



**DeaflympicsGB**



**UK Deaf Sport**

**Minutes of the UK Deaf Sport (UKDS) AGM held by Zoom  
26 November 2022, 10.30am  
Draft for approval at 2023 AGM**

**Present: (UKDS Board of Directors)**

Piers Martin (Chair and Director)  
Lara Lill (Senior Independent Director)  
Andy Mawdsley (Director)  
Grant Downie (Director)  
Peter Fitton (Director)  
Adam Breeze (Director)  
Toby Burton (Director) (part)  
Tom Seabrook (Director)  
Jo Hitchings (Notetaker)

**Voting Members:**

England Deaf Cricket - Katie Harrison  
England Deaf Golf - Stuart Harrison (part)  
England Deaf Football - Oliver Eadsforth  
England Deaf Basketball - Luke Taylor  
GB Deaf Athletics - Guy Finney  
GB Deaf Swimming - Martin Lee  
Deaf Sailing - Andrew Taylor  
GB Deaf Football - Sharon Hirsman (part)

**In attendance:**

Andy Hesselwood  
Martin Lewis - British Deaf Football  
Craig Meredith  
Memnos Costi  
Joanne Cholerton - UKDS  
Kathryn Halsey - UKDS  
Lydia Ingman - UKDS  
Kirn Dibra - FARG, UKDS Board Observer  
Chris Whitaker - Sport England  
Sara Brown - Kings  
Interpreters x 2

**Apologies Received:**

Craig Crowley (Honorary President)  
Anneli MacDonald (Director)  
Graeme Knight (Director)  
Jacqui Traynor (Director)  
Vincent Pericard (Director)  
LTA

Scottish Deaf Football

Football Association of Wales

England Deaf International Futsal

REF	MINUTE	ACTION
<b>1.</b>	<b>CHAIR'S WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS</b>	
1.1	The Chair welcomed everyone to the AGM which was being held virtually.  The Chair explained that the formal AGM will be followed by an Open Forum session providing the opportunity for any questions about UKDS activity.	
1.2	The Chair highlighted the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The current challenges across society and the impact on disability</li> <li>- The fact that sport brings change and so the current situation provides an opportunity to raise awareness and bring about positive change for deaf sport</li> <li>- How UKDS and society is emerging from Covid</li> <li>- The changes in leadership during the year with Valerie Copenhagen on secondment to SE and then subsequently leaving UKDS, with Lara Lill taking on Interim Executive Director role. PM thanked LL for her hard work and support during this period and welcomed the new CEO, Joanne Cholerton to UKDS</li> <li>- UKDS worked closely with Sport England (SE) during the year, a key funder and supporter. Range of work completed on Governance during this period.</li> <li>- Ongoing discussions with DCMS to progress the debate/ discussion around Deaflympics GB funding, alongside looking to our athletes to start a collective campaign for funding</li> </ul>	
<b>2.</b>	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>	
2.1	The Chair noted the apologies received as listed above.	
<b>3.</b>	<b>MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM</b>	
3.1	The Chair asked Members to approve the Minutes of the last AGM.  The total number of Members eligible to vote was 7 with 6 Members present and 1 proxy vote.  For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 1  <u>The Minutes of the AGM of 20.11.21 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.</u>	
<b>4.</b>	<b>TRUSTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2022</b>	
4.1	The UKDS Annual Report and Unaudited Accounts for the year 2021-22 were received and noted.	
4.2	SS outlined the income, restricted funds, spend and net deficit as outlined in the paper. SS highlighted the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The deficit had been due to admin delays in receiving SE funding which was not paid until 2022/23. This has been fully resolved for this year</li> <li>- That UKDS has been successful in securing a five year funding award from SE. This funding is restricted funding for core costs</li> <li>- That balances in accounts and funds have been depleted but this reflects charities operations and UKDS has utilised its grants successfully this year</li> <li>- Focus is now on securing alternative funding to assist with unrestricted costs not covered by UKDS grants</li> </ul>	

