



Board Meeting #7 Minutes	07.03.2022
Meeting of the Board of Officials	4:30pm-7:30pm
#7	Approved for Publish

Attendees:

Tom Thornhill (TT) President, Christian Carter (CC) Senior Affiliated League Commissioner, Erik Gustafson (EG) National Teams Programme Official, Lee Manning (LM) Development Official, Earl Dix (ED) Secretary, Chris Deacon (CD) Officials Commissioner

Apologies:

None

7.1 Chair's Welcome, introductions and apologies

TT said thank you for attending this meeting.

7.2 Declaration of Interests

Declarations were as follows: EG Commissioner at Londonsports. CC associated with Kent Buccaneers Baseball Club, LM Currently on a sub-contract with BSUK also associated with LYBL and Herts Baseball. TT Associated with the Norwich Icenis Baseball Club and the East of England Baseball League. CD Associated with Legends Baseball.

7.3 Review and Approval of Minutes of the previous Board meeting(s)

EG suggested a process for how minutes should be agreed including prior distribution and board members having the opportunity to amend before the next meeting. ED and TT agreed to take the issue offline and propose a process. The minutes were not agreed.

7.4 Action Points from Previous Minutes

All actions from the previous meeting were cleared a part from:

Action - CD to check that the correct version of the constitution is in place.

Action - TT to publish the updated version of the constitution on the website.

Action – CD to chase WB-UK for minutes of the joint meeting held.

Action - ED to forward the issue regarding facilities with WB-UK, especially where women play or watch.

Action - TT to listen back to the recording of the meeting to clarify the discussion points about the funding for the Women's GB programme and the need to clarify exactly what those requirements were.

Action ED to complete the minutes of the previous meetings for the approval of the board at the next meeting.

Action - CC, LM and CD to agree wording to add to the handbook.

7.5 Officials Reports

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7.5.1 Financial Report (Chris Deacon)

CD discussed penalties for clubs who hadn't paid by a certain time or did not comply with payment plan. CD to refer to AOB.

CD summarised the finance report to the Board– looked at budget then explained the variances and how he designed the accounts.

7.5.2 Chair's Report (Tom Thornhill)

CD asked if there were any additional MLB activities that the BBF could assist with later in the year. TT suggested that the Leagues and Affiliations Committee take any actions of this nature forward.

7.5.3 National Teams Programme Official Report (Erik Gustafson)

EG summarised the current situation in respect to the Collaboration Agreement (CA).

EG agreed that an agreement with BSUK on the CA would provide a net positive benefit, although again EG highlighted that such an agreement should not be signed if the BBF risked losing control of the MSNT. EG finally noted that the deadline for execution of the contract was 31 March.

EG summarised the current investment cycle featured in the CA. This is for an Olympics (Paris24) that did not have Baseball as part of its programme. The more important investment cycle for GB Baseball was related to LA28 – and that there had not been any confirmation from UK Sport that it would provide a further grant to our sport which is not on any official Olympic programme.

A final agreed execution version would then be the subject of a BBF Board resolution to be drafted by EG.

EG summarised that he did not believe that there would be a need for the Board to formally meet, but that the Board members could vote to approve the draft Board resolution via email. However, if the recommendation by EG was that the BBF not sign this contract, he did envision that an emergency Board meeting would need to be convened.

Nevertheless, EG highlighted that an emergency Board meeting could be convened at any time if the Board so decided.

7.5.4 Senior Affiliated Clubs Leagues Commissioner Report (Chris Carter)

There were no additions or questions from CC or the attendees.

7.5.5 Development Official Report (Lee Manning)

There were no additional questions from the attendees.

ED asked about the development of Elite athletes and umpires relating to the BSUK High Performance Academy.

LM assured that actions were underway and he would report to the board when specifics were known. There was also discussion from the Board about Baseball5 and how it could be developed.

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7.5.6 Secretary's Report (Earl Dix)

TT asked about the LGBTQ+ policy that ED is working on alongside WB-UK. He said that he had suggested following guidance Sports Council Equality Group (SCEG). He is awaiting a reply from WB-UK.

Action ED to seek agreement of a suitable LGBTQ+ guidance policy with WB-UK.

7.5.7 Officials Commissioner Report (Chris Deacon)

There were no additions or questions from CD or the attendees.

7.6 NBCs & YNBCs 2022 Structure

CC elaborated to the Board on the proposed NBCs and YNBCs and costs. The Board voted in favour of CC's recommendation of Option two. Option two included utilising more of the Farnham Park Baseball and Softball Facility as part of the NBCs, which includes a total cost of £3,520 (£270 over budget).

7.7 BSUK Proposed Meeting

The Board Agreed with TT's proposal to set up a meeting with BSUK.

Action: TT to set up date and agenda.

7.8 EEBL Affiliation

TT voluntarily abstained from the discussion.

The Board discussed the possibility of the East of England Baseball League Affiliating. There were noted to be a number of complexities relating to the potential affiliation of the organisation. No decisions were made by the Board.

Action: EG to speak with the insurers

Action: CD, CC and LM to form a panel to consider the issues surrounding EEBL affiliation

7.9 Disciplinary Proposal

The Board voted in favour of CC's proposal to advertise for an Assistant League Commissioner to assist CC in dealing with on field disciplinary incidents.

7.10 Committees Proposal

This item was not discussed.

7.11 Letter from the BBF to WBSC re Ukraine/Russia

This item was not discussed.

7.12 IRIS/UK Sport; Approval of the Terms of Reference

This item was not discussed.

7.13 Board Confidentiality

CC discussed board confidentiality about what happened at Board meetings. The issue was not resolved and the meeting ended.

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7.14 Next Board Meeting Date & Location

This item was not discussed.

7.15 AOB

No AOB

- *End of Meeting* -