

MEMBER UPDATE FOLLOWING BOARD MEETING – MARCH 2022

The World Netball Board met on 12th and 14th March 2022 via videoconference.

World Netball (WN) President, Liz Nicholl CBE chaired the meeting. The Board welcomed Rob Mills, Independent Director to his first WN Board meeting.

WN President confirmed the WN statement that had been posted to the website regarding the conflict in Ukraine:

Whilst netball is not yet played in Ukraine, Russia or Belarus, our World Netball community is at one in deploring the actions of Russia and Belarus and is deeply concerned for the safety of the citizens of Ukraine. We stand together with our international colleagues in our commitment to creating a better world through sport.

WN Board confirmed its support of the IOC and ARISF statements in relation to the conflict.

A full list of the decisions made in 2021 follows in Appendix 1, including a summary of decisions made from January to date in 2022.

The meeting on 11th and 13th of March 2022 focused on the following areas of discussion and decision:

GOVERN

1. The Board received the external auditors financial audit report and approved the International Netball Federation Ltd **Financial Statements** for the period ending 31st December 2021. Members will receive a copy of the approved financial statements. Attention was drawn to a change in accounting policy which has resulted in a significant increase in reserves and a correspondingly significant reduction in income recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income of the 13 months ended 31st December 2021. The change of policy was due to a re-examination of the hosting agreement for NWC2023 and the commitments made in relation to guaranteeing a minimum surplus payment to World Netball.

The Board approved the appointment of Beever and Struthers as the statutory auditors for 2021.

The Board reviewed the **risk register** of World Netball and the **mitigations** in place to ensure the successful delivery of the World Netball strategic plan.

2. Board reviewed the **Special Meeting of Congress** held on 29th January 2022 by Zoom Webinar. The meeting had approved the appointment of Rob Mills as Independent Director and Venezuela had been welcomed as an Associate Member of World Netball.

Nine Member countries had found logging into the secure voting platform (LUMI) a challenge – these technical difficulties delayed the start of the meeting considerably although all Members who had registered to vote were able to do so. Others had fed back that the webinar format prevented them from interacting with the Board and Members during the meeting itself. The secretariat will research other options for future on-line meetings which provide the opportunity for better engagement during the meeting, whilst ensuring secure voting.

The Member Update session held on the same day (which included progress on the delivery of the strategic plan, Netball World Cup 2023 and the plans for 2022) had been well received. Similarly the four on-line Regional Roadshows that had taken place in the week before the Board meeting had provided useful information update and discussion with Members on the NWC2023 Qualifiers, plans to develop an OTT/streaming platform and a progress report from the Voice of the Athlete Working Group. The final regional roadshow was due to take place the following week. Any country that missed those roadshows and would like a copy of the slides or access to the recording please contact the secretariat at info@worldnetball.sport

3. Board received an interim report from Emily Nicholl, an international player from Scotland, who is a member of the **Voice of the Athlete Working Group**. The response from Members at the Regional Roadshows to this topic has been very positive. Members will be surveyed on the proposals made and the working group will be finalising their recommendations for the June Board meeting on how best to capture the voice of the athlete and ensure that decisions are made in best interests of our athletes.
4. Board approved the following regulations and guidelines:
 - a. World Netball Disciplinary Regulations (for implementation April 30th subject to final review of comments received from Members by the Governance Committee).
 - b. World Netball Disputes Regulations (for implementation April 30th subject to final review of comments received from Members by the Governance Committee).
 - c. World Netball Eligibility Regulations (part of the General Regulations) for implementation 30th April
 - d. Concussion Guidelines – medical guidelines for events
 - e. Cardiac Screening Guidelines – medical guidelines for events

PLAY

5. Board noted that the **World Rankings Annual Update** had taken place on 1st March 2022. The current minimum number of matches a full Member nation has to play in order to earn a ranking is 6 matches over the rating period (from 1st July 2018 to date).

Board agreed that the next annual update will take place on 1st March 2023 and that prior to then, Board will consider whether to change the number of matches required to retain a World Ranking.

6. Board received a detailed report from the WN Technical Delegate (TD) for **CG Birmingham 2022**. Excellent progress is being made regarding the preparations for the Games which run from 28th July until 8th August. The Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) has invited twelve Commonwealth Games Associations to send teams (based on their position in the WN World Rankings) and they have all accepted the invitation to participate.

Discussions focused on mitigations to ensure the successful delivery of the event during the Covid-19 pandemic. The organising Committee is planning on the basis that restrictions will still remain and so special **Covid-19 protocols** will be required.

