



GREAT BRITAIN WHEELCHAIR RUGBY LIMITED  
Annual General Meeting  
18 September 2019

MINUTES

Present: Kevin Aitchison Chair  
Mike Spence Director / Trustee  
Suzy Christopher Director / Trustee  
Andrew Flatt Director / Trustee  
Simon Le Fevre Director / Trustee  
Jon Nutman Director / Trustee  
Andy Barrow Director / Trustee  
David Pond CEO  
9 Full / Voting Members  
4 Associate Members

In attendance: Lauren Templeton GBWR  
Paul Arnold GBWR  
Stuart McLindon GBWR  
Dale Thompson GBWR  
Daniel Hook GBWR

1. Chair's Opening Address

1.1 The Chair welcomed Members to the AGM and thanked everyone for coming. He stressed to those gathered that it was their meeting and their opportunity to ask questions of the Board and Executive. He confirmed that the meeting was quorate.

2. Apologies for Absence

2.1 Apologies were received from: Kira Philpott (GBWR), Margaret Moore (Director / Trustee), Mary Daunt (Director / Trustee), Paul Shaw, Adam Simmons, Patrick Asher-Relf, Jamie Higgins, Gareth Stokes, Becky Hill and James Price.

3. Minutes of the AGM dated 19 September 2018

3.1 There being no changes proposed, the minutes were approved.

Proposed: Bob O'Shea  
Seconded: Steve Palmer

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

4. Actions Arising

4.1 There were no actions arising.

## 5. Chair's Annual Report

5.1 The Chair began by saying that it was pleasing to report that once again much had been achieved over the year and that once again it was change that dominated the agenda. The biggest change he said was around future funding where, he suggested, there is already a greater focus on the social impact of investment and on well-developed and clear talent pathways. He said that in both respects GBWR was well placed in that we have an established talent squad, a strong junior programme and we are providing new sport disciplines. All of this he said was underpinned by hugely inspiring individuals. He said it was no surprise that this had been recognised by the UK Sport Board with the award to GBWR of the maximum amount of funding (£500k), from the new Aspiration Fund.

5.2 The Chair moved on to speak about the Board focus which he said was on ensuring the right things were in place to further encourage more growth in the sport. He emphasised the Board's focus on the NGB's financial stability, thanking Andrew Flatt, for his contribution in this area, and the increasing need for strong governance, for which he thanked Simon Le Fevre for the work he did as Chair of the Governance and Finance Committee. The Board focus is also on ensuring that the requirements and ambitions of GBWR's stakeholders are met along with the charitable objects of the NGB.

5.3 In concluding his opening comments he said it was a big year ahead. He highlighted the UK Sport and Sport England funding submissions, Board changes which would see him stand down at the 2020 AGM followed closely behind by Vice Chair Mike Spence and Andrew Flatt, the continuing need to generate new income and the Tokyo Paralympics all presenting significant challenges and opportunities for the sport. He finished by welcoming Andy Barrow and Jon Nutman to the Board as co-opted 'Member representative' Directors put forward for election at this AGM, and by thanking everyone who contributed to the ongoing success of the sport especially the volunteers, executive team, staff and his Board colleagues.

## 6.0 CEO's Report

6.1 The CEO reminded Members that the full Report and Financial Statements were available on the website. He began by thanking all of those who had made the effort to attend the AGM and those at home who had submitted proxy votes. He welcomed Lauren Templeton as the new National Development Director, thanking Julie Bunnage for all of her hard work over the year. He said that Lauren would provide more detail to some of the areas he would touch on in his presentation.

6.2 The CEO spoke about what he regarded as the high spots of the year summarising these as:

- The continued growth of the sport, specifically 4 new clubs, membership up by 28%, 21 new Paralympic classifiable members, and 10 teams taking part in the new WR5s summer league.
- A 'world class' Junior programme which he said is the envy of our international partners. Over 90 young people were now regularly taking part in this. He thanked the Lord's Taverners charity for partnering with GBWR on the programme and thanked Stuart McLindon for his outstanding delivery.

