**Goalball UK**

**Minutes of Board meeting at EIS Sheffield on Tuesday 20th February at 11.00am**

Present: John Coles (JC - Chair), Mark Winder (MW), Mark Martin (MM), Peter Elliott (PE), Grace Clancey (GC)

Apologies: Dyfrig Lewis Smith (DLS) , Alison Burchell

1. The minutes from the Board meeting of 29 November 2017 were approved.
2. JC reminded the Board of the need to declare their interest in any items requiring a decision; there were no new declarations of interest.
3. JC welcomed PE to his first Board meeting. JC confirmed his intention to stand down as both Chair and Board member. The Board thanked him for his outstanding contribution to the sport. The Board discussed the search for a new Chair and MW commented that a job advert would be ready to be circulated shortly. It was agreed that JC and GC would interview prospective candidates.
4. MW presented his CEO report.
* The third quarter of the year had been another one of significant developments, including changes to the staffing structure, new partnerships and progress in systems and cultures.
* The Club Officer will be leaving his post at the end of March
* With the need to build up free reserves a priority, the new Business Development Manager has begun working on a strategy to develop income streams. To this end, we are working with Investors In Customers to gain their accreditation. Sport England has requested a report on our attempts to achieve greater sustainability.
* UKS has initiated a collaboration with some other NGBs to look at revenue generation opportunities.
* Relationships continue to blossom with some of the universities.
* We are working with UKS to try to develop stronger links with British Blind Sports.
* We continue to assist Scottish Disability Sport and Disability Sport Wales with funding opportunities.
* A number of grant applications are in the pipeline.
* A new structure was unveiled which focuses on employed staff (rather than consultants) taking charge of the operation of talent and elite performance. The idea of a new steering group has been requested to increase Board involvement in performance.
* We have applied jointly with Loughborough College to deliver the Diploma In Sporting Excellence (DISE).
1. The CEO report also contained the update on the men’s elite squad. The Middle European Goalball League saw promising areas of development for both the playing and coaching staff. Preparation has begun for the next Europeans in Poland in September, although this is conditional on securing future funding.
2. Aaron Ford (AF) updated the Board on the progress of the women’s elite squad. There has been little competitive activity of late, with the emphasis on setting the 2018 training programme dates. The athletes have been provided with a revised bespoke strength and conditioning programme
3. MM presented the finance report. The third quarter’s grass roots accounts showed the continuing escalation of the Sport England programmes, compensated for by the receipt of additional unexpected income. Both elite budget holders continue to ensure that their programmes work within guaranteed income up to the end of the financial year. As the existing auditors have been in post for three years, the audit will be put out to tender.
4. A draft budget for the 2018/9 financial year was discussed and approved by the Board. This covers the second financial year of the current funding cycle and involves an expansion of project and core activities, covered by an increase in Sport England and self-generated income.
5. MM updated the Board verbally that there had been very little governance activity since the previous meeting. The outstanding issues regarding diversity remained unresolved as feedback was awaited from Sport England’s external consultant.
6. MW presented DLS’s safeguarding and equality report in his absence. There have been no reported safeguarding incidents requiring attention since the last meeting. An early draft of a new equality policy was reviewed. It was agreed that MW and DLS develop this policy further and circulate it to members at a later date.
7. MM presented the risk reports. The major risk identified continues to be the limited elite funding.
8. No other business was raised.