

Annual General Meeting - 24th September 2020

EMT Present:

Matt Bateman (President), James King-Nickol (Teams Director), Chloe Durkin (Secretary), Abby Whiteley (Vice-President), Tom Hutton (Operations Director), Fran Morris (Events Director).

Club Attendees (27):

Mary Orobosa-Ogbeide (Leeds), Katie Savva (Warwick), Hannah Mechler (York), Samantha Frolich (Bristol), Chloë Coxshall (Bangor), Charli Davies (Velociraptors), Cameron Bell (OUQC), Claude Gowan (Liverpool), Kimberley Hoar (Chester), Raj Mukuntharaj (SQC), Marianna Parroquin (Olympians), Kristina Grolmusova (Manchester), Ed Brett (WoL), Seb Blower (Loughborough), Lucy Nicholls (Vipers), Amit Portnoy (Sheffield), Morgan Hayward (Leicester), Ben Zinger (Glasgow), Rebecca Norman (Stirling), Emma Jones (Unspeakables), Ollie Farrell (LQC), James Church (Bournemouth), Matthew Lock (Swansea), Tom Cope (Durham), Chloe Williams (Keele), Jaelithe Swan (Southsea), Betsy Lewin-Leigh (Mammoths).

Location: Google Hangouts

Time: 19:30 - 20:34

Summary

The Annual General Meeting 2020 was attended by 27 clubs.

The dismantling of Team UK into Team England, Team Scotland and Team Wales was discussed, with questions raised about what happens in the case that the IQA does not allow all 3 teams to compete at the World Cup.

The new constitution changes were unanimously voted in, pairing with the new national teams.

Guidance for COVID-19 was discussed, with risk assessments being requested before training and new COVID-19 resources to help the community gain a general understanding of how QUK decides when things should return to normal.

University teams are encouraged to follow their formally affiliated university's guidance, while community teams are encouraged to follow QUK guidance which coincides with the government guidance.

The financial report has been run through, highlighting expenditures in key areas and changes compared to last year. QUK is aiming for quidditch to be formally recognised as a sport with Sport England (including recognition with Sport Scotland and Sport Wales) in 3-4 years time, requiring QUK to meet certain requirements surrounding membership numbers and official documents/policies.

Some solutions are highlighted to help that goal be reached.

Introductions

JKN: Hello everybody, welcome, it's good to see you all! I am James the Teams Director, Matt Bateman is here who is the president, Tom Hutton the Operations Director, Abby Whiteley the Vice-President, Chloe Durkin the Secretary and Fran Morris the Events Director. You will have seen 3 links that you may want open as we go through them. While we're going through it, if you have a point to raise, put an exclamation mark in the chat and we will go through the point at the end of the point. Any questions?

CD: Receiving the constitution changes this morning was a bit hard to go through in time and relay to the club.

JKN: Sorry about that, it was my first time sending an "allteams" email out so it must have messed up.

MB: Thank you for coming, we need to do these meetings every year for sports recognition and we go through lots of important things like finances and policies. Please keep yourselves muted and cameras off and if you arrived recently then put your name and club. COVID has caught us off guard and it has been tough but we have been working hard over the summer and are now coming into the season. We have extra permanent volunteers to help across the departments, we have a dedicated youth department and the national teams are expanding. When things come back into swing, things should be looking great. Tom will have financial updates, Abby will have COVID updates. I'm going to start with the national team situation.

Constitution

MB: Biggest thing, we won't have TUK anymore, it will now be Team England, Scotland, Wales. The constitution changes reflect this. I need to clarify, this does not mean we will have 3 teams at World Cup, we are working on that with IQA but they are now preoccupied with this. Any questions?

RN: I was wondering if it's not possible to get 3 teams for World Cup or future tournaments, is there going to be a policy to send people from all 3 areas.

MB: We would be sending the best teams which we could have a tournament though. The feedback we had from the different nations is that the national identity is preferred.

LN: Section 4 - "Team managers develop second teams for training players, coaching and playing is discretion of team manager and must be members of QUK. Is that applicable to coaches and managers or just the players?"

