

**Minute of the Annual General Meeting of Scottish Fencing Ltd, Held on
7th February 2015 2pm, at Caledonia House, 1 Redheughs Rigg, Edinburgh, EH12 9DQ**



Attendees:

Chris Hyde, President	(CH)	Mike McEwan
Michael O'Donnell, Director and Chair	(MOD)	Paul Neil Maclachlan
Graeme Hart, Director		Joan Riddell
Liz Anderson (Administrator and note taker)		David Rollo
Alan Martin (National Development Officer)		Glenn Sancroft
Sheila Anderson		Jennifer Sancroft
Keith Davidson		Thomas Sorbie
Clyne Grant		Billy Steele
Karen Grant		Andrew Thomson
Ian Hunter		Paul Thomson

Observers:

Jennifer Griffin (**sportscotland** partnership manager)
Jacqui Stone (**sportscotland** partnership manager)

Apologies:

Roy Clarke (Director), Dave Carson (Financial Director)
Andy Alderman, Peter Drummond, Alan Loveland, Ed Rodgers.

Report from Board

Staffing:

Alan Loveland has retired as administrator and is replaced by Liz Anderson. The board thanked AL for his contributions to Scottish Fencing and his long service. RMC is undertaking the Chief Executive role on a consultancy basis one day a week. His main tasks are to improve the governance of Scottish Fencing, line manage staff and to work on **sportscotland** investment papers.

Development:

Alan Martin has joined the organisation as National Development Officer and the directors highlighted the progress in terms of delivering plastic fencing and other initiatives running which increase membership. There is now a volunteer development programme and MOD also highlighted the Sword Mark club accreditation scheme. MOD thanked **sportscotland** for the investment which has made this possible.

Competition:

The Commonwealth Fencing Championships was a brilliant event with great performances from the fencers. The online streaming was widely appreciated with approval from throughout the Commonwealth MOD thanked Chris and Roy for their huge effort in producing a quite spectacular event.

Appointment of Independent Directors:

At the recommendation of **sportscotland** and their compliance auditors KPMG, Scottish Fencing has sought to appoint one or two independent Directors. The board has now recruited an independent Finance Director, David Carson

General Discussion of the Board Report:

In response to a question CH confirmed that Scottish Fencing is formulating the case for a CEO and this is part of the long term strategy.

Scottish Fencing is realigning its strategy to focus on the development of youth fencers onto the GB pathway as this is something Scottish Fencing has control over (British Fencing controls performance at senior level). British Fencing has clear guidelines and junior fencers can aim for selection onto GB squads.

AM detailed the coaching which was a result of the Commonwealth Championships and talked about the new club in North Ayrshire.

Scottish Fencing's investment paper is available on **sportscotland's** website.

There was a discussion around plastic fencing and the resultant growth in membership. There was a suggestion that those running the plastic fencing courses could advertise clubs in the local area as well as the clubs which they run. AM and Joan Riddell will discuss the opportunities of running plastic fencing in her club's area outwith the meeting.

There was a long discussion about veteran, student and adult beginner fencing. Also discussed was the reinstatement of sections. It was suggested that the focus of Scottish fencing is with elite and junior fencers and there are several target audiences who feel overlooked. The board in response highlighted the limited resources to support these other groups but did agree to look at this further.

Joan Riddell highlighted that currently club and member insurance does not allow social members to compete at other clubs on a social basis on more than one occasion. CH asked Joan Riddell to put her concerns in writing to him so that Scottish Fencing can formally note this and take this forward.

Special resolution - Adoption of new articles of association.

Jacque Stone highlighted that these were not the Articles of Association that **sportscotland** had originally proposed as a template. CH replied that they had adapted British Fencing's Articles of association and British Fencing's articles were accepted by UK sport. CH added that Harper McLeod, **sportscotland's** legal experts, have reviewed the Articles and they have indicated that they comply with current company law and that they think these are fit for purpose.

The Resolution was proposed by Paul Neil-Maclachlan, seconded by Paul Thompson.

12 voted for, there were 6 abstentions and none voted against. The new Articles were formally adopted.

Board vacancies

It was confirmed that Graeme Hart had given due Notice to step down and CH thanked him for his efforts on behalf of the Board.

Chris Hyde and Mike O'Donnell had duly indicated their intention to stand for second terms of office as President and Director respectively. The only new nomination for a Director was received from William Steele. The board thanked William Steele for his nomination. As there were no other nominations Bill was duly elected to the board and Chris Hyde and Mike O'Donnell were duly elected for second terms.

It was noted that vacancies remained for more Directors and the board will look to co-opt directors for the other vacancies in the near future.

Reappoint accountants

The board proposed appointing Macfarlane Gray of Stirling as accountants.

Proposed Joan Riddell, seconded Keith Davidson. Macfarlane Gray of Stirling were duly appointed as accountants.

AOCB

Joan Riddell asked Scottish Fencing to send out guidance to all clubs about what fencing clothing is required at club level for safety and for clubs to have insurance cover.

It was suggested that when the time comes to appoint another member of staff that that the board consider part time regional staff rather than one person with a national remit. The board added that the role and structure of the performance committee is under review.

Re advising other national governing bodies planning on running Commonwealth championships CH replied that he is currently rewriting the guidelines on costs and information. One point which caused issues was the CFF technical commission selecting all the referees. They set the referee levy without regard to the costs of transporting the referees they had selected.

In respect to commonwealth championships the total event turnover was approximately £280k including income from accommodation. Cost of the event was £150k for both vets and senior. The analysis shows a loss of £10k for the event: a loss of £7k on the Senior and £3k for the vets.

Glen Sancroft suggested that Scottish Fencing improve the communication for athletes unsuccessful in getting SIS support and funding. The board will take that on board and look at supporting those unsuccessful by offering advice which will help them with future applications.

Clyne Grant proposed a vote of thanks to the organisers of the Commonwealth Championships. He added their effort deserves recognition.

The Board agreed with the suggestion to reinstate the award of prizes at future AGMs.

Meeting closed at 16.01.