

**British Dodgeball AGM - 19th August 2024
11am - 12.20pm via video link**

Present: Ben Hoyle, Katie Ford, Edleen John, Gareth Lewis, Matthew Drohan, Aden Woodall, Alice Bowler, Terri Lynam, Ted Goshawk-Dumbrell, Mike Wroblewski, Tasha Marino, Christina Leath, Adam Tanner

Apologies: Tom Sharp, James Robinson, Dillen Kanjee

Agenda:

- 1) Welcome & Introductions
- 2) Board Update - Sports Council Recognition & Home Nations Representatives
- 3) 2023/24 Season Report
- 4) Financial Overview
- 5) Members Questions
- 6) AOB

11.15 Welcome and Introductions

- Ben Hoyle (BH) - Welcomed those on the call and thanked them for joining. He also provided an overview of meeting: updates on Sports Council recognition and member representatives, season report, financial report, questions, and AOB
- Katie Ford (KF) - Thanked Ben for the amount he does and has done for the sport and began the introductions by the board members on the call (KF, Edleen John (EJ), Terri Lynam (TL), and Christina Leath (CL))
- KF then introduced the board members not on the call at the time (Tom Sharp (TS), Dillen Kanjee (DK), Adam Tanner (AT))
- KF - The board is keen to complete the board recruitment process by appointing the nation representatives in place (following the member vote), to provide a voice for the nations. Member questions also provide steer and valuable feedback from members. Clear objective of the board is working towards Sports Council Recognition working with Sport England as that is the nation we are headquartered within. Nations Representatives are needed to help steer funding and understand the needs in each area.

11.25 2023/2024 Season Report (BH)

- The season report will be available on the website and go out via socials and email to members. It covers 6 main areas that are linked to our strategy and then key points for next season
- Come Join In - providing opportunities for everyone to play through a pathway. Now introducing Rec Leagues working with local clubs to increase access to playing the game. Regional leagues are still popular. National leagues are ever growing, and always looking to grow them, with consultation this season on how to grow this further. British

Champs to become the showcase event at the end of the season which we started this season. More opens were asked for and the offer has changed over the past season to reflect this demand. Growing mixed leagues and introducing a Scottish Mixed League is an aim for the coming season. Work with National teams to host an event in Autumn 2025, hopefully including junior age groups.

- Girls Dodge Too! Want to showcase talent and provide more opportunities to play. Survey - gained feedback and found out what British Dodgeball can do going forward. Social media and marketing - showcase talent, show off role models. Introducing another women's regional league and more womens categories. Improve reporting of complaints from members.
- Coaching - large area of work. Positive feedback regarding coaching courses. Improvements/updates - linking with CIMSPA to improve coaching courses and provide endorsement within the industry. Increasing marketing in this area.
- Club Development - collectively growing the game (BD and clubs) and working more closely via 1:1 meetings with staff. Understanding each clubs and their needs has been great (examples include accessing funding, providing training, checking policies, helping with advertising)
- Youth - change of approach for community events based on feedback received. More junior opens providing more variety of competition and more opportunities to play. Leagues will continue with slight expansion and area changes to meet demand. Partnership work is key - new/potential partners including Active Schools in Scotland, GOALS football, and continuing work with School Sport Partnerships and Active Partnerships. Large increase in schools attending our competitions - more new schools each year and high amounts of returning schools. Introducing some year 9/10 school championships this coming season.
- Uni/College - plateau in number of BUCS unis but lots of new unis from year 2 are staying with the sport. We need to utilise the HEDA scheme to help the 15 unis that don't have women's sections/teams to build this. Large amount of opens for unis but feedback to reduce the number of 'team' opens to have Mens/Womens categories. HEDA programme is continuing for year 2 and has been a great success. Introducing a uni mixed league.
- No questions asked.

11.45 Financial Overview (BH)

- Full report is available on Companies House and will be made available on the British Dodgeball website.
- Slight loss of £1000 this year but we have healthy reserves so not a concern.
- Staff is the largest cost (wages, tax etc.)
- Non regular costs - director loan repayment has been made, accommodation for GB team came into the start of the financial year and money for this came in at the end of the previous financial year, so a mismatch of income v expenditure for this.
- Funding return - project in Wales, applied for in Covid and circumstances changed so funding was returned.

- Largest part of income is L1 and L2, with event entry fees also being a main source of income (£176,000 for adult, junior, school and uni).
- Coaching - staff coaching sessions (increasing each year as the demand for our coaching increases)
- One area that will see more income is funding as we put in more applications for clubs and for us as an organisation.
- KF - any questions?
- GL - What falls under event services? Is it referee costs?
- BH - Event services include staff delivering at School Games or similar events. Referee costs are about £30,000 a year.

