



BRITISH FENCING BOARD

Minutes of the meeting held at SABMiller Global HQ: Saturday 19th July 2008 at 11.30am

Present:

Keith Smith	President and Chair	KS
Penny Spink MBE	Director	PS
Ismay Cowen	Director	IC
Peter Jacobs	Director	PJ
Rodney Francis	Director	RF
Libby Payne	Director	LP
Steve Jackson	Director	SJ

Also in attendance (non-voting):

Roy Clarke	Scotland Representative	RC
Peter Smith	England Representative	PSm
Bob Turner	Wales Representative	BT
Jack Magill	Northern Ireland Representative	JM
Catherine Nicholl	Executive Director	CN
John Ramsay	Outgoing Technical Director	JR
Graham Watts OBE	PD	GW
Piers Martin	CEO	PM

Apologies for absence:

Andrew Brannon	Treasurer	AB
Tom Cadman	Director	TC
Dame Mary Glen-Haig	Life Vice-President	MGH
Jon Milner	Technical Director	JMi
Mike Thornton	Director	MT
James Williams	Athlete Representative	JW

Ref:	Minute	Action
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8. General:

- 8.1 KS welcomed the Board to the meeting and thanked Gail Lumsden, SABMiller, for organising the SABMiller Board room for the meeting.
- 8.2 KS expressed his support for the CEO and the work he had undertaken thus far. He also called on the Board to be loyal during this period of transition
- 8.3 Apologies were received from AB; TC; MGH; JMi; MT; JW as listed above
- 8.4 The minutes of the Board meeting on the 17th May were approved.
- 8.5 The following matters arising and actions were considered:
- 3.2: PM updated the Board on Cases 50 and 51 which had now both been referred to a Disiplinary Tribunal.
 - 3.5: IC reported that she and Maggie Lloyd-Jones had not completed the review of the Child Abuse Disciplinary Regulations. PM added that the Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU) were assisting with reviewing our processes and regulations in terms of Welfare and also on the Standards.
 - 3.8: IC reported on the Team Manager training on the 8th June in Bath and informed the Board that further training was planned over the next few months.
 - 4.1: LP reported that she was liaising with PM on the marketing materials and that the survey was active on the website.
 - 4.2: LP reported that she was liaising with NB on Media Training and the action was ongoing.
 - 5.5: PM explained that the issue of Team Management was dealt with at the Team Manager training and that KS would update the Board under the relevant agenda point.
 - 6.2: PM reported that having liaised with Companies House, the role of Company Secretary was not required. RC explained to the Board that Scottish Fencing used a

firm of lawyers for this. PS noted that the Articles of Association would need to be changed as they state a Company Secretary is required. CN suggested that she work with PM to review the Articles and also act as an advisor in this respect as she used to be a Company Secretary. CN

All other actions were covered by the agenda.

9. CEO Report:

- 9.1 KS thanked PM for his report and welcomed questions.
- 9.2 RC raised concerns about a 'Fencing Strategy', explaining that the home nations had a responsibility for development. PM responded that the idea was simply to bring all partners together to create both synergy and economies of scale.
- 9.3 RC asked if PM was prepared to assist Scottish Fencing in the same way he was England Fencing. PM stated that he would support all of the home nations in whatever way he could.
- 9.4 The board then discussed the Membership Proposal tabled by PM. The Board agreed the proposal apart from charging a fine of twice the membership fee. PM agreed to advance the proposals and to report back to the next Board meeting. PM

10. WO Report:

- 10.1 The Board discussed the fact that, due to recent incidents, there was a need for more control over trips and trip management. It was agreed that all trips should be registered with the BFA office and that there was a training need. IC agreed to put in to action a team manager training programme. PM agreed to prepare plans to pilot Swordmark with trips abroad. PM and KS agreed to meet with the international committee, weapon committees, and team managers to discuss this process. IC
PM
PM/KS
- 10.2 The Board then agreed an alcohol ban on all Junior and Cadet Trips for all fencers and all staff. PM/KS would make this clear at the meeting with the international committee, weapon committees, and team managers. PM/KS

11. Safety Group:

- 11.1 The proposals on minimum age were agreed.

12. Rules Committee Group:

- 12.1 The proposals on the maximum length of blades were agreed.
- 12.2 PJ agreed to liaise with Head Office to communicate through the website. PJ

13. Management of GB International Trips:

- 13.1 It was agreed that this had been covered under 10.1 and PM/KS would raise the issue of finance at the meeting with the international committee, weapon committees, and team managers. PM/KS

14. Refereeing:

- 14.1 It was agreed to run a referees workshop. KS highlighted the need for a structure to train and develop international referees.
- 14.2 It was raised that a number of complaints had been received regarding refereeing at the British Championships
- 14.3 KS informed the Board that he had been in discussion with MT over Referees accounts and committee meetings. The Board raised concerns that over referee management and requested that:
- a) All monies should now be passed over to BFA to manage and all separate accounts closed.
 - b) Names of all qualified Referees be passed to the BFA to add to the database
 - c) Income from these courses be accounted for
 - d) Regular committee meetings be held
- 14.4 KS agreed to liaise with MT on points a-d and to hold a committee meeting at the Bristol Open. KS/MT

15. UKSG:

- 15.1 The Board was informed that plans for the UKSG were progressing well and that NB had a meeting with the home countries on the 20th July.

