**Goalball UK**

**Minutes of Board meeting by conference call on Wednesday 23rd August at 15.00pm**

Present: John Coles (JC - Chair), Mark Winder (MW), Mark Martin (MM), Dyfrig Lewis Smith (DLS), Grace Clancey (GC)

Apologies: Alison Burchell (AB)

1. The minutes from the Board meeting of 18 May 2017 were approved.
2. JC reminded the Board of the need to declare their interest in any items requiring a decision; there were no new declarations of interest.
3. JC updated the Board on the search for additional non-executive directors. The open recruitment process had generated some accomplished candidates.
4. The Board were delighted with the news that Sarah Leiter won the TASS Sport England Most Committed Athlete Award and registered their congratulations.
5. MW presented his second CEO report.
* The Sport England dashboard, containing our development targets, was signed off this month. We have a new interim Relationship Manager, Katie Legg
* The advert for the new Business Development Manager remains open until the end of the month. There has already been a large number of applicants
* NGB Coach education qualifications are being introduced for Levels 1 to 3 and officials. The syllabus is at the development phase
* The staff are currently in temporary accommodation in EIS Sheffield but will move to permanent offices next month
* The Board reviewed all of the potential partnerships currently being pursued. Predominantly these are with universities and professional sports.
* There was a positive meeting with UKS in July. We have been awarded a grant to support our International Relations efforts.
* The monthly staff meetings are up and running
* After a competitive tendering procedure, we have changed our insurance broker and provider
* Development of the strategic plan is on hold until the European Championships have been completed. The process will be kick-started by a two-day staff meeting. The Board will input during the drafting process.
1. The CEO report also contained the Development Update. There were record entry numbers in the End Of Season Tournament and also for the first time a junior section. Other successes included the Goalball Cup, the first ever Summer Camp and a visit to Northern Ireland.
2. There was an update on talent within the CEO report. The talent measures have now been agreed with Sport England across the four year funding cycle. The number of places awarded by TASS has increased to eight. Two youth talent players made it through to the TASS National Awards. The talent budget for the year has been signed off, although limited funding will present challenges.
3. Dawn Newbery (DN) updated the Board with her report on the men’s elite squad. All attentions are firmly focussed on the forthcoming Euros. A new training base is operating out of Birmingham and there have been several overseas competitions and camps to gain experience. A new physio has added considerable knowledge to the coaching staff.
4. Aaron Ford (AF) updated the Board on the progress of the women’s elite squad. There have been a variety of recent competition opportunities which have enabled newer members of the squad to gain playing experience ahead of the Euros, as well as gauging the strength of potential opposition. Going forward the focus will be on training camps, as well as a domestic competition with leading talent players.
5. MM presented the finance report. As expected, the first quarter grass roots accounts showed a gradual build-up in activities as the sport transitions to its new level of greater funding. Management of both elite performance budgets appears to be working well. A meeting is scheduled with the auditors next month to review the annual statutory accounts.
6. MM presented the risk reports. The major risks identified is the continuing limited elite funding.
7. MM updated the Board on progress regarding implementation of governance tasks. Sheridans Solicitors are at present updating our Articles of Association and a draft document is anticipated before the end of the month. Members were reminded of the importance of setting a date for the AGM and MW agreed to circulate some options.
8. MW presented the results of the recent staff survey and a lengthy discussion took place. The Board found the findings very helpful and agreed to take note of all of the various comments. The Board delegated MW and MM to produce an action plan to address the key issues identified. Summary conclusions would be fed back to Sport England.
9. The Board agreed to delegate responsibility for the creation and approval of a remuneration policy to the Audit, Finance and Risk Committee. The Board instructed the Committee to produce a draft policy for discussion at the next meeting.
10. DLS updated the Board on safeguarding developments. There were no specific incidents which required Board discussion. MM agreed to arrange a date for a Board training session with the CPSU.
11. DLS verbally updated the Board on Equality developments. He has now reviewed all of the background information and an update of the Equality policy is required. A meeting is to take place in September with DLS, MW, MM and an Equality consultant provided by Sport England which could facilitate this.
12. No other business was raised.