



BRITISH FENCING

Minutes - January Board 2015

Date of Meeting	20/01/2015
Location	Beazley
Present	Chair, P Abrahams, T Cadman, J Campbell, C Halsted, C Oliver, G Paul, W Pitt (by video link), B Speight.
In attendance	CEO, H Philbin, K Robinson, P Smith, Liz Behnke, Alex Newton, Gary Hargreaves and Jonny Turner for Sport80 Helen Nicholls for UKSport.

1. Introductions & Apologies/New Declarations of Interest

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. John Troiano, Gill Palmer and Alp Orge sent their apologies.

There were no new declarations of interest.

2. Presentation of Sport80 System

The Board received a presentation by Gary Hargreaves and Jonny Turner from Sport80, demonstrating a new membership scheme platform. Phase 1 will launch with basic member information, competition entries and include a Direct Debit payment scheme. The intention is that, in future, selections, qualifications, rankings and other features will be included.

CH asked about a process for inviting suggestions of useful features to include in the new system. CEO replied that this would be set up.

3. Safeguarding & Equality

Liz Behnke (LB) updated the Board on the recent version of En Garde Ready, British Fencing's Welfare pack. (The document had been circulated to the Board prior to the meeting). LB noted that she is also working with the Events Manager to ensure that standards at events are in line with En Garde Ready. In discussion, CH expressed concerns about the recommended minimum supervision ratios table. LB and CH will discuss and LB will amend the table if needed.





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JC commented that although a very useful pack it felt a little overwhelming and was difficult to navigate; she was not clear on what support clubs will get from some of the policies. LB explained that she had already run an En Garde Ready training programme at three regions and will try to get other regions to sign up to the training. She aims to also run the training at each British Fencing event. Additionally LB takes calls from clubs and works with them if they have any queries regarding implementation.

The next stage is to look at how we can promote further best practice to try to ensure (more than just strongly recommend) that registered competitions and clubs have appropriate welfare in place. For competitions this is being explored as part of the competition licensing scheme.

The CEO thanked LB and informed the Board that BF will present to the Child Protection and Sport Unit on the 1st March. As a result of the presentation the CPSU will make a recommendation as to whether BF has achieved enough to reach the Advanced Standard level.

**The Board approved the Welfare Pack subject to amends by CH and LB.
The Board approved the Equality Policy subject to point 7.4.**

WP left the meeting.

4. UK Sport Annual Review

The Chair welcomed Helen Nicholls (HN) from UKS, together with Alex Newton (AN), to update the Board on WCP progress and UKS policies. Points to note were:

- BF will hear the outcome of the Annual Investment on 5th February. HN offered to return to the Board after that to explain and update, the Chair welcomed the offer.
- BF exceeded one, hit one and missed one target at the milestone event; as UKS see them as binary targets we were rated red for this element. HN stressed that UK Sport is pleased with what BF has achieved and BF should not let the red rating, allocated for technical reasons that UKS is dealing with, detract from its achievement
- Every sport is taken through a review with benchmarks across 17 elements. BF's review was very open and honest, which UKS welcomed. The outcome of the review was that BF has been rated "Green" overall. The review will be followed up in 6 months time.
- BF had put forward a business case for podium funding along with a Sports Specific Bid. The responses to the request will be known on the 5th February. HN advised that UKS funds were not sufficient for all the governing body bids and disappointment was possible.
- HN noted that this year BF has been rated green for Governance; BF should be proud of its Green rating and HN congratulated BF on reaching this goal, especially in the light of the historic problems.
- UK Sport is carrying out a public consultation on how and why they should fund, the results to be announced soon.



- HN congratulated two fencers who were in the top ten athletes doing appearances for UKS. The Chair thanked HN and AN for an excellent presentation and update - much appreciated by the Board.

5. New Risk Management Items

Urgent catch up items

Interim Decisions approved

There were no new Risk Management Items, no urgent catch up items and no new interim decisions approved.

6. Away day update & plans

Chair reported that he and GU/JT are working with David Sales on a more detailed agenda, to be circulated by the weekend; he took Directors through the key outcomes needed, in particular a review of BF's strategic goals/objectives and timeframes. Background documents will be circulated in advance, but there will be no specific papers for the meeting.

CH asked if the Coach Education Strategy would be covered. CEO confirmed that the Coach Education Strategy would depend on the funding asked for, and the Away-day was concerned with BF's overall strategy. The Chair stressed that this was not an occasion to consider detailed policies. PA pointed out that the Board could set goals but must also consider what is needed in order to achieve the goals. It would be interesting to look at other NGBs and federations and their performances/results. CEO confirmed that in the executive preparation, for the Away-day, other federations were discussed.

CH suggested that HP be included for any work on our overall international strategy.

The Chair noted that future such events could include the Executive team. PS asked why EF had no representative; Chair responded that it was appropriate for BF Directors to discuss strategy, on their own, but they must - and would - take full account, in decisions, of the need to consult partners carefully before actions are taken.

7. CEO Update

The CEO alerted the Board to the following: a member of the Development team will be leaving British Fencing at the end of January; there is an intern working with the Development team; an advertisement for a Customer Services Assistant has been published.

Actions from last Board -

- New Disciplinary Code has been published.
- Resources are being allocated to produce a Membership Survey
- Home Country Working Group monthly telephone meetings have been scheduled.



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GU invited any questions on the CEO Report. JC asked about the media risks and issues continuing to be a problem, and what are we doing to address it. CEO noted that resources are a constant issue, and she and her team are trying to engage more with volunteers for example to write for the Sword. PA agreed to help with summarising the CEO report for publishing online.

8. Any Actions offline - AOB

Actions offline – CEO reported on the Cole Cup Satellite. The hosts had now lost their sponsors, which could potentially have an impact on the event being run. HP advised that, given the history with the FIE, it was essential to make sure the event took place as planned; the Chair shared that view; and it was agreed that he, HP and CH would help the CEO with necessary advice/support.

AOB – The Chair informed the Board that the Honours Committee was now in place and was about to start.

Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 19:55.

Date of next meeting – 26th February 2015, 2pm at Lea Valley
