**Goalball UK**

**Minutes of Board meeting at 60 Kingly Street, London on Thursday 16th May 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)

Apologies: Alison Burchell

1. The minutes from the Board meeting of 7 February 2019 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. There was a verbal presentation by MW regarding the possibility of submitting a bid for a future European B Championships. The Board considered this to be inappropriate, having weighed up the possibility of success against the time and costs of those involved in the submission. Going forward the Board was supportive of hosting future competitions and it was agreed to develop a strategy, working closely with UK Sport. The Board noted the potential growth opportunities for the sport brought by hosting competitions.
4. PE updated the Board on the work done since the last meeting by the PAT Group, including presentation of a feedback report from a recent tournament entered by the GB Women in Turkey. The use of this style of document had been well received by coaches as a learning tool. The Turkey tournament was viewed as a success as a training exercise ahead of the build-up for future qualification tournaments.
5. MM updated the Board on recent meetings of the AFR Group. The Group had dealt with several issues recently, including dealing with the annual audit and statutory accounts preparation, reviewing the employment status of all staff and considering the optimal corporate structure to maximise income generation.
6. The Board considered the latest draft of the Vmost strategy. Since the previous meeting this document had been developed into tactics by the senior management team. A series of general suggestions were made for further development of the document which would be presented at the next Board meeting.
7. MM presented his finance report. The final quarter’s management accounts were in line with expectations and had been sent to the auditors to allow them to start work on the statutory accounts and audit. The forecast for the 2019/20 financial year had been updated and was still broadly in line with the original budget approved by the Board. Both high performance funds were carrying surpluses into the new financial year.
8. The Board endorsed a change to the reserves policy which had been recommended by the AFR Group. This is to hold as reserves **the higher** **of** 3-6 months of “non-project” expenditure and 25% of the value of the Sport England annual grant award.
9. The Board discussed the results of the annual directors’ skills review and the board evaluation questionnaire. This led into a debate into areas in which the Board could be strengthened. Several potential skill sets were identified. MW and MM are meeting with a recruitment consultant funded by Sport England. It is hoped to release an advert for a new director later in the summer.
10. DLS presented the safeguarding and equality report. There were no incidents to report. The updated equality policy is now at the final draft stage. It was agreed that this policy be sent to Board members for final comment before adoption prior to the new season. Progress made regarding development of a transgender policy was also discussed, including the identified challenges. A draft policy is to be prepared for presentation to the Board.
11. MM presented the risk reports. The major risk identified continues to be the limited high performance funding.
12. The Board was joined during lunch by one of its major donors for a review of his association with the sport. The Board thanked the donor for his loyal financial support of the high performance squads, including the 2019/20 financial year.
13. Faye Dale (FD) joined the meeting and produced a presentation highlighting the current state of affairs regarding the talent and men’s elite programme. There are currently 14 “talented” players, with 5 good enough to be considered as a senior England player. The focus is now on increasing this squad size in time for the next European Bs in October 2020.
14. 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.
* Along with a handful of other NGBs, a consultancy firm The Philanthropy Company has been commissioned by Sport England to produce a fundraising strategy. A separate document was presented outlining The Philanthropy Company’s proposal.
* Relationships with UK Sport remain positive regarding the Aspiration and International Relations funds.
* We have temporarily moved offices whilst EIS undergoes a period of refurbishment
* There remains a lot of activity with several universities.
* The end of year report to Sport England has been submitted; there will be a follow up meeting in June.
1. Aaron Ford (AF) updated the Board on the progress of the women’s high performance squad. The intensity of camp and competition activity has increased following receipt of the UKS grant funding via the Aspiration Fund. Several athletes have been successfully re-integrated into the squad following injury. Results in recent competitions in the USA and Turkey have been mixed, but nevertheless provided learning opportunities ahead of the qualification events. There has been increased programme support provided by the performance analyst and sport psychologist.
2. The CEO presentation included opportunities identified by BA for media exposure for the sport.
3. The Board was again reminded of the importance of reviewing their own contacts for suitable candidates to act as ambassadors and patrons.
4. No other business was raised.