

of the 90th Board Meeting of the British Biathlon Union
held at the Hotel Ruhpolding Hof, Ruhpolding GER
at 12:00 CET on Friday 29th January 2016

PRESENT:

Board Members

André Oszmann	(AO)	Chairman
Mark Goodson	(MG)	Secretary General & Finance Director
Carl Carrier	(CC)	Member Elected Director
Eddy Lowe	(EL)	Sport Director
Col Jon Campbell	(JC)	Development Director
Col Adrian Thurgood	(AT)	Director British Championships & Military Liaison

In attendance

Sgt Simon Allanson	(SA)	WC Team Manager & Athletes' Rep (des)
LBdr Lee Jackson	(LJ)	IBU Cup Team Manager & Athletes' Rep
Nicola Walker	(NW)	BBU Lottery Manager
Stewart Keiller	(SK)	Apt Consultancy

APOLOGIES:

Mike Moran	(MM)	Commercial Director
Charles Brooks	(CB)	Hon Legal Advisor

Action

1. FORMALITIES

1.1 Apologies & Conflicts. AO noted the Apologies and it was confirmed that there were no conflicts.

1.2 Minutes of the 89th BBU Board Meeting. The abbreviated Minutes of the 89th Bd Mtg were confirmed as a true & accurate record of proceedings. As they were effectively a "Record of Decisions" full Minutes will be issued in due course.

MG

1.3 Matters Arising. None that would not be discussed on the Agenda. MG had not drafted a letter to Gen Sir Peter Wall (Para 8.2) and it was agreed to wait until there was more progress with Apt. *Afternote: Through military contacts AT had contacted the Office of Prince Harry to explore the possibility in his becoming a Patron or President. The offer was politely but firmly refused.*

2. Apt PRESENTATION

- 2.1 **New BBU Brand.** The presence of Stewart Keiller on behalf of Apt was much appreciated, and Apt were congratulated on their “soft launch” of the new website and branding in the first week of January. SK gave an overall view of Apt’s work; principally “Where we are now” and “What next?”

3. FINANCE

- 3.1 **Budget 2015 - 16** Depending on IBU & Army income, MG confirmed that the deficit at year end was still projected to be £ 3 - £ 15 K (probably in the middle). Although there has been a couple of unexpected bonuses / savings there has also been extra expenses caused by rescheduling of events due to poor snow conditions. AO was not happy that this deficit had not been authorised by the Board although MG stated that since the withdrawal of the previous sponsor in June a deficit was always likely and budgeted for. Indeed if he had not personally carried the debt, there would probably be no GBR athletes on the circuit. All agreed that this was not the correct way to fund an NGB, but notwithstanding the enforced in-year savings of approx £ 35 K, without a guaranteed income stream or sponsorship, not much else could have been done. AO was grateful to MG for making the loan and that it should be minuted.
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4. SPORT

- 4.1 **Sport Director Report.** EL had issued a report which made fairly dismal reading at the end of Trimester 2. Even though Scott Dixon and Marcel Laponder will use their IBU “appearance money” to attend WC 7 and possibly WC 9, the chances of GBR finishing in the Top 25 Nations Cup, and thus retaining two start places next season, are infinitesimal. This also has an impact on the decision to send only these two male athletes plus Amanda Lightfoot to the World Championships. EL commented that it is a long way from the glory days of only 4 years ago when we had 6 men and 4 women at the 2012 World Champs. EL drew attention to the Conclusion of his report, which was gloomily accepted:

“GBR continue to struggle, both financially and with available talent. The retirement of senior athletes last season has decimated the Nations Cup scoring potential. As a nation we no longer have the depth or strength to score in the individual races and struggle even to enter the additional mixed relays coming into the programme. Without major financial support for early development right through to potential Olympians we will make no further headway in International Biathlon”.

