

**MINUTES OF THE 11th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE BRITISH BIATHLON UNION**
held in the Ost Tirol Biathlon Centre, Obertilliach, Austria
on Monday 28th January 2008

BBU BOARD

PRESENT:

Chris Brown CBE	(CB)	Director, Army Nordic
David Cranston CBE	(DC)	Chairman
Mark Goodson	(MG)	Secretary General and Finance Director
Bill Laurence	(BL)	Development and Special Projects Director
Eddy Lowe BEM	(EL)	Technical and Performance Director
André Oszmann	(AO)	Co-opted Board Member

IN ATTENDANCE

Adele Walker	(AW)	Athletes' Representative
Pippa Cranston		Board Secretary

APOLOGIES

Charles Brooks	(CBr)	Hon Legal Adviser
Jeremy Hopwood	(JH)	Sponsorship and Marketing Director
Colin Jackson CBE	(CJ)	President

BBU Members: 63 Members were in attendance.

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ITEM 1 – INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming members, particularly new members and was delighted to see representatives from Skandia (the BBU sponsor) among their number.

Colin Jackson (the BBU President) had apologised that his BBC commitments had prevented him from being present at the meeting, but sent his congratulations to all the athletes for reaching the level of competition required for the National Championships. The Chairman said that during the year CJ has represented the BBU whenever he could.

ITEM 2 - MINUTES OF THE 10th AGM

The minutes of the 10th AGM held on 3rd February 2007 were presented as a true record of the meeting. Chris Brown proposed that the minutes were accepted, the proposal was seconded by Paul Wibley and no objections were raised. The minutes were accepted and signed by the Chairman.

ITEM 3 – MATTERS ARISING ON ITEM 2

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the 10th AGM.

ITEM 4 – CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

A copy of the Chairman's report had been distributed to all those attending.

As always I would like to congratulate all British Biathletes who have reached the demanding standard required participating in the 2008 British National and Army Biathlon Championships. Particularly noteworthy are those athletes in the British National teams who are competing in the World and European Cup competitions and World and European Championships during this season.

For those attending the Annual General Meeting for the first time, the British Biathlon Union (BBU) exists to encourage, promote, develop and control the sport of biathlon in the United Kingdom. Without this National Governing Body, no British biathlete would be able to compete at International or Olympic level. To qualify for the Olympic Winter Games is, of course, the ultimate achievement for any biathlete. The BBU hopes to be able to provide sufficient support to our top biathletes to enable one man and one woman to qualify for the 2010 Winter Games in Vancouver. We also retain the aspiration to be able to regain a position in the top twenty of the Men's Nations Cup, so that we can try to qualify more than one male athlete for the 2010 Games and beyond.

During the last season the BBU provided as much support as possible for both the World Cup and European Cup athletes. Jason Sklenar has continued as the Senior Team Coach with Martin Glasgow filling the vital role of wax technician, and we have been very fortunate also to have the services of Marc Walker as a Team Coach. The continuing lack of a Team Manager remains a major weakness and has meant that Coaches and athletes have had to fulfil this role. At the end of the season the Men's World Cup Team maintained their 22nd place in the world rankings and the Women's World Cup Team did likewise to finish 24th.

Sadly, and notwithstanding the increased support and emphasis on summer training in Scotland, Germany, Sweden and Austria, the results during the current season are not as good as we would all like. A new IBU quota system has resulted in GBR having only one athlete starting in most World Cups, and although most of our athletes are performing better than last season, so are those from other Nations! This has seen the Men drop to 23rd and the Women to 26th place in the world rankings. No matter how talented and

dedicated the athletes are, this underlines the problems facing British biathlon. Much as we would wish to, currently the BBU simply can not afford a sustained world class coaching programme, nor the necessary infrastructure, to enable GBR to regain a coveted "Top 20" position and therefore 4 start places in the Olympic Winter Games.

On a brighter and more positive note, my personal and the BBU Board's, in fact the whole of the British biathlon family's thanks, go to Skandia for their continuing sponsorship of the BBU. That and the British Army's funding and support have enabled the BBU to function as a credible national governing body, at least until the next Olympic Winter Games.

