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Basketball England Council Meeting Minutes

18th November

18:00-19:00

1. **Welcome & Apologies (1 min)**

In attendance – Patricia Fairclough (L), Kate Lewis (NW), Howard Leighton (NE), Andy Harrison-Beaumont (Y), Nik Bedwell (SE), Cliff Fullbrook (S), Dave Parry (E), Martin Ford (EM), Mike Finn (SW), Trevor Funnell (S), Sam Lewis (BE)

Apologies – Luke Freer (WM), Geoff Steer (SW), Charlie Ford (BE)

1. **Introduction of New Chairs (2 mins)**

HL welcome newly appointed chairs MF and TF to their first regional meeting and looking forward to the contribution they make to their regions and BE council

1. **BE Staffing, Business Continuity Plan Update and Return To Play – SL (5 mins)**

SL – change in staffing due to the second lockdown and staff are on flexi furlough. Those staff furloughed prior to second lockdown, remain on furlough. For RTP, looking at an across sport tier system for indoor sports so a greater collective approach to the government tier systems.

1. **Sport England Funding Update – SL (5 mins)**

SL – introduces the new Sport England Return To Play funding about what is available for clubs and organisations to apply for. Ran several webinars for clubs and happy to look over pre-submissions. Resources available online now for clubs to use in order to strengthen applications.

DP – asked question around how successful clubs can be based on the criteria? Also how will clubs benefit from the PPE and where?

SL – a number of clubs will meet the criteria (very similar to that of the Tackling Inequalities funding). Should be little barriers to apply. Include organisations with ‘low reserve levels’ but not clarity on what low is. Expectation for clubs is for PPE and they can apply for this for use in training sessions and in games and can also apply for equipment if it is to help delivery as opposed to replacement of current stock

NB – applying but concerned about clubs not being able to use it depending on vaccine?

SL – Sport England have flexibility on the fund as unsure about when sport will be back to normal. This flexibility is appreciated due to the changing environment.

1. **My time as a chair….. – KL (North West) (15 mins)**

KL – overview of her first year in role. First step was to launch a ‘revival’ campaign with positive responses by people putting themselves forward and people asking questions what it is about. Have a database of people within various positions across the region. Been scepticism about the region as little relationship between the region as a whole and Basketball England but this is being remedied by meetings between stakeholders, the region and BE staff. Kye message has been transparency so people across the region know what is happening. Have developed a core committee and then wider groups in areas such as coaching, officiating etc. Have engaged people that are new to the sport and the region as well which has been encouraging

Working with the officiating team at BE to use an appointment software for clubs within the region and have consulted with clubs within the region. Positive move forward to it as clubs have spoken positively about it

Creating a table officials whats app group to help with communication between table officials as oppose to appointing. Sending out survey to clubs and table officials about development and the current situation.

Have developed a relationship with the Sport For All Centres and looking to work with them in the future as there is a lot of good work in recruiting and developing referees and officials. They have now affiliated and looking to get involved at a regional level to help develop the sport. Have also developed relationships with some of the large non-affiliated clubs and have worked with them to affiliate and help develop basketball across the NW

PF – suggest may use assgnr for the table officials as well as the referees

AHB – found very useful to help with progression in the Yorkshire region.

NB – looking to use whostheref for the South East region appointments as well

1. **Website updates and Regional Plans – SL (10 mins)**

SL – website to go live for the regions at the end of the week or the following week. Looking to start developing action and finance plans with each region. Want for the pages to be the ‘one stop shop’ for people to see what the regions are doing and their importance

1. **Project Initiation – ‘The Grassroots’ – SL (20 mins)**

SL – looking to create a project on ‘Grassroots’. This will look at and explore the support required for Area Associations and Local Leagues. Looking to survey and use focus groups to explore all areas of grassroots competition. Identified a need for further support as part of their activity. Open floor for chairs to contribute views on support.

KL – fixture administration software to help with this and make it as efficient as possible

AHB – largest need is more table officials and more referees in Yorkshire. Need for education outside of playing and getting people involved in running clubs and helping to develop the sport as well as the playing aspect of it.

NB – greater handover part of online courses so that regions know who have done courses and how they can help develop them post the online part of the courses – mentoring and coaching for referees and table officials. Need to know who is qualified. Greater communication between national league and regions to ensure there is enough workforce to manage the needs of the NBL

SL – wanting to develop the relationships between Basketball England staff and regional representatives to help with a number of these things

PF – need to know at a regional level, who has qualifications to aid their development in their roles.

CF – regional registrar’s require access on the membership portal and would be able to see them

SL – able to get this information for regions, however, member of staff that is able to do this is furloughed so will be able to generate this when staff member is back.

Overall project is to support AA’s and LL’s when it comes to competition and it be lead by them as opposed to directives centrally from Basketball England. Looking for the project to be able to begin in December

1. **Any Other Business (3 mins)**

NB – issues with Volunteer Awards and no notification to individuals about the awards

SL –with it being online, has been difficult and that there will be a review of the processes and the awards itself. This maybe an oversight due to it being online as opposed to being in person like previous years. Looking to utilise views of chair as part of this process.

SL – wanted to thank, on behalf of Basketball England, Geoff Steer (South West Chair) and Cliff Fullbrook (representing the South in absence of a chair) for their support and volunteering their time to help develop basketball during their time as part of BE council. Final meeting will be arranged prior to Christmas TBC

Close of Meeting