



Minutes of the Surfing England AGM Board and Surfers Forum held virtually on Teams 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024.

<b><u>Directors Present</u></b>		
Tina Beresford	Executive Chair and Director	TB/Chair
Kate Eddy	Performance Director	KE
Paul Ratcliffe	Performance Director	PR
<b><u>Also in attendance</u></b>		
Ben Powis	Surfing England (SE) CEO	BP
Roger Sheridan	SE Gov + Compliance Lead, (Acting Sec.)	RS
Hannah Brand	SE Ops Manager	HB
Lenka Koubrek	SE Membership Manager	LK
Nick Moffat	SE Surf Coaching and Qualifications Lead	NM
Rachel Percival	SE Finance Manager	RP
Rob Tibbles	SE Media	RT
Beau Bromham	SE Junior Head Coach	BB
Lauren Tapscott	SE Events Manager	LT
Jack Patching	SE Adaptive Pathway Manager	JP
Max Palmer	SE Surf Community and Welfare Lead	
Phil Williams	Adaptive Surf Coach	PW
Jamie Wride	Junior Team Manager	JW
Andy Banks	Junior Coach	AB
<b><u>Apologies for absence</u></b>		
Piers Martin	Director	PM
Ricardo Oliveira		RO
<b>Surfing England Joining - There were an additional 9 Surfing England Members</b>		

REF	MINUTE	ACTION
1.	<b>CHAIR'S WELCOME</b>	
1.1	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Noted that the meeting was being recorded and thanks the Surfing England team for being making themselves available for the meeting. TB briefly introduced herself and background.	
1.2	The Chair explained the voting protocol using either visual hands or response hands to vote or keeping video off with screen blank with no hands to abstain	
2.	<b>MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING</b>	

2.1	The minutes of the last AGM held were considered and members were invited to vote on them being a true and accurate record.	
	<b>Minutes were agreed</b>	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Adopt Articles of Association</b>	
3.1	TB – explained that the Articles had to be adopted at this AGM having been approved by the Board at the last meeting. The articles had been available for members to read on the Surfing England Website.	
3.2	RS – Briefly outline the purpose of the Articles and their context within the requirements of Sport England.	
3.3	TB invited the attendees to vote on whether to adopt the articles	
3.4	<b>The articles were adopted unanimously</b>	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Annual Governance and Finance Report</b>	
4.1	BP shared the Annual Governance Statement on screen. The statement had also been available on the website.	
4.2	<u>Highlight:</u> 2023 Surfing England recognised as System partner by Sport England, extremely important brings funding, gives surfing a place at the table when looking at national policy.	
4.3	<u>Board:</u> Surfing England Board will be governed by Articles now adopted. Phil Williams came to the end of his 3 <sup>rd</sup> term on the Board and has under the constitution now stood down. BP formally acknowledged and heartfully thanked Phil for the huge contribution that Phil has made to surfing in England over the past 14 years. Record of attendance at Board Meetings by Directors is now available on the website. Two Committees now report to the Board. These are the Finance and Audit Committee and Recruitment and Nominations committee. A third committee the “Inclusive Line Up Committee support the Board and Staff team in all matters relating to Equality Diversity and Inclusion.	
4.4	<u>Risk Management:</u> Key strategic Risks – Finance: looking to create balanced financial model which isn’t overly dependent on one source of funding, i.e. grants, sponsorship, donations etc. Safeguarding: Made significant strides improving our safeguarding capacity and capability. People: How we support volunteers at a community level.	
4.5	<u>Finance:</u> Accounts are available on website 2022/23. Balance sheet improved from last year. Holding three months running costs in reserves. Financial calendar years has changed from Jan – Jan to April to April now aligns with Sport England and other funders.	
4.6	<u>Governance:</u> Move to tier three has been positive from a strong starting position of an organisation which is focused on, and committed to the growth, development and sustainability of surfing in England	
4.7	TB Thanked BP and all the SE team for the work they have and continue to put into moving Surfing England forward.	
<b>5</b>	<b>AOB</b>	
5.1	PW asked if the date of the AGM would change as a result of the change of accounting year. RS confirmed that going forward the date of the AGM would allow for a report on the latest accounting year.	
<b>6</b>	<b>CLOSE</b>	
6.1	There being no further business, TB closed the meeting at approx. 19:31	

