**Goalball UK**

**Minutes of Board meeting at EIS Sheffield on Monday 26th November 2018 at 11.00am**

Present: John Grosvenor (JG – Chair), Mark Winder (MW), Mark Martin (MM), Peter Elliott (PE), Dyfrig Lewis Smith (DLS), Grace Clancey (GC)

Apologies: Alison Burchell

1. The minutes from the Board meeting of 10 September 2018 were approved.
2. JG reminded the Board of the need to declare their interest in any items requiring a decision; there were no new declarations of interest.
3. MW presented his CEO report.
* The period since the previous update has seen several development successes, with newer members of staff proving to be excellent additions to the team. There has also been increased communication from both government stakeholders.
* The documented Memorandum of Understanding with BBS is still being worked on. JG is to contact the Chair of BBS to discuss this further.
* The need to build up free reserves remains a priority and the strategy to develop income streams continues. A report has been completed by independent consultants commissioned by Sport England and this was included in the Board papers. The report highlighted existing income generation methods and suggested future opportunities. Networking with local business groups continues. The online shop has been initiated.
* We were invited by UK Sport to apply for funding via its Aspiration Fund. This involved considerable input from Aaron Ford (AF) and Becky Ashworth (BA) to help produce the the submission documentation within a very tight timeframe. There was also input from the PAT Group. UKS will communicate its decision via conference call on December 6.
* The speed of processing of finance issues continues to be a concern.
* Along with other tenants of EIS Sheffield, we are still working on a plan to improve internet speed at the office.
* As well as the ongoing relationships with three Yorkshire-based universities, contacts have been made with universities further afield. MW and JG have been invited to the WCSM to announce their partnership with Goalball UK to its members.
* We continue to develop our international relations. MW and Dawn Newbery will attend an IBSA strategy event in December to strengthen relationships with European countries. Despite meeting the conditions threshold, our Erasmus application failed to get funding due to superior submissions by others.
* Two funding applications have been submitted to support work in Wales
1. The Board agreed to support the ongoing position of Eve Simpson as social media support, subject to it being underpinned by a business case from the appropriate line manager and having confirmed by reviewing alternative options that this represented the best value for money for the NGB. The Board also acknowledged the importance of athlete mental health and agreed to support a request for staff and certain Board members to attend a mental health training course.
2. The CEO report also contained an update from Faye Dale (FD) on the men’s elite squad. A hard-fought European B’s in Poland saw the men consolidate their position in this league. A review of the championships and planning for the next 18 months is scheduled to begin later in the month. The withdrawal of the two hosting nations has placed the future of the MEGL in doubt. Submissions are being made for Backing The Best/Sports Aid funding, with a deadline of December 5.
3. Aaron Ford (AF) updated the Board on the progress of the women’s elite squad. As attention focuses on the UKS funding bid, the athletes have concentrated on training at camps and with their clubs. Some players have been mentoring the junior squad members. The joint training camp with Israel will take place in December, at which a player review assessment system will be launched. Two new support staff members are being introduced to the programme.
4. FD also updated on talent. The programme has been significantly boosted by a funding award from Sports Aid. Separate male and female talent squads entered the Dutch Open Goalball Cup in October and the men’s squad earned a bronze medal. Both talent squads will take part in the Israel training camp.
5. BA updated on Development and Grass Roots. There has been good engagement with the Go Membership system and 75% of clubs are now enrolled. The start of the new season has seen good levels of tournament entries. , with more novice and intermediate leagues on offer. Workforce Development Officer Steve Cox has developed a volunteering programme and visited many universities to engage them in it. There has been positive club development in London, Buckinghamshire, Yorkshire and Essex.
6. Staff members are to be invited to attend Board meetings to explain their role in the organisation. This element of the meeting was launched by Tom Dobson, Club and Competitions Officer, who also explained his experiences of Goalball UK since joining the organisation.
7. PE commented to the Board on the initial meeting of the Performance and Talent Group (PAT). This was considered to have been a success and PE thanked those for attending, including the athletes. At the meeting the terms of reference for the group were agreed, there were individual presentations on the elite and talent squads and the group discussed its ambitions for the sport in the future
8. The Board re-affirmed its endorsement of the sport’s values, vision, mission and “obsessions”. MW then presented a document showing how these obsessions were to be achieved, i.e the sport’s “tactics”. Several pictorial representations of the strategy were considered and it was agreed that these ideas would be developed further after the meeting.
9. MM presented the finance report. The second quarter’s financial results for 2018/9 highlighted a further saving in expenditure on projects. However this will reverse as the year progresses, as development plans get under way. Whilst there was positive news concerning the Aspiration Fund with regards to the elite female squad, there is still no guarantee of funding for either of the squads beyond the current financial year. In line with best practice, the Board agreed that there should be a review of the employment status of all of the sport’s key contractors.
10. DLS presented the safeguarding and equality report. There were no incidents to report. Work has continued on updating the equality policy and a draft should be available shortly. Subject to a few minor amendments the Advanced Safeguarding Standard has been achieved. The Board commended BA on her efforts in getting this accreditation. The Board agreed to ask the NSPCC to deliver a safeguarding presentation at the May 2019 meeting.
11. MM presented the risk reports. The major risk identified continues to be the limited elite funding.
12. MW introduced via a paper the concept of ambassadors and patrons for the sport. It was agreed that this idea would be further developed at the next Board meeting, but input from directors before then was welcomed. Board members were asked to review their own contacts for suitable candidates.
13. No other business was raised.