

BRITISH FENCING AGM MINUTES

Last Updated: 10th October 2020

Date of Meeting	10.10.2020
Location	By Video Link
Present	Chair, Paul Abrahams, Tom Cadman, Yashmin Harun, Caryl Oliver, Matthias Ossyra, John Troiano
In Attendance	Georgina Usher, Kim Robinson, Hilary Philbin, Peter Jacobs, Gillian Aghajan, Alex Savin, Jackie Bryson, Liam Harrington, Nadia Calipa, Peter Smith, Paul Standing, Pat Aiyenuro, Richard Burn, Raymond Crawford, James Williams, Jaqueline Redikin, Marilyn Wheelband, Lawrence Burr, John Carney, Jenny Morris, Hannah Gavin, Marilyn Wheelband, David Hanrahan

1. INTRODUCTION & WELCOME

The Chair welcomed everyone to the first virtual AGM of BF. All voting is done by proxy with questions submitted in advance to be covered in AOB. At the end of the meeting there will be a short break followed by an informal Q&A where the CEO and Chair will answer further questions arising.

Chair welcomed the two new elected Board Directors: Pat Aiyenuro and James Williams. Chair also thanked the two departing Board Directors, John Troiano and Anne Catrin-Sallaba for their contribution and commitment to the sport over the years.

2. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE 2019 AGM

The minutes of 2019 were approved by proxy vote.

3. RESOLUTION 1. TO RECEIVE THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2020

John Troiano presented the accounts as Chair of the AGRC, taking the members through the accounts, giving a summary of the financial results made available to members in advance of the meeting. He made the following points:

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- The aim is to break even
- We have a level of reserves that we consider adequate and want to reinvest any excess funds back into the sport
- In the previous year we made a small surplus of £3,000 and last year a surplus of £1,000
- We are fulfilling our aim to break even and run prudently
- Grant funding: UK Sport and Sport England money make up half our revenue and cost. What we receive we must spend in accordance with requirements from those funding bodies
- Last year we had a stable membership a good contribution (better than expected) from commercial and a good performance from events
- Financial running of organisation very good and have achieved what we wanted to
- Improvement in membership through 2018-2019, last year was the same as last two years with not much impact from Covid-19 at the end of March 2020, which has only just started
- BF have liquid reserves of £448,568 which has been stable in the last five years
- In addition to the liquid reserves we have the freehold of the BF Head Quarters in Chiswick. If this is to be re-valued our reserves would be more.
- As a result of Covid-19 there is a significant impact on the organisation. Two main ways this comes through: Membership – some members will not renew membership if there are no competitions taking place. Commercial – commercial revenue impacted.
- We have to continue to operate as a body and continue to provide services to members
- Very hard to cut further costs
- We will run down our reserves as a precaution in order to continue our support to members and staff
- In April we formed a budget where we estimated what would happen to membership and we expect a loss of £80,000
- We have been prudent about the drop in membership. As it stands today, we are doing better than originally thought, however, with the second wave in Covid-19 the likelihood is that we will not see as quick a recovery as expected
- Reserves support the sport in the long run, we are fortunate to have a good reserve position
- Were there to be a very severe impact lasting another twelve months we would have to make difficult decisions

Chair thanked John and thanked the members for their continued support during this period. The Chair also thanked the staff for their level of communication and drew attention to the full Annual Report which is online where members can also see the Directors Report.

The annual accounts for the financial year ending 31st March 2020 were passed unanimously by proxy vote.

4. RESOLUTION 2: TO APPROVE THE EXTENSION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF MARK LYTTLE FOR A SECOND FOUR-YEAR TERM AS INDEPENDENT CHAIR OF BRITISH FENCING

The extension of the appointment of Mark Lyttle for a second four-year term as Independent Chair of British Fencing was passed unanimously proxy vote.

5. RESOLUTION 3: TO APPROVE THE EXTENSION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF HILARY PHILBIN AS BRITISH FENCING'S PRESIDENT TO EXPIRE AT THE FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF BRITISH FENCING AFTER THE 2021 OLYMPIC GAMES IN TOKYO

The extension of the appointment of Hilary Philbin as British Fencing's President to expire at the first Annual General Meeting of British Fencing after the 2021 Olympic Games in Tokyo was passed unanimously by proxy vote.

6. TO BE INFORMED OF 2021 MEMBERSHIP FEES

CEO informed the members that together with all the Home Nations the decision has been made to freeze membership fees for January 2021. Four years ago, we introduced a policy of increasing the fees in line with inflation, however under the current circumstances it is not appropriate to increase fees or reduce them for next year because of the direct impact it would have on the deficit.

7. ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE BRITISH FENCING HONOURS AWARDS

The CEO announced the awards. The President Hilary Philbin will make a formal presentation at a later date.

Vice President: John Troiano

For longstanding services to British Fencing in areas of governance and finance

Silver Medal: Jon Salfield

For services to Truro Fencing Club and British Sabre fencing

Tankards

Silvia Brown – Vets World Championships Cat C Sabre – Gold

Brian Causton – Vets World Championships Cat C Foil – Gold

Dimitri Coutya – World Epee Champion Cat A – Gold and World Sabre Championship Bronze

Carolina Stutchbury – 2020 Cadet Europeans – Bronze

Paul Wedge – Vets World Championships Cat B Foil – Gold

The Chair congratulated all the recipients.

8. AOB

A Question was submitted online by Alex Savin who asked about advice for competition organisers on what to expect and when they can restart.

CEO: with more government announcements expected we are not in a position to give dates. We are speaking with DCMS and Sport England, as are our counterparts in the Home Nations and are trying to get things running safely. We have recently been able to increase groups sizes from 6 to 15 in restricted circumstances in England. As an organisation we need to be ready to take advantage of any relaxation but when that will come is unpredictable at present.

Lawrence Burr asked a question about the Charity. What is the financial position of the Charity and the plans in terms of distribution of funds for the current season.

Chair – We have passed the question on to the Trustees and will put an announcement on the website in due course.

Chair thanked Lawrence for bringing up the Charity and noted that the Charity has a new Chair Francesca Gliubich who comes from a fundraising background.

The meeting closed at 09.58