



**Question and Answer Session: 77th Annual General Meeting of basketballscotland Limited held on Wednesday 15 November 2023 via Zoom video conference.**

SF noted that everyone was welcome to remain on the call for the Q&A part of the meeting.

KP presented an update on the following topics and covered questions which had been submitted in advance of the meeting:

	<b>TECHNOLOGY</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>GLADIATORS</b>
<b>Question:</b>	The website has not been updated this season, and none of the league tables are being updated. As a result, there is no way of knowing what the current standings are. What is being done to rectify this, and when can we expect to see the system updated?
<b>2.</b>	<b>CITY OF EDINBURGH</b>
<b>Question:</b>	BasketballScotland Website - are there plans to update this? Currently the old Competitions page has not been updated and people are finding it hard to source the information they require. For instance, why are the league tables/results "hidden" at the bottom of the front page of the website rather than on the Competitions page?
<b>Answer:</b>	KP: Thanks for raising this. As part of a number of technology updates for national competitions, we've been updating systems. The feedback we've received on the digital scoresheet has been very positive so the intention is to continue to use the associated technology for results and tables and, hopefully, to transition all fixtures to that system. We didn't want to change the fixture input for clubs at the start of this season (while there were significant other changes with digital scoresheet, individual membership and changes to YesRef) so we retained the Sport Lomo system for that. This meant fixtures sat separately from results and tables. This has now been tidied up on the website under the competitions pages, so hopefully it's much easier to follow now.
<b>3.</b>	<b>FALKIRK FURY</b>
<b>Question:</b>	Could we include U14 games in the YesRef app. This would certainly be easier for clubs but also for refs as several have said to me if it was on YesRef they could sign up to these games & others at the same time in the same area.
<b>Answer:</b>	KP: It is possible for clubs to put in additional games such as u14 games, this is probably in the next phase of roll out. There are benefits as you identify Gillian, however, we have a few questions in relation to ongoing challenges with officiating numbers and we think, at this stage, it would add pressure to an already stretched group of officials to cover more games. We are looking at ways to let referees know about u14 fixtures so they can potentially support clubs and other referees.  We have taken the decision just now not to do this so not to increase the pressure. At some point in the future the opportunity will be there. We are trying to look after the refs we have just now.

<b>4.</b>	<b>PANTHERS</b>
<b>Question:</b>	We have not received any invoices for NL referees to date, when will these invoices be issued and what will happen at the end of the season if the actual cost of referees is greater than the total monthly invoices paid?
<b>Answer:</b>	KP: Invoices are being collated and distributed this week. Issues downloading data from the supplier has led to delays. Equalisation will be done on a weekly basis, therefore the cost clubs get is shared and correct at time of distribution. The cost will be exact at every point in season, to avoid over complicated equalisation process at the end of the season. Invoices will be ongoing and accurate.
	<b>OFFICIATING</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>G LODGE</b>
<b>Question:</b>	Can the Chair confirm if there are any development programmes, led and funded by <b>basketballscotland</b> to increase the number of officials in the sport in Scotland?
<b>Answer:</b>	EE: We are working with the newly recruited Development Group to support a group of referees who have shown their dedication to the game and their willingness to improve. Brexit significantly impacted losing experienced refs, as did COVID. We focussed on the recruitment of new referees last year and had 200+ engaged. Through that campaign again this year we are hoping to achieve the same. Through the Referee Development Group we are hoping to engage more officials to help support the games. During summer we introduced digital scoresheets and feedback is positive.  BL: We sent out a survey via Spond, to active referees and received a decent amount of responses. 31% were citing time commitment for a reason not to take a game and 28% highlighted negative club culture and atmosphere and avoiding clubs who negatively approach referees. We have to protect our refereeing community because without them we will not have games. Going forward, we will be addressing negative behaviour and highlighting positive.
<b>6.</b>	<b>CITY OF EDINBURGH</b>
<b>Question:</b>	Referees - There appears to be a real shortage of referees for games at the moment. Is there a reason for this, can basketballscotland outline how they plan to address the issue and is there a pathway/training for referees so that we don't have this issue going forward?
<b>Answer:</b>	EE: We are looking at various options of different ways to train referees including running courses and providing them support to develop. This is a long term project as it will take a few years to see the benefits.
<b>7.</b>	<b>CITY OF EDINBURGH</b>
<b>Question:</b>	Table Official training - the level 1 and level 2 training courses have not been updated in at least 3 years. Can basketballscotland let us know when these will be, so that we can encourage our members to become table officials?
<b>Answer:</b>	EE: The Table Officials Development Group have met for the first time this week and the first objective of this group will be to look at education for TOs and ensure the training offered is up to date.

