**Goalball UK**

**Minutes of Board meeting by conference call on Wednesday 29th November at 15.00pm**

Present: John Coles (JC - Chair), Mark Winder (MW), Mark Martin (MM), Dyfrig Lewis Smith (DLS), Grace Clancey (GC), Alison Burchell (AB)

1. The minutes from the Board meeting of 23 August 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 updated the Board on the search for additional non-executive directors. Following the open recruitment process, Peter Elliott had expressed his interest in joining the Board. The Board ratified this appointment. It was agreed that Peter would be introduced to the members at the forthcoming AGM, after which there would be a series of announcements to the media.
4. MW presented his CEO report.
* The second quarter of the year had been extremely busy with the implementation of the Sport England plan.
* Development continues of the coach education qualification for Levels 1 to 3 and officials.
* The staff are now in permanent accommodation in EIS Sheffield and this is a more pleasant working environment. There is a need to change internet provider.
* Dialogue continues with UKS, although there remains no change in the funding climate. It was acknowledged in these discussions that goalball remains a “Band 4 Sport” and that no new application for funding would be made at the moment. We have been invited by UKS along with a number of other NGBs to take part in a project which reviews our capacity to raise commercial income.
* Relationships continue to blossom with several business partnerships. Predominantly these are with universities and professional sports.
* MW and Becky Ashworth travelled to Finland to meet the IBSA Goalball Chair. This was a positive meeting with a number of action points agreed on both sides.
* Steve Ferres will start working as the Business Development Manager on December 1st. Emma Evans has voluntarily started writing funding bids to charity givers.
* We are assisting Scottish Disability Sport and Disability Sport Wales with funding opportunities.
* Communications with Sport England have been quiet recently, partly because they have been pre-occupied with internal restructuring
* At the Staff Strategy Workshop, priorities were identified for the next five years. A need to re-establish mission, vision and values was established. Individual staff members are now developing their own personal plans

Chris Davies has applied to be a team leader for the International Citizen Service REACT expedition to Ghana.

* The importance of entry in the 2018 Malmo Lady Cup was explained. The Board agreed to underwrite the cost of this entry in the event of insufficient funding in 2018/9 for the women’s elite programme.
1. The CEO report also contained the Development Update. This season so far, 36 teams from 18 clubs have entered tournaments. Intermediate tournaments have been successfully run for the first time. The first ever Junior Day went well. A new membership scheme is to be launched in the coming weeks.
2. Dawn Newbery (DN) updated the Board with her report on the men’s elite squad. Recent emphasis has been on reflecting on the team’s performance in the European A’s. The focus now is on shaping the future programme. Organised training camps and future competition invitations are under discussion,
3. Aaron Ford (AF) updated the Board on the progress of the women’s elite squad. The athletes have also entered a quieter period following their endeavours at the European A’s, which has allowed the coaching staff to focus on decisions regarding the composition of future squads. A closer link with the talent pathway is being looked into. Future training camp and competition options are also being discussed. Both DN and AF are to meet with UKS in the near future to discuss options for support.
4. DN updated the Board on the talent programme, which is now under way. Later in the month the talent squad will attend trials with the elite players. Two distinct hubs for talent are being developed. All TASS players have had individual strength and conditioning reviews.
5. MM presented the finance report. The second quarter grass roots accounts further showed a gradual build-up in activities as the sport transitions to its new level of greater funding. Both elite performance budgets have primarily focussed on ensuring a competitive performance at the European A’s. The statutory accounts have been finalised and will be presented at next month’s AGM.
6. MM updated the Board on the attempts to ensure compliance with the Code For Sports Governance. A number of changes have been introduced over the last six months in readiness, including creating the post of Senior Independent Director, instigating the Audit, Finance and Risk Committee and creating several new policies. We have been given an approved extension by Sport England to tackle two outstanding objectives in December. There was a discussion around one of these issues, the contents of the Diversity Action Plan. The Board agreed the contents of the plan in principle, whilst asking for further clarification regarding the appropriateness of the disclosure of certain statistics. It was agreed that MW and MM would go back to the external diversity consultant provided by SE for clarification on this issue.
7. A brief discussion took place regarding the logistics of the AGM, which is to be held at EIS Sheffield before one of the tournaments.
8. MM presented the risk reports. The major risk identified continues to be the limited elite funding.
9. MM presented the outcome of the annual Board skills review and self-evaluation. The Board acknowledged that there was a handful of categories in which there was a stronger requirement to secure external expert advice should the need arise. The Board also noted that, overall, scores in the self-evaluation had been higher.
10. No other business was raised.