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**MINUTES OF THE 12th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE BRITISH BIATHLON UNION
held in the Kultursaal Obertilliach, Austria
on Monday 26th January 2009**

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
André Oszmann	(AO)	Commercial Director

IN ATTENDANCE

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

APOLOGIES

Charles Brooks	(CBr)	Hon Legal Adviser
Chris Brown CBE	(CB)	Vice Chairman & Director Army Liaison for the BBU

BBU Members: 75 Members were in attendance.

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ITEM 1 – INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed all British Biathlon Union members to the 12th Annual General Meeting. He introduced the BBU Board and congratulated all the athletes who had attained the grade to compete in the National Biathlon Championships, with particular mention of those who achieved the standard to compete internationally as members of the National teams.

ITEM 2 - MINUTES OF THE 11th AGM

The minutes of the 11th AGM held on 28th January 2008 were presented as a true record of the meeting. Bob Anderson proposed that the minutes were accepted, was seconded by Mark Crisp 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 11th AGM.

ITEM 4 – CHAIRMAN’S ANNUAL REPORT

The Chairman’s annual report had previously been presented to the assembly. He highlighted the following points

During the 2007/2008 season, the BBU Board used all available resources to support the national athletes and develop potential talent. Thanks to extra sponsorship from Skandia International, a new Team Coach, Walter Pichler, was appointed at the end of the season. He is supported by Jason Sklenar and Marc Walker on coaching aspects and Martin Glasgow as the wax technician. However, the continued lack of a Team Manager is still a matter of great concern and the Board is grateful to Mark Goodson, the coaches and members of the teams for fulfilling the duties that should fall to a Team Manager.

The standard of international competition continues to rise and although the performance of our national athletes also improved, at the end of the season, GBR Men were 24th in the world rankings and GBR Women maintained their 26th position. It also means that it is an even greater achievement that this season, and for the first season ever, the British Women’s team have qualified for a Women’s World Cup relay team.

The Chairman expressed regrets that Colin Jackson has found that his new commercial contracts leave him too little time to fully support the BBU. He very much regrets having to relinquish his appointment as BBU President and he wishes the BBU all the best for the future.

As well as supporting the athletes, the Board continues to represent the BBU strongly in the wider context. Mark Goodson is a vocal member of the IBU Information Committee and hosted a meeting of the Committee in London last year. He and Eddy Lowe

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attended the biennial IBU Congress in September and the GB input to this body is highly respected. DC represents the BBU on the UK National Olympic Committee and is currently the Winter Sports member of the BOA Executive Board. In this role Colin Moynihan, BOA Chairman and formerly BBU President, has asked him to chair a Winter Sports Commission. This involves all WS NGBs and the aim is to examine the support the BOA provides for winter sports, particularly in the context of 2012 and legacy of that event.

The Board, with considerable help from Skandia International, ran a successful Strategy Day last July which included the BBU Board, members of the national team and some Skandia executives. This has led to a number of initiatives, including the start of a project to see how the BBU might further improve its organisation and governance.

DC stated that he had mentioned only a small part of the work the BBU Board continues to do to help, encourage and sustain all current and developing British biathletes. He thanked all Board members for their hard work and for the considerable contributions they have made during the past year.

On behalf of all British biathletes, he thanked Skandia International for their continuing sponsorship of the BBU. That and the British Army's funding and support have enabled the BBU to continue to function as a credible national governing body, at least until the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games.

He commented that many attending would be aware that Skandia's input extends beyond their generous sponsorship. As the BBU's "Business Partner", and as a founder member of this BOA initiative, the BBU is being provided with increasing practical help from Skandia, to improve the way it operates and to enhance support to the athletes. This can only be of considerable benefit to the BBU and the Board are very grateful for the time and effort that several individuals within Skandia International contribute.

ITEM 5 – ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30TH APRIL 2007 & 30TH APRIL 2008

5.1 ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30TH APRIL 2007

The Finance Director, Mark Goodson, (MG) explained that although the accounts for the year ending 30th April 2007 now before the membership, had been presented in spreadsheet form at the 11th AGM, they had now been audited and were lodged with Companies House. However, it was still necessary that they received formal acceptance.

He briefly highlighted various changes in income during the financial period such as the reduction in the UK Sport grant and the additional sponsorship from Skandia. He told the meeting that £89,336 had been spent directly on the athletes and that less than one fifth of income had been spent on administration (his salary, meetings, fees etc.) At the end of the year there was a surplus of £4,092.

The meeting unanimously agreed that the accounts should be accepted.

5.2 – ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30TH APRIL 2008

Again MG briefly explained the legal documents required by Companies House. He

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outlined areas where there had been changes during the year. The fluctuations in CILOR (food rebates for military athletes) are because this is dependent upon the number of athletes. Hitherto these rebates have been issued by the units and had always been a bit of a muddle, but thanks to Liz Winfield, this has now been sorted out and centralised. The attendance grants from the International Biathlon Union (funded largely by TV sponsorship and distributed among competing nations) had increased and now accounted for approximately 40% of the BBU annual income. Thanks to the business partnership with Skandia, there had been a big reduction in telephone charges, as Skandia had provided a number of BlackBerries for key members of the National Teams and the Board. The Secretary General had been given a backdated pay rise, which was reflected in the accounts, although the figure given also includes travel expenses.

During the year income had amounted to £126,645 of which £93,268 had been spent on the national athletes, £5,859 on Development (either at EGBC or Lofer) and £27,875 on general running costs. Although expenditure slightly exceeded income, the surplus from the previous year offset this and there was a surplus of £2,111 at the end of the year.

