**Goalball UK**

**Minutes of Board meeting at Showroom Workstation, Sheffield on Thursday 5th March 2020 at 11am**

Present: John Grosvenor (JG – Chair), Mark Winder (MW), Mark Martin (MM), Dyfrig Lewis Smith (DLS), Kate Coghlan (KC)

Joining via video conference: Alison Burchell (AB), Grace Clancey (GC)

Apologies: Peter Elliott (PE)

Observer: Sade Joseph (SJ) from Campbell Tickell

1. JG requested that the minutes from the Board meeting of 28th November 2019 were approved. AB suggested that the decision should be elaborated on regarding the creation of the new charitable structure. MM reminded the Board that there were limitations restricting commercial activities within the constitution of the existing company and that there was potential exposure to tax liabilities. Having received appropriate professional advice the Board had agreed to the creation of a limited company, which at least initially would be 100% owned by Goalball UK. Subject to this clarification the minutes were approved.
2. JG welcomed KC to her first Board meeting. The Board unanimously agreed to her appointment as a director. KC spoke briefly about her background and the skills and experience she will add to the sport.
3. JG reminded the Board of the need to declare their interest in any items requiring a decision; there were no new declarations of interest.
4. JG welcomed SJ, whose role was to observe the Board meeting as part of the independent Board evaluation project being carried out by CT. SJ spoke briefly about the scope of the project and there was an exchange of questions with Board members.
5. MW presented his CEO report.
* The emerging impact of the Coronavirus is a concern and we continue to share information with staff and follow best practice.
* We will be celebrating the 10th birthday of Goalball UK by promoting across media channels the stories of 10 individuals influential in the sport.
* Alex Bunney (AB) will assume joint responsibility for International Relations
* Developing our major event strategy has been stalled pending the bid to host the 2023 IBSA World Games.
* The staff structure changes introduced since Becky Ashworth’s departure appear to have been effective. A model of distributive leadership has been adopted.
* Challenges remain in the source for future funding for our high performance programmes, notably the male squad.
* We have submitted an application to continue the Children In Need National Schools Project. A decision is anticipated in April.
* We are expecting Sport England to elaborate on the 2021/5 funding process at a meeting later in the month.
* We still expect to move to new offices within the EIS building from April 2020 onwards.
* York University’s social impact of goalball project is progressing well. The paper is due in late spring.
* Good relationships continue to be developed across the corporate, university and charitable sectors. We have developed the relationship with RNC to deliver the Diploma In Sporting Excellence.
1. MW updated verbally on the Paris 2024 funding process. Re-submission of the first phase has now been completed, facilitated by a consultant supported by Sport England. The extra help had smoothed out some of the staffing issues and considerably raised the quality of the presentation. A response is expected by April and we have until October to submit the next phase. A final decision is due by December. The Board thanked all staff for the contribution they had put into this project
2. MW also updated verbally that BBS had formally submitted a bid to host the 2023 World Games in Birmingham, with UKS offering financial backing. A site visit by IBSA had taken place earlier in the month and a decision is expected in early April. The Board considered the many positive aspects to the development of the sport that would be the result of hosting the event in the UK.
3. Aaron Ford (AF) submitted a report on the women’s high performance programme. The squad remain on standby for Tokyo and a long list of athletes has been prepared. The squad is building up their potential readiness by attending a training camp in Israel and international competitions in April and May. A new interim physio joined the group at a recent training camp. The revamped Player Review Documents have been well received.
4. Faye Dale (FD) presented on the men’s high performance team. The players’ focus is on the European B’s in October. They recently competed in Finland and several other competitive opportunities have been lined up, subject to funding. The squad is now up to nine. There are several outstanding classification issues which require resolution. A new nutritionist and volunteer performance analyst have joined the support team.
5. FD also updated on the talent programme, where the highlight was the guaranteed funding from Backing The Best for a further two years. This is based around providing eight male and eight female players aged 12-16 the opportunity to develop their skills in a fun environment, with the hope that they will eventually be our GB athletes. There are 35 confirmed entries for the talent camp later in the year.
6. In PE’s absence MW updated the Board on the most recent meeting of the PAT Group. The group is back up to a full complement. At the time the main focus was the re-submission of the UKS Paris document. The Group discussed the difficulties surrounding the women’s programme because of Tokyo uncertainties, the potential programme to be funded by BTB and the need for the male squad to build up to the European Bs later in the year.
7. MM updated the Board on recent meetings of the AFR Group. Amongst the various recent items dealt with by the Group were reviewing the draft budget and selecting new payroll providers. The Group had also received a full presentation from CT.
8. DLS presented a paper on the recent meeting of the Clubs and Competitions Committee. The Committee had considered the results of a recent survey of clubs and players and was developing plans for a more structured competition system to be launched in 2020/1. The bedding in of the new rulebook and ratings system was also focussed on. A new transgender policy for athletes was also being looked at.
9. MM presented his finance report. The third quarter’s management accounts followed the same pattern of deficit displayed earlier in the year, in that this is attributable to the timing of grant income and expenditure and is forecasted to be rectified in the final quarter. Both high performance funds have sufficient funds to execute their budgets for the remainder of the current financial year. The head coaches had prepared budgets for the 2020/1 financial year and both are aspirational based on securing future private funding.
10. MM presented the draft budget for the 2020/1 financial year which had already been approved by the Audit, Finance and Risk Committee. The budget is predicting the generation of a small surplus. Whilst most of the grant funding is already secured, achievement of the surplus is based on a modest rise in income from partners, sponsors, donors and running events. The Board feels this is achievable. The Board approved the 2020/1 budget.
11. DLS updated verbally on safeguarding and equality issues. There were no significant incidents to report. The importance and difficulty of establishing a transgender policy was noted. Various groups are being consulted with and further updates will be brought to the Board as this area develops, with attention paid to the approaches adopted by the larger sporting bodies.
12. MM presented the risk reports. The major risk identified continues to be the limited high performance funding.
13. The Board expressed concerns about the quality of the recent African Championships, which acted as a qualification event for the Paralympics, and whether there was a perception that this was damaging to the image of the sport. It was agreed that MW would contact IBSA for clarification regarding the specific issues raised.
14. No other business was raised.