**Goalball UK**

**Minutes of Board meeting at EIS Sheffield on Monday 10th September 2018 at 2.00pm**

Present: John Grosvenor (JG – Chair), Mark Winder (MW), Mark Martin (MM), Peter Elliott (PE), Alison Burchell (AB), Dyfrig Lewis Smith (DLS)

Apologies: Grace Clancey

1. The minutes from the Board meeting of 15 June 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.
* A full complement of officers and managers is now in place. We are working towards a strategy culture which we hope to have in draft presentation form by the time of the November Board meeting.
* BBS has requested that we make a contribution towards their cost of IBSA membership. The Board agreed that a documented Memorandum Of Understanding should be agreed in order to ensure BBS is accountable.
* The need to build up free reserves remains a priority and the strategy to develop income streams continues. The Investors In Customers (IIC) event introduced several new businesses, alongside existing partners. The online shop is to open before the end of the month and the corporate product is ready for relaunch. Useful commercial contacts are being established, assisted by Sport England.
* Discussions were held regarding the vulnerability of operations in the event of the departure of key members of staff.
* The receipt of a donation from the Peter Harrison Foundation has been a major boost to the high performance programme.
* The pressures on staff is leading to delays in the processing of finance issues which is becoming a concern.
* We are working on a plan to improve internet speed at the office.
* Relationships continue to blossom with three Yorkshire-based universities.
* We have been invited to be part of the Central Steering Group of the income generation information gathering project instigated by UK Sport.
* We held our first Home Nations tournament earlier in the month
* There has been considerably more clarity provided by Sport England, with a series of regular and specific deadlines being provided
* There continues to be a lot of funding opportunities in the pipeline
1. The CEO report also contained an update from Faye Dale (FD) on the men’s elite squad. The European B’s in Poland are only two weeks away and the squad has been selected. The preparation has been strong, with great support from both players’ families and external partners. The Board sent its best wishes to all those involved. Post-Euros the 2018/9 MEGL will be entered. Three players remain funded by Backing The Best, but this will end in April 2019 which will bring challenges.
2. Aaron Ford (AF) updated the Board on the progress of the women’s elite squad. Despite finishing third in a recent competition in Bilbao, the result was considered a disappointment. A plan is being considered to host a joint training camp with Israel. Two new support staff members are being introduced to the programme. Work has begun on revising the selection policy.
3. FD also updated on talent. To enhance the progress made so far in this project, entry into an international competition is being sought. We are awaiting confirmation from Sports Aid regarding a significant grant application. Eight places have been awarded on the 2018/9 TASS scheme, to be allocated equally amongst men and women.
4. Becky Ashworth (BA) updated on Development and Grass Roots. The Go Membership system is being rolled out, with plans to have all clubs online by Christmas 2018. All plans are now in place for the start of the new season, with more novice and intermediate leagues on offer. Tom Dobson has settled in well as Club and Competitions Officer. Plans are in place to attend several university open days to recruit volunteers. There has been positive club development in East London, Buckinghamshire, Yorkshire, Essex and Brighton.
5. MW presented a paper on the World Games in Indiana in summer 2019, specifically on the importance of this tournament in being part of the qualification process for the Tokyo Paralympics. The Board agreed to support an expression of interest for the women’s squad to attend this competition notwithstanding the fact that there is no guarantee of funding for this participation.
6. MW informed the Board that, as part of the re-structure of operational management, the Performance and Talent Group meets for the first time in October.
7. MM presented the finance report. The first quarter’s financial results for 2018/9 highlighted that there had been a saving in expenditure on projects. However this is expected to reverse as the year progresses, as development plans get under way. Both elite performance programmes have now secured sufficient funding to enable operational budgets for the full financial year to be put in place. The 2017/8 audit reached a successful conclusion and the statutory accounts have now been filed with Companies House.
8. DLS commented that there was nothing to report on safeguarding and equality.
9. MM presented the risk reports. The major risk identified continues to be the limited elite funding. Several improvements to the content of the risk register were suggested.
10. No other business was raised.