



## BRITISH FENCING ASSOCIATION BOARD

Minutes of the meeting held at British Fencing Head Office: Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2008 at 10.30am  
Approved by the Board on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2008

---

### Present:

Keith Smith	President and Chair	KS
Andrew Brannon	Treasurer (part)	AB
John Ramsay	Technical Director	JR
Roy Clarke	Scotland Representative	RC
Peter Smith	England Representative	PSm
Bob Turner	Wales Representative	BT
Penny Spink MBE	Director	PS
Ismay Cowen	Director	IC
Peter Jacobs	Director	PJ
Rodney Francis	Director	RF
Tom Cadman	Director	TC
Libby Payne	Director	LP
Mike Thornton	Director	MT
Steve Jackson	Director	SJ
James Williams	Athlete Representative	JW

### Also in attendance (non-voting):

Piers Martin	CEO	PM
Graham Watts	PD	GW
Neil Brown	UKSG Coordinator	NB
Steve Boocock	Director CPSU (for welfare training only)	SB
Anne Tivas	NDO CPSU (for welfare training only)	AT

### Apologies for absence:

Jack Magill	Northern Ireland Representative	JM
Catherine Nicholl	Communication & PR Manager	CN

---

Ref:	Minute	Action
------	--------	--------

---

### **1. General:**

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the new CEO, Piers Martin. Keith pointed out the importance of this new appointment and how he hoped this would really allow BFA to make progress.
- 1.2 Apologies for absence were received from Northern Ireland. RC and MT had informed of late arrival.
- 1.3 The minutes of the meeting of the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2008 were agreed as a true and accurate record. Keith also informed the meeting that he had represented the BFA at the British Youth Championships; The National Veteran's Championships; the Junior Home International; the GB Schools Team Championships; the Birmingham International, at meetings with UK Sport; the Youth Sport Trust and the BOA.

### **2. Finance Division:**

- 2.1 The Board received the final year-end accounts April 07-March 08 and AB highlighted the following key points:
- A deficit of £3k, which could be considered reasonable given a turnover in excess of £1m.
  - Income was up predominantly due to the increased grant from UK Sport for the Performance Pathway.
  - Expenditure was inevitably up also in line with this grant.
  - Insurance had increased noticeably.

- Irrecoverable VAT was an issue, VAT being charged on projects, consultants, venue hire for example.
- 2.2 The Board thanked AB for his report and the final year-end accounts April 07-March 08 were agreed unanimously.

*The Board then welcomed Steve Boocock and Anne Tivas from the Child Protection in Sport Unit and undertook Welfare Training from 10.45 – 13.00.*

**3. Technical Division:**

- 3.1 KS informed the Board that JR had stood down as Technical Director and the Board appointed Jon Milner. This volunteer post had been advertised on the BFA web site. The Board expressed their thanks to JR for all his hard work in the position.
- 3.2 The Board received an update from IC. Following the Welfare Training, the Board stated its recognition of both the work of IC but also the amount of work required to formalise Welfare issues. It was agreed to establish a working group to look at the outcomes of the Welfare Training and to progress Welfare issues. PM/KS/IC
- KS informed the board that due to an incident which had occurred during a trip abroad, the BFA had been advised to appoint an independent Child Welfare Consultant to investigate the matter. PM agreed to progress this and keep the board informed. PM added that there was a significant amount of inaccurate information circulating which could be damaging to the organisation. He urged the Board to refrain from commenting on the situation until an outcome of the investigation had been received. PM ALL
- 3.3 In a change to the agenda, it was agreed to discuss refereeing at the end of the meeting alongside a proposal from England Fencing.
- 3.4 GW explained that WADA anti-doping regulations were being revised. He informed the Board that two athletes were on the new UK Sport Process. He had registered his concerns with other sports to UK Sport that the regulations were unnecessarily overbearing on athletes and were not efficiently dealing with doping issues.
- 3.5 KS informed the Board that the revised Disciplinary Regulations had been drafted by Peter Cadman and were awaiting comment from IC and Maggie Lloyd-Jones. IC
- 3.6 KS informed the Board that there had been an issue with a disciplinary hearing involving a black card. This would now be held with a different Chair and will use the Sports Resolution Panel. It was brought to the attention of the board that a Board member had been involved in the process and following discussion on this a proposal was tabled that the following resolution be passed:
- 'Permission must be sought from the Board for a Board member to appear in a disciplinary hearing other than as a witness'*
- The resolution was unanimously agreed and the proposal carried.
- 3.7 KS informed the Board that in his role as UK Schools Games (UKSG) coordinator, NB would now be organising the UKSG. The Board also recognised the work JR had carried out previous to this and thanked him for his efforts.
- 3.8 The Board then received a presentation from NB on the UKSG in which he raised the following key points:
- Funding was available from UK Sport for High Performance Coaching. PM agreed to look into this with GW and NB. PM/GW/NB
  - Team Manager training was to be held on the 8<sup>th</sup> June and would be opened up to any TM wishing to attend. NB/IC/PM to liaise on the content NB/IC/PM
  - £1,500 was available for training of officials within each home country.
  - Hannah Chennour's role was to secure 100 new young officials aged between 16 and 19.
  - 3 course syllabuses had been established for 'Piste Assistant'; 'Competition Administrator' and 'Armourer'
- 3.9 KS informed the Board that the 2008 Cadet, Junior & Senior Championships would be held at the EIS in Sheffield and that he and John Milner had a meeting with the venue on the 29<sup>th</sup> May.
- 3.10 The GB Schools Team Championships were held at Whitgift School. This year there were over 120 teams. Keith expressed his thanks to Mike and Mavis Thornton for running the event.

