

Minutes from BFA AGM 2019

Anglia Grove Snooker Club, London

Friday February 15th 6.30-7.30pm

- **Attendees**

Andrei Russell-Gebbett, Boris Atha, Mike Amsden, Dave Ziemann, Andras Csoma, Steve Lyall, Peter Maslik, Jonathan Lapuz, Waclaw Banasik, Kai Jaeger, Hamza Nesraki, Mike Cohen, Rhys Roberts, Hossein Ghamarian, Artur Drozd, Joe Bundy

1. **Chair**

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. **Secretary report**

In 2018 we moved from about 50 members in 2017, to about 200 members. Our goal is to attain 2000 members by the end of 2020. The BFA recognises 20 clubs today, of varying stages of maturity. Membership fee has increased from £5 to £10, and we now require that all members are also members of a club – this is so that we can grow the sport through our clubs.

We are now using FAST to manage the membership (including fixed membership expiry dates at the end of each year) – in parallel with Google Docs.

The ITSF's membership of GAISF (Global Association of International Sports Federations) prompts us to understand the journey to national sports recognition. A conversation with Sport England took us to joining the Sports & Recreation Alliance.

The ITSF is launching the 2020 programme which will bring a new philosophy to the sport. Sport for all is a key theme, taking table soccer out to the huge number of casual players who enjoy the game today.

- **Treasurer report**

The Treasurer talked the attendees through the details of the accounts (see attachment).

- **Sports Director report**

The Challenger Tour has been introduced for the first time.

To grow, we need to engage more people in the community. We need more people to run events whether local DYPs or national events. The Committee are all fully engaged and are struggling to give even more. [WH noted advice from Farid Lounas which is that 200 members is about the maximum for a committee to manage, after that it's essential to move the administration down to the level of clubs].

Our strategy is three pronged:

- The Challenger Tour, our top level of events
- A programme to grow the next generation of players – e.g. the first UK schools championship, activities for people who play casually
- The company aspect

There are so many roles available within the BFA; we need so many different types of skill set.

AR noted, people can grow by working within the BFA, e.g. joining up if you want to do something; or you can run something yourself, in the way you want. There is an openness to people pushing bold new initiatives we've not done before, e.g. schools, university, corporate championships. If a club wanted to run a London tournament, the BFA has a lot of resources to help with this – we have the tables, the expertise.

- **Issued Raised**

Dave Ziemann – list all the things you need help with, and publicise it, (in the context of a small numbers

Dave Ziemann suggested that a list is compiled of all the tasks where help is needed, and it's publicised looking for volunteers.

Rhys Roberts asked about the mechanics of expert challenges. It was explained that potential providers are asked to quote for opportunities and the BFA makes say 30%. Jon May was doing this for a while as Commercial Director but we don't have anyone to fill the role now.

Kai Jaeger asked how did we go from 50 to 200, and shared some experiences from Germany. It was explained that the membership has been driven by the Challenger Tour, by the London League, by unknown people signing up online, etc.

Rhys Roberts expressed a concern about the need for members to also be club-aligned, seeing this as a barrier which keeps people away. There was a lengthy discussion as to the pros and cons.

- **Appointments**

Andrei Russell-Gebbett was confirmed to continue as Chair

Will Hawkes was newly appointed to be Secretary.

The position of Secretary is vacant, to be advertised.

Steve Lyall was confirmed to continue as Sports Director.

Boris Atha was confirmed to continue as Treasurer

Yaka Diaz was confirmed to continue as Women's Officer.

The position of Commercial Director is vacant, to be advertised.

Meeting concluded and the tournament commenced.