



BRITISH FENCING BOARD MINUTES

At Schroders

10 April 2013

Present; David Teasdale (Chair), Julia Bracewell, Tom Cadman, Alp Orge (phone), Graham Paul, William Pitt (phone), John Troiano, Georgina Usher.

Apologies; Paul Abrahams, Clare Halsted.

In attendance; Peter King (CEO) Peter King, Ray Stafford, Jack Magill.

Observers; Lisa O'Keefe, Sport England, Penny Moseley, Margaret Nolan, Alex Newton.

1. The Chair welcomed the new, restructured, BF Board, noting this was a significant day for fencing in Britain. The Board had a big opportunity to make a difference to the sport.

MINUTES

2. The minutes of the last Board meeting were agreed, with no matters arising not covered by the agenda. Directors had no new conflicts to declare. It was agreed that for the new Board all Directors should state or restate in writing their actual or potential conflicts of interest, sending them to the Chair; he will take up any issues with individual Directors and circulate the full set around the Board. ACTION – All, DT

CHAIR REPORT

3. DT reported as follows;-

- the 2024 strategy will be discussed at the Board awayday, part of the induction, agreed by the Board to be June 13/14 (to be confirmed). A draft paper will be available for discussion at that meeting;
- the new Director induction sessions were agreed, the Chair will use the lessons of the October/November meetings;
- for the Beazley Cup Scottish Fencing wanted both staff resources and what might be some financial "underwriting". The Board agreed neither was practical, the Chair to inform SF;
- a report on the Communications member survey is about to go to all members who took part and then on the website.

CEO REPORT

4. PK reported on recent tasks;-

- his insurance review looked likely to lead to a better deal for BF and members;
- for communications work, the extra person sought by the working party could not be afforded at least this year;
- there was a new club opportunity at Camberley, which PK agreed could be advertised on our website. ACTION - PK

5. The CEO reported on the management structure he had now developed, with under him three "Director" posts, for Performance, Development and Corporate Services. The Board agreed this was likely to be the way forward but agreed with PK that much still depended on our finances. For the present PK has all three posts now filled, but by temporary appointments in two cases. He expected to recruit for these two posts, Development and Corporate Services, by open competition, before his scheduled departure (April 2014), assuming necessary funds were available. It may be that selection decisions should be left to his successor. The Chair noted that this was an important timing decision to make, which it was agreed should be reviewed regularly by PK with the Board. ACTION - PK, DT.

FINANCES/BUDGETS

6. PK reported on the latest management reports and the budget for 2013/14. The forecasts were similar to the last Board discussion and the budget deficit this year was not the Board's objective. JT suggested a small working party of Directors to assist and support the CEO and management in analysing expenditure plans to find savings; PK agreed, as did the Board, and after further discussion it was agreed that the AGR should take on this temporary responsibility. The Chair, PK and JT will agree terms of reference and circulate to the Board. ACTION - DT, PK, JT, AGR.

7. PK also drew the Board's attention to past items in BF accounting, in particular concerning membership income and Beazley money. There were prior year adjustments now to be made.

8. The Board discussed the CEO's recommendation for a change of auditors to Haysm McIntyre, who work for many other NGBs and have a good record. His recommendation was already supported by the AGR. The Board agreed the change, to be made as soon as possible. ACTION - PK.

GROW PROGRAMME

9. Introducing MN's presentation, the Chair noted that this was another vital matter for the Board, given our need to be successful with our programme and projects this year in order to justify the four year funding from Sport England. MN gave a detailed presentation of what was in place before and actions now needed. Her plans were in three main groups - workforce development, participation projects and talent pathway.

10. In discussion Directors raised a number of queries, eg about the additional coaches to be recruited, the pilot projects, what is needed to achieve growth, etc. MN will take account of these points in developing the proposals. Lisa O'Keefe noted that Sport England felt the sport offered Grow potential and they wished to give BF all necessary support and advice to find and pursue the right programme for 2013.

GOLD

11. AN gave the Board a brief update on progress since the last Board meeting, notably with the announcement of athletes to be supported, the Head Coach and TP Manager recruitment, etc. UKS has confirmed that BF is meeting its requirements and names and milestones have been agreed. She thanked Beazley for legal help, which the Board endorsed. One member had complained to UKS about the "domination" of foil, which UKS had rejected. AN suggested that it would be timely to once again appoint Weapons Captains, to help develop all six weapons, which the Board agreed. AN also thanked GU for her help with athletes' issues and concerns; the Board added their thanks. AN reported that for the national centre she was now considering a different area at Lea Valley, with which Sport England had been very supportive.

COMMITTEE REVIEW

12. GU reported that the consultation on the new Coaching Committee was now completed; she plans to recruit committee members through open competition.

GOVERNANCE - GENERAL MEETING (GM)

13. JT noted that of the twenty two points in the Moore Stephens summary recommendations on BF's governance, only two were now left to resolve. But the GM and member support remained vital. In discussion of the draft documents, JB asked that the announcement to members be less formal and set the proposed article changes and the GM in the context of the new Board's arrival and the change and progress being made. The Board agreed; the Chair is to draft urgently for the Board to sign off. TC agreed to finalise the drafting of the formal resolutions. On GP's proposal, a draft will be produced of the planned role for the new President post. It was also agreed that JT and other new Directors should play a lead part in presenting the governance case to members before and at the GM. ACTION - DT, TC, JT

AOB

14. The Chair thanked Lisa O'Keefe for her presence and advice; MN and AN for attending the Board; and Schroders once again for excellent hospitality.
