

**Member update following the INF Board Meeting March 2020**

The INF Board met on 20<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2020 via video conference. President, Liz Nicholl, acknowledged the challenges that all our Regions and members were facing due to the Covid-19 pandemic, both socially and economically. Liz urged that the global netball family continues to draw strength from connecting and communicating through the many technology platforms now available.

Liz welcomed Cecilia Molokwane to her first meeting since being elected Director for Africa and the Board sent their best wishes to Gaby Hochbaum Director for Asia who could not attend due to personal reasons.

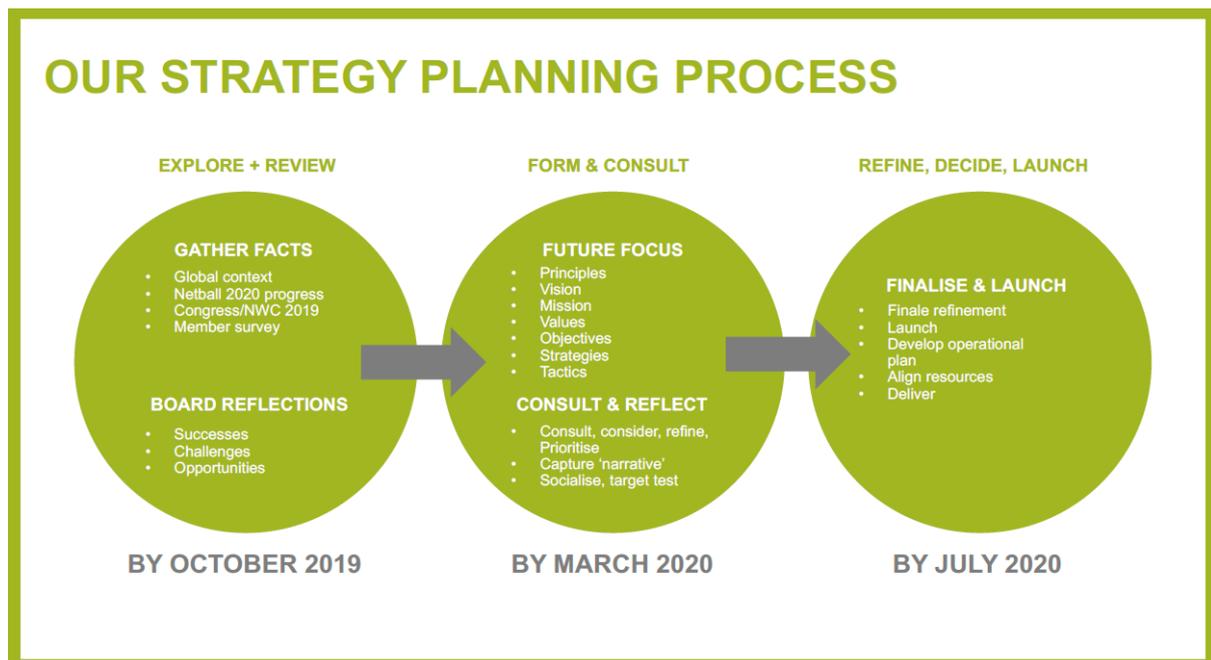
**Assessment of Impact of Covid-19 Virus Pandemic**

The Board meeting began with each of the Board members providing an update from their own perspective highlighting the concerns from Members and Regions. The Board agreed it was important to provide guidance to Members, to ensure the netball family and the wider community is protected. A letter from the President was sent to all Members immediately following the meeting outlining that guidance and this is attached to this update for reference.

The CEO appraised the Board on the impact on the operations of the INF and the Secretariat in Manchester, UK. The office has been closed and all staff are now working from home with daily team meetings using 'Zoom'. The planned schedule of Board, Committee, Working Group and Panel meetings will continue via video conference for the foreseeable future. Monthly Board meetings have been added to enable the Board to reassess the situation on a regular basis.

**Beyond Netball 2020**

Whilst the short-term situation is difficult the Board recognised its responsibility to continue the strategic planning process for the sport and is now working on refining the principles, vision, mission as shown in the 'Form & Consult' section of the process chart :



You may remember that at the end of last year the Board had identified 9 projects to progress during the period to 2024. These projects were intended to capture the feedback we had from

Members and Regions via the Populus Market Research carried out in October (and shared fully with the Membership last month).

