

Scottish Fencing AGM

Held at: National Sports Training Centre Inverclyde, Burnside Road, Largs KA30 8RW at 16.00 on Saturday 30 November 2019.

Minutes

Board attendees

Sheila Anderson – HR and Equalities Director

Martyn Foley – Events Director

George Liston - Chair

Hugh Kernohan – Governance Director/ Culloden Fencing Club

Gail Prince – Director responsible for strategy

Morvan Shaw – Commercial Director / Salle Ossian

Paul Vaughan – Performance Director

Staff attendees

Liz Anderson - Operations Manager/Minute taker

Vincent Bryson – Chief Executive Officer

Blair Cremin – Pathways Manager

Attendees:

Stuart Anderson

Naomi Farmer

Dylan Morrison

Malcolm Napier Holford

Alex Pearson

Helen Pitt, GWEFC

Matt Pocock

Lorraine Rose, WFFC

Jennifer Sancroft, Sancroft Blades

Tom Sorbie

Cat Thomson

Ruth Thomson, Wallace Fencing Club

Paul Thomson

Mike Thornton

Apologies:

Dave Carson, Finance Director

Barry Cook, sportscotland partnership Manager

Adam Szymoszkowskyj, Development director

Minutes

Minutes of the AGM held on the 24 February 2018 were proposed by Hugh Kernohan and seconded by Stuart Anderson.

Appointment of Directors

Hugh Kernohan summarised the reasons for appointing the two independent directors. It was agreed to confirm Gail Prince's appointment from March 2017. The finance director needs to be independent and so David Carson's appointment for another four-year term was agreed at the Board meeting in November.

Finances

The accounts to 31 December 2018 were presented. There were no questions.

Chair's Report

GDL explained that sportscotland invested in SF rather than funded SF. He added that SF's relationship with sportscotland had strengthened in recent years. Lottery funding and potential investment in sports had reduced quite significantly as fewer people played the lottery. SF had not been impacted yet; in part, this had been due to the increased confidence sportscotland had in the organisation.

GDL added that the vehicle for development of the sport was through the clubs. The current accreditation process was to ensure that clubs met minimum standards but it was now proving an effective conduit for improving communication between clubs and the staff team.

As an example of the mandatory work that was invisible to many members, SF was currently working towards ensuring that policies for safeguarding and equality were in place and that these were supported by appropriate policies, action plans and training.

GDL thanked those sitting on the referee, event and women's groups. For anyone wishing to know more about the work of the Board they could read the minutes which were published on the SF website.

GDL explained that attracting people to clubs was the route to recruiting more volunteers as people are more likely to help with a group to which they had an affinity. SF was continuing to work on building a volunteer workforce.

Members' Questions:

JS asked if a representative from the RAG group could sit on the events group; BC would take this forward.

JS asked if SF planned to attract those leaving the sport into other roles. VB detailed how SF was in the early stages of developing a mentor programme with the aim of creating a wider volunteer workforce.

VB repeated his apology to CT when she asked why she was missed in a social media post. VB added that social media and communications was additional to the staff roles and was mainly done outwith office hours when staff were off duty. He added that, if clubs generated content, tag SF and SF would share. VB added that SF had recruited volunteers to run social media campaigns with varying success.

VB thanked Keith Davidson for his efforts in keeping the website up and running.

VB confirmed that there was only one SF Facebook page. Any other Facebook pages are communities outwith the auspices of SF.

There was discussion around team staff communication with under 18s in particular using private messages on WhatsApp and Facebook.

TS asked if SF knew of coaches who could support clubs who didn't have a registered coach. GDL advised that SF currently did not know of coaches who could take on these opportunities. There was not a bank of coaches who SF could approach; most were already working in clubs. However, SF could advertise coaching opportunities in clubs. It was added that SF was looking to generate and develop coaching in the west of Scotland.

AP asked why coach education courses were run in Perth, Elgin and Shetland. He added the cost of getting to Perth and the other locations was a barrier to attending coach education. GP advised his club to seek funding from their clubsport network. For a small affiliation fee, many networks helped clubs to buy equipment and would also fund coach education. AP was also advised that currently SF were not charged for the use of the venue for coach education, which is why courses were run in Perth. There had been a course run in Glasgow which was undersubscribed. As for other areas, these training events had been organised by a group of people willing to pay for a venue and a coach educator's time and travel. VB suggested AP work collaboratively with SF. If he could identify a group of people in the West/Glasgow area who were interested in coach education and would share the costs, SF could identify a coach educator and run a course.

JS suggested SF hire "celebrity" coaches. VB added that SF was keen to run a coach event in the future such as a coach conference which may involve guest coaches or leading experts in the wider sporting world.

Awards

The Sword of Merit was awarded to the Foundation for Scottish Fencing. For the last 10 years they had run many events for younger fencers; also, it was perhaps perhaps less well known that they provided funding for equipment and grassroots fencing.

The Crosnier Quaich was awarded to Chloe Dickson for her gold medal at the 2018 Commonwealth Championships and for her British Championship title.

Gavin McMenemy was given the **Crosnier Coaching** award. Several of his junior fencers had achieved excellent results and this award was recognition of his role in their successes.