



**DeaflympicsGB**



**UK Deaf Sport**

Minutes of the UK Deaf Sport (UKDS) AGM held in person  
25 November 2023, 10.30am  
London  
*Draft for approval at 2024 AGM*

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

Piers Martin (Chair and Director)  
Andy Mawdsley (Director)  
Peter Fitton (Director)  
Graeme Knight (Director)

**Voting Members:**

England Deaf Basketball - Luke Taylor  
England Deaf Golf - Rod Oaten  
GB Deaf Football - Claire Stancliffe  
England Deaf Cricket - Katie Harrison  
GB Deaf Athletics - Guy Finney

**In person attendance:**

Nick Brookes (UKDS Chair Elect)  
Stuart Harrison (UKDS, Honorary Vice President)  
Joanne Cholerton (UKDS CEO)  
Kathryn Halsey (UKDS)  
Denise Blackwell (UKDS)  
Shannon Howarth (UKDS)  
Sammey Ahmed  
Andrew Taylor  
Mark Hester  
Tim Butler  
Katzi Harvey  
Memnos Costi  
Lesley Costi  
Fiona Brookes  
Jo Hitchings (Notetaker)  
Emma Eldridge - Kings Accountants  
Interpreters x 2

**Online attendance:**

Lara Lill – (UKDS Senior Independent Director)  
Anneli MacDonald – (UKDS Director)  
Sarah Kay  
Joseph Sheridan  
Andrew Penhallurick

**Apologies Received:**

Jodie Ounsley (UKDS Honorary President)  
Craig Crowley (UKDS Honorary Vice President)  
Philip Gerrard (UKDS Honorary Vice President)

Vincent Dickson (UKDS Honorary Vice President}  
 Jacqui Traynor (UKDS Director)  
 Vincent Pericard (UKDS Director)  
 Toby Burton (UKDS Director)  
 Tom Seabrook (UKDS Director)  
 Gordon Hay  
 Hannah McCormick  
 Lawn Tennis Association  
 GB Deaf Swimming  
 England Deaf Football  
 Scotland Deaf Football Association  
 Deaf Sailing UK  
 England Deaf Futsal

REF	MINUTE	ACTION
<b>1.</b>	<b>CHAIR'S WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS</b>	
1.1	<p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the AGM.</p> <p>PM introduced Nick Brookes, UKDS Chair-elect and the UKDS Board members and staff.</p> <p>The Chair explained that the formal AGM will be followed by an Open Forum session providing the opportunity for any questions about UKDS activity.</p> <p>The Chair outlined the voting process.</p>	
<b>2.</b>	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>	
2.1	<p>The Chair noted the apologies received as listed above.</p> <p>JC confirmed the voting members as listed above and explained that Proxy votes had been received from the following three Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lawn Tennis Association</li> <li>- GB Deaf Swimming</li> <li>- England Deaf Football</li> </ul>	
<b>3.</b>	<b>MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM</b>	
3.1	<p>The Chair asked Members to approve the Minutes of the last AGM.</p> <p>The total number of Members eligible to vote was 11 with 5 Members present and 3 proxy votes.</p> <p>For: 8          Against: 0          Abstain: 0</p> <p><u>The Minutes of the AGM of 26.11.22 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.</u></p>	
<b>4.</b>	<b>TRUSTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2023</b>	
4.1	The UKDS Annual Report and Accounts for the year 2022-23 were received and noted.	
4.2	<p>PM introduced Emma Eldridge from Kings Accountants. EE highlighted the following key points from the Accounts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An 88% increase in UKDS income from 2021-22, accounts show incoming resources for the year of £446,311, with the majority of the income being core restricted funding from Sport England (SE), with a small amount (£5,819) being unrestricted funds from small donations.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The core restricted funds were from SE funding.</li> <li>- The charities notable expenditure outside of the Together Fund direct to communities, was on staff costs and interpreters.</li> <li>- SE funding currently presents a surplus, which is the cumulative underspend of funds which has been agreed with SE on how to spend in 2023/34.</li> <li>- Key focus for 2023/24 and beyond is to increase unrestricted funds to cover expenditure such as interpreters and other costs no longer financed by SE.</li> </ul>	
4.3	<p>JC provided an overview of some of the key points from the Annual Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recruitment of new UKDS staff</li> <li>- Increase in operational delivery</li> <li>- Development of Operational Plans outlining key actions from 2023-27 to achieve the Vision and Mission</li> <li>- Impact measures to show the impact of activity on increasing participation rates and deaf awareness</li> <li>- Actioning 98 Governance actions to reach Tier 3 compliance with the Code for Sports Governance</li> <li>- Completion of some participation programmes including ‘See My Voice’ and ‘Women and Girls Project’</li> <li>- Introduction of new projects such as ‘Together Fund’ and Volunteer platform</li> <li>- Supporting 8 Deaf sport organisations to reach Tier 1 compliance with the Code for Sports Governance</li> <li>- Deaf Awareness Training, with funding secured for up to 200 learners to complete online training programme</li> </ul> <p>JC highlighted some of the key activity planned for 2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- New Marketing and Comms Strategy</li> <li>- New survey</li> <li>- New membership offer rolled out</li> <li>- Supporting more deaf sport organisations to reach compliance with Tier 1 of the Code for Sports Governance</li> <li>- Exploring commercial partnerships to support deaf sport and Deaflympics</li> <li>- ‘Fair Play for Deaf Athletes’ campaign</li> </ul>	
<b>5.</b>	<b>APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY OF PRESIDENT OF UK DEAF SPORT</b>	
	<p>The Chair asked Members to approve the appointment of Jodie Ounsley as Honorary President of UK Deaf Sport for one year.</p> <p>The total number of Members eligible to vote was 11 with 5 Members present and 3 proxy votes.</p> <p>For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 1</p> <p><u>The appointment of Jodie Ounsley as Honorary President of UK Deaf Sport for one year was approved.</u></p>	
<b>6.</b>	<b>UKDS CHAIR</b>	
6.1	<p>PM provided an overview of the progress made by UKDS during his tenure as Chair.</p> <p>PM thanked past and present UKDS Honorary Presidents, Honorary Vice Presidents and Board members, UKDS staff, Members, Deaflympics Chef de Missions, deaf National Governing Bodies, athletes, Interpreters and the deaf community for their support during his time as Chair.</p>	

	PM welcomed Nick Brookes into his new role of UKDS Chair.	
6.2	<p>NB thanked PM for his warm welcome and thanked PM for his hard work over the last nine years as Chair, leading the transformation of UKDS, securing SE funding, raising awareness, developing policies and a good governance framework, leaving the organisation well placed for the future.</p> <p>NB introduced himself and his background and motivations for taking on the Chair role.</p> <p>NB outlined key areas of future focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improving engagement with the deaf community in sport</li> <li>- Delivering a plan of action from the stakeholder strategy</li> <li>- Continuing to help deaf National Governing Bodies and NGBs to support athletes and members</li> <li>- Working on international relationships to increase UKDS's profile internationally</li> <li>- Securing other sources of unrestricted funds</li> </ul>	
6.3	<p>On behalf of the UKDS Board LL thanked PM for his hard work and dedication, highlighting some of the key achievements during his time at UKDS.</p> <p>LL also thanked <b>Graeme</b> Knight for his hard work and support for UKDS during his time as a Board member. <b>LL also thanked Jo Hitchings who supported UKDS as the notetaker for many years.</b></p>	
<b>7.</b>	<b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b>	
7.1	There was no other business.	
<b>8.</b>	<b>AGM CLOSE</b>	
8.1	There being no further business, the Chair closed the formal part of the AGM at 11.20am.	