Since the last update to Members the Board and INF Secretariat have:

- assigned project leads and committees or working groups to lead the projects and asked them to define the scope/Terms of Reference (for Board approval)
- prioritised the programmes taking into account the current and future needs of the membership and the relative impact that the projects may have on delivering a step change in performance
- established the resources required to deliver the programmes to ensure viability

The Board has reflected on the priorities and resources available given the current Covid-19 pandemic there will be some changes. Nevertheless the priorities remain to:

- Create a National Federation Development Programme (with learning and sharing at its heart) to support all Members irrespective of size
- Develop an International Event Strategy to include plans for Fast 5 and other versions of the game and a clear and credible position on multi-sport Games including the Olympic Games
- Develop our sponsorship & digital media strategy to drive income growth
- Provide a route through which the voice of the athletes/players can be heard and considered

These projects are reported on below.

The Board will share its thinking on the future focus with the Members in the next month to ensure you continue to shape the strategy for the period beyond 2020.

#### **Board Meeting Decisions:**

##### **Sustainability & Development Working Group & Fundraising**

This project's scope is to fundraise through philanthropy to resource and enable worldwide empowerment projects. At the meeting the Board decided to undertake the development of a broader fundraising strategy that builds on the work completed to date and provides the Membership with a clear understanding of the aims and objectives of the programme. This work will take place during the next 3-4 months.

The Board acknowledged the progress made by the Sustainability and Development working group to date and especially the significant input from Trish Van Leeuwen, Philanthropy & Strategic Partnership Executive, who has been working with us since May 2017. Trish had developed the concept of the Creating Choices campaign on behalf of the INF.

Board agreed that when the broader strategy has been developed, the scope, terms of reference and composition of the working group will be redefined.

##### **Governance Structure**

The Board noted that a vacancy will arise for an independent member of the Audit & Risk committee in May of this year. Members will be asked for nominations in due course.

The Board decided that Lyn Carpenter will temporarily take the lead on the project to ensure the voice of the athlete is captured in the work of the INF.

Liz Nicholl and Lyn Carpenter will be progressing the establishment of an INF Nominations Committee in line with the proposals made at Congress 2019.

##### **Review of World Class Officiating**

The Board agreed the next steps in progressing a review of the World Class Officiating Programme. An independent chair, Stuart Cummings from the Official Consultancy been appointed. He has experience in a number of sports including Rugby League and Cricket. The proposed composition and Terms of Reference for this project were reviewed. Stuart will lead a team with representatives from the key stakeholder groups, supported by Christina Davidson International Umpiring Manager, to complete the review over the coming months. INF will keep Members informed of progress.

### **National Federation Development Programme**

Marva Bernard, Director for the Americas had been appointed to lead this project. A team had been selected to join a Working Group with representatives from each of the five INF Regions.

The Terms of Reference (TOR) were approved by the INF Board. The TOR for all INF Committee, Panel and Working Groups may be found here:

<https://netball.sport/inside-inf/inf-resources/board-committee-panels>

The working group members, recommended by the Regional Directors, are:

Javon Edwards, St Maarten Netball Association  
Kate Agnew, Netball New Zealand  
Cyrus Medora, Netball Singapore  
Marne Fechner, Netball Australia,  
Moirá Gomez, Gibraltar Netball  
Susan Anek, Uganda Netball  
Louise Ferguson, INF Secretariat (Minutes)

Joan Smit, INF Regional Development Manger Africa is the INF Secretariat team member assigned to work on this project and Lyn Carpenter, INF Board Member is assisting the Working Group. The team had met once to review the TOR and will be meeting again soon to begin on the work programme.

### **Finance**

Ann Tod Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee reported on the independent financial audit for the year to 31st December 2019.

The Board approved the financial statements for the year to 31st December 2019.

The approved statements will be sent to Members and published on the INF website.

Beever & Struthers were appointed as auditors for 2020.

