

28th January 2017

SUMMARY OF KEY MATTERS DISCUSSED BY THE BOARD OF BRITISH CANOEING AT THE MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY 28TH JANUARY 2017, AT HAYSMACINTYRE, 26 RED LION SQUARE, LONDON, WC1R 4AG.

In Attendance:

John Coyne CBE (JC)	Chair
David Belbin (DB)	Independent Director
Richard Boreham (RB)	Independent Director
Stephen Craig (SC)	Director nominated by CANI
Clare Dallaway (CD)	Director nominated by English Council
James Fry (JF)	Independent Director
David Joy (DJ)	CEO
Bronagh Kennedy (BK)	Independent Director
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 OBE (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:

Alan Baker (AB)	Director nominated by Canoe Wales
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SUMMARY OF KEY MATTERS:

FINANCE

British Canoeing activities had delivered a very small surplus position across the organisation. Membership income had been disappointing since the last Board meeting but had been off-set by savings in overheads.

The Board were informed by External Auditor that the annual financial audit had taken place in January and informed the meeting there were no items of material concern. The Board also approved the Year End Accounts for the year ended 31st October 2016.

BRITISH CANOEING 4 YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN 2017-2021

The final draft of the 2017-21 Strategic Plan was presented to the Board for approval; this was approved subject to a few minor amendments being applied.

The Board noted that preparations to officially launch the Plan on 25th March were progressing well with early responses indicating a good attendance rate.

BRITISH CANOEING 2017 ANNUAL PLAN

The 2017 Annual Plan, as developed by the Executive Team, was presented to the Board. This was confirmed as being in line with the ambitions of the new Strategic Plan and was approved by the Board.

UK SPORT AND SPORT ENGLAND PARTNERSHIP INVESTMENT

Since the last Board meeting, the total UK Sport award for the Olympic and Paralympic cycle had been announced as £22,744,840, representing an excellent settlement to British Canoeing.

In addition, notification had been received from Sport England stating that British Canoeing were to receive a £3M award for the performance talent programme for the 2017-21 cycle; this would allow the organisation to deliver the pathway plans for the next generation.

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS STRATEGY

In relation to the bids to host the ICF Canoe Slalom World Cup event for 2019 and in the following year the 2020 ECA Canoe Slalom European Championships at Lee Valley the CEO advised of significant changes to the grant income secured. The Greater London Authority had removed its support for both the events, which would increase the financial risk associated with both the events. The Board discussed this at length and agreed to proceed with the bids for both events in line with revised figures and put in place a finance plan to mitigate any risk over the next two to four years.

The Board also agreed to proceed with a bid to host the 2021 Freestyle World Championships at Holme Pierrepont.

It was noted that the discipline of Surf Kayak had requested that they be formally reinstated as a discipline of British Canoeing. The Board discussed this and agreed that as the sport was growing in popularity, that they should be reinstated, operating as a Discipline committee, and with their members becoming British Canoeing members.

ACCESS

A court case concerning disputed access on a stretch of the River Dee had been settled out of court. British Canoeing and Canoe Wales had invested a lot of time and money in supporting this case which had highlighted the need for maintaining a robust position regarding widening access on inland waterways.

PRESIDENTS, VICE PRESIDENTS AND HONOURS

In accordance with the Code for Sports Governance, it was mandatory that the Board appoint a Vice Chair. It was also mandatory that one of the Board's Independent Directors became a Senior Independent Director. This was discussed by the Board who agreed that both of these positions should be combined and David Belbin was appointed as the Vice Chair and Senior Independent.

A paper was presented to the Board which proposed next steps in reviewing the honours awarded by British Canoeing. Following discussion, the Board agreed to fully review the Honours system during 2017.

2017 AGM AND PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE ARTICLES FOR AGM CONSIDERATION

Proposed changes to the Articles of Association were presented to the Board. These would include the creation of a new role of Life President, changing title of President to Honorary President and the introduction of a President Elect.

The revised Articles were discussed and it was agreed that these would be presented to the AGM for member approval.

GOVERNANCE

Amendments to British Canoeing's Governance Policy were also approved by the Board. The Board also evaluated its work for the forthcoming year and agreed its priorities. This would be a rolling document which would be amended at each Board Meeting to capture how the Board was performing against its agreed priorities.

COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS.

The Board approved the following nominations to the European Canoe Association (ECA) Slalom and Sprint committees:

- Colin Woodgate – ECA Canoe Slalom Committee
- Cathy Wynne – ECA Canoe Sprint Committee
- Dave Newport – ECA Canoe Freestyle Committee

DATE OF NEXT BOARD MEETING

26th March 2017

END