- The second King Power Quad Nations international tournament in Leicester which was another huge success and had brought Canada, France and Japan to compete against GB who achieved the silver medal. He said the tournament would be back again in 2020 with the USA and Australia taking part.
  - GB performances over the year which had seen the team achieve its best world ranking of 4<sup>th</sup> position.
  - Maintained compliance with 'The Code for Sports Governance' and the Advanced Standard of Safeguarding, and the achievement of an unqualified audit report from Mazars.
  - Once again the NGB had supported the Stonewall Rainbow Laces and This Girl Can campaigns.
  - In excess of £430,000 had been raised from fundraising and sponsorship.
- 6.2 The CEO said that as the audience knew he was never happy! Areas he said he felt the NGB could still do better were:
- Support for Club Affiliation. He said that he recognised this work had been slow and that more support was necessary for both staff and the clubs. This was being addressed.
  - Support for Officials. He said that when he came into the sport there were more officials and that many of these were family members and friends of athletes. With the retirement of a cohort of athletes many of these officials have also moved on but we had not managed to recruit enough new officials to meet the need fuelled by the growth of the sport.
  - Understanding our membership. He said that despite our investment in new communication channels especially social media, our website, and our newsletter there was still a sense that we did not fully understand the wishes and feelings of our membership that well. To try to get a better feel for this he said that a detailed questionnaire would be online from tomorrow which he urged everyone to complete. This he said would allow the Board and Executive team the opportunity to identify key member issues and to look at how services could be improved to meet member expectations.
  - Diversity. He said that he felt there was still more to do in this area. The Board now had Suzy Christopher as its Diversity champion and the executive team was focused on creating opportunities which might help encourage more women and more from different ethnic groups to become involved in our sport.
- 6.3 Moving on the CEO highlighted what he saw as the key challenges in the year ahead:
- Resources – people and cash.
  - Finalising and implementing the new competition model.
  - Delivering strong investment proposals to cover the 2021-2024 UK Sport and Sport England funding round.
  - Achieving podium success at the 2020 Paralympic Games.
  - Managing Board changes especially the change in Board Chair.
- 6.4 The CEO concluded his report by thanking everyone who supported the sport especially the volunteers, sponsors and fundraisers, all of the staff and finally his Board colleagues whose challenge and support he said was vital.
7. National Development Director Report



7.1 The NDD began by congratulating the winners of the 2018/19 Super Series, National Championships and WR5s Summer League 2018. She said that this was the first ever WR5s league and it had been a huge success with 10 teams taking part. She quoted some of the player feedback all of which was very positive and commented on the inclusive discipline of the sport which was now available. Next she spoke about the workforce recording that 15 coaches had been qualified over the year bringing the total number of Level 2 qualified coaches to 48. In addition there were 9 new Level 1 Activator coaches and 6 new officials qualified over the year. One of the highlights of the year she said was the success of the Lord's Taverners Junior Programme. 4 new projects had been undertaken with 92 young people taking part against a target of 50. 2 new teams had been formed and 21 activators trained specifically to support junior sessions.

7.2 Looking ahead she said there were 5 areas of key focus in the coming year:

- The development and delivery of the Talent pathway
- A member survey to better capture data on what works and what could be improved for our membership
- Increase the development opportunities and training for coaches and officials
- Increase support for clubs to help them in the affiliation task and to find new members.

7.3 The NDD concluded by thanking everyone for all they had achieved over the year and said that she was relishing the opportunity to build on the successes now that she was in her new role.

## 8. GB Team

8.1 The CEO reported on the GB team as the Head Coach and his assistants were all absent for annual leave / medical reasons. He began by saying that from a performance perspective it had been a very strong year:

- |                           |             |                 |
|---------------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| • World Championships     | August 2018 | 4 <sup>th</sup> |
| • King Power Quad Nations | March 2019  | Silver          |
| • Lakeshore Four Nations  | May 2019    | Gold            |
| • European Championships  | August 2019 | Gold            |

8.2 CEO explained that due to the timing of the AGM the World Championships had been reported on at last year's AGM although strictly speaking it was part of this year's reporting period. The same applied he said to Lakeshore and the Europeans which in a strict sense falls into the 2019/20 reporting year.