Board discussed and supported a number of changes to normal event protocols to limit the spread of any potential infection and to reduce the risk of teams failing to fulfil fixtures due to a Covid-19 outbreak. These Covid-19 adaptations had been proposed by the TD,

based on their experience (and others) in delivering test matches and domestic leagues during the pandemic and these had been endorsed by the WN Medical Committee. Further consultation on these proposals will take place with the CGF, B2022 Organising Committee (OC) and the 12 qualified teams before they are finalised ahead of the Games.

Board noted and supported the CG B2022 policy, and WN Medical Committee recommendation, regarding vaccination. The OC believes that vaccination cannot be mandated since the availability of vaccination is not universal and remains a personal choice, however their position is that **vaccination is strongly recommended** for all participants in the Games. This is same approach as that of the IOC and the CGF has taken learnings from Tokyo games.

Board noted that a 2-day pre-event camp for Umpires and the Umpire Appointment Panel will be run by World Netball in conjunction with England Netball, including content developed by World Netball's technical panels for Rules, Coaching and Officiating (RAP, CAP, OAP) and the Medical Committee.

7. CEO Clare Briegal reported on her recent visit to Cape Town South Africa to assess the progress of the delivery of the **Netball World Cup 2023**. Blanche de la Guerre had been appointed Interim Tournament Director until a permanent appointment is made. Supersport has been appointed as Host broadcaster and the free to air broadcaster SABC and Telkom streaming service will also broadcast the host team's matches, semis and finals. Board is receiving a monthly report on progress.
8. NWC2023 qualifiers will take place as follows:
 - a. Oceania: Fiji (16th – 23rd July)
 - b. Africa: South Africa (20th – 27th August)
 - c. Asia: Singapore (3rd – 10th September)
 - d. Americas: Jamaica (5th – 12th October)
 - e. Europe: Scotland (12th – 16th October)

GROW

9. The Commercial Committee has been working on an **OTT/Streaming platform** for the distribution of live content from World Netball and Member Events (and other video content including the NWC2023 Qualifiers. Members were informed about this opportunity at the Regional Roadshows. This underpins World Netball's ambition to grow the audience for netball worldwide and will provide a 'go to' place for international netball fans across the globe. The Commercial Committee will be working on the business plan to ensure Members who provide content for the platform will derive benefit from their involvement including the potential for growing their audiences, promoting their sponsors and partners, earning subscription income or right's fees and data capture.
10. Kate Agnew and Ivan Harre Co-leads for WN Global Development provided an update on the **Global Development Plan**. They are working with Regional Federations, starting with Africa and the Americas, to support the development of strategic growth/development plans aligned with the WN Strategic Plan. A flexible **Global Intelligence Group** (GIG) has been formed and a review has taken place of **netEffect** monies distributed via the Regional Federations over the past four years. This has

informed the policy for 2022 funding and how to best monitor the impact of the grants made. Funding has been agreed for 2022.

Some focus groups have taken place to develop a deeper understanding of the position of **men's and mixed netball** around the globe following the Member survey that took place at the end of 2021. The insights gathered from those sessions will be considered as we develop models for embracing men's and boys' participation successfully in netball. The experience of countries who are already promoting or achieving effective gender inclusion will be invaluable.

Finally a draft **maturity model**/global development framework has been created for Members to self-assess their progress and identify tools to enable them to develop. This draft model is being reviewed by the GIG and tested with others before it will be more widely shared.

INSPIRE

11. Liz Nicholl, on behalf of the Nominations Committee, reported on the process to recruit trustees. The quality of the applications received was excellent. Interviews had taken place and three candidates had been recommended for appointment. Board agreed that the **World Netball Foundation** would have four trustees including Liz Nicholl as the WN representative on the Board. Board then agreed their appointment subject to due process. Candidates will be advised if they have been successful in their applications once the appropriate references and 'fit and proper' checks have taken place.

The proposed Articles of Association for the Foundation were reviewed and will be revised in line with comments received, prior to final approval by the WN Board. These have been developed by WN's legal advisors and have been scrutinised by both the Governance and Audit and Risk Committees.

Plans for 2022: Board will have one face to face meeting in 2022 and 3 via zoom.

Next Board Meeting: 11th and 13th June 2022 (via Zoom).

Save the Date

For Members participating in or attending the Commonwealth Games as a spectator there will be an **Informal Member's meeting** on Tuesday 2nd August 2022 at 08:30 – 11:00 at the Crown Plaza Hotel NEC near the competition venue. Up to 2 representatives may attend from each Member e.g. President/Gen. Sec./CEO. We will provide more details at a later date.

Clare Briegal

CEO

Attachment:

Appendix 1 Board decisions 2021 and 2022 YTD.