Skandia's input has also extended beyond their generous sponsorship. Our past President, Lord Colin Moynihan now Chairman of the British Olympic Association, initiated a "FTSE 100" project where major British companies established a "Business Partnership" with a nominated sport. Skandia are a founder member of this initiative with British Biathlon as their nominated sport. Through this the BBU is being provided with increasing practical help from Skandia, to improve the way we operate and to enhance our support of the athletes.

The BBU Board continues to work hard to do as much as possible to help, encourage and sustain all current and developing British biathletes. I would like to thank all Board members for their hard work and for the considerable contributions they have made during the last year.

DC emphasised the Board's gratitude to the coaches for shouldering much of the extra work caused by lack of a team manager. The Board are struggling to give as much as possible to the teams from finite resources. He thanked all the Board members for their contributions, both in terms of time and financial commitment. Finally he thanked Skandia for making a significant contribution to both support and promote the development of the sport..

ITEM 5 – ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30TH APRIL 2007

The Finance Director apologised that, because the paperwork had not reached the auditors in time, he could not present the audited accounts and Directors' Report to the meeting. However he assured the meeting that they would reach Companies House by the due date and warned of a double whammy at the next AGM!

However, he had prepared a summary of the accounts for 2006/2007, which were distributed to the meeting. These were briefly explained and compared to those of the 2005/2006 financial year also distributed. There was little difference – expenditure on athletes for 2005/2006 was £49,425 and for 2006/2007: £47,290.

He highlighted that the BBU were very fortunate that Skandia had agreed to sponsor the BBU, as although income was received from the Army, it didn't cover costs, and that income previously received by winter sports from the BOA had been cut drastically because of the 2012 London Olympics. The sport is also very fortunate that the International Biathlon Union contribute to all nations, which is not always the case with international governing bodies.

However with finite resources, there are expenses that cannot be costed in the budget. These the Board try to resolve, and are grateful for the athletes' contributions out of their own pockets. The Board is delighted that they have been able to increase support for the EC athletes.

He forecast that the 2007/2008 year will again be more or less the same, but warned that 2008/2009 is likely to be an expensive year, as some World Cup competitions and the World Championships are being held in far flung places, increasing travel costs considerably.

Brigadier John McIntosh pointed out that the athletes' CILOR contribution from the Army should not be shown as grants from the Army. The Board agreed to look into this.

ITEMS 6, 7 & 8 – THE RE-ELECTION AND ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

There were four vacancies for the BBU Board. The three-year tenure of Board Members David Cranston and Bill Laurence had expired and there were two other vacancies. DC and BL were standing for re-election and there was one other nominee, Mr André Oszmann. 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 9 – THE APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

Carl Carrier proposed the appointment of King, Morter, Proud & Co., Chartered Accountants of Kings Arms Vaults, Watton, Brecon, Powys as auditors for the year ending 30th April 2008. This was seconded by John McIntosh and unanimously accepted.

ITEM 10 – SKANDIA SPONSORSHIP OF THE BBU & SKANDIA/BOA FTSE INITIATIVE

The Chairman stated that the Skandia sponsorship has made, and is making, a considerable difference to the British Biathlon Union and that the sport has been extremely fortunate. In addition, Colin Moynihan, ex-president of the BBU, now Chairman of the BOA, has started an initiative in the form of a Business Partnership between sponsors and sponsored. Skandia is one of the founder members of the Business Partnership and the BBU are benefiting as the partnership evolves. For example, the provision of Blackberries and also Vicky Bramley's presence at the Championships in her role as co-ordinator for business support, which will help her to assess how Skandia can support the BBU, both in kind and in ideas for moving the Skandia involvement with the BBU forward.

AO replied that it was a pleasure for Skandia to be involved, and they were determined to make positive difference. He was sure that by this time next year the fruits of the partnership should be visible.

ITEM 11 – INTERNATIONAL BIATHLON UNION REPORT

MG explained that the International Biathlon Union is the international governing body for biathlon and has 65 federal members. The BBU is a fully-fledged member. The IBU is growing in size and has a helpful user friendly HQ. GBR is much respected as the IBU was formed in 1993 at London Heathrow and English is the main working language spoken. MG is often asked to lead discussions and is on the IBU Information committee.

