5th Board Meeting of Skateboard England Limited

Friday 10th March 2017
At 1.30pm
House of Vans London
Arches 228 - 232
Station Approach Road
SE1 8SW

Report of Meeting

1. Present

Messrs. R. Magee, C. Bawden, D. Holt, J. Hope-Gill, R. Holbert, S. Wilkinson and Miss L. Adams.

Apologies were received from N. Powley, J. Campbell and P. Regan.

2. Matters Arising

The Chair welcomed Clive Bawden and Dave Holt to the Board Meeting as the two newly appointed Independent Non-Executive Directors.

The decision of the Appointments Committee to appoint Clive Bawden and Dave Holt was ratified by the Board.

3. Working Group Updates

i) Workforce

The following report has been received from Sk8 Safe detailing future courses:

A course was held in January 2017 at Brighton Youth Centre with 11 learners and 97.0% Positive Feedback

Future courses confirmed are:

14th - 15th March: Exist Skatepark, Swansea
16th - 17th March: Arena Centre, Dewsbury
25th - 26th March: Rockcity, Hull (Paul Regan)
30th - 31st March: Better Extreme, Dagenham
6th – 7th April: Millennium Sports Ground, Kesgrave

To be confirmed:

The Lodge Skatepark, Devon
Unit 1 Skatepark, Rochester (dependent on funding)
Shrewsbury Sports Village
Camp Hillcrest, Gloucestershire
Campus Skatepark, Bristol
Skate Nottingham (awaiting funding outcomes)

J. Hope-Gill reported that he had met a number of skatepark owners and people involved in community groups. All had indicated that they were looking to organise a course for the Level 1 in the near future. These included Excite Skatepark in Swansea, Campus Skatepark in Bristol and Skate Nottingham.

It was also reported that Rubicon had indicated that they were currently sourcing funding in order to qualify all their coaches nationally.

ii) IT & Social Media

It was reported that Lucy Adams and Paul Regan had made minor alterations to the website to ensure that it was understandable and relevant to both the skateboarding community and non-skateboarding community.

iii) Facilities

Ricardo Magee gave a brief report regarding the skateparks he had been giving support to since the last meeting. Ricardo was thanked for his hard work in giving help and advice to the various skateparks.

It was agreed that we should write to the local authority in Greenwich to request a meeting to discuss the ongoing problems associated with the proposed skatepark.

It was reported that Sheffield Hallam University were undertaking a project that would map and give details of all the private skateparks within England and Wales. This audit would supplement the information received last year about local authority skateparks.

J. Hope-Gill and R. Holbert are meeting with Sport England to discuss a Facilities Strategy. The strategy would include creating criteria and guidelines for skatepark building, a manufacturer's framework and a tender process for skateparks being publically funded. Discussions will also be held about creating templates for local authorities based on Melbourne and Malmo to support them embrace skateboarding within local communities and capital infrastructure.

A number of local authorities are currently undertaking projects around

skateboarding, as follows:

Paul Regan reported in writing that Hull City Council had adopted skateboarding as the official sport during its time as the City of Culture. Funding had been allocated to build skate architecture in the city centre, qualify a number of coaches, create some development programmes around events and workshops and create a Skateboarding Festival in July 2017 culminating in a main event on 26th and 27th August 2017. Funding was also being sought to refurbish some of the existing skateparks in the city. Paul was thanked for his input into this exciting project.

It was reported that discussions were ongoing with Sheffield City Council who were keen to work with the local skate community to create skateable spaces within the city centre redevelopments. Skateboarding will feature prominently in the city centre outdoor sport festival during July 2017. J. Hope-Gill has a meeting with the Head of Parks to discuss the redevelopment of the municipal parks with a view to including skateable areas across the city. Discussions are ongoing concerning skateable areas within the Olympic Legacy Park and on various disused cycle routes crisscrossing the city.

Nottingham City Council are working with Skate Nottingham and have allocated funding to qualify a number of local skaters as coaches, include skateboarding within a number of city-wide family focused festivals and events and are looking to create skateable areas within the city. The city is also including skateboarding within the ParkLives project in 2017.

iv) National Championships

The Board agreed that we should produce hosting criteria for skateparks and then circulate so that parks could express an interest in hosting the national championships.

J. Hope-Gill and D. Holt will build a sponsorship proposal and then look at sponsorship opportunities outside the skate industry.