### **Sponsorship & Digital Strategy**

The Commercial Committee updated the Board on the progress toward developing a sponsorship strategy for INF and the INF events. INF is working with a global sports marketing agency based in London called CSM and with Netball South Africa, as hosts of the NWC2023. The Board reviewed the first stage of this exciting work. This included a full situational analysis and some early thoughts in terms of developing the positioning of the sport to be more attractive to global and local sponsors. CSM are helping us to create our own unique and motivational story that will help potential commercial partners understand where our narrative will gain most traction with their target audience.

The next stage is to undertake a fair market assessment and rights valuation. INF's broadcast rights partner Lagardère Sport and Entertainment is also involved to ensure we have a complete picture of the commercial value of our events. We intend to share the valuation with those Members who already have a developed or developing commercial offering to test the thinking. The work will inform the sponsorship sales strategy for the NWC2023.

## Events

The CEO updated the Board on the progress to appoint Technical Delegates for the Commonwealth Games Birmingham 2022 and the Netball World Cup. The applications for both positions are strong and the appointments will be made by the Nominations Committee in consultation with the relevant events and host netball associations.

Updates were received on the following events:

- NWC2019 – full report from the OC received and confirmation of the financial sanctions applied to teams for failure to comply with tournament regulations.
- NWYC2021 – update report from the Technical Delegate
- Commonwealth Games 2022 – status report
- NWC2023 – status report
- NWYC2025 and NWC2027 bidding processes

## Board Discussion and Review

The Board reviewed the following:

- the management accounts of the INF up to January 2020 and the financial forecast to 2028
- the key risks that face the organisation and how they are mitigated by the operational plans
- the workplan for reviews of INF regulations and policies that must be completed in the year including the INF Anti-Doping Rules that must be updated in line with the new world Anti-Doing Code that comes into force on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021.
- the Terms of Reference for a Netball Family Working Group which has been established to review the privileges afforded to members of the international Netball Family particularly with respect to attendance at INF Events. The Working group is tasked to develop guidelines that ensure we recognise the contributions made, whilst not overburdening our event organising committees.

The Board received minutes/verbal reports from:

- Audit & Risk Committee
- Governance Committee - 2020 workplan
- Commercial Committee
- Netball Federation Development Working Group
- Coaching Advisory Panel
- Rules Advisory Panel
- Chief Executive
- International Umpiring Manager
- Digital Marketing Manager
- Regional Development Manager Africa

The Board discussed the progress of Member netball associations around the world. Each of the regional directors gave a report.

The Board noted the expulsion of the Maldives and Kenya at the end of 2019 due to the non-payment of Membership Fees. Since the last Board meeting Tanzania had re-joined as Full Members and Brunei had moved from Associate to Full Members. The Board welcomed Morocco and Bangladesh as new Associate members.

## Next Board meetings

The dates of the full Board meetings for 2020 were agreed as:

*Friday 17<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July*

*Friday 30<sup>th</sup> Oct – Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November*

Given the current Covid-19 pandemic and its global impact the Board will meet each month by teleconference to reflect on decisions made and agree further actions to safeguard the future of our sport.

Clare Briegal  
April 2020

## Appendix – Decisions of the INF 2020

Date	Format	Decision
Feb 2020	E-mail	Deadline for submission for bidders for NWC2027 delayed to 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2021.
Mar 2020	Board Meeting	The Board agreed to extend the deadline for completion of the NWYC2021 Qualifiers to 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2020.
Mar 2020	Board meeting	The Board agreed to take legal advice on the draft INF Charitable Foundation Articles of Association.
Mar 2020	Board meeting	The Board agreed in principle, to proceed with a broader Fundraising Strategy Development Project, subject to affordability and approval of budgets.
Mar 2020	Board Meeting	Terms of Reference for the National Federation Development Programme Working Group were approved.
Mar 2020	Board Meeting	Terms of Reference for the Netball Family Engagement Working Group were approved.
Mar 2020	Board meeting	The Board agreed the guiding principles and team composition for the Review of the World Class Officiating Programme.

The members of the INF Board present via Teleconference were:

Liz Nicholl, CBE	President	Cecilia Molokwane	Africa
Sue Taylor AM	Vice-President	Marva Bernard	Americas
Ann Tod	Finance Director	Lyn Carpenter	Europe
Shirley Hooper	Director	Wainikiti Bogidrau	Oceania