**Goalball UK**

**Minutes of Board meeting at EIS Sheffield on Thursday 7th February 2019 at 11.00am**

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

Apologies: Alison Burchell

1. The minutes from the Board meeting of 26 November 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. The Board was joined on the telephone by one of its major donors for a review of his association with the sport. The donor confirmed his intentions to remain involved and be financially supportive of the high performance squads for the 2019/20 financial year. The Board placed on record its gratitude for this ongoing commitment.
4. The donor then left the meeting which prompted a detailed discussion of the 2019/20 budgets. It was agreed that the high performance budget holders would refine their budgetary requirements for 2019/20, ahead of a future presentation with the donor. The draft 2019/20 grass roots budget, which had already been approved by the Audit, Finance and Risk Committee, was then reviewed and approved by the Board.
5. MW presented his CEO report.

* Financial support has been confirmed from UK Sport via its Aspiration Fund to cover the women’s high performance squad’s attempts to qualify for Tokyo. This investment will allow team attendance at the two forthcoming qualifying events.
* There has been a re-alignment of staff responsibilities due to Becky Ashworth (BA) taking a temporary part time role at Sheffield Hallam.
* There was a positive meeting with BBS. The documented Memorandum of Understanding is still being worked on.
* The need to build up free reserves remains a priority and the strategy to develop income streams continues. There continues to be several meetings with prospective partners. Although Emma Evans is currently off sick, there are a lot of charitable funding applications in the pipeline.
* UK Sport has increased its International Relations investment due to a change in priorities. We have expressed an interest in hosting future major tournaments and a meeting is to be held with IBSA to develop a strategy.
* We have reached a resolution with SIV who have agreed to carry out networking infrastructure work that will allow us to host our own internet line.
* There remains a lot of activity with several universities. There is a forthcoming meeting with WCSM regarding MW becoming a Freeman.
* There was positive engagement with Sport England at the first of its drop-in sessions.
* The business case for social media is still work in progress due to the large number of interested parties. The Board requested a number of quotes to ensure the most competitive was chosen.

1. The CEO report also contained an update from Faye Dale (FD) on the men’s high performance team. The squad is currently operating on a reduced training programme due to the next Europeans not being until 2020. The first round of the MEGL is now complete with some talent athletes making their bow in a senior competitive environment.
2. Aaron Ford (AF) updated the Board on the progress of the women’s high performance squad, including injury updates. There was good experience gained against difficult opposition for a developing squad at the Pajulahti Games. The selection policy draft is with the BPA for comment. The 2019 training and competitions calendar is currently being finalised.
3. FD also updated on talent. The 2019 National Talent Camp will be the first to offer integral multi-disciplinary support as part of the programme. The Israel visit to the RNC in December was hugely successful with a competition held involving both talent and elite athletes.
4. BA updated verbally on Development and Grass Roots. We remain on track to achieve our Year 2 Sport England targets. The Competitions Committee is back up and running and is in the process of reviewing the competitions structure. There has been positive club development in Merseyside, Essex, Bristol and Buckinghamshire.
5. PE and MM updated the Board briefly on the work done since the last meeting by the PAT and AFR Groups respectively.
6. MW re-presented the Vmost strategy and some alternative pictorial representations thereof. The strategy is to be developed into tactics by Board members and the senior management team for presentation at subsequent meetings of the PAT and AFR Group and approval at the next Board meeting.
7. DLS presented the safeguarding and equality report. There were no incidents to report. A draft equality policy was presented to the Board. Some outstanding points were identified. The policy will be presented for final approval at the next Board meeting. Research into the policy highlighted the importance of updating the transgender policy. DLS will report back on this further at the next meeting.
8. MM presented the risk reports. The major risk identified continues to be the limited elite funding.
9. MW re-introduced the ambassadors and patrons paper and Board members were again asked to review their own contacts for suitable candidates.
10. No other business was raised.