

FINAL Minutes: Badminton GB Board Limited Meeting

Thursday 7 May 2020 via video conference call



Board:	Stephen Baddeley (SB)	Chair and Independent Director
	Kelly Aston (KA)	Member Director (Badminton Wales)
	Derek Batchelor (DB)	Member Director (Badminton England)
	Christine Black (CB)	Member Director (Badminton Scotland)
	Adrian Christy (AC)	Non-Executive Director
	Graeme Finch (GF)	Independent Director
	Jane M Nickerson (JN)	Company Secretary/Independent Director
	Ken Nixon (KN)	Member Director (Badminton Ireland, Ulster Branch)
Invited:	Keith Russell (KR)	Chief Executive, Badminton Scotland
	Jon Austin (JA)	Performance Director, Badminton England
	Mark Beecher (MB)	Head of Performance Operations, Badminton England
	Sue Wressell (SW)	Minute Taker (Badminton England)

1	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
	SB welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were no apologies. A Board only discussion would take place for items 5.3, 5.4 and 6.1.
2	DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS For interest, DB informed the Board that he had joined the Sport England Governance Academy which he had found useful.
3	MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING
3.1	To receive and approve the minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2020 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2020 were approved with minor changes.
3.2	To consider matters arising from the minutes: The following points were noted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Declaration List – JN had received all the declarations bar one. UK Para Badminton Championships - KA confirmed that the Championships would be cancelled for 2020 but would take place in 2021. The dates were yet to be agreed. Information on the cancelled Championships would be circulated soon. Badminton Scotland Para Head Coach – CB confirmed that Kirsty Flockhart had been appointed on a voluntary capacity. Full information on the post had been sent to Nikki Tarrant (NK) Governance Statement – The statement had been posted to the GB Board pages of the Badminton England website. (REDACTED) (REDACTED)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submission Funding for Additional Items – It was still unclear what other additional funding would be provided for equipment, innovation and core, as mentioned in the first funding submission response. • Badminton Europe Regional Project – There was no information about this Project. The first two camps had been cancelled and the next was due to be held in July and was likely to be cancelled too. DB was concerned that funding for these would be carried forward to ensure they took place at a future date. • Natwest Bank Issues – These had all been resolved.
4	PERFORMANCE UPDATE
4.1	<p>Performance Update</p> <p>JA provided a presentation which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualification for Tokyo Olympics • Qualification for Tokyo Paralympics • MSP and Aspiration Fund • Strategy Funding Award • Olympic/Paralympic Preparations • Implications of change of date for Tokyo <p>A copy of the presentation had been circulated with the agenda and the following comments were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (REDACTED) • The athletes were adapting to the lockdown situation and were continuing to train. The Para Badminton athletes in particular appeared to be in good spirits. • An additional minimum amount of £177K had been requested of UK Sport. This money was needed to support Olympic and Paralympic training and preparation through to the end of March 2021 in advance of the rescheduled Games. A further sum would be required from the 1 April through to the conclusion of the Paralympic Games but this figure had yet to be calculated. (REDACTED) • JA confirmed that the savings made by the lack of competitions currently being undertaken by the players had been factored into the considerations put to UK Sport. • MB updated on the financial situation and confirmed that the figures included all support for (REDACTED). He would provide the Year 4 update to be circulated to the Board with the minutes (ACTION: MB & SW). • It was confirmed that JA would remain the Team Leader and Mark Beecher would remain the Deputy Team Leader • Phase 2 feedback had been received and was still broadly positive. The Olympic and Paralympic submissions had come back with 79 questions including a number around the overall pathway offers outside of UK Sport investment. A clearly articulated and supported GB pathway for both Olympic and Paralympic players across the four Home Countries would need to be written as part of the final submission. • (REDACTED) • GB Management were yet to delve into the detail of the response but would need to make the third submission by 3 October. However, this date may change due to the current coronavirus situation. Once consideration of the 79 questions had been given, JA and MB would inform the Board (ACTION: JA)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CB queried the funding situation for the Confirmation level. JA informed that this was not included in the feedback but it was believed that the Confirmation level was included in the Academy process but JA would check (ACTION: JA). • (REDACTED) • JA was proposing that a GB Technical Advisory Group be established in line with the Lead Home Nation Contract from the commencement of the new funding cycle. In advance JA proposed an interim GB Technical Advisory Group with the primary focus to agree a GB performance pathway with connectivity across the Home Countries. The proposal was welcomed and agreed by the Board. • KR asked if the other Home Countries could be made more aware of the discussions with UK Sport so that they could feed these into their HN Boards and provide a united front to UK Sport. AC indicated that it was evident, in discussions with UK Sport, that the issue of the alignment of the Home Countries' talent systems into the GB pathway was of utmost importance. The group proposed by JA was fundamental to completing this work. It would be important to show UK Sport that the four Home Countries are aligned about player development and progression. UK Sport are now talking about longer term plans and if the four Home Countries cannot demonstrate that they are joined up and in agreement, UK Sport may lose confidence in badminton's commitment to GB Primacy. • JA was nominated as the Chair and would establish the Technical Group over the coming weeks so it can look at the GB pathway. (ACTION: JA) The three other Home Countries were requested to provide the names and contact details of the members that they wished to join the group. (ACTION: CB, KN and KA). In addition, Terms of Reference would be written and reviewed by the GB Board at its next meeting. GF reminded everyone that previous TOR existed for a group of this kind so there would be no need to start from scratch. (ACTION: JA)
4.2	<p>Update on UK Sport funding submission to include discussion on proposal to have centralised doubles training.</p> <p>The GB Board had received both JA's paper proposing the Technical Group which was discussed above and KR's paper which included issues around the new Memorandum of Understanding and the Lead Home Nation Contract for the Paris Cycle and extension of the Tokyo Cycle. The following points were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (REDACTED) • (REDACTED) • (REDACTED) • (REDACTED) • (REDACTED)
5	FINANCE UPDATE
5.1	<p>BGB Accounts</p> <p>The GB Board received and approved the year end accounts to March 2020.</p>
5.2	Confirmation of transfer of funds to Badminton England

