



**MINUTES OF THE 21st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)
OF THE BRITISH BIATHLON UNION (BBU)**

**held at the British Olympic Association,
60 Charlotte Street, London W1T 2NU, ENG**

at 14:00 BST on Saturday 15th September 2018

PRESENT:

BBU BOARD

Rob Weighill CBE	(RW)	Chairman
Roddy Christie	(RC)	Secretary General
Carl Carrier	(CC)	Member Elected Director
John Mead	(JM)	Military Representative and Director
Rich Crawford	(RCr)	Finance Director
Elizabeth Sedgwick	(ES)	Director
Sarah Greig	(SG)	Director

12 BBU Members (and 2 non-voting observer) were also present.

*No Postal or Proxy votes had been received,
thus the number of votes cast represents those attending the AGM in person.*

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ITEM 1 - INTRODUCTORY business

1. The Chairman, RW, welcomed all the members to the meeting and thanked them for taking the time to travel to and take part in the AGM.

ITEM 2 - ORDINARY business

2. Minutes of the 2017 AGM. The Minutes of the 20th AGM (held on 15th July 2017) were accepted **17 votes FOR, 0 against and 2 withheld.** The Secretary confirmed that in future these would be published at the same time as the calling notice for the AGM, as well as immediately following the AGM.

3. Matters Arising. There were no matters arising from Item 2.1.

4. Chairman's Annual Report. RW stated there would be no written report to the AGM this year but gave the following verbal report.

- The previous year was an extremely turbulent period for the BBU; the majority of the Board resigned, there was no succession plan, the organisation was left with little capacity and, as a consequence, the BBU was left with no option to rebuild from scratch. Despite these challenges, tangible progress had been achieved.
- RW re-emphasised that the Board remained committed to placing a British biathlete on a World Cup podium within 15 years.
- RW summarised some of the key events of the year (which are captured in the attached Annex). Of note, he particularly praised Amanda Lightfoot and Scot Dixon for their achievements in OWG and WC and Miles Cawood for his success at the World Youth Championships in Estonia.
- RW emphasised that despite any perceptions to the contrary, the BBU was committed to supporting military athletes and to maintaining effective and enduring collaboration with the military. The majority of the work being undertaken by the BBU is aimed at ensuring this is achieved. Despite this, the BBU would not draw talent solely from the military and would look wider for wider membership and biathletes to increase the proportion of potential talent.
- RW apologised for the lack of written report and committed to producing a written report for the next AGM.

5. Accounts ending 30th June 2017. Because the accounts were published solely on the Company's House website and not contained with the calling notice of the AGM, the decision was made to defer the acceptance of the accounts until the next AGM to allow members more time to read, absorb and analyse the accounts.

6. Appointment of Auditors. Messrs King Morter Proud & Co of Brecon were reappointed as Auditors by **19 votes for, 0 against and 0 withheld.**

7. Election of Directors. The ratification of the appointment of the directors was deferred to the next AGM. This decision was made on account of an objection raised by Mark Goodson (MG) that two of the directors were not registered on Companies House. He declared that those present were not in a position to formally ratify their appointments as a consequence. RW and RC agreed to investigate the legality of this and announced that the ratification of the newly appointed directors would take place at the next AGM (afternote – the next AGM will most likely take place in Feb 19 at Exercise RUCKSACK in Ruhpolding).

8. Member Elected Director. Carl Carrier (CC) stood down as the Member Elected Director. RC asked for a round of applause for CC. CC is the only member of the previous Board. He is a loyal and ardent supporter of biathlon and has been true to the BBU irrespective of the many challenges. CC has been appointed as a director. There were no candidates for either of the 2 member elected director posts, and therefore no voting was conducted. The Board encouraged those that wish to support the BBU to run for one of these posts.

ITEM 3 - CLOSING business

9. External Agencies. RC stated that there was no update for either BOA or UK Sport. RC and RW had recently returned from the IBU Congress in Porec, CRO. This was an extremely positive event which saw the appointment of a new Board headed up by Olle Dahlin. This followed a turbulent period at the IBU, which saw the former President and Secretary General accused of accepting bribes from the Russians. The new Board stated clearly that they wanted to focus on the development of the sport and were keen to help the smaller nations, of which GBR is one, to develop. Eddie Lowe (EL) made the good point that despite the turbulence in the last year at IBU, it remained a highly effective organisation that is placed on a solid operational footing. Irrespective of the accusations against the former President and Secretary General they had both noticeably moved the sport forward.

