

MINUTES OF THE 5TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF

THE BRITISH BIATHLON UNION

Held at The Hotel Neuwirt, Ruhpolding, on

Saturday 2nd February 2002

BBU BOARD

PRESENT

Lord Moynihan	(CM)	President
David Cranston CBE	(DC)	Chairman
Mark Goodson	(MG)	Performance & Finance Director
Eddy Lowe	(EL)	Technical Director
Jock Inkster	(JI)	Director Army Nordic
Alastair Dargie	(AD)	PR & Marketing
John Leaning	(JL)	Liaison & External

IN ATTENDANCE

Tom Kay	(TK)	General Secretary & Team Manager
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APOLOGIES

Charles Brooks	(CB)	Hon Legal Adviser
Michael Dixon	(MD)	Athletes' Representative
Graeme Ferguson	(GF)	Membership/Coaching Director
Ian Woods	(IW)	Team Coach

BBU Members: 33 Members were in attendance.

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ITEM 1 – INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

DC welcomed CM to the 5th Annual General Meeting of the British Biathlon Union and thanked all those present for attending the meeting.

ITEM 2 – MINUTES OF THE 4TH AGM

DC presented the minutes of the 4th AGM as a true reflection of the meeting and no objections were raised. The minutes were accepted and signed by DC.

ITEM 3 – MATTERS ARISING ON ITEM 2

It was agreed that there were no matters arising that were not covered by the Agenda.

ITEM 4 – CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

DC stated that it had been a year of hard work for the athletes and thanked them, stating that the Board was fully aware of the effort and commitment required to train and compete in the sport of biathlon . It had also been a year of hard work for the Board. All are volunteers, with the part time exception of MG and most have full time jobs. The lead up to a Olympic Winter Games creates a particularly heavy work load and DC thanked the Board stating that, while it was difficult to highlight any particular members he would especially like to thank MG, upon whom the greatest burden had fallen and TK, who, as Team Manager, had more than anticipated thrust upon him and he had coped superbly.

DC was delighted to say the World Cup team had exceeded expectation and were still nineteenth in the world, rather than the anticipated twentieth. The aspiration had been for five men and one woman to qualify for the Olympic Winter Games 2002. In the event Mike Dixon and Fred Gee had achieved individual qualification. The Mens' relay team had also qualified. Great Britain had fielded full men's teams on both the World Cup and Europa Cup Circuits and had taken part in the ladies World Cup events. All this would not have been possible without a national sporting body: the British Biathlon Union. The fact that four athletes were on their way to the Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City was a tremendous achievement both individually and collectively, and the Chairman congratulated them and in particular Mike Dixon who will be the only British winter sports athlete to participated in six Olympic Winter Games and only the third British sportsman to have achieved six Olympics. DC announced that CM was going to Salt Lake City to see and encourage the Olympic biathletes.

ITEM 5 – FUTURE PLANS

- 5.1 The BBU intends to continue to provide as much financial and technical support to biathletes as possible. Unfortunately it cannot necessarily meet all its aspirations.
- 5.2 The Board intends to revise the current 10 year Development Plan.

- 5.3 There is a need to channel support and resources more efficiently. Resources are not unlimited, but after six years the Board is becoming more “streetwise” and aware of more avenues to explore.
- 5.4 Despite much effort, the Board feels that it is not making the best of the potential among the athletes and will review procedures to channel available knowledge and expertise accordingly.
- 5.5 The search for a major sponsor will continue. There has been some minor sponsorship e.g. the BBU Aberdeen Asset Management Challenge, but obtaining sponsorship is notoriously difficult. CM has been particularly active on this front and was thanked by DC.

ITEM 6 – COACHING AND DEVELOPMENT

GF was unable to attend due to illness, but MG stated that last May GF, on behalf of the BBU, ran a very successful course for biathlon coaches at Deepcut sponsored by the ABU. This course will be repeated during the last week in April 2002, details yet to be announced. It was noted that the coaches from other sports who had lectured at the first course were, very impressed with the calibre of the BBU junior coaches. Work has started to get Coachwise UK to recognize the qualification, but because of the nature of the sport, it is proving complicated. Gordon Seaton has liased with the National Rifle Association to recognise the shooting coaches course he runs.(There are now twelve recognized National Rifle Association Biathlon Coaches.) TBC at the next Board meeting.