	<p>The GB Board confirmed their approval for the transfer of £10K to be transferred to Badminton England to support the submission work by JA and his team.</p>
5.3	<p>To consider if the current MOU should be extended beyond 31 March 2021 to 31 March 2022 in light of the Games moving to 2021 – Board discussion only. The four invitees left the meeting prior to this discussion</p> <p>It was agreed to consider four issues;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proposal to extend both the MoU and LHNC contracts by 12 months giving a termination date on both contracts of 31/3/2022. 2. To discuss whether to agree the MoU and LHNC contracts as tabled or to review them as requested by Badminton Scotland and if so to agree a process for so doing. 3. To discuss whether the Board should give a steer on the proposal currently contained within the UKS draft submissions regarding centralised doubles training. 4. (REDACTED) <p>The Board had a wide-ranging discussion about the above issues in which many points were raised including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (REDACTED) • The desirability of incorporating a greater requirement to collaborate within the LHN Contract. • That the funding from UK Sport must be focussed on Olympic, Paralympic and World Championship success and that if any Home Country BA doesn't want to accept the necessity of GB Primacy in order to prioritise this over other considerations such as Commonwealth Games, then their players would not be eligible to benefit from the funding. • It was noted that medals at the Commonwealth Games are an important consideration for Sportscotland performance funding. • That the Board's role is to agree the principles and to empower LHN Executive to operate within these principles. • That the Board should have the opportunity to input into strategy development at an early stage in the process. • The question as to whether an MoU is required for each Home Nation or whether Badminton GB could operate without the endorsement of Home Country BAs. • The role of the proposed Technical Advisory Group. It was emphasised that the GB PD, while consulting with this group, needed to retain the authority to decide on operational matters such as partnerships, tournament programmes and training requirements. <p>Decisions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It was agreed that the existing MoU and LHNC should both be extended by 12 months to each terminate on 31/3/2022 in light of the postponement of the Tokyo Games. 2. It was agreed that the MoU and LHNC for the next cycle should be reviewed and that this process would be led and coordinated by Graeme Finch who would request and coordinate feedback from the Home Country BAs and any other relevant parties. He would also ask Ken Nixon to assist in the process. It was agreed that revised documents should be tabled for approval at the next Board meeting, currently scheduled for October. (ACTION: GF)

