Member update following the INF Board Meeting October 2017

The INF Board met on October 26th & 27th in Melbourne, Australia ahead of the Fast5 Netball World Series 2017 hosted by Netball Australia.

The Board reflected on the severe devastation caused by the hurricanes in the Caribbean and wished those Members that had been affected a rapid recovery from this disaster.

The Board congratulated Tebogo Lebotse Sebego, Director - Africa on her national honour ‘The Presidential Certificate of Honour’ that had been awarded to her by the President of the Republic of Botswana, Lieutenant General Dr Seretse Khama Ian Khama following the Netball World Youth Cup 2017.

The meeting was structured according to the three core strategies in the INF Strategic Plan Netball 2020:

- Empowering through Netball
- Thrilling World Class Events
- Governing with Integrity

Empowering through Netball

A report was received from the Coaching Advisory Panel (CAP) who had met in Gaborone in July. CAP has created a Coaching Strategy for INF to support the goals and objectives outlined in Netball 2020. This strategy was endorsed by the Board and will be shared with Members early in 2018. CAP is planning on running a coaching workshop in the Americas in 2018 around the time of the Netball World Cup Regional Qualifiers to support the development of netball in the region.

The process for reappointing CAP and RAP for April 2018 onwards is underway.

The Board reviewed the progress of Member netball associations around the world. Each of the regional directors gave a report which included progress on the use of the INF Net Effect Grants.

The Board noted some significant developments including:

- Netball Africa, Americas, Europe and Oceania AGMs had taken place in the period
- An umpire from Lesotho has gained his IUA
- Namibia hosted a Pent Series in September 2017 – all the umpires appointed by INF to these ranking matches were from the African Continent demonstrating the progress that has taken place in the Region.
- The NWC2019 Legacy Programme with EN and UK Sport is supporting the high-performance programme in Zambia and Level 1 Coach Education in Argentina
- AFNA has created a regional Tournament Committee to plan the event programme. They had held a Safeguarding Workshop led by an expert from the Region – the attendees undertook to ensuring they have policies in this area and to focus on making sport safer for children.
• St Lucia was forced to cancel a tournament scheduled for October due to the impact of hurricanes on the participating teams.
• Malaysia had hosted (and won) the South East Asia (SEA) Games involving four teams.
• Hong Kong have held a Fast5 Tournament and have a Four Nations Tournament planned for February.
• Thailand have been stepping up their training programmes and their President is aiming to get netball included in the Asian Indoor Games.
• Europe has two new full Members – the Isle of Man and United Arab Emirates.
• An umpire from Wales has gained her IUA and an umpire from Gibraltar has gained the ITID status.
• NE Open was live-streamed again on social media and on the BBC website for the first time.
• England Netball held a one-day Fast5 tournament at the O2 in London involving teams from the Super League franchises. It was televised by Sky.
• Net Effect funding had been used to deliver a coaching course for the developing nations in Switzerland.
• The Mini Pacific Games will be held in December in Vanuatu involving four countries.
• PSP development programme (funded by NZ Government) has been launched in Fiji with Cook Islands, Tonga and Samoa to benefit next.
• New Zealand won the Quad Series (involving Australia, England and South Africa) for the first time.
• An umpire from NNZ has gained their IUA and one has gained the ITID status.
• The ‘Netball Smart’ Injury prevention programme has been launched in NZ – details on the NNZ website.

The **Sustainability and Development Working Group** had its first meeting in Melbourne. This working group has been established to promote the empowerment of women and girls through philanthropy and fund development. They are developing a strategy for Philanthropy & Strategic Partnerships. Their Terms of Reference may be found on the INF website.

INF Media and Communications made significant progress in the period with the **global live streaming of matches** from the Netball World Youth Cup in Gaborone. There were over 2 million views on Facebook, 1 million on Botswana TV and 55,000 on Twitter. The matches are still available to watch on the INF YouTube Channel.

Social Media engagement is growing fast as we work in partnership with Members (and their social media platforms) to promote netball globally.

The INF website now has a shop where Rules Books and the coaching tools developed by CAP may be purchased. The Foundation Coaching Manual may be downloaded Free of Charge.

We have undertaken a **stakeholder research project** with Nielsen Market Research to understand better the effectiveness and relevance of our messaging i.e. our vision, mission and key strategies as outlined in the Netball 2020 strategic plan. Thank you to our Members who have participated in this research. The Board will receive the report on this at their next meeting.

**Thrilling World Class Events**

The Board received progress reports from the Technical Delegates on the following events:

- NWYC2017 (final report from the Organising Committee due December 2017)
- Fast5 NWS Melbourne 2017
- Commonwealth Games Gold Coast 2018
- Netball World Cup Liverpool 2019 (reporting on all 2 year deadlines)
The Board was more than satisfied with the progress made and congratulated Botswana Netball Association on the successful delivery of the NWYC2017 and the tremendous impact that the event had had on the country and those participating.

The key risk to manage regarding the forthcoming Commonwealth Games relates to immigration and visas. The twelve participating teams are advised to ensure that teams are selected early enough for the visa application process to progress smoothly.

The International Umpiring Manager provided a full report to the INF Board including feedback from the appointed umpires and UAP (Umpires’ Appointment Panel) who officiated at the NWYC2017. Umpire and UAP appointments for 2018 are now being administered using the INF’s on-line officiating administration tool ‘netWorld’. INF has 38 IUAs and 13 ITID (International Talent Identified umpires).

INF commissioned Wharton Consulting to undertake follow-up market research in officiating with an objective of establishing a bench-mark for ‘world-class officiating’. The research is nearly finished and they will provide a report by the beginning of 2018.

Following the approval of Rules modifications by the Members at Congress 2017, a new rules book (INF Rules of Netball 2018) and supplement to the 2016 edition have been developed. (These were made available to Members at around the time of the Board meeting.)

The Board considered the Bid Process for hosting the NWC2023 and agreed the key elements that would be considered in reviewing bids from Members. An updated Bid Application document will be issued to Members in November 2017 that is intended to assist Members in obtaining support from the host cities and Governments.

Governing with Integrity

The Board received a written report from Octavia Gibson, the retiring Chair of the Governance Working Group (GWG), summarising the progress that had been made. It was agreed that Tina Browne, Director for Oceania would take up the chairmanship.

An independent governance review of the INF had been completed by the sports consultancy I Trust Sport. INF was benchmarked against the summer Olympic sports and the report concluded that INF achieves ‘solid and consistent governance standards’ across all the areas of assessment. INF scored fractionally above the median for this group, which reflects ‘a good performance considering the modest financial resources available’. The report and its recommendations will form the basis of the work plan for the GWG in 2018.

Congress 2017 was reviewed. The Board was pleased with the feedback received from Members and the success of the Workshop Programme. It was a disappointment that only 25 Full Members and 2 Associate Members had sent delegates or observers. The Board understood that the cost of attending was the major reason for non-attendance.

The Board reviewed the financial position of the INF and approved the budget and operational goals for 2018. The Board approved INF Net Effect Grants of £5,000 for each of the 5 INF Regions for 2018 to support their Members’ activities.

The Board considered the key risks that face the organisation and how they are mitigated by the operational plans.

Next Board Meeting

The Board will meet in February 2018 in the USA.

Clare Briegal
INF CEO
November 2017