

**MINUTES OF THE 10th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE BRITISH BIATHLON UNION
held at the Kurhaus, Ruhpolding, Germany
on Saturday 3th February 2007**

BBU BOARD

PRESENT:

David Cranston CBE	(DC)	Chairman
Mark Goodson	(MG)	Secretary General and Finance Director
Jeremy Hopwood	(JH)	Sponsorship and Marketing Director
Bill Laurence	(BL)	Development and Special Projects Director
Eddy Lowe BEM	(EL)	Technical and Performance Director

IN ATTENDANCE

Pippa Cranston	Board Secretary
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APOLOGIES

Charles Brookes	(CB)	Hon Legal Adviser
Colin Jackson	(CJ)	President
Lee Jackson	(LJ)	Athletes' Representative

BBU Members: 63 Members were in attendance.

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ITEM 1 – INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming members and thanking them for attending. He apologised for the fact that the meeting would have to be restricted to an hour, but commented that it had been pointed out to him that many AGMs are held in out of the way places which means that members have difficulty attending. The BBU, however, feel that it is important to have their AGM at a time and place where all the members can participate even if sometimes there are time limits.

He passed on apologies from the new BBU President, Colin Jackson, CBE, who was unable to attend the British Championships this year. However, CJ had recently visited the World Cup in Ruhpolding and met the British National Team and other members of the BBU board. DC commended CJ as the new President, stating that CJ has expressed a lively interest in the sport of biathlon, and hopes to get to know everyone, including the sponsors, during the next year.

ITEM 2 - MINUTES OF THE 9th AGM

DC presented the minutes of the 9th AGM held on 4th February 2006 as a true record of the meeting. Mark Crisp proposed that the minutes accepted, was seconded by Colin Paton and no objections were raised. The minutes were accepted and signed by DC.

ITEM 3 – MATTERS ARISING ON ITEM 2

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the 9th AGM.

Because of the time limitations DC then introduced Items 6 & 7 The Election and Re-election of BBU Board Members

There were four vacancies for the BBU Board. The three-year tenure of Board Members Mark Goodson and Eddy Lowe had expired and there were two other vacancies. MG and EL were standing for re-election and there was one other nominee, Major General Chris Brown. Abbreviated cvs from all three had been distributed along with election papers. It was explained that members could vote for all three, but to be elected the nominees must achieve 50% of the votes of those attending the meeting. Members were urged to vote for all three. After voting had taken place, the election papers were collected for counting.

ITEM 4 – CHAIRMAN’S ANNUAL REPORT

The Chairman’s annual report had previously been presented to the assembly.

He reiterated his congratulations to all those competing at the British National Championships and recognised the dedication and effort that had been required in order to reach this level of competition. He urged the competitors to continue to develop in order increase the number of British athletes reaching international level.

He explained that without the BBU, there could be no international competition. At present the BBU’s main aspirations are to regain a British position in the top 20 of the Men’s Nations Cup in order to be eligible for four start places at the 2010 Olympic Winter Games, and to encourage more women for the Women’s competition as on present form, Britain has three World Cup start places but only two women who are eligible.

Over the years, the BBU has spent much time and effort trying to get sponsorship. In 1988 the budget for biathletes was £250,000. In the 2005/6 season it was only £60,000. And for the 2006/07 season the BBU were facing a projected income of only £10,000 and the prospect of becoming merely a brass plate on a door. A dialogue between the Army and the BBU resulted in an agreement that the Army would match up to £25,000 of any private sponsorship obtained. Lord Moynihan, the former BBU President, led on discussions with Skandia UK which has resulted in a sponsorship agreement, which is being matched by the Army. This has enabled the BBU to continue to give some support to the international athletes and to provide some development for aspiring athletes.

The Chairman thanked Skandia for their sponsorship and appreciated the fact that a team of busy executives have spared the time to come and visit the Championships to learn more about the sport and meet members of the biathlon community. He also thanked the BBU members who have helped make the Skandia visit interesting and rewarding.

Finally, the Chairman thanked the BBU Board members, including Jason Sklenar (Team Coach) and Lee Jackson (Athletes' Representative) for the dedication, time and effort they contribute in order to keep the BBU running. He particularly recognised the contribution from Bill Laurence, who despite serving in Iraq for most of last year has managed to keep his finger on the pulse of development.

ITEM 5 – ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30TH APRIL 2006

The accounts for the financial year ending 30th April 2006 were presented.

The Finance Director, in accordance with his statutory obligations, explained the Directors' Report and Unaudited Financial Statements, the Management Information document and the Abbreviated Accounts for the year ended 30th April 2006, which had previously been distributed. It is a legal requirement that all three documents are produced and submitted to Companies House and the Inland Revenue. The Finance Director confirmed that they have been 100% checked and then scrutinised by the Inland Revenue. The BBU is a non-profit making organisation and any surplus is carried over for the support of the athletes in the following season.

Because of the operating system under which some income is received, there was a shortfall at the end of the accounting period which was covered by the Finance Director's personal account. This has since been repaid and hopefully will not re-occur, thanks to the Skandia sponsorship.

In answer to a question from the floor, MG confirmed that a grant from UK Sports had been received and was incorporated in the OSDF grant.

