

3rd December 2016

SUMMARY OF KEY MATTERS DISCUSSED BY THE BOARD OF BRITISH CANOEING AT THE MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY 3RD DECEMBER 2016, AT THE NATIONAL WATER SPORTS CENTRE, HOLME PIERREPONT, NOTTINGHAM, NG12 2LU.

In Attendance:

John Coyne CBE (JC)	Chair
Alan Baker (AB)	Director nominated by Canoe Wales
Richard Boreham (RB)	Independent Director
Stephen Craig (SC)	Director nominated by CANI
James Fry (JF)	Independent Director
David Joy (DJ)	CEO
Steve Linksted (SL)	Director nominated by SCA
Dee Paterson (DP)	Director nominated by English Council
Greg Smale (GS)	Director nominated by English Council

Also In Attendance:

Albert Woods (AW)	President
Mandy Delaney (MD)	PA to Directorate
Susan Hicks (SH)	Finance Manager (For Finance section only)
Vasi Naidoo (VN)	Head of Governance and Compliance

Apologies:

David Belbin (DB)	Independent Director
Clare Dallaway (CD)	Director nominated by English Council
Bronagh Kennedy (BK)	Independent Director

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

JC welcomed everyone to the meeting and said how pleased he was to have this opportunity to act as Chair for his first meeting.

FINANCE

SH presented an update on British Canoeing's financial position at year end (31.10.16.) and advised that the overall financial picture was unchanged from previous months with shortfalls in membership income being offset by under spends in some budgets and overhead savings. It was still projected that the accounts would show a small surplus at the financial year end. A full report would be provided to the January Board meeting.

REVIEW OF BRITISH CANOEING MEMBERSHIP

A paper was presented, updating on the progress of the review of membership categories. It was explained that there was insufficient time for the modelling research on membership categories to take place before the 2017 AGM. The Board noted progress to date and agreed that this work should not be rushed and that well designed and costed proposals needed to be fully considered. It was noted that it was likely that proposals would be taken to an EGM later in 2017.

BRITISH CANOEING 4 YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN 2017-2021

The CEO updated on the progress in drafting the strategic plan for British Canoeing 2017-21, and confirmed that the final draft would be brought to the Board in January 2017 for approval. It is planned to launch the plan on 25 March 2017. Discussion took place around the Purpose and Vision with further work to be completed prior to the board meeting in January 2017.

BRITISH CANOEING 2016 ANNUAL PLAN

The final progress report on the 2016 Annual Plan was presented to the meeting. The Board noted a satisfactory delivery rate had been achieved with 68% of targets met to date with further to be achieved prior to the end of 2016. The Board approved the final report of the 2016 Annual Plan.

SPORT ENGLAND PARTNERSHIP INVESTMENT

CEO advised that Sport England's new strategy and changed criteria for funding of NGBs would result in NGB investment being significantly reduced from previous funding cycles. British Canoeing expect to receive in the region of £3m to £4 million (25-50% reduction) for retaining our core market over the next 4 years. The funding bid would seek to secure the top end of this estimate by submitting the best possible application (to be submitted 19.12.16) and Sport England would advise of its decision in February 2017. Talent funding was separate to this amount and was expected to be circa £3.0m, which if achieved, should allow the Talent Programme to continue at the same level as currently.

The Chair stressed that these cuts were not indicative of failings on the organisation's part, but driven by changes in national strategy. It was noted that British Canoeing's emerging strategy was aligned with Sport England's key focus areas for future investment, namely sustaining our core market and focusing on 'inactive to active.'

The meeting then discussed the inevitability of the reduced funding affecting the number of staff employed by British Canoeing who were directly funded by Sport England. The Board noted that staff would be informed as soon as possible so that those at risk of redundancy could be given as long as possible to find alternative employment. The board expressed their view that staff should be provided with full and accurate information and that those staff concerned should be fully supported throughout these proceedings.

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS STRATEGY

British Canoeing confirmed its intent to the ICF to bid for the 2019 Canoe Slalom World Cup, and would also submit an intent to bid for the 2020 ECA Canoe Slalom European Championships. Both would be held at Lee Valley White Water Centre.

The Board discussed in detail the financial implications of hosting these events. Following discussion, they approved the proposal to submit bids for both.

An intention to bid had been submitted to the ICF to host the 2020 ICF Freestyle World Cup and the 2021 Freestyle World Championships at Holme Pierrepont. It was agreed that this bid should return to Board prior to submission with clear evidence that an appropriate funding package was in place.

It was also agreed that the wider International Events Strategy should continue to be developed, and should include aspirations to host a European or World Championships in each of the disciplines at some point in the future.

PRESIDENTS, VICE PRESIDENTS AND HONOURS

It was noted that the appointment of the British Canoeing President was due at the 2017 AGM. It was also recommended that a new role be created of 'Life President,' and that the current President be appointed as the first Life President. The Board gave their approval for this change to be proposed to the AGM as it required a change to the Articles of Association.

The Board were also invited to consider changing the name 'President' to 'Honorary President,' with the maximum term served by an Honorary President being two years. There was further discussion regarding adding a new post of 'President Elect' which would serve a one year term before assuming the Presidency. It was agreed that this should be presented to the AGM for approval.

The Board also agreed to review the current British Canoeing Honours and Awards and present a new structure to the Board for approval during 2017.

COMMERCIAL STRATEGY

The Commercial Strategy was presented to the Board. This presented background information and the proposals to go to market and to seek commercial partners for British Canoeing. This would be progressed in the following 12 months.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD

Governance Committee – The newly formed Governance Committee held its first meeting in November 2016. A verbal report was presented. The committee had reviewed the Terms of Reference, and considered the gap analysis against the UK Code of Sports Governance.

DATE OF NEXT BOARD MEETING

28th January 2017

END