



BRITISH FENCING BOARD MINUTES

At Beazley
5 March 2013

Present: David Teasdale (Chair), Julia Bracewell (on phone), Graham Paul (On phone), Alp Orge, Libby Payne, William Pitt, John Troiano, Georgina Usher.

Observers; Peter King (CEO), Penny Moseley, Clare Halsted, Jack Magill, Ray Stafford.

In attendance; AN.

Apologies; David King, Murray Morrison and Chris Gill.

MINUTES/MATTERS ARISING

2. The minutes of the last meeting were agreed. The Chair noted that he still awaited the draft letter to the BOA, on tickets, due from DK; but PM had found no helpful documents.

ACTION - DK

3. There were no matters arising not covered by the agenda. The Board agreed to take the WCP items first.

WORLD CLASS PROGRAMME (WCP)

4. AN briefed the Board on progress made with UK Sport (UKS) and Sport England (SE) on the programme for next year, covering both podium and potential places, and the Talent Pathway.

The key points were:-

- she hoped after all to justify UKS funding for Rio podium places, through the Mens Foil (MF) case, stronger with recent performances; six places might be possible;
- AN was at an advanced stage with the twelve nominees for podium potential, though not yet agreed with UKS;
- the Talent Pathway was agreed all but for final detail with UKS and SE, providing clear routes through the various stages up to the WCP.

5. In discussion it was agreed that the Board's strategy was based firmly on all three weapons, but it was a good current tactic to lead the argument for funding with MF. JT said it was a "powerful message" to give to members. The Board agreed the communication was important. It was agreed that the Comms WG would work with AN and PK to prepare the right statements, for Board approval asap, covering both the programme decisions for next year and the TP, for both of which the Board confirmed its approval. In answers to questions on the World Championships, AN stated that the criteria for selection were already available.

ACTION – DT, PK, AN Comms WG

6. CH asked about the impact on the Home Countries. PK noted that MN had recently briefed the English regions; it was agreed that he and MN should arrange discussions with the HCs.

CHAIR/CEO REPORTS

7. PK explained the intensive work done on child protection and safeguarding, necessary for our effective governance and public funding. The Board approved the documents.

ACTION - PK

8. The CEO spoke to the financial updates and budget circulated. There was lengthy discussion on the budget, which showed a likely loss. JT and RS described this as a "structural deficit" which would continue unless action was taken to reduce costs or increase income. AO advocated strongly finding new sponsors for specific activities and events. WP confirmed this would not breach the "premier partner" arrangement with Beazley, but PK and DT both

expressed doubts about whether suitable deals were available in the market. AO agreed to produce proposals for the Board. ACTION - AO

9. In a discussion on expenditure, PK drew attention to the ongoing legal costs. The Board agreed that the reasons for such costs should be communicated to members. He also began a discussion about the Beazley Cup, in which WP made clear that Beazley would not be concerned if this event was cancelled and the Beazley contribution thus “saved” was split between development and corporate activity - this cancellation and “saving” were agreed by the Board, although on CH’s suggestion DT will discuss whether this event can be held in Scotland. The Board agreed that PK should bring back to the next meeting a revised budget with options for further savings for Board decision. ACTION - PK DT

10. DT reported on:-

- the start of a new IT strategy, to help equip BF for the 2024 goals, with a Phase 1 to be funded by Sport England in March;
- the current elections, whose outcome will be known in early April;
- progress with governance and in particular the General Meeting, scheduled for 13 April, with a short list of article changes for members to approve. The Board agreed that unified and clear communications were vital, which JT will lead;
- his upcoming Roadshows in Scotland and Wales.

11. PK reported on current Grow actions, including new contracts with the regional hubs, coach education and the awards scheme.

COMMS WG REPORT

12. WP introduced the Group’s report, giving emphasis to the aims proposed, all based on member communications, the main channels to be used and the planned club website initiative (now to be funded by Sport England). He advocated the new Coordinator post to pull together better quality messages but PK pointed out the shortage of funds for any new posts. It was agreed that the CEO would meet with the WG for further discussion (and to agree the WCP announcements).

COMMITTEE REVIEW

13. GU drew attention to the revised statement of principles following the consultation with the existing Committee Chairs. The Board agreed these principles. In response to a suggestion from AO, the WG agreed to consider how they should apply to the present committees and bring recommendations back to the Board.

14. GP reported on his progress, at the Chair’s request, with the Refereeing Committee. The Board agreed his approach, and that a thorough review was required, noting that a new committee’s establishment would await the review outcome.

15. GU briefed the Board on the new Coaching Committee and its role; the Board expressed support. Directors thanked both GU and GP for their efforts. ACTIONS - GP, GU, DT

EVENTS

16. PK asked for Board views on future event funding. After discussion, the Board agreed to set aside a small budget for supporting specific events based on clear bids and needs. The Board also agreed there was no reason not to give support to B Flood’s application to FIE to change the satellite he organizes from womens’ sabre to mens’ epee - with the important request that he include womens’ epee and that efforts were made to replace the sabre event. ACTION - PK

BOARD WORK PROGRAMME

17. The Board noted the draft Programme and agreed to give DT any comments in writing. ACTION - All.

AOB

18. JT drew attention to the Board evaluation needed by the end of March, to UKS, as part of our funding “triggers”. He and the Chair stressed the need for early responses from all Directors. ACTION - All Directors

19. JT and DT also asked the Board to consider the right rotation for the future elections, once the new Board is fully in place. It was agreed to discuss a proposal after the elections.
ACTIONS – JT, DT

20. On a request from GU, PK reported on progress with the two WCP appointments now being progressed. He undertook to make sure the Board was informed of appointments before any announcements.

NEXT MEETING

21. The date of the next Board meeting will depend on the GM date - either April 13 or 10.
