

BBF Board Meeting Minutes

20th September 2003



The following is a report on the British Baseball Federation Board Meeting held on Saturday 20th September 2003 at Head Office, London.

Attendees:

BBF Board Members:

Genny Simmons
Oliver Everett
Ian Marchment
Ian Cox
Darik Miles
Jenny Fromer

BSUK Employees:

Bob Fromer
Tom Gillespie
John Boyd

Apologies:

Ed Edsall
Simon Gordon

Welcome and Introductions

Ian Marchment, Ian Cox and Darik Miles were welcomed to the Board. Introductions and backgrounds were received by all attending.

CEB Competitions

- Windsor, as Final 4 winners, would be offered the A-Pool Cupwinners Cup place in Europe next year.

Places would be offered in the following order for the 2 remaining B-Pool spots:

- RNL Final 4 winners
- Premier Division Final 4 Winners
- Where the Premier Division Final 4 Winners are not a northern team, the third spot would be offered to the Northern Champions.

If there were any remaining places, they would be offered in the following order:

- RNL teams based on placings (Final 4) then to the fifth, six, etc place RNL teams based on regular season record.
- Then to the Premier Division in order of regular season placings, alternately between the Southern and Northern division.
- Then to Division One in order, alternately between North and South (if appropriate) based on regular season standings.

Rounders

UK Sport and Sport England have offered Baseball, Softball and Rounders financial incentives for exploring whether modernisation plans could be implemented together – i.e. whether there is any possibility of a) developing a three-way development plan and b) of commissioning a consultant to look at the legal structures of the three sports. The carrot of extra funding for all three sports has been tempered with a stick – i.e. that the sports could all lose government funding should we not take their request to explore the possibilities seriously. Early discussions are tentative on both sides, but some areas of co-operation are becoming evident. Sport England has guaranteed current levels of funding for the middle term.

BSUK Proposals

Restructuring of the Board

- The Board agreed for GS and JB to review the Articles of Association and propose a new Constitution to the Board by the end of October at the absolute latest. The

document should be reviewed by all and officially signed off at the Board Meeting on the 29 November 2003.

- The new constitution will be put in front of the Northern, Southern and Youth Team Meetings in November and will be put forward to be ratified at an EGM called for 25 January (in the middle of the AGM).

Inclusions to the new Constitution were discussed as below:

Appointment of Board Members and restructuring

- The North/South and Youth meetings will be the forum to elect a nominee to represent their region at the AGM. Similarly, for the other representative positions. Each representative must have an affiliation with the group they represent.
 - i) The Board should ideally consist of 9 members representing the following:
 - i) RNL
 - ii) North
 - iii) South
 - iv) Officials
 - v) Youth
 - vi) Coaching

In addition, 3 members at large will also be elected to the BBF Board at the AGM, giving 9 members. All nominations must be written prior to the AGM.

- ii) Persons receiving any kind of income from baseball or associated activities may not have a vote on the BBF Board to avoid conflicts of interest.
- iii) Excepting persons co-opted to the BBF Board to fill a position, only members elected by the membership may have a vote.
- iv) Paid members of BSUK may not have voting roles on the Board.

In this way it is hoped that all significant areas of UK baseball are represented yet all BBF members are democratically elected.

- The President, Secretary and Treasurer will be appointed from within the board at the first board meeting after the AGM.
- The role of the Treasurer will be to report back on the management of the BBF's finances by BSUK.
- The Secretary will be responsible for arranging meetings and the taking and distributing of minutes. These positions may not need to be appointed and this should be left to the Board to decide.
- To be quorate there will need to be a majority of voting members of the Board present.
- All board positions will be up for election each year.

Conference Meetings

- Ian Cox and Ian Marchment were asked to report on the Northern and Southern Meetings on 15th/16th November at the next BBF Board Meeting on the 29 November.
- Darik Miles will report on The Youth Forum – Date to be confirmed.

BSUK Proposal on the future of GB Baseball

The intention behind the recommendation from BSUK was to create an overall structure under which the whole of the GB Baseball programme could sit – and that

this needed to be led by someone who could develop more time than a volunteer could. BSUK felt that one of the most important aspects of this development was to create opportunities for home-grown players to develop to the point where, over time, they could replace some of the overseas players on the team. This would strengthen the programme – both on the field and financially.

- This proposal was put to both the BBF Board and the International Committee – both who endorsed the plan.
- The proposal also suggested that Gary Roberts be asked to continue to be involved in the programme to contribute his coaching experience and skills.
- The Board supported the proposals and agreed to monitor continually the process.
- The appointment of the GB Performance Director would be left to the International Committee to make a recommendation to the BBF Board to finally ratify. The interviews will be taking place in early January and hopefully finalised around the time of the AGM.

Broadcast e-mails

It was agreed that in the interest of the Membership, broadcast emails should be deemed inappropriate and therefore ignored. If a member chooses not to receive these emails they should send a response requesting that their name be removed from the senders mailing list.

If the sender continues to receive unwanted emails they should report this to BSUK.

Meanwhile, BSUK and the BBF Board will investigate ways in which to deal with any reasonable grievances from members brought to their attention.

Any Other Business

Northern Conference Report

IM discussed the Northern Meeting. The chances are that the Northern Conference will be split into two divisions, establishing a top division that will aim to eventually rival the Rawlings National League. The meeting was very poorly attended, but there was a fruitful discussion on the future of the Northern Conference.

- BSUK was tasked, through the BSG, to propose future plans for both the Northern Conference and the Rawlings National League, looking at the concept of a National League North.

John Lee's Sponsorship Proposals

JL asked for the Board to reconfirm that the Board is happy for BSUK to continue to sell properties that they own.

- The Board agreed, provided they were given the opportunity to veto individual proposals.

Calendar Dates

15/16 November 2003 – Conference Meetings
29 November 2003 – BBF Board Meeting - London
10/11th January – ABUA-GB AGM
18 January – BBF Board Meeting - Upper Heyford
25 January – BBF/BSF AGM