



Great Britain Diving Federation

Annual General Meeting 2018

## MINUTES

Date: 22nd April 2018

Location: John Charles Sports Centre, Middleton Grove, Leeds LS11 5DJ

Time: 16:15 approx

### In attendance:

Jim McNally - President

Martin Smith - CEO

Nina Mewse - Finance Director

Leslie Grist

Steve Jackson

Barbara Heathfield

Peter Woodham

Abigail Veitch

Caroline Moore (left meeting at 16:50)

Ian Hammond (arrived at 16:30)

Jan Isherwood - Masters Director

Naomi McBane - Junior Novice Director

Jenni Cluskey - Director without Portfolio

- The meeting was opened by **Jim McNally** at 16.20hrs

### Apologies for Absence received:

Shiraz Shamshudin

Richard Heraty

Sarah Smith

Will Moloney

Tony Hunter

Peter Jewell

Kev Davidson

**JMc** - confirmed that the meeting was quorate with 12 members.

Thanked all those that had worked so hard during the Spring Masters Event, specifically Nina Mewse and the trainee recorders.

- Minutes of 2017 AGM

**JMc** - Asked if we have them?

**Martin Smith** confirmed that we do not as the notes that he made at said AGM have been misplaced.

**JMc** - Said that this was not good enough and was not happy about not having last year's AGM minutes.

- Matters Arising

Lack of Minutes from 2017 - This should be brought up with the new CEO (Will Moloney). These should be produced for the membership so that it can be discussed. The minutes need to be on the Website/published so that the membership can comment. Though no official minutes have been produced, one or two members that attended last year's AGM stated that they might have some brief notes jotted down.

- Reports

#### President 's Report

**JMc** - Although not obliged to produce a report, has some points to make.

It has been a busy year and not great regarding the Board of Directors. The Board consists of the old membership repeating. We need new members so that the Board is not running the events minute by minute and has the chance to concentrate on strategic planning. Therefore, a review of the Board is needed.

The 2017/2018 year cannot be repeated. It resulted in two Board members resigning and the CEO standing down.

This year sees a new CEO who has a great diving pedigree and has experience of holding senior management positions at work.

**Steve Jackson** stated that a succession plan was needed. Mail shots could be used to ask for those interested to come forward.

**JMc** - Pointed out that Caroline Moore has already agreed to help with commercial incentive as her firm is prepared to act as Sponsor. This would enable promotion and sponsorship opportunities, and this would, in turn, now make the need for a Marketing role on the Board of Directors less relevant.

**JMc** - Returning to reporting this year's actions, the time since September has been taken up by discussions regarding the 2018 LEN European Masters event in Slovenia (last week of Aug) and the possibility of an alternative event organised for 20th-26th August (in Rijeka, Croatia) - therefore avoiding a direct clash.

The main reason for an alternative event has been because of safety concerns regarding the pool at Jesenice in Slovenia, which LEN propose to use to hold the European event. It cannot currently support synchronised diving events or have the number of boards necessary for the potential number of divers that may attend, and the suggested adaptations to allow at least a synchronised springboard event mean that it won't comply with FINA regulations regarding safe distances between boards/poolside etc. This would therefore invalidate any insurance cover divers may have.

In addition, previous experience has shown the potential for inclement weather at that time of year.

After concerns were raised via email to LEN officials, only a holding email was received from the Vice Chair of the LEN Committee and no response regarding the concerns raised has been given.

Jim asked the membership to support the Croatian alternative.

**Caroline Moore** commented that the dates and location of the Croatian event were great and, if repeated next year, could make a good family trip.

**Jenni Cluskey** stated that we shouldn't call it an '*alternative event*', merely that it was '*another international*' event

**JMc** commented that this was just semantics.

Consensus in the room suggested that the meeting move on from the topic.

#### Chief Executive's Report

**MS** - asked if members had seen his report on the website.

Consensus was 'No - most don't use the website'

**Jenni Cluskey** said that it had not been sent to her.

**Steve Jackson** asked where on the website was the CEO report?

**Martin** replied that it was under the AGM details

**MS** - The overview was that his report thanked Nina Mewse for taking over many Administration duties in the absence of anyone in that role this year.

Also, that there had, again, been a struggle to get access to pools in which to run GBDF events.

Any questions?

**Ian Hammond** asked whether the issues with pool hire was due to not using school holidays?

Several people confirmed that 'Rolling Program Courses' where leisure centres run classes throughout the year, stop us hiring enough time at a weekend or even hiring a facility at all. It is no longer just a case of high hourly rates **and** being charged for the lost revenue from the regular classes. Leisure Centres often do not want the hassle of cancelling their lessons and having to refund payments already collected by direct debit.

**Nina Mewse** added that Jeanette from Edinburgh has been trying to get their pool for 2019/2020 but has had no response. However, Aberdeen have shown some interest.

#### Finance Director's Report

**Nina** - We have 92 members.

Membership Fees and/or Event entry Fees need to go up as the federation's Income is not meeting the outgoings regarding insurance.