This year the IBU have introduced a new qualifying system, which is causing some disquiet among the smaller nations, as only the top 90 athletes will qualify for World Cup start places. This is resulting in an imbalance in national representation. MG has been in

negotiations with the Secretary General and has been invited to a special meeting to take place in Norway to discuss the matter, prior to a resolution for acceptance of the new system being put forward at the IBU Congress later this year. If GBR approve, it is likely that the resolution will be passed, but if GBR vote against it, it is probable that other small nations will follow suit.

The 2010 Olympic Winter Games will start on 12th February in Vancouver, Canada. The venue is split, with Biathlon taking place at Whistler. Currently GBR has one male and one female start place if athletes qualify. Qualification starts next season and athletes were warned that the BOA continue to have more stringent qualification parameters than the international ones.

However, MG pointed out that today's athletes should be focussing on the 2014 OWG in Sochi, Russia, as the average age on the biathlon podiums was 31 for females and 32 for males.

ITEM 12 – BOA, UKSPORT; “LONDON 2012”

DC reported that London 2012 was the main topic of BOA meetings, although Vancouver 2010 was given due consideration. He commented that biathlon was well represented on the BOA Executive Board, as not only was he a member of the Board, but Simon Clegg, Chief Executive of the BOA, was an ex biathlete and the Chairman, Colin Moynihan (CM), ex President of the BBU. CM donates the honorarium he receives for being Chairman to winter sports. This is matched by the BOA and MG will be applying for a grant from this fund.

ITEM 13 - ABU & BBU COACHING AND DEVELOPMENT COURSES

BL thanked Gordon Seaton (GS) and Scotty Banes for providing both direct and indirect support for the National Development Squad (NDS) during the past couple of seasons. Training for the NDS will again take place at East Grange Biathlon Centre this year and at the end of the meeting the selection will be announced. However, the BBU will be looking at all the options for development during the forthcoming year, including the development of a larger number of women athletes.

The Army have also stated their intention to produce better-resourced, better-packaged development courses in the future, as well as providing funding for participation in IBU qualification courses.

After a lively debate at the Board Meeting this morning, the BBU and Skandia are proposing to hold a Strategy Day to form long term plans for the development and promotion of biathlon.

BL then told the floor that he was delighted to announce that the BBU had received an unexpected and very welcome grant from Skandia to be directed specifically towards development and coaching.

In reply to a question from the floor, BL stated that it was for the BBU Board, after consultation with the coaches, to decide where development training was to take place. There were many considerations to be taken into account and the Board had the full picture. GS pointed out that development was very different from coaching and it would be impractical to develop potential athletes alongside coaching experienced athletes.

In answer to the next question from the floor, at present there are no plans for a summer

biathlon, but if, after the Strategy Day with Skandia, it is decided that there should be one, the date will be published on the BBU website.

There were further questions about the process of selection for development. EL replied that although there was a three-man selection committee for the final decision of who was suitable for development, there is much help and discussion behind the scenes, with all factors such as age, time spent on snow etc. taken into consideration. Results in the Divisional meetings were also studied. Development is about potential and he urged any team captain who felt he had a team member with potential to bring the member to his attention at Team Captains' meetings.

DC expressed that he felt it was healthy that there were so many demanding questions from the members.

ITEM 14 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

BL, as Special Projects Director, brought the meeting's attention to Nicola Walker's sponsored charity cycle ride from Glasgow to London and from there to Calais and on to Nice. Some of the proceeds will be donated to the BBU and BL asked for members to think of ideas of how to support her and let him know.

ITEM 15 – CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING COMMENTS

The Chairman pointed out that there was a spare place on the BBU Board and that it would be good to have Board members who had competed more recently than some of the present members.

The Chairman thanked the tellers and announced the results of the election of Directors. 63 voting papers were received

David Cranston	54
Bill Laurence	60
André Oszmann	61

All three candidates were duly elected.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 6.34pm

Signed by:

David Cranston CBE
Chairman, British Biathlon Union

Date: