM then took questions on his report.	
30.2	The Board requested that they be informed of the proposed changes to the British Championships by the Competitions and Calendar Committee (ComCom) before they were announced. DK agreed to liaise with Hazel Herbert on this announcement.	DK
30.3	The Board requested an update on the investigation into the Junior GBR trip to Bratislava. PM reported that he was in the process of appointing an independent investigator to report on the alleged breaches of the Codes of Conduct by athletes and team officials.	
31.	<u>Minutes of the last meeting</u>	
31.1	The minutes of the meeting held on the 23 rd February 2011 were approved as a true and correct record.	
	<i>[SK and RB entered the room]</i>	
32.	<u>Finance</u>	
32.1	SK then took questions on his report.	
32.2	SK explained that the surplus against budget was partly due to the additional income from sponsorship.	
32.3	It was noted that the incoming pension reforms would not impact on the budget for a few years.	
33.4	SK reported to the Board that the business had outgrown Quickbooks and were moving to Sage 50 finance package. This would allow more comprehensive reporting on a monthly basis.	
33.5	The Board approved the Budget for 2011/2012.	
	<i>[SK left the room and JT entered the room]</i>	
33.	<u>Sheffield 2011</u>	
33.1	JT then gave an update on the planning for the European Championships 2011 in Sheffield, highlighting the following key points:	
33.2	- The EFC had approved the dates as the 14 th – 19 th July 2011.	
33.3	- The Wheelchair Championships would start a day earlier.	
33.4	- EFC Congress would be held on the 16 th July.	
33.5	- This would be an “athlete-first” event and discussions with the World Class Programme (WCP) and also with LOCOG were ongoing.	
33.6	- Funding from the EFC (c. €80k) which had originally been expected was now not available. In addition we had received a c. £75k reduction in funding from Welcome to Yorkshire, due to central government cuts. JT explained that difficult budget cuts had been made to accommodate this, but that the situation was being monitored and budget reports sent to AB regularly.	
33.7	- The ticketing plan was being finalised. It was not expected to charge for tickets to the preliminary sessions, only the finals.	
33.8	- The VIP and hospitality plan was being finalised. The Board agreed to send information on potential guests to Katie Dolan.	All
33.9	- The legacy plan was focused on volunteer development and around “come- and-try”	

	sessions.	
33.10	- The event launch would be held in Meadowhall Shopping Centre in June (TBC).	
33.11	- The possibility of having the British Fencing Museum at the event was being discussed, subject to insurance.	
33.12	- TV agreements were being finalised with Sky Sports for the able-bodied fencing and Channel 4 for the Wheelchair fencing.	
33.13	- Max Geuter and Julius Kralik from the EFC would be holding a technical visit with JT (Event Director), Johnny Davis (Competition Manager) and PM (Chair of Sheffield 2011 Board). MT and KS would also represent the Board.	
33.14	The Board thanked JT for his update.	
	<i>[JT left the room]</i>	
34.	<u>Governance</u>	
34.1	DT explained that it was imperative that the Board received solid, independent financial advice from a Finance Committee who would review budgets, policies, remuneration and investments. AB would then become the Chair of the Finance Committee rather than Honorary Treasurer. He added that he had discussed this with AB who supported the proposal and that he would forward Terms of Reference to the Board. The Board approved this proposal.	
34.2	DT explained that there had been an approach from EF for discussion on possibilities for bringing the two bodies together. If the Board agreed, DT proposed to hold confidential talks with a view to finding options that both Boards should consider. The Board approved this course of action.	DT/RS
34.3	BT suggested that he have discussions with the other Home Countries on this.	BT
35.	<u>Disciplinary and Grievance Codes</u>	
35.1	The Board received proposals from Peter Cadman and Teddy Bourne to update the Disciplinary and Grievance Codes. It was agreed that Board directors would send comments to Teddy Bourne and would approve a final version.	All
36.	<u>Any other business</u>	
36.1	DK reported to the Board that he had been contacted by the Dutch Fencing Federation and was assisting them on membership issues.	
36.2	DK updated the Board on the World Junior and Cadet Championships in Jordan, explaining that through his contacts he had ensured the GBR team would be supported during their stay.	
36.3	LP drew attention to the implications of the Bribery Act and agreed to prepare a briefing for the Board.	LP
36.4	MT reported to the Board's that approved selection policies were not being followed. PM agreed to monitor this with the International Committee.	PM
36.5	DT reported on the situation with Nosheen Khan. He explained that Mrs. Khan had gone through a Grievance Process and had now appealed. He thanked LP, MM and RS for their assistance.	
36.6		
37.	<u>Date of the next meeting</u>	
37.1	The date of the next meeting is the 5 th May 2011. Further dates to be circulated monthly up to July.	
37.2	With there being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 19.50.	