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## BRITISH FENCING BOARD MINUTES At Beazley Head Office 8 January 2013

*Present; David Teasdale (Chair), Julia Bracewell, Alp Orge, Graham Paul, William Pitt (via video), John Troiano, Georgina Usher.*

*Apologies; Murray Morrison, Libby Payne.*

*Absent; David King*

*In attendance; Peter King (CEO), Penny Moseley, Ray Stafford, Jack Magill, Rich Beer (SE), Margaret Nolan.*

### MINUTES

1. The minutes of the Board meeting on December 19<sup>th</sup> were agreed, with a small amend. No new conflicts of interest were declared. There were no Matters Arising not covered by the agenda.

### CHAIR UPDATE

2. The Chair briefed the Board on discussions with the Interim CEO during the Xmas break, in which agreement was reached with Peter King for him to continue as CEO until April 2014. DT proposed this formally to the Board and received unanimous support and agreement. It was noted that Margaret Nolan (Grow) and David Moseley (Finance) will continue with BF on the same timeframe.

### GROW

3. The CEO introduced Margaret Nolan, whom he had recruited to manage the grow effort. MN took the Board through a summary of recent and current activity, the progress made and the opportunities she now perceived. It was vital to get a new programme in place by the new financial year, as part of our partnership with SE.

4. The Board reviewed the new Talent Pathway proposed by MN and AN. The following points were made in discussion;

- there should be more detail about the participation steps (ie before any talent selection is done);
- clubs had to play a key role, which the TP should identify;
- some doubts remained about centralised training for the top athletes - though this is normal across sport, and it is what we are already doing - to be discussed again by the Board under the Gold agenda.

5. The Board expressed satisfaction with the developing Grow programme, with these specific notes and comments;

- the accounting issues around Hire2Buy were being addressed, and the scheme's results should be evaluated;
- proposals for safeguarding and equality required Board decisions at the next meeting;
- there were well known "leaks" from the participation "pipe" which had to be addressed in the new programme;
- clubs were also critical to building participation, and retention was again the issue - can we also bring in more informal opportunities for people to fence?

6. The Board thanked MN for her presentation and for the progress being made.

## **GOVERNANCE ACTION PLAN**

7. JT introduced the draft Plan, with thanks to the other group members, JT, LP and DT. The Board approved the Plan in principle, asking JT and the group to review the detail and presentation of the Plan for final decisions at the next Board meeting.

8. The Board discussed the timing of the proposed EGM and agreed, after discussion, it should be called for March. The group will recommend actions needed. The Board also discussed the President post and decided that this required detailed consideration of the options.

## **COMMITTEE REVIEW**

9. GU took the Board through the principles proposed by the Board sub group (GU, GP, LP and DT), which broadly the Board agreed, asking the group to now work on the details, including terms of reference for each committee. There should be a further Board discussion before outside consultation.

10. The Board considered the draft terms of reference for the new committees proposed – Audit Governance & Risk, Nomination, Remuneration and Communications (the last being a short term review group, with a deadline to report to the Board by the end of February). The proposals were agreed, save that it was decided that remuneration issues did not justify a separate committee and should be part of the Nominations Committee responsibilities. The Chair agreed to circulate final documents on the three committees for Board approval in writing.

## **2024 STRATEGY**

11. On the Chair's proposal, the Board agreed that further detailed work on the new strategic aims was not necessary before announcements to the membership. DT agreed to circulate a draft for approval, with the help of WP and the new Communications group.

## **BOARD WORK PROGRAMME**

12. The Board noted the latest version; to be updated again by the Chair after each Board meeting.

## **MEMBERSHIP SCHEME**

13. The Chair and RS reported on the work already done, on a new scheme, and what remained to be completed before a launch. RS agreed to circulate a written summary of the new provisions, to bring new Directors up to date. The Board recognised that change was important, as part of the 2024 goals, and to build participation in the sport.

## **MERGERS**

14. The Chair briefed the Board on the three merger options currently on the agenda - with England Fencing, Wheelchair Fencing and Veterans. Directors understood the basic justifications, with EF as the first to be taken forward, if possible. DT is to meet EF Board representatives, and will report back.

## **FIE CODE**

15. The Board agreed the Chair should go ahead and circulate the new Code to our representatives.

## **AOB**

16. *Elections* - the Board noted that DT will ask Teddy Bourne to go ahead with the Board majority views (as expressed in writing) on the issues raised.

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