

BE Stakeholder Group Meeting Summary Notes

Wednesday 28th October 2020, 4.00pm
Microsoft Teams

Participants

Jude Matthews (JM) – BE CEO
Linda Allan (LA) – EHOA Chair
Jan Cottam (JC) – BEOA Chair
Bruce Haskell (BH) – ERA Chair
Chris Tattersall (CT) - Board Director, Finance, Commercial & Technology Committee Chair, EHOA Liaison
Helen White (HW) – ERA Representative
Alexandra Bright (AB) – BE EA

Apologies:

Fiona O’Hara (FOH) – Chair
Gary Parsonage (GP) – Board Director, ERA Liaison
Nigel Taylor (NT) – Board Director, BEOA Liaison

Items tabled for discussion:

- Minutes
- Frequency of Meetings
- AGM
- Future provision of Finances
- Insurance Review
- IT Task Force
- Feedback
- AOB

Discussion:

Minutes

- Association Representatives conveyed the importance of having formal records of the meetings of this Group stating that the minutes aided their discussions with their respective associates and helped them to carry out their roles as representatives effectively.

Frequency of Meetings

- Association Representatives stated that fortnightly meetings were still desirable.
- Association Representatives had understood that the “plus one” meetings [that had been agreed to take place ahead of formal Board meetings] were to include as many Board Directors as possible, and would welcome the opportunity to speak to an extended group.
- It was agreed that the next meeting would remain as planned for 18th November at 4pm with two representatives from each association and all Board Directors be invited.
- A date for the next meeting after that would be agreed on 18th November.

AGM

- JM stated that the notification of the AGM and election booklet would be sent out to members before the end of the week.
- Association Representatives had devised a list of questions that they wished to send to each of the candidates. AB advised these should be sent to company.secretary@britisheventing.com and would be forwarded to the candidates. The candidates’ contact details would not be included in the election booklet.
- Association Representatives asked about the format for the AGM with particular interest in how questions from the floor would be managed.
- JM explained that questions could be submitted in advance and there would be additional opportunities to ask questions on the day. All questions and answers would be published afterwards.

- Association Representatives felt that the management of the question session was key, and JM felt that it was important to allow members the opportunity to speak.
- JM explained the format on Zoom, and the Association Representatives suggested that the question sessions should be independently moderated (i.e. unmute/mute participants) by a person not affiliated to BE.
- JM explained that some common topics/questions could be anticipated, and so communications had been planned to be released in the run-up to the AGM to share information with the membership, which may give some members the answers to their questions ahead of the AGM.
- CT stated that some Directors would be giving presentations; Association Representatives would like to hear from all Directors during the AGM.
- Association Representatives felt there would be a lot of interest in the BEAG recommendations. JM confirmed that her “CEO update” presentation would contain a piece on the BEAG, but it was not planned to dedicate an entire section to this.
 - BEOA Representative asked for confirmation of which parts of the BEAG report were confidential; JM confirmed that the report itself was confidential.
 - BEOA Representative asked for an update on which of the BEAG recommendations were to be progressed by BE. JM explained that the recommendations being taken forward were those which had been discussed with the stakeholder groups on 16th and 23rd September.
- JM shared that it had been suggested that Di Brunnsden could present an IT Task Force update. Association Representatives thought this would be positively received and advised that it was made clear that DB received no remuneration for her role as Chair of the Task Force.

Future Provision of Finances

- Covered at previous meeting.
- CT stated that a finance communication to members would be released ahead of the AGM.

Insurance Review

- Association Representatives asked what was planned for the review. JM confirmed that work on the review would commence during December.

IT Task Force

- Thought to be positive. No further discussion.

