**Goalball UK**

**Minutes of Board meeting at Ponds Forge, Sheffield on Friday 13th September 2019 at 10.30am**

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

Apologies: Alison Burchell

1. The Board received an excellent, informative presentation from Michelle North of the CPSU arm of the NSPCC. The presentation highlighted the Board’s responsibilities regarding safeguarding, along with a guide to current regulations and suggested NGB best practice.
2. Over the lunch interval, there was a presentation by Children In Need Officer Stephen Newey, explaining his current role within the organisation.
3. JG informed the Board that the advertisement for a Non-Executive Director was generating some good potential candidates. The closing date for applications is 30 September. It is hoped to have reached a decision on an appointment before the end of the calendar year.
4. The minutes from the Board meeting of 16 May 2019 were approved.
5. JG reminded the Board of the need to declare their interest in any items requiring a decision; there were no new declarations of interest.
6. PE updated the Board on the most recent meeting of the PAT Group. The Group received feedback on the bronze-medal winning campaigns of the under 19s and under 23s and on the achievement of sixth place by GB Women at the World Games. The Board offered its congratulations on all of these successful performances. Concern was noted with regards to the increasing administrative burden being placed on the performance team. There is currently a vacancy on the Group for a male athlete representative.
7. MM updated the Board on recent meetings of the AFR Group. Amongst the various recent items dealt with by the Group were the finalisation of the annual audit and statutory accounts, dealing with bringing coaching staff onto the payroll and further work on the formation of a new commercial company.
8. MW explained the reasons for enhancing the status of the Club and Competitions Committee. The Board agreed that this Committee be a sub-committee of the Board. DLS agreed to represent the Board on this Committee. The Board made comments on a draft of the terms of reference of the Committee and agreed to devolve final approval of these terms to the AFR Group.
9. MW presented his CEO report.
* Links are being strengthened with BBS and we continue to push for a memorandum of understanding in relation to international competition. BBS are also working with Goalball UK, UKS and two other sports to submit an expression of interest to host the 2023 IBSA World Games.
* Becky Ashworth (BA) will be on secondment for a one-year period from November. An interim staffing plan is being finalised
* The 2020 Goalball Cup will be in London, which will be an opportunity to invite stakeholders and fundraisers.
* The End Of Season tournament was a success, notwithstanding the fact that high performance players and key staff were out of the country
* UK Sport will shortly be revealing their strategy for the Paris 2024 cycle; we will be attending briefing workshops
* We have requested to move back to our old accommodation once refurbishment is complete in November.
* There remains a lot of activity with several universities.
* The end of year report to Sport England was successful; they are happy with our progress
1. Aaron Ford (AF) updated the Board on the progress of the women’s high performance squad. The report reflected on the condition of the players, following their successful sixth place at the World Games in the USA. The squad has just come back from competing in a warm-up tournament in Madrid, ahead of the European A Championships in Germany in October. These represent the last opportunity to qualify for Tokyo. The Board sent its best wishes for this event.
2. Faye Dale (FD) prepared a brief report highlighting that the men’s high performance squad was now back training and competing. The squad has three new members. It has received an outline of training and tournament dates up to July 2020.
3. FD also presented her latest talent report which understandably focussed on the bronze medals (note 6 above). Sport England talent funds for the year have now mostly been exhausted on these events. Eight athletes have been awarded TASS scholarships for 2019/20.
4. BA’s development report focussed on the enhanced competition rules for the new tournament year and the Goalball Conference of 7/8 September. The summer camp had been delivered successfully despite the absence of senior development staff. There is a plan to strengthen future school holiday activity alongside the existing schools programme.
5. MW presented the detailed fundraising plan which had been specifically commissioned for the sport by Sport England and had been written by The Philanthropy Company. The report highlighted the unique fundraising opportunities that the sport possesses, whilst recognising that the sport would fail to achieve its full potential unless it had additional resources. The Board endorsed the plan and recommended that MW arrange follow-up meetings involving both SE and TPC.
6. MM presented his finance and governance report. Although the first quarter’s management accounts were showing a deficit, this is attributable to the timing of grant income and expenditure and is rectified later in the 2019/20 financial year. Both high performance funds have sufficient funds to execute their budgets for the whole of the current financial year. Opportunities are being explored for the creation of a separate charitable company. Sport England has agreed to fund a consultant to carry out an external Board evaluation.
7. DLS presented the safeguarding and equality report. There were no incidents to report. The updated equality policy is still at the final draft stage and requires further amendments before its adoption.
8. MM presented the risk reports. The major risk identified continues to be the limited high performance funding.
9. The Board sent its congratulations to Kathryn Fielding for her award of the British Empire Medal.
10. No other business was raised.