	<p>3. (REDACTED)</p> <p>4. It was noted that the Articles specify that Board attendance is for Directors of the company only but, by invitation, it is expected that the Accountable Officer should attend and that the GB PD would routinely be required to provide a Performance report and to involve other members of his team as appropriate. Alternate directors are not permitted under our Articles. Others should not attend unless specifically invited to do so by the Chairman for specific reasons. Additional members of Home Country Associations may only attend if invited by the GB Badminton Chair for a particular agenda item. This includes the CEO of any Home Nation who is not the nominated Member of the Board.</p>
5.4	<p>Memorandum of Understanding for the Paris Cycle – Board discussion only</p> <p>See 5.3 above</p>
6	GOVERNANCE
6.1	<p>To receive the Lead Home Nation Contract – Board discussion only</p> <p>See 5.3 above</p>
6.2	<p>Formal appointment of a Senior Independent Director (SID) (NB; Executives were present for this and the following items.)</p> <p>GF had attended a UK Sport workshop on SIDs to understand the requirements of the role under the Governance Code. Although he had assumed the role of SID this had not been agreed formally by the GB Board. Having read through the job description of a SID provided by UK Sport, the GB Board approved GF to be the Senior Independent Director.</p> <p>Following the meeting GF would contact all the members to discuss the Chairman’s appraisal. This would need to be undertaken annually and completed this year by the Phase 3 submission date. (ACTION: GF)</p>
6.3	<p>GB Terms of Office</p> <p>The terms of office for JN and GF had been reset in 2019 in accordance with the new Code of Governance. Their four-year term would end in February 2023 and they could stand for a further four-year term to 2027. This had not been formally approved by the Board. The GB Board approved the Terms for both GF and JN.</p>
7	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The BOA was considering future events ahead of the Games in 2021. They were collating all their budgets together for the GB events normally held and they may decide to revise the sports team events. It was likely that badminton would go to the European Games but likely that they would not be represented at the Youth Olympic Games. • The paper provided by KN on the International Para Representation Pathway Information was noted and approved by the Board. DB suggested that “IPC Regulations” be added to the last eligibility point on the document. KN agreed with

	this and indicated that the Para Pathway and the Olympic Pathway would be collated together into one document.
8	Dates of next meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thursday 8 October 2020, 10.30 – 13.30 hopefully in Milton Keynes but TBC nearer the time.
	There being no other business, the meeting closed at 2.15 pm

Appendix 2: Actions

Reference	Action	Responsible/Lead	Deadline Date
Item 4.1	MB to provide the Year 4 financials to the GB Board	MB and SW	When minutes are circulated
Item 4.1	Information relating to the 79 questions to be given to the GB Board once considered by GB Management	JA and MB	
Item 4.1	JA to convene a new technical Group to discuss the GB aligned performance pathway	JA	ASAP
Item 4.1	Home Nations to provide the name and contact details to JA for the new Group	KN, KA, CB	ASAP
Item 4.1	TOR for the new Group to be developed for the September Board Meeting	JA	October 2020
Item 5.3	GF to coordinate the review of the MOU and LHNC for the Paris Cycle to be brought to the October 2020 meeting	GF	October 2020
Item 5.3	JA to present the TORs for the new Technical Advisory Group to the October Board meeting	JA	October 2020
Item 6.2	GF to contact all GB Board members to discuss SB in the role of Chairman	GF	June 2020