**Goalball UK**

**Minutes of Board meeting held electronically on Friday 3rd July 2020 at 10am**

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

Apologies: Grace Clancey (GC)

Observers for part of meeting: Sade Joseph (SJ) and Sarah Loader (SL) from Campbell Tickell, Alex Bunney (AJB)

1. JG reminded the Board of the need to declare their interest in any items requiring a decision; there were no new declarations of interest.
2. The Board had received a report regarding its effectiveness from Campbell Tickell consultants. There was a preliminary discussion, following which SL and SJ joined the meeting and produced a presentation based on the report. The presentation considered the Board’s strengths and weaknesses and commented on areas such as strategy, board dynamics, culture and conduct at meetings. A series of recommendations were proposed. Board members then asked questions. The Board agreed to consider all of the recommendations and delegated the Audit, Finance & Risk Group to produce a plan to evaluate and implement the suggestions. The plan will be presented at a future Board meeting. SL and SJ then left the meeting.
3. AJB joined the meeting and informed the Board of steps being taken to prepare the goalball community to be able to “Return To Play” once lockdown restrictions are eased. A working group is developing guidance supported by the advice of Sport England and other stakeholders. The four key principles of the guidance are members’ safety, up-to-date information, personal choice and full NGB support. The guidance will cover social distancing advice, club preparation, planning sessions, adapting the game, recognising individuals and families, displaying symptoms, competition structure and potential future lockdowns. The Board then asked questions. It was acknowledged that Return To Play is still some way off and there is currently considerable member reticence. The Board acknowledged the importance of being regularly updated given what was a very fluid situation. AJB then left the meeting.
4. MM presented the risk reports. Limited high performance funding continues to be a major risk. However, the Covid-19 pandemic has now created a series of additional major concerns which are being addressed within the Return To Play project. The Board requested that in future each risk on the register should be given a “with Covid” and “without Covid” rating. The Audit, Finance & Risk Group agreed to develop a revised register for presentation at the next full Board meeting. The register will include a section reflecting Board diversity.
5. MM presented his finance report. The pandemic has severely disrupted the ability to generate additional income. However, Sport England is allowing significant flexibility in the use of its funding, meaning that the forecast for the current financial year is still able to predict a modest surplus. Also, SE has promised to maintain funding levels for the 2021/2 financial year. No new sources of income have been discovered for the high performance teams
6. The Board considered the draft financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2020 prepared by the auditors. Subject to the correction of a few minor errors identified by Board members, the accounts were approved. The Board delegated the Audit, Finance & Risk Group to follow this project through to completion.
7. MW presented his CEO report.
* The pandemic has resulted in the creation of a Senior Leadership Team Group which meets weekly and is taking some of the pressure off the CEO.
* Staff mood remains positive in a difficult situation and there has been a high level of engagement with the goalball “family”
* We still expect to move to the larger offices within the EIS building when we are allowed back into the office.
* Despite limitations on our abilities to engage, new charitable partnerships have been formed. Children In Need look set to continue their association with us.
* Discussions continue with UK Sport on the most appropriate level of programme support during the Paris cycle.
* We await clarity on the details following the announcement that British Blind Sports and Birmingham University are hosting the 2023 IBSA World Games.
* The Philanthropy Company has been awarded the Sport England-funded contract to develop our fundraising strategy.
* UKS has requested further details on the projects funded by our 2017/21 International Relations grant.
* The June newsletter included a strong message re-affirming the sport’s commitment in support of a more inclusive society.
* York University’s social impact of goalball project has been shared with interested parties, with Sport England expressing particular interest.
1. MM updated the Board on recent meetings of the AFR Group. All of the significant items were being covered elsewhere in the agenda.
2. DLS presented a paper on the recent meeting of the Clubs and Competitions Committee. Whilst focussing on Return To Play, the Committee had also looked at reviewing rules, misconduct policies and annual awards.
3. There have been no meetings of the Performance and Talent Group since the last Board meeting.
4. DLS presented a paper on safeguarding and equality issues. There were no significant incidents to report. An initial draft of a transgender policy has been shared with selected persons from the goalball family for responses on content and style.
5. The minutes for the Board meeting held on 5th March 2020 were approved.
6. No other business was raised.