



Minutes of the
British Weight Lifting Board Meeting

Venue: The Jaguar Suite, Ricoh Arena, Coventry

Date: Friday 14 July 2017

Start: 1.00pm.

Present: Peter Rowley (PWR), Ashley Metcalfe (AM), Malcolm Boyd (MB), Sarah Davis (SD), Catherine Eastham (CE), Emily Godley (EG), Mike Irani (MI) for Part 2, Ali Jawad (AJ), David Knaggs (DK), Mark Martin (MM) Patrick Roberts (PR),

In attendance: Jude Toasland (JT) for items 1 -3, David Gent (DG) for items 1 – 9, Tom Whittaker (TW).

1. General

1.1 Chairman's Welcome

PWR welcomed all to the meeting, declared the meeting quorate, outlined the key items of the agenda that was split into 2 parts (Part 1 to review strategic issues and Part 2 to consider operational matters) and reminded members that discussions at the meeting were confidential and none of the proceedings should be disclosed to third parties without his prior written approval in accordance with the directors' code of conduct that all members had signed.

1.2 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Kelly Sotherton (KS), Guy Taylor (GT) and Michele Verroken (MV).

2. Declarations of Interest

PWR reminded members of the need to declare their interest in any items for discussion or requiring a decision. PWR declared his membership of Sport England's Investment Committee. No other declarations of interest were declared.

3. NSPCC Presentation on Safeguarding

PWR reminded the meeting that although we have a green RAG rating for safeguarding, we should not be complacent and that it is important that as the governing body, we should maintain strong adherence to the guiding principles of effective safeguarding. He invited JT, Senior Officer of NSPCC's Child Protection in Sport Unit, to present to the meeting.

JT's presentation emphasised that effective child protection was led from the top of any organisation, that the interests of the child is paramount, that safeguarding is everyone's business, that it requires the organisation to be proactive, that we should involve children, young people and those caring for them in decisions that affect them (unless it is not safe or appropriate to do so) and that appropriate information sharing was important.

The subsequent inclusive discussion demonstrated that BWL takes athlete and staff welfare, the protection of vulnerable children and adults (the latter with the support of the Ann Craft Trust) and Dame Tanni Grey-Thompson's Duty of Care Review extremely seriously. JT undertook to distribute her PowerPoint presentation to attendees for future reference. PWR reminded members that MI and MV were board champions on safeguarding issues and that he would return to a specific safeguarding matter later in the agenda.

JT left the meeting.

4. Strategy Discussion

AM, DG and TW presented to the meeting, speaking to PowerPoint presentations, inviting and responding to observations and questions from attendees. The board noted with some disappointment that Sport England had yet to confirm targets (although they had been agreed in principle at officer level) and that their Board may not do so until September. The Board endorsed developments to date and confirmed that the direction of travel was appropriate.

AM then informed the board of the IWF invitation for him to be a 'Commonwealth Ambassador'. Given the aspiration expressed at the previous meeting for BWL to become more involved in international matters pertaining to weightlifting, the meeting considered that this may be an opportunity worth exploring, if AM wished to undertake the role. **It was agreed that AM would meet with Tamas Ayan in Budapest en route to the Commonwealth Championships in September, learn more of what the role may entail, evaluate what support may be available from the IWF and possibly UK Sport and report back to the next meeting on 19 September.** PWR informed the meeting that MV had been invited by Tamas Ayan to work with the IWF to fight doping in weightlifting in a private capacity. If her other commitments enabled her to do so, this may also assist BWL in growing influence internationally, although it may constitute a perceived or potential conflict of interest that MV would need to declare so that it could be managed appropriately.

PWR reminded the meeting that the board and staff workshop of the Portas review had confirmed 3 workstreams to support our forward strategy - transforming engagement with participants in the core market, increasing long-term financial sustainability and strengthening the volunteer base, particularly technical officials. The PowerPoint slides identified the levers, responsibilities and timelines of the 3 work strands, upon which AM would report at subsequent meetings. Meantime, the meeting noted the slides for information.

The meeting adjourned for 15 minutes.

MI joined the meeting.

5. Minutes of the meeting on 8 June 2017 and matters arising

The minutes of the Board meeting held on 8 June 2017 circulated previously were agreed as read and approved for posting on the website.

There were no matters arising not appearing elsewhere on the agenda.

6. Decisions taken outside the Board Meeting

PWR informed members that there were no decisions taken to report.

7. Minutes and recommendations from sub-committees

In the absence of GT, AM reported upon the meeting of the Performance Committee. PR informed members that the Audit and finance committee would meet in August.

8. CEO's Report

AM reminded members that as the first part of the meeting had considered performance and development matters in depth, his report was briefer than usual and confined to 2 matters: the identification of a new risk pertaining to security and the disappointment expressed by a member of the England Group that neither the individual nor the Group had received the consultation that the individual considered appropriate in selecting the England team manager for the Commonwealth games.

DG left the meeting.

9. Finance Matters and Update

9a. and 9b Management Accounts for May 2017 and Forward forecasts and budgets for 2017/18

MM referred to the papers circulated previously and the summary slides in the PowerPoint presentation on financial performance for May 2017. Members noted the continuing good start to the year and the very satisfactory surplus to date, resulting in actual performance bettering budget year to date. However, much of the positive variance was attributable to timing differences inherent in the commencement dates of new staff and whilst the revised forecast was that the current surplus would be maintained by the year end, higher expenditure over the subsequent 10 months would result in only modest addition to the current outturn.

MM reported that haysmacintyre had commenced their audit for the year ended 31 March 2017 and no significant issues had been raised. Draft accounts would be considered by the Audit and Finance Committee at their August meeting and he, AM and PWR would attend an exit meeting with our auditors on 31 August so that the September board meeting could approve the same.

MM reminded members of the need to complete the auditors' register of interests declaration as part of the audit process. He would issue the documentation shortly.

10. Board Matters

PWR informed members of proceedings at the English Table Tennis Association's Annual General Meeting (AGM), wherein a failure for the meeting to approve the board's recommendation to adopt new Articles of Association rendered that sport's Sport England funding problematical unless an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) approved the governing document so that the national governing body would comply with the Code for Sports Governance by 31 October 2017. Their experience highlighted the wisdom of BWL holding an EGM on 16 September for the specific purpose of recommending new Articles of Association to our members. **It was agreed that AM would prepare the notice of meeting and supporting papers, liaising with MM and PWR as appropriate so that members would receive them within the correct timeline.**

12. Any Other Business

PWR reminded members that this was EG's final meeting as athletes' representative. On behalf of the board, he thanked her for her contribution to proceedings over the previous 12 months, wished her well at the British Open Championships and good luck in Australia. He was delighted that SD and AJ had replaced her and was confident that athletes' interests would continue to be well represented at board meetings.

13. Date of next Meeting

The EGM will be on 16 September 2017 and the next board meeting will be 19 September 2017 in Leeds.

SD, EG, AJ and TW left the meeting.

Board members discussed certain matters pertaining to safeguarding, security and arrangements for the British Open Championships privately.

The meeting closed at 5.20 pm.