	<b>SURFERS FORUM</b>	
	The Surfers Forum part of the meeting is intentionally less formal and gives members the chance to engage and discuss issues with the team members.	
	Ben started the forum by explaining that new members to the team would briefly introduce themselves explain what they do and would be happy to answer any questions arising from members:	
	<b>Jamie Wride: Junior Team Manager</b>	
	Has been volunteer Junior Team Manager for the past few years but now has funding which enables him to dedicate more time to it. Roles is about supporting the team at events nationally and internationally making sure they are properly prepared and have the resources they need. Making sure that training sessions are available regularly, that the coaches they need are available, which is an ongoing process, we do now have a really good set of coaches and support staff. The team has Just come back from World Championships in El Salvador where Luke Skinner won a silver medal and the team overall achieved 15 <sup>th</sup> place. Euros coming later in the year next big target as well as building on giving juniors best chance to develop and progress.	
	Ben introduced Beau Bromham Junior Team Head Coach who was not at the meeting as he was away at Morocco Maul Casablanca Junior Pro where we have a number of our top end juniors competing, an example of something which just a few months ago because of lack of resource. Ben also highlighted that the amount of coaching time for juniors has tripled over the last year and thanked Jamie for everything he is doing and achieving with the junior teams,	
	<b>Phil Williams: Adaptive Team Manager</b>	
	Phil started by saying that it is 16 years since he first started n the Board and wished to record his thanks for all the marvellous people that have helped to grow Surfing over that time, it's so good to see where surfing is now. Although off the board Phil explained how he is still very involved facilitating the junior surf series with "the amazing Lenka" (Koubek) and Max Palmer. It's the third year and growing. Key role for para surfing is as team manager, has been volunteer manager for past four years, highlight was seeing the team score fourth place at the World Champs. The result emphasised the important balance between the elite and those on the pathway and just doing their very best, every result contributed to the fourth place. Massive thanks to the team. Phil's role is now to work with Andy Banks as Adaptive head coach, adaptive surfing is growing and growing and challenge is to stay ahead. Looking forward to seeing how the road show goes, identifying new talent .	
	<b>Andy Banks: Adaptive Head Coach</b>	
	Very excited to have started working with the team. Great time to be coming in putting some structure and planning in place so everyone knows what they want to be doing and where they are going. Put things in place to support the surfers and to build a platform around the whole season. Has been listening to all the athletes and understanding what they want and need. Aim is to try and make it easier to attend training so that training becomes more consistent. Doing a lot of remote video coaching	
	<b>Jack Patching: Adaptive Pathways Manager</b>	
	Has worked as a coach with English Para surfing, now looking at how to attract more para surfers into the sport at a grass routes level, engaged and looking to move to national level. Road show is currently going around England and getting more para people trying surfing. First stop at Bude has already had people signing up for more sessions with the local school.	