**4. Publicity & Communications Division:**

- 4.1 The Board received a proposal from LB on marketing communications materials for clubs to promote their activities. She requested £500 to add to funding from the home countries.

- The Board agreed this amount but in doing so requested that LB meet with PM to ensure the project fitted into the overall organisational direction. LP/PM
- 4.2 LP explained to the Board her plans for media training for funded athletes and more general media support documents for use at all levels. These would be available through the website. The Board thanked her for her efforts and requested that LP liaise with GW and PM on this project. LP/GW/PM
- 5. International Division/G.Watts:**
- 5.1 The Board received a verbal update on the Performance Pathway from GW in which he raised the following key points:
- Selection for the Olympics was based on a points system which was published and ran through eight events this season.
  - Out of 20 fencers in a position to qualify, Alex O'Connell was nominated to the BOA for qualification to Beijing.
  - Richard Kruse broke his foot in February and after narrowly missing out on qualification the BFA are appealing to the FIE and IOC through the BOA for a wildcard.
  - 3 Athletes (Lawrence Halsted, Tom Bennett and Crystal Nicoll) and Maciej Wotjiak are attending the BOA Olympic Ambition Programme from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> August in Macau and Beijing.
  - The whole strategy had been based on getting 3 teams in a position where they can compete in the top 8 (MF, WS, ME).
  - MF team beat Germany (current World Champions) last weekend in the Shanghai Grand Prix event.
  - Have to be clear that our objective is to achieve podium position and to do so must put our funding into the strongest options. Therefore boosting MF by bringing in a second tier and second full time coach.
  - Intend to give athletes 3 months notice coming off the APA.
  - WCPP Operations Manager to be appointed to handle logistics.
  - Review coaching positions post Beijing.
  - Talent Programme must finish in 2009 as was only a temporary source of funding so need to link the CPP much better.
  - Currently 5 on Podium, 10 on Development.
  - GW liaising with PM over Long Term Athlete Development (LTAD) framework.
  - We have been successful at securing a team in the Australian Youth Olympics.
- JW then presented the board with further information regarding establishing a High Performance Centre Network which was ongoing.
- 5.2 KS informed the Board of two International event bids for which we had received funding from UK Sport subject to the bids being successful:
- Senior European Championships 2011 in Sheffield. Vote to be held in Kiev in July 2008.
  - Junior & Cadet World Championships. Allocated to BFA by FIE General Assembly.
- 5.3 KS informed the Board that the London 2012 Competition Manager was to be Hilary Philbin as appointed by LOCOG.
- 5.4 KS informed the Board of impressive results from the World Cadet & Junior Championships 2008 and added that he hoped this success would continue with us hosting the event in 2009. In particular Rosowsky 3<sup>rd</sup> in Men's Foil, May 5<sup>th</sup> in Men's Epee and Honeybone 8<sup>th</sup> in Men's Sabre.
- 5.5 KS stated to the Board that given recent events which had given rise to serious welfare issues, the Management of GB International Trips must be addressed. PM agreed to meet with IC to progress and liaise with NB in relation to the UKSG. PM/IC/NB
- 5.6 KS informed the Board that James Davis had achieved bronze medal at the European Cadet Championships 2008. James is sponsored by the Cutler's Company, who are also hosting our GBR team on the 24<sup>th</sup> June, prior to the European Senior Championships.
- 5.7 European Under 23 Championships 2008. This was a new event this year. Mike Thornton had acted as Team Manager and reported that the standard of fencing was very high. In future we should only allow our top fencers to attend.
- 5.8 Beijing Olympic Games. Alex O'Connell had qualified and the BFA has applied for a non-allocated place for Richard Kruse.
- 6. Admin Division:**
- 6.1 KS informed the Board of the CEO appointment process and reiterated his opening remarks welcoming PM to the Board.
- 6.2 KS informed the board that in leaving the BFA, Gillian Kenneally had resigned from her

- position of Company Secretary as a matter of course. KS suggested that this position was taken up by PM. RF informed the Board that he had spoken to Companies house and the position was no longer required by law. RC informed the Board that Scotland had appointed a firm of lawyers to take on the role. PM agreed to liaise with RF and Companies House to solve the matter, reporting back to the Board. PM/RF
- 6.3 KS informed the Board that nominations for Board elections must arrive at BFA Head Office by noon on the 18<sup>th</sup> June 2008. Two Directors: PS and Peter Jacobs were up for re-election. AB was also up for re-election as treasurer and Keith was standing again as President.
- 7. Any other relevant business:**
- 7.1 The Board debated a proposal by England Fencing. Following this, it was proposed by KS that: MT
- (3.3)
1. The Board instructs the Referees Committee to forward dates of exams to Head Office to publish on the website. MT
  2. The Referees Committee to contact the home countries to organise the running of courses in their area. MT
  3. The Referees Committee to liaise with Head Office to create an up to date list of referees. MT
  4. A list of all those who has passed exams in the last year to be published on the BFA web site ALL
  5. If concerns still existed in 6 months the Board would review
- The proposal was unanimously agreed.
- 7.2 KS informed the Board that Gillian Fleming's position as Ombudsman was up for renewal. He asked the home countries to inform Head Office if they were happy with this. HC reps
- 7.3 A proposal for the age at which young people can fence with metal weapons was referred to the Safety Group. PM
- 7.4 The date of the next meeting was set for Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2008. The Venue would be confirmed by Head Office. PM
- 7.5 The AGM was agreed as Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2008 in London. PM agreed to inform the Board of an appropriate venue as soon as possible. PM
- 7.6 With no further business the meeting was declared closed by the chair at 17:20.

Signed:

Date: 19.07.08

Keith Smith  
President and Chairman  
Signed on behalf of the Board