4.3	<p>JC updated on the following key activity delivered in 2021-22:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Over the year UKDS continued to deliver the vision of “Every Deaf Person to be Active and Inspired by Sport and Physical Activity” through the three key strategic objectives and associated outcomes of Leadership, Participation and Performance</li> <li>- Two new Trustees were appointed</li> <li>- A great deal of projects and programme had been delivered in the Participation area including – ‘Tackling Inequalities Fund’, ‘Women and Girls Project’, ‘See my Voice’ and ‘London Sport’</li> <li>- Advisory groups – Relations Advisory Group, Performance Advisory Group, Athlete Leadership Group and Finance, Audit, Risk &amp; Governance Group all met during the year</li> <li>- Partnerships were developed with National Governing Bodies and other organisations</li> </ul>	
4.4	<p>The Chair invited any questions on the Annual Report and Unaudited Accounts 2021-22. There were no questions.</p>	
<b>5.</b>	<b>ORDINARY RESOLUTION: APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS</b>	
5.1	<p>The Chair explained that an open and fair recruitment process run by Level= had been undertaken focused on recruiting a diverse, skills based Board, with specific focus on recruiting new Directors with financial management experience and an understanding of financial growth. Following the recruitment process, Toby Burton and Vincent Pericard were seeking appointment as Directors on the UKDS Board.</p> <p>PM also explained that Kirn Dibra is now an Observer on the Board to support the Finance, Risk and Governance areas.</p> <p>The total number of Members eligible to vote was 8 with 7 Members present and 1 proxy vote.</p> <p>Members voted for the appointment of Toby Burton and Vincent Pericard with the following results:</p> <p>For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0</p> <p><u>Toby Burton and Vincent Pericard were appointed to the UKDS Board as Directors.</u></p>	
<b>6.</b>	<b>ORDINARY RESOLUTION: AMENDMENT OF ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION</b>	
6.1	<p>JC outlined the proposed amendment to UKDS’s Articles of Association as outlined in the previously published papers: UKDS Articles Amendment Report 2022 and UKDS - Articles of Association Amended 2022.</p> <p>Attendees highlighted the need for technical training for virtual meetings and expressed a preference for in person meetings where possible.</p>	
6.2	<p>The total number of Members eligible to vote was 8 with 7 Members present and 1 proxy vote.</p> <p>For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0</p> <p><u>Members approved the amendment Of Articles of Association</u></p>	

7.	<b>APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY OF PRESIDENT OF UK DEAF SPORT</b>	
7.1	<p>PM explained that Craig Crowley has been involved with UKDS over many years in several roles including those as a founder and first elected Chair and Honorary President. On behalf of the Board PM thanked CC for his support to the Board and UKDS, and as one of the best champions for deaf sport in the UK.</p> <p>CC was unable to attend the meeting, so a pre-recorded video was shown with CC outlining his roles at UKDS and ICSD over the last nineteen years and thanking past and present UKDS Board, Chairs, CEO and the representatives for their positive support provided while in these roles. CC said that he will continue to champion any movement from UKDS that encourages Government to recognise Deaflympics GB and for achievements of the deaf athletes.</p>	
7.2	<p>PM explained that CC would now be stepping down as Honorary President in December and appointed Honorary Vice Life President.</p> <p>PM explained that Honorary President role is now changing approach, with the role being someone who can represent the deaf community in many ways, to champion UKDS work, act as an Ambassador for UKDS and act as an influencer to stakeholders and wider public to raise awareness of deafness, hearing loss and the barriers for deaf athletes, and to support conversations with DCMS around funding.</p> <p>PM outlined the rationale for proposing Jodie Ounsley as Honorary President. On behalf of the UKDS Board PM proposed the nomination of Jodie Ounsley as Honorary President from January 2023.</p> <p>The total number of Members eligible to vote was 9 with 8 Members present and 1 proxy vote.</p> <p>Members voted for the appointment of Jodie Ounsley as Honorary President with the following results:</p> <p>For: 9 Against: 0 Abstain: 0</p> <p><u>Members approved the nomination for Jodie Ounsley to be appointed Honorary President.</u></p> <p><b>Post meeting note:</b> Due to technical difficulties Stuart Harrison's voting position was unclear during the AGM. Stuart Harrison subsequently confirmed in writing to Piers Martin, UKDS Chair, on 28.11.22 his vote FOR the appointment of Jodie Ounsley as Honorary President of UKDS. This vote is included in the total above.</p>	
7.3	<p>The importance of volunteers in deaf organisations having the opportunity to gain the knowledge and understanding required to become leaders was raised.</p> <p>PM noted this and explained the nomination process had asked Members for nominations, with the aim to reach out and find a range of people who could represent every aspect of the deaf community, those signing, with hearing aids or with family who are deaf represented. PM invited anyone with ideas on how to extend this reach to feedback to UKDS to enable us to collectively work together.</p>	
8.	<b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b>	
8.1	There was no other business.	
9.	<b>AGM CLOSE</b>	
9.1	There being no further business, the Chair closed the formal part of the AGM at 11.41am.	