8.3 Looking ahead he said that the team had the best possible preparation and competition schedule leading into the Paralympics:

- |                           |               |                                 |
|---------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| • WWRC19                  | October 2019  | will play top 5 nations         |
| • King Power Quad Nations | February 2020 | will play Australia and USA     |
| • Paralympic Test Event   | March 2020    | expecting to play top 3 nations |
| • Canada Cup              | June 2020     | expecting to play top 7         |
| •                         |               |                                 |

8.4 The CEO next gave the Paralympic Games timeline:

- 14 August GB depart for Kitakyushu Training Camp



- 21 August Team arrive Tokyo
- 26 August Tournament starts
- 30 August Final

He went on to say that Japan, Australia, GB, Denmark, USA and New Zealand had already qualified for the Games and that France, Sweden, Canada, Colombia, Korea and Thailand would be battling it out in the qualification tournament for the final 2 places. He said that he expected France and Canada to be the final two.

8.5 CEO summed up by reporting that GB was in a good place. Now ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in the world and a squad that is very much together and proving that they can take on the very best. He said that reducing the squad to 10 had brought many positives and a real focus on individual and collective performance. He said that the strength of the sponsorship and fundraising effort had enabled a good programme with strong performance support to be put in place. In the coming weeks he said there would be details of the Friends and Family offer for those who were intending to travel to the games. Finally he said that the Paris Investment process had already started and that this would be a top focus over the coming months and GB seeks to get its UK Sport funding re-instated.

## 9. International Report

9.1 The CEO began by congratulating Richard Allcroft on his election as the new President of the International Wheelchair Rugby Federation. This is a very significant position in world sport and Richard will now also sit on the International Paralympic Committee. CEO explained that the elevation of Richard now meant that there was a vacancy for someone to lead on the International agenda for GBWR. He went on to say that GB holds a number of international appointments and outlined the current incumbents. Finally he spoke about the IWRF's work with World Rugby which he said offered real opportunities for the further development of the sport and he wished Richard and his board every success in building a closer relationship.

## 10. Resolutions

### 10.1 Resolution 1.

**THAT the accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2019 together with the reports of the Trustees and independent auditors be received.**

Proposed: Steve Palmer  
Seconded: Bob O'Shea

For: 40, Against: 0, Abstained: 1      **Resolution Carried**

### 10.2 Resolution 2.

**THAT Mazars, Tower Bridge House, St Katherine's Way London E1W 1DD be re-appointed as the Company's Auditors, to hold office until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting.**



Proposed: Craig Streeter  
Seconded: Gordon Clark

For: 40, Against: 0, Abstained 1      **Resolution Carried**

10.3 Resolution 3.

**THAT Mr Andrew Barrow be elected as a Trustee & Director for a term of up to 3 years, dated as from his co-option onto the Board of Trustees on 12 December 2018**

Proposed: Craig Streeter  
Seconded: Bob O'Shea

For: 40, Against: 0, Abstain: 1      **Resolution Carried**

10.4 Resolution 4.

**THAT Mr Jonathan Nutman be elected as a Trustee & Director for a term of up to 3 years, dated as from his co-option onto the Board of Trustees on 12 December 2018**

Proposed: Bob O'Shea  
Seconded: Gordon Clark

For: 40, Against: 0, Abstain: 1      **Resolution Carried**

11. AOB

11.1 The Chair reported that independent directors Margaret Moore and Andrew Flatt had both been re-appointed to the board. Margaret Moore for a period of a further 3 years and Andrew Flatt for one year which takes him to the end of his permitted board service.

11.4 There being no AOB tabled by members, the Chair asked if there were any final questions and as there were none, he again thanked everyone for coming and there being no further business the meeting closed.

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Kevin Aitchison  
Chair of Trustees  
GBWR