**Minutes: 78th Annual General Meeting of basketball**scotland **Limited held on Wednesday 6 November 2024 via Zoom video conference**

1. **PRESENT**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **1.1** | **Attendance** | |
| | Stephen Ferguson **(SF)** | **basketball**scotland Chair |
| | Kristine Johnson **(KJ)** | **basketball**scotland Board Vice Chair |
| | Craig Chambers **(CC)** | **basketball**scotland Board Member (nominee) |
| | Doug Folan **(DF)** | **basketball**scotland Board Member (nominee) |
| | Jude Deacons **(JD)** | **basketball**scotland Board Member |
| | Robyn Love **(RL)** | **basketball**scotland Board Member |
| | Stephen McCall **(SM)** | **basketball**scotland Board Member |
| | Kevin Pringle **(KP)** | **basketball**scotland CEO |
| | Barry Lang **(BL)** | **basketball**scotland Head of Basketball |
| | Colin Gregor **(CG)** | **basketball**scotland Head of Operations |
| | Emma Edwards **(EE)** | **basketball**scotland People Development Lead |
| | Keli Sirrell **(KS)** | **basketball**scotland Communications Manager |
| | Linda Gordon **(LG)** | **basketball**scotland Club and Operations Officer, CP Lead |
| | Jane White **(JBW)** *(minutes)* | **basketball**scotland Operations Executive |
| **Clubs** | Adrian Flynn **(AF)** | Aberdeen BC |
| | Glenn Brown **(GB)** | Aberdeen BC |
| | Angela McCarthy **(AMc)** | Above the Rim |
| | Donna Anderson **(DA)** | Above the Rim |
| | Lisa Cochrane **(LC)** | Beacon BC |
| | Lynne Buckley **(LB)** | City of Edinburgh |
| | Kara Lodge **(KL)** | City of Edinburgh |
| | Kirsten Zammit **(KZ)** | City of Edinburgh |
| | Robin Paterson **(RP)** | Dundee Madsons |
| | James Steel **(JS)** | Dunfermline Reign |
| | George Christelis **(GC)** | Edinburgh Lions |
| | Mike Firoozi **(MF)** | Edinburgh Lions |
| | Gillian Thomson **(GT)** | Falkirk Fury |
| | John Bunyan (**JB)** | Falkirk Fury |
| | Matt McQueen **(MM)** | Gladiators |
| | Joshua Tackie **(JT)** | Glasgow Rens (Board member nominee) |
| | Martin Braithwaite **(MB)** | Grampian Flyers |
| | Gillian McKay **(GM)** | Grangemouth Galaxy |
| | John Munro **(JM)** | Highland Bears |
| | Ryan Devlin **(RD)** | Highland Bears |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Darran Bett **(DB)** | Livingston Raptors |
| | Andy Sinclair **(AS)** | North Lanarkshire Chiefs |
| | Domas Kasevicius **(DK)** | North Lanarkshire Titans |
| | Pete Duncan **(PD)** | Stirling Knights |
| | Les McGlasson **(LM)** | Stirling Knights |
| | Alexander Caulfield **(AC)** | Stirling University |
| | Louise Moyes **(LM)** | West Edinburgh Warriors |
| | Paul Meldrum **(PM)** | West Lothian Wolves |
| | Maureen McKenna **(MM)** | Honorary Vice President |
| | Robert Bald Snr **(RB)** | Volunteer |
| | Molly McHugh **(MMc)** | Observer |
| | Kathryn O'Loan **(KO'L)** | Observer |

2. **APOLOGIES**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **2.1** | Ian Gordon | Honorary Vice President |
| | Mike Gilbert | Honorary Vice President |
| | Bill Shepherd | Honorary Vice President |
| | Danny Gibbons | Ayr Storm |
| | Jackie Bruce | Panthers |
| | John Kerray | Inverness Lions |

**AGM: BUSINESS**

**Welcome**

**2.2** SF welcomed everyone to the 78th **basketball**scotland Annual General Meeting (AGM) and advised that the meeting will cover formal business items first and move onto a question and answer (Q&A) session.