It has previously been suggested/discussed that event entry could go up to £20

Several in the room said that they could no longer afford to enter if that is the case

There was a discussion in the room regarding membership fees and the fact that some member's payment has been held static since the federation's creation because they pay by standing order. It was suggested that this needs reviewing.

**Nina** - Membership needs to be encouraged. Noted that some people question why they should join annually when temporary membership for events works out cheaper.

Discussion was held over whether it is/should be just international divers that use temporary membership?

**JMc** asked if we need a motion to put the fees up?

Discussion was had regarding whether a motion should be made now, to be voted on at the 2019 AGM. It was pointed out that this was too late and this same point was discussed at the last AGM in 2017 but nothing has been done.

**Naomi McBane** mentioned that Shiraz Shamshudin and Richard Heraty, when giving their apologies for absence, had stated that they wanted this matter discussed.

Consensus in the room was that the matter cannot wait another year, and this would mean a Special General Meeting to get the motion passed sooner, or else the Board Members to clarify with the constitution whether they can do it directly.

**JMc** clarified that according to the constitution, there was no reason why the board cannot decide to amend **ONLY** the EVENT ENTRY FEES.

**Steve Jackson** -pointed out that those present at the 2017 AGM agreed that the Board should review the figures and recommend an increase in MEMBERSHIP FEES. Therefore, Board members were given the remit last year to produce figures for this year's AGM to vote on. "We all know what was discussed last year - just because it has not been written down..."

**Jan Isherwood** started a proposal that Event Entry should go up to £12

**Nina** added that Non-Member entry should go up to £12 too

**Martin** asked Nina if that was enough?

Discussion resulted in suggestions for TEMPORARY membership to become £15, with INTERNATIONAL Membership as a special category costing £12

**Jan** suggested the removal of the CLUB MEMBERSHIP Category

#### **NINA MEWSE PROPOSED**

★ Clubs no longer need to pay a fee, but individuals must be registered, and all pay the same ★

Proposal seconded by **Lesley Grist**

**Steve Jackson** questioned the 'Founder Member' static fee.

**JMc** suggested that the loss of some members was acceptable. The Federation should let them know that we have had to put up costs. They can either amend their standing order or cancel their membership.

**VOTE** on Nina's proposal taken. It was passed unanimously.

#### **THE BOARD TO IMPLIMENT THAT PROPOSAL IMMEDIATELY WITH EFFECT FROM JANUARY 2019**

**Lesley Grist** suggested a constitution review

**Jan Isherwood** stated that it was maybe only 5 years since this was done

**Lesley** said it was 'picked at'

ACTION - **JIM McNally & BOARD** to review the constitution

**Steve Jackson** wanted to clarify that the AGM notes were correct

**Jan Isherwood** agreed to check with **Naomi McBane** that there was no discrepancy

**JMc** - Thanked Nina for all the work done on Finances

**Nina** brought up that Tony Whittaker audits the GBDF books every year without charge and that maybe a 'Donation' should be made. Discussion in the room came to a figure of £50

## Masters Director Report

*J I* - Just need to look at the cost for events

**Jenni Cluskey** suggested we put up Entries in line with inflation as this is how pools put up their costs.

Discussion had which showed up logistical problems. The topic of using inflation was binned.

*J I* - Future dates under review - maybe 5th April 2019 in Manchester

## Junior Novice Director's Report

**NMc** - Giving report verbally as there was little to say other than to apologise for not fulfilling the role as it should be. While assisting with the general duties of being on the Board, no events had been organised for junior divers this past year.

Naomi clarified that while she felt and understood that she should be resigning from the role and not standing again, the only reason that she was not doing so was because no-one else was stepping forward to take on the position and that if it was not filled, then she feared that Junior Novice divers would cease to be catered for by the GBDF at any point in the future and in addition, the Board as a whole would be one more Director short at a time when it already has several vacant positions.

**JMc** - acknowledged that the previous year had been a 'glitch' year and that succession planning was required. It was noted that Naomi was a 'stalwart' of the GBDF and Jim put to the meeting that despite the lack of activity in the role of Junior Novice provision, Naomi should remain on the Board of Directors - There was agreement in the room.

- Election of Officers

**JMc** read a report from Will Moloney (standing for Chief Executive), who was unable to attend the AGM.

**NMc** asked Jim to send that report over for inclusion in the minutes.

The nominations were reviewed

**JMc** asked the room for any additional nominations.  
None were given.

JIM McNALLY PROPOSED

★that the AGM accept the nominations on block★

The room agreed unanimously

- Any Other Business

**Steve Jackson** brought up the subject of General Data Protection issues and asked if we were aware of it?

**JMc** - said that we will need to contact the membership regarding these issues

*J I* - believes we need to ask people if they will 'opt in' not if they want to 'opt out'.  
Regarding the Database we hold - We might need to update to better software.

- The AGM was closed by Jim McNally at 17:35hrs