11.50 Members Questions

- **What is the longer term vision for Northern Ireland (NI) dodgeball, in terms of developing and investing?** Achieving sports council recognition is important. This should allow for British Dodgeball to apply for funding for staff in NI, as well as allowing clubs in NI to apply for funding, this would be a huge change for the clubs. Development would follow the same path as the UK with those key areas. 3 clubs and 1 uni club at present - no capacity for staff at present but with funding that is the aim.
- KF - Important to highlight the success of NI teams at present
- BH - Yes, for a smaller number of participants and clubs they have seen a huge amount of success. Matthew is going to put out a NI video on socials this week, showcasing NI with action and interviews.
- GL - Queens Uni have joined BUCS which has benefitted them and BUCS were pleased.
- BH - British Dodgeball are also trying to support Queens as much as possible by working out fixtures etc. to keep costs lower and affordable to come and play in BUCS league. BUCS were excited that dodgeball could be the first sport to have representation from 4 nations.
- **World Dodgeball Youth Open in Canada Feb 2025 - what support and guidance is there for clubs?**
- BH - As a member organisation of the WDBF, they are supportive in terms of sharing accommodations and giving advice on visas etc. We will get info from them and share with clubs that are looking to attend and support as much as possible. Those that attend we will also showcase on socials.
- **EDF junior championships - why British Dodgeball didn't take part this year? Want to see an increase in BD support for national teams.**
- BH - There were safeguarding concerns raised by England Staff/John Rudland. Experience of running junior events was nil, and the academies were not ready, didn't want to rush it and staff wasn't in place. We don't want to rush and do it poorly. Support for future - running the Home Nation events, support national teams to increase staff and

volunteers to run academies. British Dodgeball have opened up dates in the calendar to run these academies. Financially and with staffing we can't help.

- Tasha Morino (TM) - Didn't attend HEDA sessions as is a L2 and coaches across a variety of areas, but wanted to know if there was support within HEDA for treasurers to help apply for funding. In their experience their uni only has funding for mens within BUCS and not womens. Equal distribution of funds at unis is needed - **How to apply for coaching funding or help to enter events?**
- KF - In terms of uni funding - is that from uni themselves or from external bodies? We can discuss with BUCS the need for unis to commit to equal funding distribution for mens and womens teams.
- TM - the uni funds it, some unis might have a different funding set up though.
- AW - Most external bodies won't fund uni clubs (as they are not open to the general public), therefore the uni need to fund it. HEDA training does include treasury, marketing, and the upcoming training covers general club development (treasurer training and allocation of funding, each uni is different, finding what pots are available, twice we have done letters of support to get support). Event entry what events are an option are outlined to help them know what they can access.

- **TM - Can we increase attendance at British Champs?** Hosting an open in dodgeball format to enter at the same time.
- BH - We need to do more marketing of this event for this coming season as we did have this in place for this year but it didn't get enough entries. Stumped as to why, we thought people would come to play and not just watch. Still want this in place and want to look at the date this takes place and how we can make this work through more promotion.
- TM - As it was a power card open, it felt like it wasn't proper dodgeball and therefore wasn't a proper game. Felt like they weren't good enough to play proper dodgeball at Champs due to the format. Structure was fine but rules were an issue.
- BH - That's good feedback. We did it like that just to try to make it fun and social, which we have done before (Delicious Open, Dodgesmash etc). Can amend this for next season.
- KF - What is the difference between power play and normal rules?
- BH - Quick matches, normal game is 25 mins and you'd play maybe 4 matches over the day. Previously we have done 10 teams and you get to play everyone due to having shorter games.

- Ted Goshawk-Dumbrell - nothing to feedback at this point.

- BH - AGM works well at the end of season as we can see what is in place for next season. TG-D - wanted to know about improvements to regional leagues but this is already in place and can be seen through season report/plans for next season.

12.13 AOB?

- Terri Lynam - **can we get a summary of where we are on that process of Sports Council accreditation?**
- KF - Working with Sport England specifically as our sponsor governing body. Submitted association and governing documents for audit. Board make up - Nation Representatives are needed for the accreditation. Next few months - work on the governance side of things. If members have feedback through the year this great to get this throughout the year - help steering and the board.
- KF - We will give feedback to the membership about the outcome of the Sport England meeting and aim to understand where members want to be. We want to get clarity from Sport England regarding what funding we are looking at in terms of a figure so we can set our expectations etc.
- TL - would be good to understand the funding and the process of the funding journey, given the additional government requirements.
- KF - Sport Council recognition comes with benefits, with doors opening that weren't before. Gives organisations confidence you are an official governing body. Not just money = other benefits.

- TG-D - People weren't aware of the details of the meeting, personally I found it easy to sign up and attend. But can it be advertised and done in a different way?
- KF - We will share the minutes and circulate these to members. We will also ask for questions or feedback etc. to allow for follow up. We want to be transparent.

Meeting closed 12.20pm