The Chairman thanked the Finance Director and stated that the Board was not comfortable that MG used his personal finances to cover interim deficits. He recommended that the accounts were accepted. The proposal to accept the accounts was made by Bob Anderson and seconded by Carl Carrier and all were in agreement.

The accounts for the year ending 30th April 2006 were accepted.

MG then referred to this season's budget. Several points were highlighted:

- The BBU will spend £25,800 on training the World Cup teams and their general expenditure.
- Although the Team Coach is paid by the army, the BBU pay for his expenses which amounted to £4,300.
- Summer training was at the athletes' own expense. The BBU paid for all winter training.
- The IBU (International Biathlon Union) contribute a grant for all international competition which more or less covers expenses. Until this season this money was handed over in cash to the athletes. However in order to regulate IBU and NGB finances, the IBU decided that in future the grants would be paid directly into an NGB Euro Bank account.
- British athletes need to maintain a position in the top 22 of the Nations Cup in order to receive full funding from the IBU. If this isn't maintained, only two athletes will receive grants for international competition.
- The EC teams trained largely at their own expense, although the IBU grant funding to cover the costs of entering into international competition.
- Only £5,000 was spent on development, however this was some 10% of the BBU's income.

A surplus of approximately £7,000 had been predicted for this financial year, but the World Cup competition in Russia had not been costed. The Board now considers that it would be advisable for the WC team to attend in order to help their standing in the Nations Cup. The surplus therefore will be reduced to around £4,000.

When asked by The Director of the Army Sports Board how the BBU would spend any additional money provided by the Army Sports Board and how much would be needed, MG answered that development needs investment. BL, the Development Director, added that it requires as much as is necessary to provide good coaches.

ITEMS 6 & 7 – THE RE-ELECTION AND ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The Chairman thanked the tellers and announced the results of the election of directors.

63 voting papers were received

Mark Goodson:	61 votes	98%
Chris Brown:	61 votes	98%
Eddy Lowe:	63 votes	100%

All three candidates were duly elected.

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 2007 was proposed by John Leaning, seconded by Jeremy Hopwood and unanimously accepted.

ITEM 9 – SKANDIA SPONSORSHIP

The Chairman remarked that without Skandia UK's sponsorship and the army's agreement to match it, the meeting would not be taking place, and thanked them both. He stated that Skandia have set the pace in the national sporting world by sponsoring both a minor winter sport and a major summer one. Lord Moynihan has suggested the possibility of extending financial sponsorships to becoming more of business partnership with help being offered in kind. This proposal is being looked at on 14th February.

ITEM 10 – THE INTERNATIONAL BIATHLON UNION AND OWGs 2010 & 2014. SUMMER OLYMPICS LONDON 2012

The International Biathlon Union

Eddy Lowe and Mark Goodson had attended the biannual IBU Congress in Khanty Mansiysk Russia. No major rule changes were announced. Britain has managed to retain three start places at World Cup level. Mark Goodson was appointed to the IBU Information Committee. It is possible that with the increasing amount of nations entering international competition a two tier system of competition may eventually be introduced.

Olympic Winter Games 2010 & 2014/ Summer Olympics 2012

The 2010 OWG will be held in Vancouver, Canada with Biathlon in Whistler where the altitude is relatively low, so there will not be the problems encountered at Salt Lake City in 2002.

All British Olympic sports are committed to supporting the 2012 London Olympics. However as some winter sports (e.g. Biathlon) are not lottery funded their budgets have been further affected by funding being withdrawn to support wider GBR participation in 2012.

It was pointed out that the current GB developing biathletes will be peaking in time for the 2014 OWG.

ITEM 11 – ABU & BBU COACHING AND DEVELOPMENT COURSES

The Chairman stated that the BBU believes in giving as much as it can towards development, and that the results at the current championships are proving the value of the training given. He pointed out that the Development Director, Bill Laurence, has done an enormous amount despite his absence in Iraq and has recently opened a healthy debate with the athletes and the BBU Board about development.

BL said that the focus for junior development during 2006 had been East Grange Biathlon Centre (EGBC) and thanked Gordon Seaton for his dedication and commitment to training biathletes. Most of those now in the team had been through East Grange. However he acknowledged that the BBU cannot be complacent about development and need to listen to the athletes. Those that had taken part in the recent debate were thanked for their contributions. The BBU is hoping to secure the services of Marc Walker in order to bridge the gap in development between EGBC and the international teams. Liz Burgess has also offered her services to fill the gap in admin support, and it is hoped that the BBU will be able to accept this. Talks are taking place to formalise links with the Bundeswehr in Bavaria, and extra funding from the Army should also help to improve developing biathletes. Finally he announced the BBU's willingness to listen to any ideas for development from its members.

DC thanked BL for both his time and the many ideas for development that had been put forward.

ITEM 12 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

ITEM 13 – THE CHAIRMAN’S CLOSING REMARKS

The Chairman thanked the BBU Board members who do as much as is possible to promote the sport and the interests of the athletes through development, support and the efforts to procure more funding for the athletes. He pointed out that Lord Moynihan had donated his BOA honorarium towards funding winter sports asking industry to match it. The BBU received £6,000 of the resulting fund.