10. BBU Athlete Development and Future BBU. RC gave an overview of plans for the season 2018-19 and the outline of this can be found in the Annex. In summary, the BBU will support the RLC Camp taking place in October at Glenmore Lodge. The principal aim will be to run selection races in Beitostollen, NOR in November and, subject to the results of this, biathletes will be entered, as appropriate, for the following competitions:

- IBU Cup
- IBU Junior Cup
- Youth World Championships
- Open European Championships
- EWOYF
- World Championships

The list above is not exhaustive and will be based on the ability of the individuals. The BBU will aim to engage Ilario Maddalin to support the team. CC, SG and RC will publish a detailed plan for this asap. The following points were made by members:

- Mike Lay (ML) offered to help support biathletes in events where his daughter Holly was taking part, which was gratefully acknowledged and accepted. Additionally, he highlighted the World Student Games and asked that Holly Rees-Lay be considered for this. RC was happy to support her and asked for her to make contact.
- Derek Bowley (DB) asked that the information regarding the season be published as soon as possible on the website and on Facebook.
- MG also stated that the details for Ex Rucksack would be confirmed shortly and RC committed to publishing these on the BBU Website and Facebook page.
- Lee Jackson (LJ) praised Scott Dixon who retired this season and his many years of participation in the sport. He asked that the Board consider very carefully the selection criteria for the biathletes and the events into which they were entered to avoid undermining and denting their confidence by competing in events that are at too high a standard. RC committed to publishing selection criteria as soon as possible with dates for the selection races.
- ML stated that coincidentally the logistics for Trimester 1 competitions tended to be simpler than subsequent trimesters. He also asked that the criteria for selection not be made so specific as to constrain selection and there be room for application of judgement.
- EL advised exercising caution when considering the type and frequency of races that British biathletes are entered into. He suggested that a national federation could very easily lose its name simply by entering the wrong competition for the sake of it rather than for the benefit of the biathlete. He requested that a firm date and place be made for selection (RC/SG/CC will do this as above). He stated that there needed to be a known benchmark to select against.
- Adam Williams asked that the Board try to plan as far in advance as possible and improve its communications of upcoming events.

11. British Ski and Snowboard. RW updated the members on meetings that had taken place between

BBU and BSS. The aim was to work much closer together to realise economies of scale and look at areas of mutual benefit. The CEO of BSS, Vicky Gosling, had planned to be at the meeting but regrettably had to cancel. RW stated that we will continue to have discussions with BSS and identify areas of collaboration. It is unlikely in the short term that the two organisations will merge.

12. Membership Proposal. RC briefed on the proposed new membership structure (outlined in the annex). The aim is to offer members more for the membership fee whilst concurrently generating a suitable income for the BBU from membership. Including insurance in the membership at a highly competitive price would realise a net reduction in the cost of insurance for those taking part in biathlon competition of approximately 70%, while additionally providing income to the BBU. RC also briefed that the BBU would aim to seek alternative prizes to those currently awarded at Rucksack as it was felt that enough glassware had been given out. ML and LJ were supportive of this. The members were in overall agreement of the membership proposal and the Board will aim to bring this into place by 1 November 2018. If this is not possible we will defer the start date by a year.

13. Financial Report. RCr gave the meeting an update on the BBU financed the detail of which can be found in the Annex. He stated that whilst the BBU was by no means cash rich, more money was available than had been forecast due largely to unforecasted income from the IBU. The IBU remains the principle source of income for the BBU which in turn feeds the need for continued participation in the sport at international level.

14. Any other Business.

- Iain Ballentine (IB) requested that members take part in the variety of roller ski activities on offer, especially in the south. He was keen to boost numbers and get the military members involved as well. The Board are extremely supportive of this and will be working with IB and his team to find ways of developing this engagement.

15. Closing Remarks. There were no further points from the Board or attendees, RW thanked the members for their attendance at the meeting and finished with three points:

- RW stated that the BBU will attempt to improve pan-British biathlon community of interest strategic communications to help keep everyone informed of updates, planning of events and key announcements. The BBU web site will remain the primary means by which information is transmitted, but other social media platforms will also be used.
- He said the alleged governance irregularities exposed at the AGM will be investigated and those not considered consistent with the Companies Act 2006, BBU Articles of Association or UK Sport Code of Sport Governance will be resolved by the next AGM.
- He highlighted the perennial challenge that capacity within the BBU is limited by money, people and time. RW requested that additional voluntary support would be highly appreciated.

The Meeting closed at 16:00 BST.

Signed by:

Chairman
British Biathlon Union

Date.....