

# BRITISH FENCING AGM MINUTES

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Last Updated: 09<sup>th</sup> October 2021

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	09.10.2021
<b>Location</b>	By Video Link
<b>Present</b>	Chair, Ch, FW, JW, PA, PAiY, MO, YH, JL, CO, TC
<b>In Attendance</b>	G Usher, K Robinson, D Moseley, S Kemp, G Aghajan, PStanding, J Burn, J Morris, C Morris, D Hanrahan, J Katz, S Brooks, D Bradley, L Deamer, A Nisbet, C Henderson, H Herbert, A Majoury, V Hoodless, G Dooley.
<b>Apologies</b>	P Gilliver, P Jacobs, M Belfourd, H Philbin

## 1. INTRODUCTION & WELCOME

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and confirmed that the EGM held in September to allow BF to change the Memorandum and Articles of Association to allow hybrid and virtual AGM's had been passed.

Chair thanked members for their support and staff for their hard work during a difficult year.

Chair expressed BF's condolences to the family of Keith Smith, BF President for 12 years, and thanks for his selflessness to our sport.

Chair informed the meeting that Mary Cohen had been deemed elected to the Board and will join the Board following the AGM, and introduced Jochen Losch and Francis Wilkinson.

Chair thanked the outgoing Directors, Janet Campbell, Paul Abrahams, Tom Cadman and Clare Halsted for all their work, support and excellent contribution over their 8 years as Board Directors.

## 2. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE 2020 AGM

*The minutes of 2020 were approved. Proposed TC, Seconded JW.*

## 3. RESOLUTION 1. TO RECEIVE THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2021

Paul Abrahams presented the accounts with the following points:

- It has been a challenging year.

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- Income statement year to March 2021 income shows 3 areas where BF were hit in a big way. Membership, Commercial activity and Events. Membership fell to a low of around 6,500 from 11,000 members, Commercial activity, which provides support to schools and other organisations also dropped. Events dropped as we were not able to hold any events during the year.
- Operating expenditure went from £469,000 to £360,000.
- Result is a deficit of £25,000.
- We need to rebuild the reserves over time.
- 2021-22 budget – we are expecting membership revenue to be down on last year, but with a recovery in commercial activity.
- We have taken measures to reduce costs on events. This year we are not running the Eden cup Junior event and the senior satellite event.
- This year will be a difficult one but we hope to come out of it as a stronger organisation.
- Thanks to Sport England and UK Sport who have been flexible in their support of us.

Charles Henderson asked if BF know the main reason for the declining membership numbers. CEO – with the uncertainty of when indoor sport would start many have chosen to delay the renewal /taking out of membership. We are looking to grow the membership back in the next few years.

*The annual accounts for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 were passed by a poll vote.*

### 4. RESOLUTION 2: TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF JOCHEN LOSCH AS AN INDEPENDENT DIRECTOR FOR A TERM OF 4 YEARS WITH EFFECT FROM THE DATE OF THE MEETING

*The appointment of Jochen Losch as an Independent Director for a term of 4 years with effect from the date of the meeting was passed by a poll vote.*

### 5. RESOLUTION 3: TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF FRANCIS WILKINSON AS AN APPOINTED DIRECTOR FOR A TERM OF 4 YEARS WITH EFFECT FROM THE DATE OF THE MEETING

*The appointment of Francis Wilkinson as an Appointed Director for a term of 4 years with effect from the date of the meeting was passed by a poll vote.*

### 6. RESOLUTION 3: TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF HILARY PHILBIN AS BRITISH FENCING'S PRESIDENT FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT THE FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF BRITISH FENCING AFTER THE 2024 OLYMPIC GAMES IN PARIS

*The appointment of Hilary Philbin as British Fencing's President for a term to expire at the first*

*Annual General Meeting of British Fencing after the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris was passed by a poll vote.*

### 7. MEMBERSHIP FEES

CEO informed the members that together with all the Home Nations the decision has been made to freeze membership fees for January 2022. Four years ago, BF introduced a policy of increasing membership fees in line with inflation, however, due to the result of Covid it would not be appropriate to increase the fees for the year 2022. From 2023 BF will increase the fees in line with inflation.

### 8. ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE BRITISH FENCING HONOURS AWARDS

The Chair announced the awards. The President Hilary Philbin will make a formal presentation at the Nationals later in the year.

**Covid Certificates:** Teagan Williams-Stewart, Keith Cook, Mark Kent

**Award of Merit:** Jim Whelan

**Silver Medal:** David Lichfield

**Bronze Medal:** Jamie Miller, Brian Causton, Keith Cook

**Gold Medal:** Piers Gilliver, Dimitri Coutya, Oliver Lam Watson

**Presidents Award:** Peter Rome  
Ben Peggs

**Anne Hanrahan Award:** Sian Hughes Pollitt

The Chair congratulated all the recipients.

### 9. AOB

There was no other formal business and the meeting closed at 10:10.

There followed an informal question and answer section.