**2.3** SF thanked everyone for taking the time to join the meeting and represent their clubs. He noted that it is quite an extraordinary time for basketball in Scotland, and as he enters his final year as Chair, went on to highlight a few of the key changes which, it is believed, provide a foundation for this sport to achieve its potential:

***Caledonia Gladiators Partnership***

After passing ownership of our professional female franchise to Caledonia Gladiators, the sport now has both male and female professional teams competing in European competitions and based in a world class facility. Both their male and female teams continue to feature Scottish athletes developed through clubs. Our partnership with Gladiators, which we recently announced, is focused on using the environment they have created to inspire players, coaches and officials. A number of our events and National teams sessions will be based at Play Sport, with young athletes rubbing shoulders with professional athletes and coaches. And with top European teams and officials now regularly visiting Scotland, we are working to provide observation and development opportunities for Scottish officials and coaches to develop and learn in those environments. We look forward to this relationship developing and showing how professional and grassroots basketball can work effectively together.

***British Basketball…/***

***British Basketball***

Our relationship with British Basketball continues to develop positively. We are an active participant in the British Basketball Federation (BBF) Board with two highly-respected and effective Scottish representatives in Craig Chambers and Simon Turner. The BBF is improving its reputation with FIBA and the sporting councils, and looks poised to get additional further investment as a reflection of the improvements they have made to their governance, strategy and relationships with governing bodies like ourselves. We fully expect this trajectory of improvement and increased funding to continue and to benefit Scotland in vital ways that we hope to be able to speak about in more detail in the near future.

***2026 Commonwealth Games (Glasgow)***

We were delighted to find out recently that 3X3 basketball, both running and wheelchair, will be included in the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. This follows us making a compelling case to be part of a Games which will be half the size in terms of competing sports. This provides an opportunity to develop the 3X3 game in the run-up, and for our Senior athletes to have the opportunity to represent Scotland.

***2024 Paralympic Games (Paris)***

As the only basketball governing body in British basketball to have wheelchair basketball as part of our programme, we continue to see our performance players make great progress, with Scots playing at a high level abroad, and strong representation at international level, including two athletes, Robyn Love of our own Board of Directors, and Jodie Waite competing in the Paralympic Games in Paris this past summer.

***Domestic Leagues and Programmes***

We continue to focus on U14 and U12 basketball, and are working to support an increase in the competitive opportunities for young players. Creating strong characters through positive role models who provide a supportive culture founded on positive values and behaviours is vital if we are to be successful as a sport: we help shape great people who are great at basketball. This needs to extend right through clubs, including senior players, coaches and club representatives displaying the positive behaviours that young people can and should aspire to.

***Collaboration***

We do need clubs to work together and we're delighted to see many clubs doing exactly that, so that young players have more opportunities to compete in a positive and encouraging environment.

***Officials***

We're in the early stages of the Scottish Basketball Championship (SBC) season and seeing some highly competitive basketball across all the competitions. We are also pleased to report that we're facing significantly less challenges with the officiating shortage that we faced after the pandemic. While there are some challenges, particularly in certain areas, the growth and commitment of the referee pool has reduced this issue.

These developments, however, also highlight challenges – for example, the lack of capacity to develop the 3X3 game in Scotland. We believe this is true both within **basketball**scotland and the club game. We are conscious that the workload on volunteer clubs is high and adding more 3X3 could put additional pressure on clubs. So, this is a key area for us to discuss with clubs and work through.

***Challenges…/***

***Challenges***

Alongside the challenge to develop the 3x3 game, we are aware of challenges raised over the first few months of the season, some of which have been raised and will be answered during the question and answer (Q&A) session.

Everyone working to ensure a positive culture of collaboration off the court will ensure we face what challenges lie ahead. The days of clubs acting as little islands only joined by a set of rules and a shared competition structure are beginning to break down. SF noted that he believes those clubs who embrace a positive culture for the sake of the sport and the young players that we are the custodians of, and those who collaborate to overcome problems, learn and challenge each other to improve, will be the ones who are best positioned to reap the benefits of the changes we're seeing in the sport.