MB: More means that players on the dev squad need to be members of QUK.

LN: So I can still be manager of Wales without membership?

MB: Yes that's fine. Anything else? If people are happy, I will call for a vote and this constitution change can happen.

SB: How are the managers going to be selected for the new teams? Sorted in own teams or QUK as a whole?

MB: QUK, me and Abby manage it, the teams currently have managers and coaches and new ones would go through the normal.

The vote passed with 27 votes to accept the new constitutional changes to coincide with Team UK dissolving into England, Scotland and Wales.

COVID-19

AW: It'll start with thanks, then guidance, where you can find resources and then risk assessments. Firstly thank you everyone for following guidance and our recommendations. In terms of overview, all three governments have released new guidance which do not affect our current recommendations. We are working with the sports council to update you with any changes. Moving onto where you can find our resources, you can find them all on the COVID tab of the website. It includes main guidance, risk assessment templates and others. If you see something that needs updating or a resource that could be useful, contact me on the Contact Us form. The resources have a Roadmap which I credit Quidditch Australia for. The roadmap is based on changes in guidance and has explanations of when we move stages. University clubs must comply with what their universities over QUK. If you are across multiple universities, comply with your formal affiliation. Risk assessments: thank you for submitting them, the purpose is to show club understanding of risk and to give you extra protection in case the activity is queried and you can point authorities to a document that has approval. I have made a spreadsheet indicating which clubs have been approved to train.

SB: If universities have regulations then we should go for theirs: Is it still the case if QUK is more stringent than the university?

AW: Yes, as long as you have a formal relationship then follow their guidance, if not then do not. Assuming we have no more, I will drop my email

BZ: This may already have been brought up. According to Scottish government, you do not need official Sport Scotland and Sport England affiliation. Do we follow the guidelines for socialising or being a sport?

AW: We are in communications with sport scotland, they have told us to submit some documents to give more precise advice. Stringent advice was given at first to protect clubs. However, if you have documentation you can send me so we can show Sport Scotland then we're open to see that.

BZ: Unfortunately I don't have official documentation.

AW: We'll mention it anyway don't worry.

MB: We want the sport back quickly but also appreciate government guidance. When we say we're working with Sport, we are working with DCMS. Additional problems come with England, Scotland and Wales. For the future: we don't know about events yet, we are looking at at least 1-2 tournament things - clubs to have 1 fixture at least. Stressing lightly: having an open BQC with still a university/community split.

Financial Report

TH: Hello, I'm Tom the Operations Director and I'm going to run through the QUK financial report. The link is in the chat so feel free to open it. So first of all, it was no surprise that this year has been tough on QUK. BQC was cancelled and it is the profit making tournament, so a big gut punch. We lost around £3700. We're looking forward to trying to bounce back. As a heads up, last year's financial report showed 4 QUK accounts but they have now been consolidated into one account. There has been lots of growth in QUK this season which is good but we took a big hit. The next part, we've broken down the departmental costs. Events were the biggest spend. Media was a bigger expense than last season due to the website which has been a growth and expansion. If anyone has any questions about the payments then raise them. The payments have been going to tech officers and web domains.

- Events: Biggest expense for QUK each year. The volunteer payments are there, the Northern. £13605 spent here, to cover grounds, epione, medals, gazebo. As you can see there is no money coming through for BQC. BQC 2019 brought in around £6000 so we are losing out on that making Events more expensive this year overall
- Operations: £12795: Same stuff going on as last year except for higher solicitors fees. The thing we might see being different to previous years was that there was a broken camera we had to fix costing about £580 and the £500 to the Stephen Lawrence foundation. We have our IQA membership fee due and there's a small payment for the end of year awards. Because of the WC cancellation, there wasn't much going on for TUK, money used on equipment and money came in from fundraising. For Team Scotland, some fees went out for some expansion. Outreach, Teams and Volunteers had no money come in or go out last season. For the vision: It's been difficult this season and the cancellation of BQC put in unexpected strain on our resources. It isn't as straightforward as running another tournament to bring income in. So I think it is agreed that we have to be way more cautious with money in the 2021 season as we don't know what's happening. The upside is that we have good relationships with sports venues, got the equipment so it can help reduce venue cost. Whatever the season looks like in the 2021 season, we do have the foundations for a high quality season, it's just what that will look like. Any questions?