16. British Championships:

The Board were unanimous in thanking JMi for organising the Championships and to all

the volunteers who gave up their time.

KS raised the need for a Competition Director to oversee the running of the overall event. KS/PM/JM
KS agreed to discuss with PM and JM.

17. European Championships:

KS reported on a successful bid in Kiev to host the 2011 Senior Europeans in Sheffield, in partnership with Sheffield City Council Events, Yorkshire Forward and UK Sport. The Board congratulated the bid team on their success.

18. Report of the PD:

GW then gave a report on the activities of the pathway programme. Key points were:

- 2 phases: Beijing and 2012
- Prior to pathway the last medal won was 1965 and the aim has been to win a medal in 50% of events attended
- Aim now to translate to a medal in every event
- Now have a world class mens foil team
- 15 foilists competing for pathway places
- 19 fencers to Europeans, but 13 knocked out in the first round. Fitness and S&C played a big part
- Halsted silver medal at tenth European Senior Championships best result in years
- Mens foil 5th at the Shanghai MF FIE Grand without Kruse
- Womens Sabre team 7th place at the European Senior Championships.
- Tough decisions to be made with Beijing review and programme changes in October
- Objective for 2012 is 12 fencers
- 3 individuals and 3 teams in each event
- Aim to qualify 4 in own right + 8
- Beijing: 3 fencers – Richard Kruse, Alex O’Connell, Martina Emanuel
- BOA research shows those attending at least second games achieve more success, therefore realistically O’Connell and Emanuel going for experience
- Pre-Games training will be:
 - Kruse in Northumbria
 - Emanuel in Italy
 - O’Connell in Hungary
- Additionally, we would have 3 fencers: Chrystall Nicoll, Laurence Halsted and Tom Bennett, and 1 coach: Maiciej Wojtkowiak, going to Beijing as part of the BOA’s Olympic Ambition Programme.
- Additionally, Lloyds TSB ‘Rising Stars’ would be taking a younger fencer to Beijing

18.2 The Board thanked GW for his report.

19. World Cadet and Junior Championships 2009:

19.1 KS reported that the planning for the World Championships in Belfast was progressing and he hoped to update the board more fully at the next meeting.

20. European Cadet and Junior Championships 2009:

20.1 KS reported that these would be in France.

21. European U-23 Championships 2009:

21.1 KS reported that these would be in Hungary.

22. Marketing and Communications:

22.1 LP reported that Media Training was planned with NB

22.2 LP reported that the survey would close in a few weeks; thus far over 60 responses had been received.

22.3 KS raised with the Board that British Fencing was now a business and that Marketing and Communications was fundamental to this. PM reminded the Board that he would be establishing a Marketing and Communications group later in the year.

23. Honours Committee:

23.1 The Board agreed the recommendations of the honours committee:

Bronze

- Joseph Gibbons
- Diane Austin
- Stuart Scorgie

- Alan Hubbard
- James Williams
- Janet Huggins

Silver

- Barbara Hillier
- Les Jones
- Armourers Guild

Athlete of the Year

- Jonathan Willis

Tankards

- Ziemek Wojciechowski
- Jonathan May
- Alex O'Connell
- David Sach
- Richard Kruse
- Husayn Rosowsky
- James Davis

24. Elections:

24.1 KS reported that the Elections were in hand and the Electoral Reform Society would be running the voting on the BFA's behalf.

25. Cutlers Company:

25.1 KS reported on a reception held by the Cutlers Company for our European Championship team. Additionally he highlighted that they had given individual sponsorship to James Davis and also an award to Ziemek Wojciechowski.

26. AGM:

26.1 KS reported that the Board would be at 10am on the 13th September at Whitgift School, Croydon. There would additionally be presentations by PM and GW.

27. Report of the Ombudsman:

27.1 The report of the Ombudsman was received with thanks.

28. Any Other Relevant Business:

28.1 KS reported to the Board that a European Women's Commission has been agreed at the CEE Congress.

28.2 KS raised the issue of the Athletes commission and explained that James Williams should run elections at the Bristol Open.

28.3 KS reported to the Board that at the British Championships, the armourers had 2 accidents and consequently Peter Huggins had asked for boots which agreed by the board KS

28.4 It was noted that Steve Jackson would be stepping down from his position on the Board at the next elections. The Board thanked him for his work to date.

29. Dates of Future Meetings:

- 29.1 ▪ Saturday October 11th at SABMiller Global Headquarters
- Saturday January 17th at SABMiller Global Headquarters

30. Close:

30.1 With no further business the meeting was declared closed by the chair at 17:20.

Signed:

Date:

Keith Smith, President and Chair
Signed on behalf of the Board