SF went on to thank those on the call for all the work they do for basketball as volunteers, coaches, administrators, referees and other officials alike. He also thanked the **basketball**scotland staff, the Senior Management Team and the Board, for all the work they do and for the passion and commitment they show to basketball.

SF confirmed that the business of the AGM will form the first part of the meeting, followed by a short comfort break and then the question and answer (Q&A) session. The Q&A session will cover questions submitted in advance of the meeting, thereafter, widening out that discussion.

**2.4** KP addressed meeting processes and conducted the roll call. He confirmed that 22 clubs were represented, 20 on the call and 2 by proxy, and this makes the meeting quorate.

- KP read out the apologies list.
- It was noted that any questions which arise during the meeting should be flagged using the 'chat' function.
- KP advised of the intention to record the meeting for accuracy of minutes purposes only, and that the recording would then be deleted. There were no objections.

**2.5** SF noted under Obituaries for the past season some of the notable people we lost from our community were :

1. Bobby Coles – A star for the Pearce Institute in the 1950s and 60s.
2. Iain Hamilton – Hammy, as he was known, was a key player for West of Scotland Wheelchair Basketball Club throughout the 1970s and 80s.
3. Gary Hogan – Another prominent wheelchair basketball player during the 1970s and 80s, Gary played for West of Scotland and Team Thistle.
4. Ken Johnston – International player, coach and a basketball pioneer who has been inducted into the Scottish Basketball Hall of Fame. A worthy inductee.
5. Ralton Way – Top player for the dominant Murray International Metals, Livingston, in the 1980s.

Ordinarily the obituaries at the AGM would cover the timeframe for the Annual Report, but SF welcomed any other mentions of people from our community who have passed away over the past year. None were mentioned.

A moment of silence followed in remembrance of those lost.

**3. Draft Minutes of the 77th Annual General Meeting of basketball**scotland **Limited: 15 November 2023**

**3.1** The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

**3.2** *Matters Arising* - There were no matters arising.

**4. Election of Office Bearers**

**4.1** SF advised that, in line with our Articles of Association, we have two election processes this year. One for the Nominated Director Role of Finance Director and a second process for two Ordinary Director vacancies.

**4.2** KP noted that Nominated Director roles are recruited through an open recruitment process. In the case of the Finance Director role, he advised that two applications were received and both candidates were interviewed by a sub-committee of the Board, and the preferred candidate has been recommended to the AGM for approval by the membership. The nominated candidate is Derek Quirk, a Chartered Accountant, and more information can be found within the meeting working papers. KP noted that a simple majority is required for Derek's election to the Board and urged anyone who is not a club rep not to vote.

In the case of the two Ordinary Director Roles, KP advised that we have three nominees for the two available vacancies. Pen pictures are available within the meeting working papers. The voting process means that each club may vote for two candidates. Club reps were urged not to vote for the same person on both votes.

**4.3** The voting process took place via the Zoom voting poll function and KP shared both poll results with the meeting.

**4.4** The results of the voting were:

**Finance Director:**

| Name | For | Against | Abstain | RESULTS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Derek Quirk | 20 | 0 | 2 | Elected |

**Board Director:**

| Name | For | RESULTS |
|---|---|---|
| Craig Chambers | 10 | Elected |
| Doug Folan | 9 | |
| Joshua Tackie | 16 | Elected |
| **Abstain** | 7 | |

**4.5** SF congratulated the new Board members and confirmed the following elections:

- Finance Director – Derek Quirk
- Ordinary Director - 4-year appointment – Craig Chambers
- Ordinary Director - 4-year appointment – Joshua Tackie

SF thanked DF for being a fantastic member of the Board and wished him well for the future.

**5. Resolutions**

SF noted that no resolutions were received from clubs.

**6. 2023-2024 Annual Report (AR)**

**6.1** The Annual Report was produced in an online format and circulated to the membership with the AGM working papers.

**6.2** KP noted some highlights from the AR as follows:

***JrNBA***

This has continued to grow, with clubs using the programme to introduce over 2500 young players to the game.

