

MINUTES

Of the meeting of the Advisory Council held on Thursday 2nd October 2014 at The British Marine Federation, Egham.

1. To record attendance and apologies for absence.

Present:

Patrick Prior - Chairman
Steve Sopp - Vice Chairman
Nicky Caine - Treasurer
George Hazelwood
Andrew Cordery
Stuart Scott-Ely
Colin Slater
Andy Harris
Patric Foley-Brickley
Tony Green
Derek Blackmore
Stuart Hills
Mark Burridge
Nick McGarry

Patrick Donovan - CEO

Apologies:

Alan Murray
Roy Collins
Paul Turner

Alex Dobson
Justine Naylor
Rose Tranah
Penny Clifton

2. To approve the minutes of the Advisory Council meeting held on 19th January 2014.

The minutes were reviewed, seconded by Nicky Caine and unanimously approved by those present.

3. AOB.

None recorded.

4. Chairman's Report

Patrick P outlined briefly the work of the Board this season which included the ongoing work on the set up of a charitable foundation, attending sports council meetings regarding the lack of funding for non-Olympic sports and supporting the staff team in a number of areas including finance and governance. The membership issue and means to address this were highlighted (e.g. competition structures and member capture) as was some disappointment over Excellence and Development – both were once active and working committees and very recent endeavours to re-invigorate work in these areas was less than satisfactory.

5. CEO Report

Patrick D provided a summary overview of the current core BSW programmes to include:

Talent – the talent programme had been revamped in 2013 as part of the new funding round with a broader programme focussed on 75 athletes attending training camps with exposure to supplementary input e.g. sports science. The programme continued to provide success and key medal targets were once again on track for season 2014.

Coaching – the UKCC Level 2 courses were now firmly embedded with 320 coaches having passed through BSWW courses. As well as strengthening the qualifications the new courses were providing for a new income stream from outside of the clubs and membership; new Cable Wakeboard courses had been launched and overall the programme had received a great deal of praise from course attendees and Sports Coach UK.

Club Development – following on from a difficult start to the new funding round due to staff changes the development team were now up to speed with the roll out and management of a number of initiatives and key targets e.g. On the Edge with the aim to encourage retention within the sport. The key target of *new* participants actively committing to two 30 minutes sessions per week for the full season was on track.

Membership – with 55% of clubs showing a decline in numbers based on last year the recession within the core club aspect of the sport was not recovering. A number of longer and shorter term initiatives were outlined which could aid stimulate the sport at club level and capture members for the future.

6. **BWSW Committee Structure** – Patrick Foley-Brickley provided a presentation on a potential alternative way of working regarding the BWSW Committee structure. BWSW had for many years worked via the two key directorates of Excellence and Development though activity and progress had been limited in recent years. The proposal provided food for thought and a wider structure to engage more with other stakeholders within the sport such as boat owners and recreational users. Overall the aim would be to provide a representative group that represented and was relevant to the whole membership. The presentation produced some interesting and at times heated discussion.

7. **Nominations Committee (NC) Proposal**

i) **Purpose** – Patrick P highlighted the history of where we stood with governance with the move away from having 18 directors to having a board of 7 with 3 additional independent directors. This was partly forced by a need to make the board more streamlined but also due to external pressures from funding partners. He outlined the purpose of any future NC would be to act as a recruitment and selection tool in terms of the recruitment process for directors to join the Board. He further outlined why this was essential as the current Advisory Council (AC) system had not worked as a recruitment tool and “training ground” for the Board. A draft document had been circulated prior to the meeting outlining the role, scope and make up of any NC together with the voting process at the AGM. The aim was simply to produce a recruitment process that was skills based, transparent and accountable.

The NC proposal was discussed in some detail – it was clear from those present that there were merits but a number of points were highlighted that would need some further consideration and “polish”. The final proposal was to introduce an NC in relation to Board appointment processes; this would take this role of appointing the Board away from the AC with candidates for the Board voted by the AGM. The AC would therefore remain in existence and continue to be elected by the AGM but would not appoint the Board. There was some debate as to whether the AC should be constituted in the articles or simply defined in the Committee Terms of Reference – the majority view was that defining the AC in the Committee Terms of Reference provided for greater flexibility.

ii) **Amendment to the Articles** – the proposal would require the current articles to be deleted and new articles adopted at the next AGM in January 2015.

Action: Patrick D would summarise the changes required and action the legal advice required.

iii) AGM Related Matters – in terms of the current articles and the committee rotation of the Advisory Council this was outlined in a document for the meeting.

8. Dates for 2014 Meetings:

ADVISORY COUNCIL
TBC

BOARD
Thursday 4th December

The meeting closed at 15:50.

Minuted by:

Patrick Donovan
CEO & Company Secretary