- 4.2 **Athletes’ Rep / Team Captain.** With only three regular World Cup athletes and another 4 – 6 qualified, at times, for the IBU Cup, and, with little contact between the two teams, the traditional role of Athletes’ Rep / team captain had changed. Although LJ managed the IBU Cup team they are officially the AABDS until selected for GBR, and thus of interest to but not the responsibility of the BBU. None of the three WC athletes wished to become Team Captain. MG proposed that the manager of the WC team (SA) become the Athletes’ Rep – a proposal that was backed by the three athletes, and agreed by the Mtg. Should a “Team Captain” be required eg for protocol or ceremonial functions then he or she would be agreed at the time.

- 4.3 Development.** The Bd expressed its thanks to JC who would be stepping down as Development Director on 30 Apr and also as Director ABDS. He will remain a BBU Director and his Army position would be filled by Col John Meade.

For some time there had been criticism that the BBU did not do enough to support civilian development. All agreed, but as often stated in the past, given our lack of finances and staff there was not much we could do, other than offer limited support to promising athletes to attend international events. In particular Scott Dixon, Calum Irvine, Rob Sircus and Sam Cairns; all of Cairngorm BNSC with the latter pair once again attending, largely at BBU expense, the Junior World Champs.

Following an approach by SportsScotland and in consultation with the Board, MG had proposed to CBNSC that they become the home of a "National Biathlon Development Centre". Although there would be no financial or other support from the BBU at present, it was felt that by hosting the NBDC there would be a chance to source SportsScotland and other funds. Unfortunately as BBU could offer no realistic support at this time, other than the "National" name, CBNSC declined. However, as we support their attempts to source funding, the Bd agreed with SportsScotland that CBNSC is the "de facto" Home Nation (Scottish) Governing Body for Biathlon, **but with no public or commercial reference to a "Scottish Biathlon Union / Association etc.**

- 4.4 Coaching Schemes.** CC stated that all his Working Group had been too busy to make further progress, however he would publish the 2nd draft paper at the next Bd Mtg. CC

- 4.5 OWG 2018 Planning.** In anticipation of his possibly becoming Sec Gen, MW had been nominated to the BOA as our lead POC for 2018. MW is no longer in the frame so MG proposed nominating SA; this was agreed by all.

5 EXTERNAL AGENCIES

- 5.1 BOA / UK Sport / IBU** Nothing significant to report.

- 5.2 CSWSA / AWSA.** AT welcomed the non-military members of the Bd to "Exercise Rucksack" which, despite inclement weather was running well, and there appeared to be no reason why a Contract for Ruhpolding to host the event for the next 3 years would not be signed shortly.

6 GOVERNANCE

- 6.1 Board Succession / Tasking.** No progress or suggested names since the last Mtg. MG stated that whilst he had been prepared to act as a Creditor he was no longer prepared to continue to work additional days over his 15 per month without remuneration. Clearly this would not be available in the short-term, and he would still be a Creditor at the end of the FY. He would thus prioritise his work to specifically directly supporting the athletes. Hopefully by leaving long term strategy and peripheral matters to others, he would cut his work days from 15 to 10 per month from 01 May.
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7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 7.1** CC asked if the Bd could issue a “Conflict of Interest Policy”. AO thought that such a Policy would be very open ended and time consuming to write. Moreover, personal circumstances / potential conflicts could change from Bd Mtg to Mtg. NFA. **MG**
- 7.2** The Agenda and legal formalities for the AGM (Sun 31 Jan) had been published on time. The format of the AGM was briefly discussed and it was expected that due to the early (10:00) start followed by afternoon races there would be a low turn-out. **MG**
- 7.3** **Date of Next Meeting.** Agreed as mid-May (date tbc). *Afternote: Confirmed as 10:00 for 10:15 at the Premier Inn, Bath Road (A 4), Heathrow on Thu 19 May.*

The Meeting closed at 14:55 CET.

Signed by:

Date:

**André Oszmann
Chairman**