5) Progress & Information Reports

a) Partnerships

i) Sheffield United FC & Premier Football League

It was reported that J. Hope-Gill spoke at the Premier Football League conference in

January 2017 to address clubs and give them the opportunity to become involved in a national roll-out across the professional football clubs partnering with skateparks in their localities.

ii) UK Active

J. Hope-Gill reported that he has met with UK Active who confirmed that Newham, Swansea, Southampton and Nottingham local authorities potentially want to include skateboarding within ParkLives during 2017. Discussions are ongoing with all those local authorities.

b) UK Sport, BOA & Olympics

L. Adams & J. Hope-Gill met with UK Sport earlier this month as UK Sport wanted to get a greater understanding of skateboarding following the submission of the Athlete Target Template which was submitted in October 2017.

We discussed:
What is current governance structure of Skateboarding in the UK?
What is the Competition format and are events confirmed?
What support is currently in place for key athletes?
What support might be necessary to help these athletes achieve medal success in Tokyo?
What resources are currently available to the NGB?

The outcome is a number of skateboarding Situation Report documents. UK Sport will now discuss those documents at Senior Level and make one of three decisions:

1) Fund skateboarding straight away
2) Consider funding skateboarding, but there is more work to do and information to be received, e.g. around qualification, ranking and competition format.
3) Do not fund, but that decision can be reviewed by appeal each year

We are waiting for UK Sport to make that decision. In the meantime their Governance Department are going to contact us to discuss how the British Skateboarding governing body is set up and give support in doing that if necessary. We have looked at the Hockey model as previously discussed which gives more decision making ability within skateboarding as opposed to a completely independent set-up.

The UK Sport Mission:East Meeting was a day where CEO's & Chairs of Olympic sports met with UK Sport. It also included Performance Directors, Communication Directors and Athletes. Skateboard England was represented by J. Hope-Gill, L. Adams, S. Wilkinson and N. Powley.

It was a day where UK Sport articulated the philosophy of the Road to Tokyo.

The main thrust was collaboration between sports and UK Sport moving forward, reviewing the last cycle and highlighting changes to the next cycle. A lot of this wasn't relevant because we haven't been involved in a previous cycle.

There wasn't really any process/procedures information at this stage. If skateboarding is funded then we will be allocated a member of staff from UK Sport and most information/support will come through via them.

A benefit of the day was being able to meet with the BOA staff, UK Sport staff and other NGB's.

c) Sport England

It was reported that ring-fenced funding had now been received to pay for J. Hope-Gill's time and expenses between 1st January and 30th June 2017.

The funding is to carry out the specific role of creating a plan and funding application for Core Capacity for Skateboard England with a view to becoming financially sustainable within a set period of time.

Sport England will appoint an external agency to work with us to create the plan.

f) International Federations

J. Hope-Gill reported that he had held a number of Skype calls with Luca Basilico the CEO of the Italian Skateboarding Federation who is also a member of FIRS.

The IOC have announced that FIRS is the international federation that they will recognise as the governing body for skateboarding, not the ISF. This has implications for us in the UK.

We are currently negotiating with FIRS directly to try and by-pass being members of BRSF.

J. Hope-Gill is due to meet with the President of BRSF in the near future.

g) Skatepark Engagement

J. Hope-Gill reported that he had met with the following skateparks: Projekts in Manchester, Exist in Swansea, Spit & Sawdust in Cardiff, Campus Skateparks in Bristol, The Works in Leeds, Rock City in Hull, The House in Sheffield and Onboard in Sheffield.

Meetings so far have been very positive with skatepark owners seeing the benefit of a governing body.

h) Membership

J. Hope-Gill reminded the Board that a priority of Skateboard England was to explore different membership options in 2017 as part of the recognition process for Sport England.

He confirmed that he had starting work on a membership proposal for skateparks and would had met with a number of private skateparks to gauge their opinion and comments on the proposals. The membership proposal would be considered by the Board before any implementation.

j) Sponsorship

A discussion took place regarding sponsorship and the type of organisations that could be approached.

D. Holt agreed to start looking at a skateboarding proposal for consideration. He would also be involved with the work being proposed by Sport England with the external agency.

k) Safeguarding

J. Hope-Gill reported that he was meeting an ex-skater called Neil Carmichael currently working for British Cycling who has expressed a wish to offer voluntary support with regard to Safeguarding. He has worked within Safeguarding for a number of years within a national governing body.