

**MINUTES OF THE 13th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE BRITISH BIATHLON UNION
held in the Hotel Post, Ruhpolding, Germany
on Sunday 31st January 2010**

BBU BOARD

PRESENT:

David Cranston CBE	(DC)	Chairman
Mark Goodson	(MG)	Secretary General and Finance Director
Bill Laurence	(BL)	Special Projects Director
Eddy Lowe BEM	(EL)	Sport Director
André Oszmann	(AO)	Commercial Director
Angus Cameron MBE	(AC)	Co-opted Director

IN ATTENDANCE

Simon Allanson	(SA)	Athletes' Representative
Pippa Cranston	(PC)	Board Secretary

APOLOGIES

Charles Brooks	(CBr)	Hon Legal Adviser
Jeremy Hopwood	(JH)	Sponsorship and Marketing Director

81 BBU Members were in attendance.

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ITEM 1 – INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed all British Biathlon Union members to the 13th Annual General Meeting and introduced the BBU Board for those who were attending their first AGM.

ITEM 2 - MINUTES OF THE 11th AGM

The minutes of the 12th AGM held on 26th January 2009 were presented as a true record of the meeting. Carl Carrier proposed that they were accepted, was seconded by Paddy Paton and no objections were raised. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

ITEM 3 – MATTERS ARISING ON ITEM 2

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the 12th AGM

ITEM 4 – CHAIRMAN’S ANNUAL REPORT

The Chairman’s annual report had previously been presented to the assembly. Having re-iterated how delighted the Board were that Lee Jackson was representing GBR at the Vancouver Olympic Winter Games, he stated that the BBU would have liked to have sent more athletes, but are very hopeful that at the 2014 OWG in Sochi, Russia there will be a larger GBR biathlon representation.

He explained that the reason that the BBU exists is that every sport requires a national governing body (NGB) that is recognised both by the international governing body for the sport, in Biathlon’s case the International Biathlon Union, and the British Olympic Association to enable athletes to compete at international and Olympic level.

During the 2008/2009 season GBR biathlons’ world rankings had improved, the men’s team achieving 22nd place and the women’s team 24th. This met one of the BBU aims for the season.

DC thanked the Board for their work behind the scenes and recognised that each member contributes a considerable amount of time and effort, and often at their own expense.

The meeting was informed that much work has been done with Skandia International who has been helping to streamline the Board to make it more efficient. The current structure has been examined and the aim is to form a smaller Board in an overseeing strategic role supported by an executive Management Team. DC thanked AO for all the work and help that Skandia International is providing.

The AWSA were also thanked for running the meeting and enabling the International British Championships to run alongside the Army Championships.

ITEMS 5 & 6 – TO RE-ELECT MARK GOODSON & EDDY LOWE TO ELECT OTHER MEMBERS NOMINATED AS A DIRECTOR

The three-year tenure of Board Members Mark Goodson and Eddy Lowe had expired and both were standing for re-election. Nominations had also been received from Lt. Col Charles Bromley Gardner, Lt. Col Angus Cameron, Col. Jon Campbell and SSgt Jason Sklenar. CVs for all standing for election and re-election had been circulated to BBU members. In light of what had been written in the CVs, DC made two points. Firstly, that members were elected as a Director and not to a specific post within the Board. Secondly he commented that all the nominees, except Jon Campbell, (who would be known by Royal Artillery athletes) had been able to attend the Championships and were known to the members. DC had met Jon Campbell who was very keen to put more back into the sport at the BBU level.

It was explained that there were six vacancies for the BBU Board and that to be elected the nominee must achieve 50% of the votes of those attending the meeting.

Voting took place and the votes were collected.

ITEM 7 – ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30TH APRIL 2009

MG presented the Director's Report and Unaudited Financial Statements for the year ended 30th April 2009, stating that it was a legal requirement for any registered company to produce these papers.

He pointed out that it was important to note that the BBU is a non-profit making organisation and any surplus balance is carried forward to the following year. He then briefly explained their content.

Three pie charts had also been circulated which demonstrated how the BBU income was derived; the proportions of expenditure in the various areas of operation, and finally a breakdown of BBU expenditure on the National Team. BBU income was £167,613. Expenditure amounted to £160,731 of which 75% was spent on the National Team's direct costs. Turning to the third chart, MG pointed out that 47% of the expenditure on the National Team was incurred on athletes accommodation costs, 25% on coaches, 9% (£11,157) on travel and 8% on support staff. Equipment, waxes, insurance etc accounted for the rest of the expenditure.

In answer to a question from the floor as to whether accommodation costs could be cut by accommodating the athletes in self-catering accommodation, MG said that at World Cup meetings, the athletes have to stay in hotels allocated by the IBU but that in the summer the athletes pay nearly all their own expenses including their training in Sweden.

The accounts for the year ending 30th April 2009 were unanimously accepted, having been proposed by Kevin Kane and seconded by Bob Anderson.

ITEM 8 – THE APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

The appointment of King, Morter, Proud & Co., Chartered Accountants of Kings Arms Vaults, Watton, Brecon, Powys, as auditors for the year ending 30th April 2010 was proposed by Charles Bromley Gardner, seconded by Billy Webb and unanimously accepted.

ITEM 9 – INTERNATIONAL BIATHLON UNION REPORT

MG explained that the International Biathlon Union (IBU) was the international governing body for biathlon. It was formed in London in 1993 after splitting from the Modern Pentathlon and Biathlon Union.

