

**PRESENT:**

Rob Weighill	(RW)	Chairman
Roddy Christie	(RC)	Secretary General
Carl Carrier	(CC)	Member Elected Director
Richard Crawford	(RCr)	Finance Director
John Mead	(JM)	Director
Elizabeth Sedgwick	(ES)	Director
Iain Sheridan	(IS)	Honorary Legal Representative
Nicola Walker	(NW)	BBU Lottery Manager

**APOLOGIES:**

Action

**1. FORMALITIES**

- 1.1 Apologies & Conflicts.** There were no apologies or conflicts
- 1.2 Minutes of the 93<sup>rd</sup> BBU Board Meeting.** The Minutes of the 93<sup>rd</sup> Bd Mtg were accepted.
- 1.4 Matters Arising.** None that would not be discussed on the Agenda

**2. Overview and Scene Setting**

- 2.1** RW opened the meeting outlining what had taken place since the formation of the new board. In outline:
- Appointment of the board.
  - Handover of Sec Gen and Finance Director from Mark Goodson to RC and RCr respectively.
  - RW presented a brief update of the strategy meeting that took place in Nov 2017 in London (Minutes attached).
  - RW gave a further update of a smaller meeting with RC and IS to look at development of the strategy.
  - RW stated the world had moved on significantly since the previous Board Meeting, however the new board were still tackling legacy issues and it would be a while before a full focus on the future would be possible.
  - Overall the BBU is moving on and moving in the right direction.

**N/A**

### 3. Finance

#### 3.1 Finance Update. RCr reported that:

- He had taken over the bank accounts in UK and was in the process of taking over the German bank account
- Both accounts were now electronic
- He presented an outline forecast of income and expenditure to the board.
  - Forecast income to June 2018 = £65,000
  - Forecast Expenditure to June 2018 = £65,000
  - Expected bank balance @ 30 Jun 2018 = c £10,000 (across both accounts)
- Attendance at IBU/WC was effectively cost neutral to the BBU
- Olympic Grant had helped to subsidise the BBU and paid for the Swedish wax contract
- No athlete contributions had been received as yet. It was decided that there would be no action taken on this this year, however a clear policy would be on what the BBU would fund and what the athletes would fund would be in place for next year.
- It was also agreed to look at what other sports did for comparison.

RC/RCr

RC

#### 3.2 BBU Lottery. NW reported that the Lottery was doing well and had approximately £6.5 - £8k in it

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### 4. SPORT

#### 4.1 Current Ops. RC reported on:

- RW, RC and Sarah Greig had all been to Östersund, SWE; for the first WC. Gave a valuable opportunity to network with other nations and organisations working at WC level in Biathlon.
- Amanda Lightfoot and Scott Dixon's progress on the WC.
- Amanda Lightfoot selected for the OWG, she is supported by Ilario Maddalin as coach and Sarah Greig as Team Manager
- Scott Dixon was not selected for OWG.
- RC reported that we did not have the opportunity to conduct a proper selection for an IBU Cup team. There was no ability for military athletes to partake (see below). Those that did participate at IBU and IBU Jnr Cup events (Holly Rees-Lay and Sofie Hopkins) were allowed to do so because they had qualified. The remains a contentious issue and the aspiration is to run a series of training camps in the run up to the 2018-19 season and a formal selection.
- General feeling that participation in IBU Cup should be on merit but that there were a number of smaller events (regional/national champs) that athletes could and should take part in to get experience.

RC/CC

#### 4.2 Military Involvement.

- The military and in particular the Army, has pulled back significantly from Biathlon at a level above Ex Rucksack.
- Public funding for sport is proving to be a challenge with reducing budgets in the military.
- There is no appetite to return to an ABDS style system.
- Current Army regulations do not allow individual athletes to take part in civilian organised biathlon training or competition whilst 'on duty'.

- Military biathletes therefore need to be off duty – meaning they are on leave – and they are not therefore permitted to utilise a military biathlon rifle.
- Overall it is an internal Army/Military issue, however it has an effect in the short term on the number of athletes available to take part in IBU & WC and will continue to do so unless the policy is changed, or sufficient civilian athletes are identified.
- JM to look into clarifying the military position.

**JM**

## **5. EXTERNAL AGENCIES**

**5.1** **BOA.** RW attended the previous NOC meeting. Much focus was on OWG. There was also emphasis on Governance and the need to engender an open and accepting culture in all sports.

**5.2** **UK Sport.** RC and RW are looking to meet Katharine Grainger in the near future to start to familiarise her with Biathlon.

**RW**

**4.4** **IBU.** IBU, in particular Borut Nunar the WC Race Director, have been extremely helpful and encouraging in the run up to OWG. They are keen to help develop the smaller nations and are actively looking to support us. We need to:

- Identify when the IBU camps and events are taking place and look to get involved to increase exposure and understanding

**RC**

## **5 STRATEGY & GOVERNANCE**

- 5.1**
- The board agreed that the Army could no longer be relied upon as the sole source of funds and athletes. That is not to say that the board did not feel that there should be a strong relationship between BBU and the Army.
  - The board agreed that overall BBU needs to widen and deepen engagement in biathlon across Britain and the diaspora in order to sustain the sport in the long run.
  - Vision remained the same – to put a biathlete on the podium at OWG within 15 years.
  - The board identified 10 priorities:
    - Money – to sustain the sport/organisation
    - Website, Info Management, IT – to get the message out
    - Social Media – as above
    - Stakeholder Engagement – to generate support
    - Structure – to conform to UK Sport and deliver best effect
    - Strategy – something to work to!
    - Terms of Reference – Clarity of purpose for individuals
    - Training – Of new and existing athletes
    - Development – of new and existing athletes
    - Event Management – long term – to generate revenue and widen engagement
  - Greatest priority is funding. The board agreed to identify 100 companies that could be targeted for sponsorship. *(Postscript – advice following the board meeting was to hold off on seeking commercial sponsorship at this stage, as any organisation would need to be reassured that the BBU was*

**All**

**RW/RC**

*viable to protect its reputational risk*). Notwithstanding the above it was agreed that funding stream was required to support BBU activities.

**5.2 Short Term Plans.** In the near term the board agreed to:

- Look to try and identify a source of funding.
- Look at a training and selection plan for the 2018-19 season.
- Seek opportunities to market the BBU to the wider public and potential sponsors.
- Look at links with GB Nordic.
- Resolve and clarify the issues surrounding military athlete participation.

**RW/RC  
RC/CC**

**RC/RW  
RC/CC  
JM**

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**6 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**6.1 Date of Next Meeting.** TBN likely in the Summer.

**RC**

*The Meeting closed at 17:15 BST.*

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**Signed by: RPM Weighill (E-Signed)**

**Date:21/05/2018**

**Rob Weighill  
Chairman**

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