# Goalball UK Board Minutes

## Date & time of meeting

15 October 2024 8.30am

## Location

Teams meeting

## Attendees Initials Role

John Grosvenor JG Chair

Mark Winder MW CEO

Peter Elliott PE Senior Independent Director

Scott McMunn SM Non-Executive Director

Kate Coghlan KC Non-Executive Director

Allegra Fowler-Wright AFW Non-Executive Director

Lauren Kocher LK Non-Executive Director

Emma Henwood EH Non-Executive Director

## Apologies

Ranjit Singh RS Non-Executive Director

## In attendance

Mark Martin MM Company Secretary/Secretariat

# MINUTES

## Welcome

JG welcomed everyone to the meeting.

## Declarations of interest

None.

## Minutes of previous Board meeting – For approval (1 paper)

**The board approved the July minutes, subject to two minor amendments**.

## Action points from last meeting – For updating (1 paper)

The schedule was updated and approved.

## Decisions taken between meetings

It was noted that the Board had approved the Terms Of Reference for the Performance Pathway Advisory Group since the last meeting.

## Finance and governance update – For information (6 papers)

MM gave a brief outline of the papers and the figures within them.

AFW informed the Board that the annual audit and statutory accounts preparation had concluded, with no major concerns raised by the auditors. The importance of building a solid base of unrestricted reserves was acknowledged by all.

The Q1 management accounts had been completed, with the annual forecast for the rest of the financial year being subsequently updated. The latest projections highlighted changes in staffing, discussed in the CEO report, and the encouraging recent receipt of some significant grants and donations.

MW was congratulated in respect of the recent successful uptick in other income, but it was acknowledged that this was taking up a considerable amount of his time and it was important to bring in an extra resource to help him with this in the next financial year.

## Governance action plan

MM pointed out that a lot of policies and procedures would be issued to the Board for electronic approval in the coming weeks.

## CEO report For information (2 papers)

MW gave a verbal update on the key points covered in his documents, being:

* In August the landlord of the Sheffield site imposed a break clause. Ongoing discussions are taking place, also involving stakeholders, and is hoped that a solution is found which incorporates remaining at the same venue
* Tom Dobson has recently departed from his role as Club and Competitions Development Officer. Recruitment for a replacement will begin shortly, with the future role likely to focus on the competitions portfolio, with the clubs aspect being covered by existing staff
* Final touches are being applied to the new strategy, with a launch planned at the start of 2025, influenced by a recent SLT Strategy Day
* We presented a candidate to British Blind Sport to nominate for the vacant IBSA Goalball Chair position
* UKS are reducing their staff, however Goalball UK’s contact will remain the same
* Two members of staff will be taking part in a sport development project in Kenya in December, which should enhance our International Relations footprint.

The board then asked questions and discussions took place around hosting an international event in 2025 and a recent gathering of NGB Chairs

## Reports from the sub-committees – For information (verbal)

* Risk Group
	+ JG gave a verbal update – recent scenario planning by SLT was acknowledged as a positive impact and the risk register was in the process of being updated
* Club & Competitions Committee
	+ EH gave a verbal update – recent meeting had focussed on preparing for the new season; it was acknowledged that it remains a challenge having sufficient volunteers for events
* PPAG Group
	+ PE gave a verbal update – inaugural meeting of this group (formerly the PAT Group); giant strides have been made recently in embedding a new performance culture, as part of the implementation of the new strategy, which from April will be funded jointly by UKS and Sport England
* FAC Group
	+ No meeting of this Group, although KC has kept in regular contact with the Head of Communications

## Safeguarding and Welfare – For information (Verbal)

MW informed the Board that the recent annual CPSU review had proceeded satisfactorily, some minor recommendations were made but the emphasis was on a “light touch” this year.

There is a deadline in place of November 11th to submit all details on the Adult Safeguarding Framework. The Board thanked MW and Steve Cox for their extensive efforts.

## UKAD – For information (Verbal)

JG informed the Board that, relative to the size of the NGB, a lot of information had been submitted to UKAD in compliance with the requirements and felt that we were in a good position regarding the achievement of outcomes.

## Equality Diversity Inclusion – For approval (1 paper)

MW and EH pointed out that this was a growing area of importance, which is a topic for further Board development. A need for an independent budget centre was acknowledged. Board training was scheduled to take place the day after the Board meeting.

**The Board approved, subject to one minor addition, the Terms of Reference for the Inclusion, Diversity, Equality Committee.**

## Sustainability – For information (verbal)

MW updated the Board on a recent sustainability meeting convened by Sport England. Sports must measure their carbon footprint by 2026 and in due course develop an action plan.

KC emphasised the importance of the topic across all different business sectors.

## Any other business

The next meeting date was agreed as 22nd January at 8.30am and it will be electronic.

**Action - SC will carry out Doodle polls for the other 2025 Board meetings**

Various names are still being considered for roles as ambassadors and patrons for the sport.

A new protocol has been issued to advise staff on how to manage the death of a person of significant influence in the sport.

**Meeting closed 10.30**