



## **ENGLISH LACROSSE ASSOCIATION Ltd.**

Minutes of the English Lacrosse Association Ltd. Board held 4pm on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2023 via TEAMS conference call.

Present: Nikki De Kretser (NK) Interim Chair, Mark Coups (MC) CEO, Jane McCarthy (JM), Gavin Devine (GD), Will Evans (WE), Tim Hunt (TH), Mark Jeffreys (MJ), Natasha Dangerfield (ND) President, Neil Edgar (NE) Ex-Officio, and Paul Coups (PC) Ex-Officio (minutes).

### **Section 1: Routine Business Matters**

The Board was informed that NK was having internet issues and would be late, it was agreed for MC to proceed with the meeting.

#### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Hannah Bowe (HB), Prashant Jobanputra (JP), Michael Estill (ME), Jill Giddins (JG)

#### **2. Conflict of Interest Declarations**

None to declare.

#### **3. Minutes of the Last Meeting**

The minutes of the ELA Board Meeting 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022 were approved as a true record.

#### **4. Matters Arising**

MC reviewed the conflict with Netball National Schools as discussed at the last meeting, highlighting that:

- a rule amendment had been agreed and implemented for NSLC 2023 for any conflicted schools; and
- thanks to all who had supported the process.

MC clarified the position of coach compliance, as outlined in the CEO report, adding that this will now be taken forward by NLC.

#### **5. CEO Report and Action Log**

NK invited MC to provide an update on papers 2 and 3.

- MC reviewed the situation as regards David Leach, summarising the steps to taken since the accident.

At this point the board expressed their heartfelt sympathy and best wishes to David and his family. The Board took the opportunity to highlight the membership benefits and also the wellbeing of people involved.

#### **Actions**

- MC to coordinate effective communications re-emphasising membership benefits.

#### **6. Strategic Risk Matrix**

NK asked MC to table paper 4, highlighting the changes to the Risk Matrix. MC outlined that the Risk Matrix has been updated to be more reflective of company risks. MC reviewed the position of contracted Sport England investment, summarising the challenges that EL may well face in 2025.

## **Section 2: Finance**

### **7. Q3 Financials**

NK invited NE to review paper 5.

NE summarised the current position, identifying that EL is currently positive in comparison to budget adding that the position will become more adverse against budget through Q4 due to increased outgoings.

NE highlighted: that irrecoverable VAT is an issue and area that will need consideration moving forward.

NE noted that the reserves have been reduced since 2017 and requested that the board needs to be cognisant of this when making future decisions.

The board had a robust discussion on the information provided by NE and the points raised in item 6. The board considered the risk appetite and considered the potential medium-term constraints that may be forthcoming from a reduction in public investment. The board also reviewed the annual event income and how the position could be improved. It was highlighted that EL has taken significant steps to address non-public income, but a refined commercial strategy was required.

#### **Action**

- TH, PC and CR to develop a refined commercial strategy ahead of May meeting and staff / board session.
- Business Group to provide regular board updates on progress.

### **8. EL Budget 2023-24**

NK invited NE to table paper 6.

NE reviewed the key points of the budget.

The board had a broad discussion on the budget, re-emphasising the points made in item 7.

The board unanimously approved the budget for 2023- 2024.

NK thanked NE and all involved at FARC for the putting together the budget, and the continued diligence in relation to the finances.

## **Section 3: Key Strategic Business**

### **9. The Code for Sports Governance**

NK invited PC to review the position regarding the Code for Sports Governance and paper 7.

PC took item 9, 10 and 11 together to review the EL position in meeting the revised Code for port Governance, highlighting the steps being undertaken by the executive team to meet the key new documents (People Strategy and DIAP).

PC summarised the process for submission (April 30<sup>th</sup>) highlighting that any area not meeting the standard will be addressed through a Governance Action Plan (31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 compliance timeline), referencing paper 7 for all actions.

PC reviewed the other mandatory governance processes and assurance reviews that will be required in the coming months, highlighting that this will become more commonplace in the calendar year as part of EL procedure.

#### **Action**

- The board approved the actions outlined in paper 7.

### **12. EL Board Chair Appointment**

NK reviewed the process that has been undertaken for the new EL Board Chair, highlighting that two (2) candidates from the long list provided by Hartmann Mason have been taken forward in the process.

The two candidates will have a face to face interview on the 28<sup>th</sup> February with NK and MC, enabling the preferred candidate to attend the May Board meeting and staff away day.

MC clarified the process for appointment with the identified candidate to attend the May Board meeting to be elected to the Board and then proposed as Chair, although attendance will be as an observer with NK chairing the May meeting.

**13. AOB**

- National Schools Lacrosse Championships 11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> March, Aldershot
- Thanks to the board for their help in operational areas (especially MJ in an extensive round of interviews)
- Thanks to NK for her work as interim chair
- The position of the Fly will be forthcoming post NSLC 2023.
- Cross check future Board distribution list.

The meeting ended 1800 with thanks to the Chair and all for their contribution.

**Future Dates 2023**

<b>Board Meetings</b>	<b>Other Diary Dates</b>
	National Club Championships 7 <sup>th</sup> May Moulton College Northampton NN3 7RR
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May (including a Board and Staff meeting)	The Fly 14 <sup>th</sup> May, 21 <sup>st</sup> May, 4 <sup>th</sup> June Rosslyn Park, Priory Ln, London SW15 5JH
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> September	Men’s Senior World Championships, San Diego 21 <sup>st</sup> June – 1 <sup>st</sup> July
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	Women’s U20 European Championships, Prague 2 <sup>nd</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup> July
	National Lacrosse Day 16/17 <sup>th</sup> September
	AGM October date TBD
	Schools Challenge Cup, 19 <sup>th</sup> November

**Distribution:** Nikki De Kretser, Hannah Bowe, Mark Coups, Prashant Jobanputra, Gavin Devine, Michael Estill, Jane McCarthy, Mark Jeffreys, Will Evans, Jill Giddins and Tim Hunt.

Cc: Vicky Lowe, Natasha Dangerfield, Neil Edgar.