DC emphasised that coaching was a vital part of development. If the coaching was right then keen junior skiers would improve more quickly and will be more likely to stay with the sport.

ITEM 7 – BBU FUNDING

- 7.1 MG acknowledged that the BBU rely enormously on the Army for administration, financial and development support.
- 7.2 He went into some detail in outlining the income and expenditure of the BBU. He made the point that over 50% of the funding comes from the Army, some through the ABU. Because it was an Olympic year, income from the BOA and UK Sport had increased the BBU’s total income above previous years. Last year there was a small grant from the Royal Marines, which he hoped would be repeated this season.
- 7.3 He gave a brief outline of the complicated accounting procedures and stated that audited accounts cannot show a full picture of the amounts involved in running the teams and the British Championships, because so much came in kind from the Army or through the ABU, or was cash paid directly to the teams from the IBU. However the team accounts are carefully kept, are independently checked at the end of the season, and can be viewed on request.
- 7.4 Despite the paucity of resources the BBU had managed to keep 16 athletes on the International circuit.

- 7.5 The only guaranteed income for the 2002/2003 season was a grant from HQ Land for £25,000 and money received from BBU membership. The BBU Board will continue to try and match resources to commitments.

ITEM 8 – ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDING 30 APRIL 2000

The abbreviated accounts for the year ending 30th April 2000 were presented to the meeting, having been audited since the last AGM. A proposal to accept the accounts was made from the floor, seconded and the audited accounts presented by MG were accepted.

ITEM 9 – ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDING 30TH APRIL 2001

- 9.1 MG presented the audited accounts for the year ending 30th April 2001. He gave a full explanation to those present.
- 9.2 The accounts for the year ending April 20th 2001 were proposed and accepted from the floor.

ITEM 10 – RE-ELECTION OF DAVID CRANSTON AS A DIRECTOR

- 10.1 DC informed the meeting that there were two vacancies on the Board. DC was prepared to stand for re-election, but JL was standing down. He explained that the Board could comprise of between seven and eleven members, but that the present Board felt that the minimum number made for more efficient operation, particularly as there are four co-opted members.
- 10.2 DC informed the meeting that as there were only two candidates for the two vacancies, voting would be done on a show of hands and counted independently.
- 10.3 DC presented himself to the meeting and informed them that he was delighted that in future he would be able to devote more time to the BBU.
- 10.4 JL outlined DC's contribution to the BBU and highlighted the qualities he has brought both to the Board and the BBU. He strongly recommended that DC should be re-elected.
- 10.5 On a show of hands, 22 members voted for DC, 1 against and there were 10 abstentions.
- 10.6 DC was re-elected to the Board.

ITEM 11 – ELECTION OF TOM KAY AS DIRECTOR

DC informed the members that initially there had been only one nomination for the vacancy created by JL's retirement from the Board and the Board would have been delighted to have TK as a member. However as Richard Godfrey had put himself forward for consideration, TK had decided not to put his name forward. He is of course already co-opted on to the Board.

ITEM 12 – ELECTION OF RICHARD GODFREY AS A DIRECTOR

- 12.1 JI presented Richard Godfrey (RG) to the members. He noted that RG was a member of the British Olympic Medical Committee (BOMC) and has been working closely with the World Cup biathletes during the past season. During this time he has developed a high respect for the biathletes, whom he regards as very professional. He is also passionate about the sport of biathlon. As he is well connected with the BOA, he will be able to bring another dimension to the Board and would be warmly welcomed.
- 12.2 On a show of hands, there were 33 votes for Richard Godfrey, 0 against and no abstentions.
- 12.3 Richard Godfrey was elected to the Board.

ITEM 13 – APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

It was proposed and accepted that King, Morter, Proud & Co. ,Chartered Accountants of Kings Arms Vaults, Watton, Brecon, Powys should be appointed as auditors for the year ending 30th April 2002.

