



## Dodgeball Development Limited

Annual General Meeting 2021

3rd October 2021

Zoom Video Link

### Minutes

#### Welcome and Apologies

Board: Helena Law (Chair), Ben Hoyle (Managing Director), Jess Goshawk (Director of Rules & Discipline), Johnathan Rudland (Director of National Teams), Emma Milser (Non-Executive Director Member Representative), Shun Wong (Non-Executive Director Member Representative).

Members: Aden Woodall, Gareth Lewis, Jen Allam, Simon Tapping, Nicholas Bull, Ted Dumbrell, Kathryn Thomas, Karen Pickering, Mark Allan, Elisa Storch, Faizan Haider, Adam Badley.

#### 2020-2021 Report

- Report will be available on social media and will be emailed out to all members.
- Our aims and vision have not changed throughout the pandemic
- We have updated our Return to Play and this has been presented to the dodgeball community as soon as possible throughout the pandemic.
- Areas of Focus:
  - Our first area of focus is Junior dodgeball. All about access and availability, upskilling everyone to play the sport in the same way.
  - On-going campaign with 'Girls Dodge Too' that initially started through Sport England funding. Has been identified that there has been a drop in attendance from girls and women since the pandemic so keen to increase numbers.
  - Come join in is the other area of focus – regional leagues and new club funding available to support this. Revenue from compulsory membership helping to fund Come Join In focus.
  - Get Into Coaching is the final area of focus and there are employment opportunities around this.
- Leagues and events:
  - Regional and junior leagues well entered. Under 11s and under 13s have good numbers.
  - National leagues have good numbers and are at capacity for the men's competition – the women's national league has more spaces available.
  - No teams in the Republic of Ireland at the moment and drop in numbers in Northern Ireland.
  - Expecting some feedback from Scottish teams and this will confirm the National league there.
  - Mixed league growth is good and almost at capacity.
  - Hoping to return to larger Opens in the new year.
  - Trying to encourage more women's teams – there will be some trialled tiered level opens as part of the 'Girls Dodge Too' campaign. This will be advertised in next weeks.
- University:
  - Looking at 12 Opens and are now part of BUCS. Excellent numbers through BUCS with 28 institutions, lots of new teams and growth.



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- Junior Leagues and events:
  - Planning to expand from two established leagues in the North West and Midlands. Hoping to start a Scottish junior league too – likely to start with under 11s. Another new junior league is looking to be started in Cambridgeshire.
  - Junior Championships planned for June 2022.
- College Dodgeball:
  - Working with AOC 'association of college sport'.
- Referees
  - More mentoring and training being planned especially with the junior game where more referees are quite new to this.
- Clubs:
  - As a sport to be more sustainable we need more adult and junior clubs competing in British Dodgeball leagues.
  - Dodgemark – BD have put this accreditation in place to support clubs to get to a position where they can apply for additional grants.
- Coach Education:
  - Online courses and resources have been built and refreshed during the pandemic. There is a coach progression map and a player development framework in place now. The Dodgeball officiation course is in progress.
  - Now a Level 1 course needs to be completed before a Level 2 course for coaches.
- The Season Ahead:
  - Membership is now compulsory and this revenue will be put back into the sport – currently using it to help clubs with funding and to recruit for more key staff.

## Financial Report

- Due to the impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic and the decrease in revenue as a result of this it has been a negative year with just over a £30k loss for the organisation.
- Additional funding support from the government and Sport England as well as a coronavirus bounce back loan means we are still in a secure position.
- British Dodgeball has been able to continue to generate income via a summer calendar online coach education and school resource and equipment sales.
- Furlough only partially covered staffing costs but there were some reserves that were utilised.
- Every club was refunded if they had a league or event cancelled and these credits and refunds account for loss.
- Income from events dropped from 43% to 11% because of the pandemic.

## Director of National Teams Update

- EDF have confirmed an international competition 14-17<sup>th</sup> July 2022 in the Netherlands.
- British Dodgeball will be supporting all 5 National teams as they re-start.
- Our focus however has been on the return of players to their clubs before international play.
- Question about pathway for Foam – still quite new to Foam but Foam Opens are available and we will be looking at more opportunities if there is sufficient interest.





## Membership Update

- 110 members in 2020.
- 356 members so far in 2021 and this will grow as we get into the league season.
- 48 community clubs registered so far.
- 105 education memberships including universities.

## AOB & Questions Received

- Could the national league structure be regionalised across the United Kingdom?
  - Sports Development will always be about trying new things and encouraging new growth. The creation of the regional leagues had the aim of encouraging growth and 26 new teams did join through this. Regionalising the national league structure which is very successful is not something we are planning on doing. We will be looking to further expand regional leagues rather than amend the whole structure.
- How can clubs work more closely with BD to develop the sport in their area?
  - Talk to us and communicate your goals. If you include Aden in any communication around adult clubs and Alice in any communication around junior clubs then they can point you in the direction of resources or can help with funding. We are currently quite short on coaches and referees so would like to focus on increasing the number of coaches and referees with club support. We are hosting webinars on budgeting, becoming a sustainable club and have already hosted one on Girls Dodge Too.
- Will British Dodgeball be live streaming one day events?
  - We need to source funding for the big one day/two day events. For things like British Champs we need volunteers, equipment etc and it is quite a big investment after a difficult financial year but we are looking to take first steps which may come with the national league this season.
- Clubs would like to link more with their local colleges
  - We are doing more work with AOC Sport and colleges this coming season. There is a week in early November and Ben will be passing on information about links to our clubs via this. AOC will also be able to share information back which we will pass on where we can.
- When will spectators be allowed at events?
  - Gareth sent plans to St George's Park around Return to Sport including spectators. Spectators should be allowed as long as it is managed well but it is completely up to the venues at each location, not British Dodgeball.
- Question on University opens – At the moment there is one 'freshers open' are we looking to increase this to more locations?
  - For the 2022 season we will look at the possibility of hosting a North and South England freshers open.
- Could we limit one team per club at some Opens where there are only 8 spaces?
  - This is not something we will be doing as the number of teams on event waiting lists have been minimal.
- Sheriffs are looking to set up a junior club but they are concerned about staffing and just having a few players who already run the adult club – how do they best go about it?
  - Contact our staff who will be happy to help. We are also planning club webinars to support this.
- Question on supporting the sport with match footage and content –
  - Alex Such is in this role and get in touch with him if you would like to become involved.





- Question on Code of Conduct -
  - o A Dodgeball Code of conduct score has been put in place as well as sanctions to help support referees. Alex is working on webinars.
- Question on First Aid at events -
  - o BD are trying to get as many staff and coordinator roles first aid trained as possible. The aim is to get all coordinators first aid trained. Minor first aid is the responsibility of the clubs and clubs should take their own first aid kit. We will send out a reminder on this first aid.

