



## **ENGLISH LACROSSE ASSOCIATION Ltd.**

Minutes of the English Lacrosse Association Ltd. Board held 4pm on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022 via TEAMS conference call.

Present: Hannah Bowe (HB) Chair, Mark Coups (MC) CEO, Nikki De Kretser (NK), Michael Estill (ME), Prashant Jobanputra (JP), Gavin Devine (GD), Will Evans (WE), John Neal (JN), Natasha Dangerfield (ND) President, Neil Edgar (NE) Ex-Officio, Jane Powell (JP) Ex-Officio and Paul Coups (PC) Ex-Officio (minutes).

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

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

Susan Gordon (SG), Jane McCarthy (JM)

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

None to declare.

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

The minutes of the ELA Board Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021 were approved as a true record (Proposed NK, seconded ME).

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

- MC updated the board regarding Sport England investment, outlining that a had been received confirming the £2.9m investment over 5 and that a contract will be forthcoming.
- HB thanked the staff and board members for their work on the investment submission.
- PC was invited to give an update on the UK Anti-Doping (UKAD) assurance process., PC outlined that following a review from UKAD there had been some gaps and qualifying statements required to the submission which are being addressed. PC is confident that the process will be signed off in the coming weeks.
- MC outlined the medical advisory group recent covid review had identified that most disruption will now be on in relation to international competition with other countries working to different regulations and protocols with most domestic restrictions having been removed. MC added that the recent England Women's tour to the USA has provided significant experience in this area.
- HB outlined that board recruitment was ongoing and an updated position will be available at the next meeting.

#### **5. Performance Programme Review**

MC provided a brief outline of the challenges that the Performance Programme had faced over the last 2 years.

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HB invited JP to table paper 2 and provide a summary review of the Performance Programme.

JP outlined the current international picture and the challenges that the Performance system is now facing.

The key points outlined:

- International challenges in relation to Covid (referencing the point previously raised in item 4),
- self-funding by the athletes to play,
- potential investment if lacrosse is included in any future international multi-sport event, advising that Olympics would be an investment into GB with England benefiting in profile with Commonwealth Games which would be investment into England, where both would be 6-a-side focused,
- small talent pool in the men's game highlights the issues and challenges of time, cost, athlete health and wellbeing of teams, alongside the managing peak performance (small group attending multiple events in a short window).

The board undertook a lengthy discussion on the issues outlined in paper 2 and the additional summary by JP. Information from WE outlined the journey that both Netball and Triathlon have undertaken provided key background knowledge, alongside JN providing input as regards the competition development and management by cricket. ND highlighted the need to explain the 6's journey on a more consistent basis to each internal stakeholder group.

Key points discussed:

- priorities are required to support the men's code,
- Commonwealth supports EL objectives more than Olympic, although both give significant impetus to profile and commercial opportunities,
- a duty of care is required to support the athletes,
- the need to broaden the talent pool especially in the men's alongside having a more inclusive direction for talent and performance,
- 6-a-side and 10-a-side should be the focus,
- The Fly provides a platform for EL to benefit from any inclusion at Commonwealth or Olympic level,
- a need to do more to take the game on the journey, identifying the benefits of 6's which supports inclusion, expansion and profile, but how it can generate growth for the traditional game.

(ND left the meeting at 5pm)

## **6. Domestic Game Review**

HB invited WE to update the board tabling paper3.

WE gave context to the paper, highlighting the challenges that covid presents looking at the data. WE identified that the information does provide a view at a point in time, which can be undertaken annually to allow trends to be considered.

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WE outlined the following points:

- pockets of participation had issues which needed addressing,
- officiating and safeguarding were areas which needed more consideration, MC added that safeguarding will form part of the structural refresh,
- the composition of the NLC was discussed and concerns were raised that the macro-position of the game can be difficult for some members of NLC to fully digest and review,
- WE outlined that the committee will be in transition over the coming months.

The board agreed that a domestic game overview with a comparative analysis and summary will be produced annually for a December/January review.

## **7. AOB**

No AOB.

The meeting ended 17.15

### **Dates for 2022**

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October (with AGM, may need to be moved to a weekday depending on AGM consultation)

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December

**Distribution:** Hannah Bowe, Mark Coups, Prashant Jobanputra, Gavin Devine, Michael Estill, Nikki De Kretser, Jane McCarthy, Susan Gordon, Will Evans and John Neal.

Cc: Natasha Dangerfield, Neil Edgar.

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