

# BRITISH FENCING AGM MINUTES

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Last Updated: 20.10.2024

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	19.10.2024
<b>Location</b>	In person @ British Olympic Association Offices, London. Also by Video Link
<b>Present</b>	Yasmin Harun Interim Senior Independent Director and Chair of Meeting Jade Clarke, Director, Interim FD John Troiano Director, Interim Chair AGRC Patricia Aiyenuro, Director Thomas Nippres, Director (online) Hilary Philbin, BF President Georgina Usher (CEO) Alex O'Connell, New Independent Board Director Sara Pantuliano, Incoming Board Chair

## **In Attendance (Members)**

**In Person (Members)** Peter Jacobs, Paul Standing, Marcus Messer, Arlen Veysey, Andrew Goodier, Hilary Sahota, David Sosnov, Baldip Sahota, Alex O'Connell

**In Person (Guests & Observers)** Thomas Milner, Denise Johnson, Sheryl Chiu-Sosnov

**Online** Sian Beautyman, Jennifer Morris, Carl Morris, Vivien Mills, Lynette Robinson, Mike Robinson, Andrew Majury, Thomas Nippres, Jonathan Collins, Caz Walton, David Hanrahan

**Apologies** Mark Lyttle, Brian Brittain, Tommy Curran Jones, Mary Cohen, Clare Halsted, Kim Robinson\*, Susan Ann Brooks\*, Andrew John Higgs\*, Adam Steiner\*, Charles Henderson\*, Simon Moore\*, Michael Belfour. \* = proxy in place

## 1. INTRODUCTION & WELCOME

Yashmin Harun stood in as Chair of the meeting as the Chair of the Board Mark Lyttle was unable to attend at the last minute due to a close bereavement.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

## 2. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE 2023 AGM

The minutes of 2023 were approved subject to typo corrections. *Proposed Peter Jacobs, Seconded Andrew Goodier.*

## 3. UPDATES TO RESOLUTION

### Resolution Removal

John Troiano, interim Chair of AGRC explained that following the untimely death of Finance Director David Moseley, the audit has taken much longer than usual. There remains one part of the audit that is not yet completed, primarily as a result of procedural matters.

This means we will not present the annual accounts at the AGM but return to this item once the audit is complete through a virtual meeting

### Resolution Addition

The Chair explained that following the BF Board's appointment of Pat Aiyenuro as president last week, an additional resolution has been added to approve this appointment. Noting that according to the article 73. Pat would be then required to step down as Director.

## 4. RESOLUTION 2.

*To approve the appointment of Sara Pantuliano as Independent Director for a term of four years with effect from the date of the Meeting.*

The resolution passed by a majority vote (11 in person, 6 online, 6 proxies)

## 5. RESOLUTION 3.

*To approve the appointment of Alex O'Connell as Independent Director for a term of four years with effect from the date of the Meeting*

The resolution passed by a majority vote.

## 6. RESOLUTION 4.

*To note the election of Pat Aiyenuro and Thomas Nippres as Elected Directors for a term of four years with effect from the date of the Meeting.*

The resolution passed by a majority vote.

## 7. RESOLUTION 5.

*To approve the appointment of Pat Aiyenuro as President for a term to expire at the first AGM, following the next Olympic Games.*

The resolution passed by a majority vote.

On behalf of the Board and members JT paid tribute to outgoing president HP.

HP thanked JT and wished PA well. PA thanked HP.

## 8. TO BE INFORMED OF 2025 MEMBERSHIP FEES

The CEO gave a short presentation on the membership:

- Total number of members as at end March 2024 had risen above pre-cover levels to just over 11,300. The movement and shape of membership variation is still tracking the same annual pattern as previously which is to be expected as membership is annual.
- The CEO explained the membership categories and presented a breakdown of numbers in each category – Compete members are 66% of membership, with Recreational at 15%. The breakdown of membership hasn't changed significantly from previous years.
- Likewise the breakdown of compete membership is consistent from prior years - 42% are Senior, 29% U20 and 29% U14.
- Club affiliation by Home Country was presented. Strategically the aim is to ensure that all clubs follow best practice particularly in areas of safeguarding and that could impact growth figures.
- Gender breakdown – 65/30/5 (M/F/Other) compared to 2020 figures of 69%/31% M/F. There is a desire to increase the numbers of females participating and more work will be done in looking into this.
- Overall the individual projects that BF run (eg Muslim Girls Fence) whilst they can address participation in targeted communities don't make a material difference to the overall breakdown of the membership.

CEO presented the membership fees for 2025 with the following points:

- Following the introduction of the current membership structure in 2016 the Home Countries

and BF agreed to raise membership fees in line with inflation. Due to Covid membership fees have been frozen for 2020 and 2021 during which compound inflation rose 14.5%

- Membership fees are split with the Home Nations, BF get 60% of the membership fee and the Home Nation get 40%.
- Home Nations can decide to increase fees further, which could result in different membership costs across the Home Nations
- Due to Covid membership fees were frozen for 2020 and 2021
- 2023 fees were increased by average of 5.3% (inflation has risen 14.3%\* compound)
- 2024 fees were increased by an average of 4.3% (inflation CPIH/CPI of 6.4/6.8)
- 2025 fees are proposed to be increased by an average of 2.5% (inflation CPIH/CPI of 3.3/2.2)

## 9. ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE BRITISH FENCING HONOURS AWARDS

President Hilary Philbin presented the following awards to attendees:

**Award of Merit:** Marcus Messer, Arlen Veysey

**Bronze Medal:** Andrew Goodier, Lynette Robinson, Mike Robinson, Hilary Sahota

**Silver Medal:** Jonathan Collins, Janet Milner

**Results based awards**

**Bronze Medal:** David Sosnov

**Goblet:** Georgina Usher

The following awards were announced with presentations to be made at a future date.

**Award of Merit:** Aimee Aronica

**Bronze Medal:** Carole Seheult

**Silver Medal:** Sue Brooks, Marcia Stretch

**Gold Medal (post-humous):** James Williams

**Results based**

**Bronze Medal:** Carolina Stutchbury, Alec Brooke

**Goblet:** Sameer Sunder-Rajan, David Kelly

HP also congratulated the members of the GBR Wheelchair Fencing squad who had repeated previous medal successes at the European Championships, noting that they had already received BF honours at the commensurate level. Noting that the results fell outside the 2024 consideration period, HP congratulated the GBR Wheelchair Fencing squad for their incredible performance in Paris.

Community Award Presentation - HP presented Baldip Sahota with the 2023 GBR Coach of the Year

HP concluded by presenting Caz Walton with The Anne Hanrahan Award.

## 10. AOB

GU briefed on the questions submitted in advance, one which was a policy query which had been responded to and another which had queried targets and tracking of ethnic diversity.

The Chair thanked the senior management team for their hard work during the year and thanked the Board members.

On behalf of the Board and members the Chair thanked outgoing chair Mark Lyttle for his contribution to British Fencing over the last 8 years.

There was no other formal business and the formal meeting closed at 12.00.

There followed an information question and answer section.

*The meeting closed at 12.00*