

Minutes of the BHA Board Meeting
Saturday 16th May 2020



Present: Paul Bray (PB) Chair
Mike Bain (MB)
Iain McKinven (IM)
Anna Garside (AG)
Lucy McClements (LM)
Elisavet Manoli (EM)
Stevie Neilson (SN)

Apologies: Tracy Watkinson (TW)

Venue: By telephone

The meeting opened at 5pm.

1) Welcome

PB welcomed everyone to this regular quarterly Board meeting, particularly EM on her return following maternity leave.

2) Apologies & Declaration of interests

Apologies received from Tracy Watkinson.

Declaration of interests:

- PB declared an interest in relation to the GB men's team as his son is a member of the squad.

3) Approval of minutes and action log

21 February 2020 – approved with no amendments.

Action items were reviewed and live list will be updated. Most items were either complete, or on the meeting agenda.

4) UK Sport Progression Fund bid

PB gave an update on the BHA application for UK Sport Progression funding following the feedback meeting on our Phase 1 resubmission from 28 February 2020. For a largely self-funded organisation, it has been a hugely complex and demanding process to get this far. In a positive development the BHA has been granted a small amount of money to support the project management and data gathering elements of the bid.

In the absence of a final decision by UKS (unlikely til December) the Board agreed to continue pursuing the bid.

5. Chairman's update

Both the M18 & M20 EHF competitions scheduled for the summer had been postponed until Jan '21. The IHF had yet to make a decision regarding the autumn M18 & M20 IHF Trophies. There was also some doubt as to whether the new Women's Senior EHF Emerging Nations tournament would take place, currently rumoured to be played in the autumn.

Discussions regarding a possible kit deal had stalled due to C-19.

6. Performance Group update

The minutes of the last performance Group meeting had been circulated previously by AG to the Board. The Board was broadly supportive of the proposal to incorporate a transition squad between M20 and the Senior men e.g. through an U23s or universities team. SN suggested the possibility of creating four regional teams (Scotland, NE England, Midlands, South) at this age group, which could also broaden the net of potential players.

AG had prepared draft selections policies and a single appeals policy. IM had provided written feedback already, and in the interests of time all other Board members were requested to pass their comments to AG by 22/5/20.

Action:

- All Board members to provide comments on selection policies and the appeals policy by 22/5/20.

7. Financial update

Financial update was circulated by LM ahead of meeting.

Key points:

- a) The BHA account remains in credit and the IHF 6-monthly tranche of funding had been received.
- b) The EHF account also remains in credit.
- c) The W17/19 had been unable to secure a refund on their March Madeira flights beyond a tax rebate.
- d) The HSBC account had been closed.
- e) A small amount of funding had been received from UKS to further support data gathering and project management of the bid.

Since the financial update had been circulated it was noted that the M20's had successfully received a refund for the deposit on their flights to Latvia in the summer.

There appeared to be a possibility of recouping some losses from C-19 from IHF/EHF and PB agreed to lobby them on behalf of all three bodies. Furthermore, MB noted that the IHF had created a new fund (kit and equipment focus) that the EHA intended to apply for; the SHA and BHA might also be eligible.

SN noted that the EHF Master Plan was being brought forward, and there appeared to be scope for GB to get involved.

Actions:

- MB to send through further info on the new fund (equipment and kit focus) to PB and SN.

- MB & SN to send PB details of SHA & EHA C-19 losses.
- PB to contact EHF to find out how GB can get involved with the EHF Master Fund.

8. Commercial update

EM noted that an opportunity had arisen to broadcast handball via a platform (open to a wide range of sports) at no cost to the BHA. It was unclear whether we could capitalise on this in relation to international games as IHF/EHF or host nations would own the broadcast rights for these. However, there may be scope to broadcast age group games or the British playoffs. In a separate development a ticketing company had expressed an interest in supporting handball.

Actions:

- PB to discuss the broadcasting rights challenge with Andrew McSteen (media coordinator), as well as IHF, EHF and championship rights holders.
- EM to circulate further information on these opportunities as they become available.

9. BHA playoffs

The British playoffs had been cancelled due to C-19. Scotland would host the tournament in 2021.

A decision was outstanding as to which GB teams would go forward to next season's European club tournaments.

Action:

- MB and SN to confirm which clubs are to be nominated as Scottish & English national champions, and to agree a fair approach to determining the third team to be put forward for European club competition.

10. Risk Register

The BHA Risk Register was circulated by LM in advance of the meeting. It was agreed to add a risk around a possible elongated period without the ability to play/train in handball due to C-19.

Action:

- LM to update the Risk Register to include a risk on C-19

11. AOB

No AOB

12. Date of next meetings

The following dates and locations were agreed for the September and November Board meetings:

- Face to face meeting (Covid-permitting) on Thursday 10 September 2.30-5.30. AG will be unavailable. London preferred for face-to-face
- Webex meeting on Wednesday 25 November 10am-1pm [no notified absence]

Meeting closed at 6.25pm.