



## British Dodgeball AGM

17<sup>th</sup> October 2022 – 8pm

### Minutes of the AGM

#### Welcome & Apologies

Present: Board - Ben Hoyle (Managing Director), Jonathan Rudland (Director of National Teams), Jess Goshawk-Dumbrell (Director of Rules & Disciplinary), Shun Wong (Non-Executive Director)  
Members - Aden Woodall, Gareth Lewis, Alex Such, David Bradbury, Alex Nelson, Blain Murphy, Selvi Sahin Altunoz, Graeme Fitchitt, Elisa Storch, Ted Goshawk-Dumbrell, Anisah Khan, Sam Richards, Nicholas Bull, Josh Fuller, Henry Skinner, Lottie Millington.

#### Minutes of the Previous AGM

The minutes of the previous AGM were shared prior to the meeting and all present agreed they were happy that the minutes were an accurate account.

#### 2021-22 Season Report

Ben Hoyle presented the 2021-22 season report. It was highlighted that this was the first full season since the Covid Pandemic and a positive return to play was seen in adult national league, mixed, university, junior and school dodgeball with participation numbers increasing throughout the game. It was also highlighted that British Dodgeball introduced its 4 year plan covering the priority areas of Come Join In, Girls Dodge Too, Club Development, Coach Education, Youth and University & College.

Prior to going into more depth on each of the priority areas Ben discussed the staffing structure and future staff development plan at British Dodgeball. A measured approach that will see more regional development officers introduced in time across the UK. Ben highlighted that there needs to be patience here as the organisation is self funded and it will be challenging to afford new staff members.

Girls Dodge Too - The Sport England funded program designed to increase the number of female participants in dodgeball has had a lot of success. 861 participants have taken part in 51 sessions across England. Our challenge now is to continue this project beyond the initial funded program and source new funding and support to continue to grow the number of women and girls playing dodgeball.



Youth - Ben provided case studies of how British Dodgeball is working with teachers, SGO's and other sports providers to grow the game in regions across the UK. Ben explained that our training is enabling inter school tournaments and festivals to take place in conjunction with our own primary schools championships that are continuing to grow. The primary schools championships provide a great opportunity for children to compete within their local county, region and on a national stage. Ben highlighted that British Dodgeball's partnership work with the Association of Colleges, where we train young leaders and referees, is vital to this initiative.

Furthermore in this section Ben explained how our Come Join In funding has helped 9 new junior clubs to form across the UK, that British Dodgeball is providing event opportunities for u11's, u13's, u15's and u17's boys and girls and that British Dodgeball has received £8,000 in funding from Sport England to develop new clubs in inner cities.

Coaching - Ben explained how our Coach Education programme has now been able to accurately show the number of leaders trained throughout the year, that our online level 1 course has been a huge success and that our level 3 course has undergone a revamp. British Dodgeball also now has 81 coach members as we continue to support those wishing to develop a career in coaching dodgeball. Ben also mentioned that our new Introduction to Officiating course has been a huge success in terms of leaders supporting our schools championships but challenges continue to persist in the community game with the quantity of and quality of referees. British Dodgeball will continue to find ways to support the development of referees in dodgeball.

Come Join In - Regional League entry number have increase from 18 to 32. Providing an excellent opportunity for new players to access competitive dodgeball.

British Dodgeball has provided almost £8,000 in grant funding to 15 groups setting up new clubs. British Dodgeball has provided easy access to resources and webinars supporting clubs to be more sustainable. Our adult national league offer has continued to grow.

Financial Overview. Income from the season has more than doubled that from the previous year. Profits have increased to £23k from a loss of £31k the previous year. Understandable considering this is our first full season back after the pandemic.

Ben highlighted where the organisation spends its money with staffing costs being the largest spend. Other notable spends were on event staff (referees) and venue hire. The most notable incomings were from coach education and events. Equipment sales and membership being the other main contributors.

Adult Dodgeball. Ben highlighted how our numbers have continued to grow which is impressive in comparison to other sports where numbers have dropped off since the pandemic. He also highlighted that the national leagues are the priority for the organisation in terms of our adult event offer. British Dodgeball has invested in a new netting system that we will be using an larger events.

University. Our first BUCS dodgeball season took place with a very successful program. Entering year 2 we will see 72 teams competing which is an increase from 60 in year 1.

Junior. Ben mentioned that the number of teams competing in our junior leagues has grown throughout the year with more teams entering our spring/summer events. Ben highlighted however that there are a lot of junior clubs not competing that exist who are not competing in the regional junior leagues and that it is a priority for the sport for them to be participating.

Ben also mentioned that this season British Dodgeball will be introducing a secondary schools championships for the first time.

Rule changes within the junior game have been a real success.

Ben's final point on the report was that British Dodgeball recognise that club development is an absolute priority for the long term sustainability of the sport and that the organisation will be doing all it can to support clubs in this area.

### **Finances**

The audited financial statements were shared and approved.

### **Appointment of Directors**

There are no new directors appointed at this current time. The organisations priority is recruiting a new Chair.

### **AOB & Questions**

What will be done to improve the links between the GB team and the Home Nations National Teams?

*British Dodgeball will set aside separate training dates for both the GB Team and the Home Nations Teams. It is however unclear at this present time what the landscape will look like regarding international events going forward. That is up to the World and European bodies to decide and we will input where we can. We will of course keep national team volunteer staff in the loop regarding any decision made by the WDBF and/or EDF.*

Will there be an opportunity for a players committee to be formed?

*Yes this is a good idea and it is something that we would like to discuss with our new Chair once they are appointed about how to do this effectively. British Dodgeball always wants to ensure players have a voice within the sport, whether this be through our surveys, feedback methods or committees.*

What are the plans for the future of the board structure with Helena leaving post?

*The first plan is to recruit an experienced Chair. This will likely be someone from outside the sport that can support the formation of a new board of directors that will enable British Dodgeball to move to the next step in terms of recognition.*

What are the plans for the under 17's dodgeball?

*We will introduce a league or small number of under 17's opens next season with a view to reintroducing this age category. Previously there have not been enough teams competing for this age group to exist at our events. With the number of clubs with younger junior set ups now getting older we are confident that this age category can be reintroduced and be more long lasting.*

Are British Dodgeball planning any future club requirements?

*There will certainly be more club requirements introduced in the future. These will come about via consultation with the clubs and always with a view to grow the game. All requirements are there to support clubs and should be seen as a positive. For those that wish to just play as a team rather than go down the more formal club route then opportunities will be available also.*

What are the plans for live-streaming events?

*We will continue to live-stream our national league at St Georges Park however this comes with a large use of staff time and we need to continue to assess the impact this is having on growing the game. Audience numbers are low in dodgeball, not just at our events but even on a global stage at the World Championships. The WDBF invested a lot of resources into live-streaming the World*

*Championships with little return. We need to be mindful of where the sport is at and where best to target our resources for maximum impact.*

Close of Meeting