Feedback

- ERA Grassroots Representative stated that the most common theme in communication received from her associates currently was disappointment at the news that Burghley would not host the BE80(T) Championship in 2021.
- ERA Grassroots Representative reported that she had been asked to raise the subject of balloting with the Risk Management and Sport Committee and would be submitting a paper for the Committee to consider.
- ERA Representative requested that covid-19 event protocols regarding prize money and substitutions are reviewed ahead of the 2021 season and felt that competitors would be disappointed if there was no change from the 2020 arrangements.
 - JM agreed that a “lessons learnt” exercise could be completed over the winter, and that the Rider Working Groups would be consulted.
 - BH suggested that topics under review should be publicised.
- EHOA Representative stated that owners seemed to be happy.
- BEOA Representative shared anxiety from Organisers regarding fixtures:
 1. Strategic Fixtures Review: BEOA Representative fed back that Organisers felt this was a vital piece of work and asked to be given further information about the plans for the review.
 2. 2021 Fixtures Calendar: Organisers were concerned that fewer fixtures planned for 2021 would result in high balloting again, and that would cause a drop in membership.
 - JM stated that it would be necessary to plan prudently in light of the economic backdrop and to ensure there was not the same level of balloting as in 2020. The Team were planning accordingly.
 - JM recommended that Organisers should discuss their concerns with their Regional Coordinators. BEOA Representative confirmed that these discussions had been happening.
 - JM explained that the balancing of supply and demand was extremely challenging with many factors to be considered.

- JM reminded the Association Representatives of the fears reported by Organisers during the sport suspension that members would not wish to return to competition, and that entry levels would be low. Association Representatives felt that these concerns were shared by all.
 - BEOA Representative and ERA Representative felt that the 2021 calendar was not “balanced” and that some sectors of the membership in certain regions would not be provided with adequate competition opportunities at some points during the season.
 - JM responded that many Organisers were restricted in terms of dates and other influencing factors (e.g. investment in new courses), and therefore it was not always straightforward to fill the perceived gaps in the calendar. JM reminded the Representatives that BE had not “cut” any events from the calendar; some Organisers had unfortunately decided not to run in 2021 and those events had not been replaced, the intent being to safeguard viability.
 - JM added that the lessons learnt from 2020 had shown that it was possible to be reactive to demands where required, however, it was important to safeguard viability for Organisers.
 - ERA Representative advised that plans should be based on the expectation that members would have less disposable income, and that could affect viability for Organisers, but this would have to be balanced with providing adequate opportunities for members to compete (including qualification routes).
 - JM recommended that concerns should be raised appropriately and reminded Representatives that riders’ views were considered during the process of planning the 2021 fixtures calendar, with Dickie Waygood and Bruce Haskell having been consulted.
 - BEOA Representative suggested that making fixtures planning more transparent to the membership might be positive.
 - In conclusion, ERA Representative felt that it was necessary to add more days of cross country to the proposed 2021 fixtures calendar in order to provide enough competition opportunities for members. BEOA Representative called for a better-balanced calendar.
- BEOA Representative fed back the view from Organisers that Abandonment Insurance claim settlements and refunds from the BE office were not actioned quickly enough. BEOA Representative suggested that the Office Administration Team resource was not used efficiently because manual tasks [that should be automated] took up too much time e.g. collecting start fees that had been paid incorrectly/not been paid.
 - BEOA Representative added that riders who had not achieved the necessary MERs for a competition (or were required to complete a Continuing Performance Requirement) should be contacted earlier.

5.00pm CT left the call.

AOB

- **Official Car Passes:** AB asked for the opinion of the BEOA Representative as to whether these were necessary under the covid-19 event protocols, given that spectators were not permitted. It was agreed that they would not be provided while the covid-19 event protocols were in effect.
- **Rules and Members’ Handbook:** JM explained that printed copies of the 2021 edition would be made available to members.
- **All-Terrain Vehicles / Mobility Scooters / Electric Bikes:** JM reported that BE had received requests to provide a blanket policy for all events, rather than the current arrangement of each event Organiser at liberty to publish their own, individual policy in their schedule. **BEOA Representative agreed to discuss this further with her Committee.** ERA Representative felt that as the use of electric bikes had increased [and were often seen being ridden on actual cross country tracks], this should be a wider policy decision. JM suggested that BEOA and ERA consider further and make a proposal for how they felt best to proceed.
 - **Members to be reminded of Rule 6.3.2:** “Cross Country Course Inspection and Plans... Inspection must be on foot.”

5.20pm AB (minute taker) left the call.

The call continued without minutes being taken and concluded at 5.30pm.

Next meeting: 18th November, 4pm, two representatives from each Association and Board Directors to be invited.