Members of the Management Board are voted in for a four-year period at the IBU Congress, which is held every other year. The Congress will meet this year in St Petersburg and a new term for the Management Committee will begin. The IBU is now wealthy because of TV money, but there is pressure from the TV companies to reduce the field at World Cup meetings in order to make the events shorter and easier to cover. As a result it is anticipated that the quota at the start line will be reduced to 85 - 90 competitors, which will mean that next season GBR will only have two start places for men and none for women. The qualification for WC competition will also be tougher: 15% to qualify for a WC and 15% to retain a start place.

However the athletes will continue to compete in IBU events, qualification for which will also be tougher, and a third level of competition will be introduced: Regional Cups. Athletes will have to qualify at Regional Cups to enter IBU Cup competition and this will have a big impact on the BBU expenditure.

He commented that although our athletes are improving so are those of other nations.

Lee Jackson will be the 100th Army competitor at an Olympic Winter Games. The 2014 Olympic Winter Games are to be held in Sochi, Russia and MG hoped that GBR will be able to send more biathletes then, but as biathletes peak between 28 and 34, the 2018 OWG will be the goal for many at this meeting. There are three bids to host the 2018 OWG, Pyeongchang, Korea; Annecy, France and Munich, Germany

There were two questions from the floor and MG confirmed that if there was less money coming from TV companies, the BBU would end up with slightly less, and that there would be no extra money for Regional Cups. He forecast that next year would be tight, but emphasised that it would be vital to attend Regional Cups.

ITEM 10 – BOA UK SPORT; “LONDON 2012”

DC, who is on the National Olympic Committee (NOC) and BOA Executive Boards, reported that the BOA has recently undergone a huge reorganisation, which was necessary to prepare for the hosting of the 2012 Olympic Games in London. Currently the BOA is trying to raise sufficient funds to send the maximum number of athletes permitted to compete by the host nation of the Games.

There is increasing recognition of winter sports within the BOA, and recognition that winter sports NGBs have been disadvantaged as they are not allowed to use the Olympic rings or mention the Olympics when trying to find sponsors.

ITEM 11 – ABU & BBU COACHING AND DEVELOPMENT COURSES

BL stated that development is of utmost importance as it the roots of the sport, and he congratulated the young athletes from Cairngorm Nordic and Biathlon Ski Club, Callum Irvine, Scott Dixon and Craig Thompson, who have shown remarkable development during the past year. He also mentioned Robert Dorward who came to the Talent ID programme last year on his own initiative and has since joined the TA.

The three training camps provided for the National Development Squad by the BBU were well attended and many elected to continue their training at EGBC. More attended the NDS on-snow selection.

The selection for the 2010 NDS will be made by Eddy Lowe (Chairman), Mark Crisp and Marc Walker. The dates for the NDS training camps remain in April, May and June details will follow soon. Currently the BBU Board, in conjunction with the Army, are looking at making changes to NDS continuation training and decisions will be made by the end of February.

BL announced that he is standing down as Development Director as his current civilian job means he cannot guarantee being available when necessary. However he will continue as Director, Special Projects.

ITEM 12 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business and the Chairman asked AO to give a report from Skandia International.

ITEM 13 – SKANDIA REPORT

AO reported that the focus for the last year or so had been very much on the business partnership with the BBU and the creation of a business plan. Many people were involved, both on the Board and from within Skandia International. An outline plan has been formed and it is hoped that the plan will be completed in time for the BBU Board meeting in April. Although the BBU is non-profit making, it should also be a business looking for ways to improve the sport and world rankings, and raise the funds needed to finance this. There also needs to be a plan of how funds would be spent, and with a larger amount, more will be able to be spent on the athletes.

Commercial businesses run on a three-year cycle, but in the BBU's case it runs on a four year Olympic cycle. The key part of funding is a mixture of commercial and other funding. AO commented on the positive achievement of establishing a Funding sub-committee, a group looking at ideas to raise funds. Sponsorship is the biggest fund-raiser, and a draft sponsorship package should be ready by April. Skandia International will use industry knowledge to identify potential sponsors.

Another idea at a fairly advanced stage is a lottery. If all BBU members buy tickets and encourage their families and friends to do the same, then a regular income will be raised. It is proposed to price tickets at £2 per ticket per month. Half the takings will be for the BBU, the other half be allocated to prizes. A volunteer has now been found to organise it. AO asked for a show of hands to ascertain the interest there might be. Well over half the floor raised their hands.

The question of how it was going to be promoted was asked and AO answered that it would be within the biathlon family initially and then to the outside world. AO finished by saying that last year had been spent laying the foundations, but this year the 'rubber must hit the road' and at the beginning of the financial year in April things must start to move.

DC thanked AO and expressed his gratitude to Julie Oszmann for the work she has been doing with the Funding sub committee, and to Nicola Walker for agreeing to organise the Lottery, which he hoped would be a great success.

ITEM 14 – CHAIRMAN’S CLOSING COMMENTS

As closing comments, DC announced the results of the election:

Charles Bromley Gardner	22
Angus Cameron	69
Jon Campbell	42
Mark Goodson	74
Eddy Lowe	52
Jason Sklenar	68

Mark Goodson and Eddy Lowe were re-elected to the Board and Angus Cameron, Jon Campbell and Jason Sklenar were also elected. All were duly appointed Directors of the BBU for a term of three years.

Signed by:
David Cranston
Chairman
British Biathlon Union

Date.....