RN: Is the Team Scotland expenditure from European Games last summer?

MB: It was a reimbursement to Gavin as they did their own expansion for the team. The expenditure came from last year's budget I believe.

RN: No worries.

MB: As Tom said, BQC was a bad hit to us. If people can purchase memberships that would be great help to us. We understand it is a pandemic so we aren't enforcing this/expecting this, but if you could then it would really help. We can also carry them over to next season if nothing occurs. But also, look after yourselves and

EJ: This might fit better later: if you're paying solicitor fees to be in line for sport recognition, can you retain this in the current climate?

TH: The fees aren't just for recognition, it's more that we are a company (incorporated) and it's handy to have those solicitors. What we have right now is okay for paying the fees but maybe not forever, which is why memberships is great

MB: Recognition of sport is not legal fee dependent and we have frozen the legal fees for now in order to save money.

JS: If QUK are hoping to host tournaments: Clubs collecting internal membership fees, we find it hard to budget when we won't have the cost. Can we put any stock into past team fees to get a budget idea?

MB: Anything we do this year is a functional tournament rather than a big spectacle. The membership fees won't change but we can't know about the others yet.

JS: No worries, I wasn't expecting total clarity.

AP: Sorry I forgot to say this earlier when talking about risk assessments. We haven't had a response on our risk assessment that we submitted 5 days ago?

AW: I haven't seen one from you yet.

AP: I sent it to the secretary email.

CD: I've just forwarded it to you Abby, sorry about that, it got lost in some emails.

Sport England

MB: Obviously you know that we're trying to get quidditch recognised as a sport. There are things we have been working towards throughout the years to allow this to happen. There is a link to see in the chat that I'm going to go through. So UK sport breaks it down into good chunks. We tick the boxes for: sport definition, uniqueness (not similar to others), organisation history (had to be operating for at least 2 years and with this AGM and being inc. we have reached this. We have a constitution now which we signed off tonight. We rewrote the constitution to be an incorporation. We tick affiliation by being part of IQA, have national teams and vote on things in IQA. We tick influence by having national tournaments, referee training, youth groups come to us etc. so it makes us a point of contact for people outside the sport. We tick rules because we have a rulebook that we follow. So that is everything we achieved. What we don't have is:

- Membership number: We need a minimum of 1500, we currently have 800. If we improve university recruitment and youth quidditch it could help us. I want to get this in the next 3-4 years.
- Governing structure: anti-doping stuff, safeguarding, harassment, I'll go ninto anti-doping later
- Projected plan for QUK: Have a growth plan officially rather than just hosting tournaments

Fixes for these: separating the community calendar from the university calendar may draw people in more. Pushing youth stuff can bring people into the sport later on, and we're encouraging community clubs to partner with university clubs. Smaller events that are more accessible will also be ideal to get this and also more space for events run by local clubs.

RN: Will there be recognition with Sport Scotland too?

MB: If QUK is recognised, all countries would be. Two big ones: anti-doping: we would be asked about hormonal therapy for trans and non binary athletes. We will not be considering this at all so we need to be ready on what this looks like and ask people from those communities how to approach it if we approach it. The other thing is safeguarding, so more training from first aid and dbs checks if working with kids. The other thing is introducing an EDI committee to amplify BAME voices to help resolve problems around race in the community. We're working on sports development as well, with Kevin Li, Eamonn Harrison and James King-Nickol working on different projects to help grow the sport. Sport England, Wales and Scotland are very aware of us and are encouraging with us. Hopefully in time events can become cheaper with recognition

Exit

JKN: We understand it is a fair bit to get through, if anything is unclear then you can send me a message to my email to get in touch. Thank you very much for coming and being prompt. It's going to be an interesting season to say the least.

MB: It'll be great!

JKN Interesting and great, but yea that's pretty much it.

MB: Thank you leaders and captains for stepping up, we're done now, we'll release the minutes next week