ITEM 14 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 14.1 AD, when asked why he had failed to deliver the undertakings made on his election to the Board two years previously, explained the personal circumstances that had prevented him from producing the anticipated number of newsletters. He stated that he had been active in liaising with SportScotland in setting standards for young promising athletes born in Scotland in order that they may receive grants, for example; Mike Dixon and Jason Sklenar already receive grants. He also gave ongoing input into the Board. DC added that there was a new procedure for the newsletter, which should ensure that it was produced, and on time and that much work by Board members went unseen.
- 14.2 In answer to a question from a team coach, EL stated that the main selection for the A and B teams was done during the British Championships, and that all races were taken into consideration. The request was made that the team coaches could be informed if the selection committee had identified a promising athlete. This was agreed.
- 14.3 The suggestion was made that the Board's relationship with its members was not open enough and that more use could be made of the website for disseminating information, such as selection criteria, decisions taken by the Board etc. DC replied that the whole operation of the BBU was being reviewed during the forthcoming year.
- 14.4 In answer to a question from the floor, DC stated that the Board recognised the problems of incentive for the Europa Cup Team and that the lack of a coach made training more difficult. The issue of coaching was a constant dilemma for the Board, limited resources have to be juggled between all the competing priorities.
- 14.5 The point was raised that the Europa Cup team members had been beaten by those in regimental teams and yet no new selection for the EC team had been made. In defence of the EC team, it was pointed out that they had had much training, racing

and travelling between competitions during the season, whereas regimental teams arrived at the British Championships comparatively fresh. On the question of selection of promising juniors, because there was no coach for the Europa Cup team, the Board felt that for the present it would be better for promising talent to stay with a club coach.

- 14.6 The comment was made that as money seemed such a stumbling block, why had the Board not sought more sponsorship. DC answered that the Board never missed an opportunity to promote Biathlon but that sponsorship is a tough arena.

ITEM 14 – PRESIDENT’S CLOSING REMARKS

CM stated that he was delighted to have the opportunity to be at the meeting. It was a President’s duty to serve the members and important not to lose sight of the priority ,ie supporting the athletes. He spoke about the difficulties of sponsorship for sports without a high profile and his endeavours to raise the profile of biathlon. He expressed his delight that Great Britain had both individuals and a relay team competing in OWG SLC 2002, and congratulated the athletes. He would be meeting them and hoped to get some media coverage during his forthcoming visit to SLC. This could help in the pursuit of sponsorship, which he described as ‘as hard as training’. He highlighted two subjects already mentioned: the Board’s review of the ten year development plan, which would be far reaching and he was impressed that points raised at this meeting had already been recognised by the Board. Secondly the Board’s overhaul of its own function and how to improve the service it provides to its membership within the constraints of a limited budget. He acknowledged the delicate balance between supporting the world-class athletes and providing facilities for the development of future athletes.

He welcomed the election of Richard Godfrey, whom he considered would be an asset and would strengthen an already strong Board.

He wished all present well in the next year and considered himself honoured to continue to serve the BBU membership.

The Chairman thanked CM for his presence at the meeting and his support for the BBU. DC also recognised JL’s long association with biathlon and thanked him for his enormous contribution to the founding of the BBU, and its development over the past six years. It was noted that he will continue his association with the BBU through his work with disabled sportsmen.

Signed by D A Cranston CBE _____ Date _____

Chairman British Biathlon Union

Attachment: Board Members with effect from 1st April 2002

BRITISH BIATHLON UNION

BOARD MEMBERS

WITH EFFECT FROM

MONDAY 1ST APRIL 2002

PRESIDENT

COLIN MOYNIHAN

MEMBERS:

DAVID CRANSTON

- **MARK GOODSON**
- **EDDY LOWE**
- **GRAEME FERGUSON**
- **JOCK INKSTER**
- **ALASTAIR DARGIE**
- **RICHARD GODFREY**

CO-OPTED MEMBERS

- **CHARLES BROOKS (Hon Legal Advisor)**
- **MICHAEL DIXON (Athletes' Rep)**
- **TOM KAY (Team Manager)**

Signed: _____

Name: **DAVID CRANSTON**

Appointment: **Chairman**