**Goalball UK**

**Minutes of Board meeting at EIS Sheffield on Friday 15th June at 11.00am**

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

Apologies: Alison Burchell

1. The minutes from the Board meeting of 20 February 2018 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 gave a verbal update to the Board on the process resulting in the successful recruitment of JG as the new Chair. The Board welcomed JG and thanked JC for his outstanding service to the sport, then unanimously voted to appoint JG to his new post. At this point JC left the meeting and JG immediately started in his new role.
4. MW presented his CEO report.
* Since the previous report, there was much optimism generated by the new Chair appointment and securing several new significant income streams
* A new Club Officer started in post at the end of May
* The need to build up free reserves remains a priority and the strategy to develop income streams has begun. We are extremely grateful to having received a private donation to fund the elite squads throughout the coming year.
* We are looking at establishing memoranda of understanding with two universities.
* We are taking part in an income generation information gathering project instigated by UK Sport.
* Positive feedback was received from UKS at our International Relations review.
* We continue to assist Scottish Disability Sport and Disability Sport Wales with funding opportunities.
* Reports were submitted to Sport England covering the first year of the current funding cycle. We have held a meeting with SE to discuss our top level business plans.
* There continues to be a lot of funding opportunities in the pipeline
* Nine new active volunteers have been recruited since January
* Relationship with British Blind Sports continue to develop
1. The CEO report also contained an update from Faye Dale (FD) on the men’s elite squad. We have continued to positively blood new players in the Mid- Eastern European League and are currently well-placed in the competition. A strong coaching and support team are now all in place and overall preparation for the Europeans remains on track. The squad has had terrific support from friends and family to help save training camp costs. Three athletes have retained Backing The Best funding for 2018/9.
2. Aaron Ford (AF) updated the Board on the progress of the women’s elite squad. Despite fielding a weakened side, there had been impressive results against top-quality opposition at the Malmo Inter-Lady Cup. New techniques were successfully trialled. There have been a couple of successful training camps integrating elite and talent players. The private donation has enabled a competitions and training programme to be put together which extends to the end of the financial year.
3. FD also updated on talent. Here the focus has been on preparing for sending, for the first time, both male and female sides to the European Youth Championships in Israel in November.
4. Becky Ashworth (BA) updated on Development and Grass Roots. Membership is now up to 655. The end of season is approaching and several tournament outcomes remain undecided. Alex Bunney is progressing well in his role as London Development Officer. Relationships continue to develop with the Home Nations. There are plans to actively tap into the university student playing potential. Inactivity targets for the rest of the funding cycle are currently being finalised with Sport England. We have been collaborating with other disability sports to share best practice. Club development work has focussed on Merseyside, Buckinghamshire, Essex and Bristol.
5. MW presented a draft terms of reference for the new Performance and Talent (PAT) advisory group. After some accepted amendments, the Board agreed the revised document.
6. MW presented the Investor In Customers report. The process generated a lot of positive feedback about our relationships with players and staff. We received a Silver award relative to the trust in our brand. It was agreed by the Board that the next stage in the process is to share the outcome with the staff to obtain observations and that this report should feed into the future strategy of the sport. Subsequently there will be a promotional day where potential key partners will be invited.
7. MM presented the finance report. The final quarter’s financial results for 2017/8 highlighted the increase in spending on Sport England projects. The updated forecast to the end of the current financial year shows an encouraging financial position. Clarkson Hyde were successfully reappointed as auditors. The current audit was already under way and the importance of a swift conclusion to this was emphasised, in order to issue all documents to members in time for the AGM.
8. DLS presented his safeguarding and equality report. There have been no reported safeguarding incidents requiring attention since the last meeting. A further draft of a the equality policy was reviewed. It was agreed that MW and DLS develop this policy further and circulate it to members at a later date.
9. MM presented the risk reports. The major risk identified continues to be the limited elite funding.
10. It was agreed that a further discussion was required outside the meeting regarding the updating of the company reserves policy.
11. No other business was raised.