	<b>Laureen Tapscott: Events Manager</b>	
	Organising the major events, which includes the Nationals, Rip Curl Grom Search, Muscle Food Para and Inter clubs. Vision is about growing the events but loving the fact that we are giving our athletes more chance to compete. The nationals went really well and seeing priority being used for the first time was really exciting. Taking on this role frees Hannah as Operations manager to focus other areas within Surfing England.	
	Ben mentioned that a video edit of the Nationals was just about to drop on socials	
	<b>Max Palmer: Surf Community and Welfare Lead</b>	
	Exciting team to be part of and working with, Max is main contact for surf clubs to support them in what way is needed, from helping them grow, access funds run events give as much support as possible to help provide accessible surfing. Club network is wonderfully diverse from mental and physical health focused clubs to Elite athlete clubs and everything in between. Role is also lead safeguarding officer, within the actual SE team and through clubs and into the wider surfing community. Good progress with new reporting process on the website and accessing the support from Sport England.	
	Ben reminded Max that along with Lenka and Phil he also runs the junior surf series, kicking off very soon in Newquay.	
	<b>Roger Sheridan: Governance and Compliance Lead</b>	
	A large part of the role is about making sure Surfing England met the tier three requirements of SE code of governance, as importantly it's making sure that the policies actually support and enhance the work that the team are doing, helping to overcome procedural obstacles, supporting and writing funding/ sponsorship applications and developing effective management tools. Really enjoying working with such a dynamic team.	
	Ben thanked everyone and said that it is obvious to see the very immediate impact that a bit of extra resource from Sport England made. Ben invited questions from members.	
	<b>Questions/Comments</b>	
	Tomas	
	<p>Great to see everyone and to see all the newcomers. Judges are important to the success of events and wanted to know what are the plans of Surfing England to develop the quality and quantity of judging and supporting them to judge at further afield events like the Euro's and ISA events? and in terms of funding is there a plan to put a pot of money aside for judging development?</p> <p>Ben handed over to Hannah and Lauren to answer and acknowledged the successes we had recently achieved with English female judges at international events.</p> <p>Hannah said how pleased to celebrate the success of Kerry Powell on the ISA women's judging programme, joined the team at El Salvador ISA world junior championships, a huge success for us and English Judges. In terms of Euros we are waiting for information from European Surfing Federation, regarding any opportunities for our team members to be out at that event.</p> <p>We also love to have more English officials on the panels where it is possible resource wise, and we are looking at where funds could be pulled from, our funding from Sport England is already largely allocated to numerous programmes.</p> <p>Tomas followed up by asking if there was a plan to get more judges to Euro's and ISA competitions. Hannah reiterated that Surfing England were keen to improve our judging pool and part of that is that we need ISSA and Euro's to be welcoming of us. Euro's are increasingly</p>	

	supportive. Ben added that we are looking at workforce plans which included increasing our judging pool.	
	Heather Ormsby	
	New to surfing having had a lesson in Wales and was wondering how many members we had, clubs and individuals. Lenka replied saying that we had around 1900 members which is a total of all our individual members, schools and clubs including over 50 clubs, over 50 schools and over 200 Coaches.	
	Phil thanked all of the team, and particularly Rach, Rob and Ben who hadn't as yet been mentioned. He told Heather to look out for the Wave Garden coming to Birmingham.	
	Ian Bennet (Wave Project) that as England's leading Surf therapy organisation how great it had been working with Surfing England for the past two years great to see the adaptive side grow. Ben thanked Ian saying that it meant a lot coming from him, who is one of those unsung hero's support grass route sport.	
	Alex Bird exciting to see initial coaching course taking flight and people processing through it successfully. Just started working with the first person to attain the para surfing coach award, this is an exciting opportunity for anyone with a disability to become a coach. Alex then asked about Surfing England's stance on sewage in the seas and if we had any plans to align more closely with Surfers against sewage, both regarding improving water quality and lobbying. Ben said that we were due to sign an MOU with the Clean Water Alliance. We do have a long-standing relationship with Surfers against Sewage who we regard as one of the most effective campaign groups for clean seas, we regularly support their activities through our socials etc. We are looking to have discussions with their new CEO and look at how best to leverage our contacts with the sporting world. Ben confirmed that it is 100% on our minds and the effect it has on us all using the sea.	
	Jesse Day said that his daughter had attended a SAS paddle out at Tyne Mouth – Long Sands which had been on a TV news show, as she is part of the National team Surfing England got some coverage which got a lot of good feedback. Ben said how good it was to see young people having a voice on issues like this and also reiterated Surfing England's commitment to having more presence in the North East.	
	Ben then thanked everyone saying how nice it was getting such positive comments	