***Technology Changes***

*Individual Membership System*

We introduced some significant changes and the new membership system was in place for the start of the new season. This ensures we remain compliant with GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation). Despite anticipating this may have a negative impact on membership numbers as we transitioned to the new process, we actually saw a small increase in membership. We appreciate the support we received from clubs.

*Swish App for Digital Scoresheet and Live Scores*

This has increased interest in data for players, coaches and fans and we are working toward a new website which will better integrate the technology, hopefully by the end of this year.

***Referees***

Last season we saw an increase of 20 new referees who were actively officiating at national level. Officiating numbers have been a topic of concern over since the pandemic and we are seeing real progress in this area again this year.

***3x3 Pilots***

We piloted a number of 3X3 initiatives, looking to do these in a way that didn't add pressure to clubs. These included community basketball tournaments in Glasgow and a senior international 3X3 event this summer alongside the Hall of Fame ceremony and the SBC All Star game. This was part of our effort to show why basketball should be included in the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. We've had positive feedback from these initiatives and will continue to build on them, looking to work in partnership with clubs who do have an interest and capacity to develop 3X3 basketball. We do want to encourage the informal nature of the game, with players able to either represent their club or just get together with friends and enter a team into events.

***British Basketball Federation (BBF)***

As SF previously mentioned, our relationship with British Basketball is as strong as ever, as is the capability of the BBF. After a number of years of financial challenges, we hope to see the BBF continue to build performance opportunities for the sport.

***Paris 2024 Paralympic Games***

Finally, while not in the reporting year, we should acknowledge the selection of Jodie Waite and Robyn Love for the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games, with GB Women finishing in 5th place after narrowly losing out to USA in the quarter finals.

Areas for improvement:

***Competitions Adjustments and Rules and Regulations***

We'll spend some time on this in the Q&A session.

***Officiating***

Despite the progress we still have work to do.

***Feedback and Communication***

KP thanked all the clubs and volunteers who put a huge amount of hours and energy into contributing to the game, and noted that the sport wouldn't exist without them. He reiterated that we really want to engage positively and support clubs and noted, to this end, the club pulse survey will be issued in the next few days.

***Development of the 3x3 Game***
Discussions are ongoing around the way forward.

Adrian Flynn rejoined the meeting: 19:35

There were no questions, however, AMc advised that she recently attended a session with Disclosure Scotland about changes coming with PVGs and highlighted what she learned will impact the sport. She undertook to discuss this with LG outwith the AGM.

**7. 2023-2024 Financial Report**

**7.1** The financial report, including statutory accounts and income expenditure statement for the year, were circulated as part of the Annual Report. KP noted the following:

- We generated a surplus of £13,731 in the 23-24 financial year.
- Turnover decreased from the previous year, but as we noted last year, the 2022-23 figures were significantly inflated by the Erasmus programme which was around £300,000 expenditure. This was a 2 year programme funded during Covid, which meant we had to actually deliver the whole programme in 1 year.
- Our reserves have increased to almost £219,000, which is now slightly above the target level for an organisation of our size. This provides us with a stable base and some resilience against any financial challenges we may face down the line.
- This is a very positive position for us, however, we understand with the cost of living continuing to drive costs up for everyone, we continue to be prudent while considering how best to use the available funds to grow and improve the sport.

***Questions:***
JB enquired why competitions is showing as 'actual' £94K and 'budget' is showing as £8K, and all other entries are relatively similar. This is a difference of £86K. What is the rationale or explanation for this?

KP responded and advised that the main thing is that we hadn't budgeted for the income and expenditure related to referees fees which were previously paid by the clubs, and then were paid centrally and collected from the clubs, so there is a significant amount of income from the clubs which was then paid out directly to referees through the YesRef programme. This amounted to around £75K.

JB further enquired if there is any reason why that is not shown like that.

KP advised that a separate line can be added for YesRef to make this clearer to understand, and noted that the way it was actually accounted was that it was in and out via competitions.

There being no further questions, SF thanked everyone for attending and formally closed the meeting.

The meeting closed at 19:45