The accounts for the year ending 30th April 2008 were unanimously accepted.

The question of whether centralised CILOR could be devolved to the teams was raised. This was deflected to Chairman Army Nordic, as it is a military matter.

In response to a further question from the floor, MG confirmed that the BBU does have a Euro Bank account and tries to pay as much as possible in the appropriate currency.

ITEMS 6 – THE RE-ELECTION OF JEREMY HOPWOOD

There were four vacancies for the BBU Board. The three-year tenure of Board Member Jeremy Hopwood (JH) had expired and there were three other vacancies. JH was standing for re-election and there was no other nominee. It was explained that to be elected the nominee must achieve 50% of the votes of those attending the meeting. After voting had taken place, the election papers were collected for counting.

ITEM 7 – THE ELECTION OF OTHER MEMBERS NOMINATED AS A DIRECTOR

There were no other members nominated for the post of Director

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 2009 was proposed by Andrew Herrod, seconded by Paul Whibley and unanimously accepted.

ITEM 9 – INTERNATIONAL BIATHLON UNION REPORT

MG reported that there has been some restructuring at the IBU after Peter Bayer, the

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Secretary General retired.

The biennial IBU Congress was held in Prague during September 2008. Representatives of 52 nations attended and MG and EL represented the BBU. Amongst other matters discussed, there was a proposal from the IBU to decrease the percentage qualification for World Cup events from 20% behind the first three to 17% in order to reduce the numbers on the start line. Congress rejected this proposal.

The introduction of the IBU Cup as a stepping-stone to World Cup has also caused the introduction of Trimesters during the season and athletes need to qualify for a start place for each Trimester. The result for the smaller nations has meant movement between the two Cup venues, which has caused considerable logistic and financial problems.

The qualification for the 2010 Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver has been set at 2 15% results at World Cup competition up to and including WC 5 next season. Britain will only be able to send one man and one woman athlete plus one support staff for each, but the hope is that if the teams continue to improve, by Sochi 2014 we will be sending 4 men and 4 women.

The World Championships will be held in Ruhpolding GER in 2012 and in Nove Mesto CZE in 2013.

ITEM 10 –BOA UK SPORT; “LONDON 2010”

In view of the 2012 London Olympic Games, the BOA has needed to restructure in order to change their commercial strategy. Simon Clegg, a former manager of the British Biathlon Team, has retired as CEO and Chef de Mission and has been replaced with a new Chief Executive.

Unfortunately UK Sport currently has a policy of only reinforcing success and the smaller sports receive no funding for development in order to achieve podium places.

ITEM 11 - ABU & BBU COACHING AND DEVELOPMENT COURSES

The Development Director, Bill Laurence (BL) stated that development was the future of the sport and that he was delighted that in excess of 50 athletes had attended the development morning held earlier in the day. He thanked all those who attended and those who made the morning possible and said that he had had a lot of positive feedback.

The BBU can only afford to allocate a small amount of resources to development and therefore it is imperative that the best is made of them. The results from those who qualified for the National Development Squad (NDS) have justified their selection

During the year BL and Marc Walker had visited the NDS in training at East Grange Biathlon Centre and had been impressed by the good atmosphere and positive attitude among the athletes

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As the chairman of the 2009 development selection committee, supported by Eddy Lowe (Performance Director) and Jason Sklenar (Assistant Coach), BL assured the athletes that all factors would be taken into consideration when selecting those for further development.

He also proposes to search more widely for raw talent among non-biathletes, and to this end he is instigating a pilot Talent Identification Scheme at Catterick Camp at the end of April. This will consist of three phases: a three-day assessment course with strict selection criteria, followed by confirmation and integration. Although this is a pilot scheme, he hopes to extend it around the country.

The Chairman thanked BL and added that the BBU try to get the best for aspiring biathletes. A tender was put out for development courses, three bids were received, but EGBC was by far the best option.

DC announced that Jeremy Hopwood had received 60 votes from the 75 members present, and therefore was duly elected as a Member of the Board for a further three years.

ITEM 12 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Three years ago, the BOA introduced a sportsman or woman of the year trophy for every sport. Tom Clemens was the first winner; Kevin Kane won last year and this year the award goes to Adele Walker. The trophy was shown to the athletes and replicas presented to Kevin and Adele.

ITEM 13 – SKANDIA REPORT

AO said that he had now completed his first year as a Director of the BBU and thanked members for voting him on the Board. He told the assembled company, that his business was in international financial services and as everyone is aware there have been a few hiccoughs recently! However, he reassured members that Skandia International was going to continue its support of British Biathlon and stated that times such as these present opportunities not problems. He commented that how you behave in difficult times determines whether you succeed or fail.

He wants to raise the game for the sport as he believes in possibilities. The last year had been a voyage of discovery for him and there is a benefit to the BBU in having someone on the Board who is not steeped in the sport. As a result, the BBU are reviewing and developing their vision; reviewing the purpose of their decision-making; their target setting; their organisation and their structure. It is work in progress, because the Board are a small group of volunteers, but he feels passionate about it and has

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already seen improvement in qualitative areas. Skandia now intends to step up its support by involving people with appropriate skills to help, which would also be a development opportunity for them and they would be able learn from the athletes. Those he had already introduced to biathlon have shown a very positive attitude.

Finally he reiterated that Skandia International was in for the long-term game plan: not just 2010, but also 2014 and 2018.

ITEM 14 – CHAIRMAN’S CLOSING COMMENTS

DC thanked everyone for coming and wished all members the best for the rest of the season.

Signed by:

David Cranston
Chairman
British Biathlon Union

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