	<b>COMMERCIAL PARTNERSHIPS</b>
<b>8.</b>	<b>PANTHERS</b>
<b>Question:</b>	With the cost of living crisis, why did basketballscotland introduce the Wilson Basketballs at double the price of the previous Molten Basketballs? - As a related point, I would be very interested to find out if other clubs have noticed the increased ball mis-handling incidents from the Wilson basketballs!
<b>Answer:</b>	CG: Molten did not wish to renew their partnership, and we wanted to continue to have a ball sponsor for our national competitions and provide balls to clubs as part of that partnership. Clubs can bulk buy Wilson balls at 40% discount, individuals can get a 15% discount by signing up online. Molten were not engaging with us. Bulk buy discount is the way of trying to mitigate the additional costs.
<b>9.</b>	<b>G LODGE</b>
<b>Question:</b>	Can the Chair confirm how much income was generated and brought into the sport in the past year through sponsorship and private sector organisations.
<b>Answer:</b>	KP: <b>basketballscotland</b> generated £8,500 through commercial partnerships in cash, plus value in kind of £22,000. In terms of the whole sport, the private investment into Gladiators, including the build of the arena, would total over £10m. In terms of basketball in Scotland we recognise that generating income is important even if we are in a good financial position. We will now recruit this position to the Board.
	<b>STRATEGY</b>
<b>10.</b>	<b>G LODGE</b>
<b>Question:</b>	Can the Chair provide an update to published strategy for the sport including what steps have been taken to engage with members and Clubs?
<b>Answer:</b>	SF: The draft Strategy is at least three years old now. At the last AGM we published the Strategy on our website and invited clubs to communicate with us.
<b>11.</b>	<b>G LODGE</b>
<b>Question:</b>	Can the Chair indicate when the strategy is likely to be published alongside the delivery plans for the key areas of focus?
<b>Answer:</b>	SF: We will now draft delivery plans and look at Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) in order to deliver the Strategy. It is not normal to publish delivery plans but we have the AGM and meetings, any time anyone wants, to provide accountability of how we are performing.
	<b>STAFFING</b>
<b>12.</b>	<b>G LODGE</b>
<b>Question:</b>	Can the Chair please inform the membership/meeting how many members of staff (total number and FTE) that are employed by <b>basketballscotland</b> ?
<b>Answer:</b>	KP: Currently 19 staff, 17.2 FTE employed and we are in the process of recruiting another post.

<b>13.</b>	<b>G LODGE</b>
<b>Question:</b>	Can the Chair please inform the membership/meeting of any staffing relationships (including BS employee time spent) with Caledonian Gladiators and GB Basketball?
<b>Answer:</b>	<p>KP:</p> <p>There is currently no staffing relationship with Gladiators. As you would expect, there is regular dialogue and a positive working relationship with Gladiators to look at long term benefit of how professional franchises can help the wider game.</p> <p>Head of Basketball sits on the GB Basketball Performance Group and supports coach and player selection process for GB youth teams.</p>
	<b>COMPETITIONS</b>
<b>14.</b>	<b>PANTHERS</b>
<b>Question:</b>	For the past 18 months Panthers Basketball Club has seen a sustained amount of enquiries from players wanting to join the club. This is all age-groups both male and female. I know that other local clubs also have waiting lists, so does basketballscotland have any plans to introduce new or expand the current SBC competition leagues?
<b>Answer:</b>	<p>BL:</p> <p>A renewed focus on supporting the growth of regional competition, which would be the right starting place for players entering the game and supporting clubs to increase capacity and reduce waiting lists. National Competitions cannot be the solution for every player to get competitive opportunities. In terms of waiting lists we would discourage this.</p>
<b>15.</b>	<b>G LODGE</b>
<b>Question:</b>	Can the Chair confirm if there has been any consideration of the role university teams play in the Scottish National Leagues, especially around how they contribute to player pathways and any considerations on any effect they may have on non-University clubs sustainability?
<b>Answer:</b>	<p>BL:</p> <p>This is an ongoing consideration and there is a longer term view being considered currently. Universities are a key element of our basketball culture and they add value in many different ways.</p>
	<b>COACHING</b>
<b>16.</b>	<b>CITY OF EDINBURGH</b>
<b>Question:</b>	BasketballScotland have re-structured coaching qualifications & decided against using the UKCC model, are you able to share when the first courses will run and likely costs etc?
<b>Answer:</b>	<p>EE:</p> <p>There was no choice to remain in UKCC as it no longer exists in any sport. We re-structured qualifications, in consultation with clubs, and chose to be in line with the new Scottish Coaching certificate which is still awarded by the SQA and recognised across the UK. However, we were able to make the content more suitable for our coaches.</p> <p>Three Team Coach courses will be available after Christmas at £175, which is half the cost of the old Level 2 and sits higher on the SQA framework.</p> <p>Our qualification is now more bespoke to the areas where they are coaching in and more basketball specific.</p>

	<b>PERFORMANCE</b>
<b>17.</b>	<b>G LODGE</b>
<b>Question:</b>	Can the Chair advise on how many Scottish-born players took part in FIBA recognised international tournaments in the past year?
<b>Answer:</b>	<p>BL: The 8 players listed in the Annual Report all represented GB in FIBA play in the last year. In addition, Erin McGarrachan played in the recent Senior Women World Cup Qualifiers. In addition to that, we had 4 Coaches.</p> <p>Scotland was only represented by four players in 5v5 and we need more Scots to make the GB teams.</p>

**Questions were introduced from attendees and the following points were discussed and noted:**

<b>Question:</b>	KZ and GC enquired about table officials training and when courses would be available.
<b>Answer:</b>	EE advised that the Development Group are based throughout the country, therefore, allowing for courses to be planned quickly. No dates have been agreed yet but will be soon.
<b>Question:</b>	AM had noticed that Basketball England have been doing a lot of work to develop facilities and asked if we have any plans to do this too.
<b>Answer:</b>	KP advised that we are currently working on a project at Easterhouse to look at a facility in the east end of Glasgow. We don't have plans currently but we may be in a position to support clubs to do this. BL noted that the money part of a wider Sport England funding amount and the challenge we have is more about costs and access facilities which is a slightly different issue.
<b>Question:</b>	JT enquired if there is any timescale on the plans to improve the performance, representation in GB and when this will be discussed.
<b>Answer:</b>	BL noted that we have got to be looking at a 5 to 8 year plan and advised that himself and the Board are currently looking at competitions, and are trying to raise the standards of both on court and governance for clubs. It is their intention to visit and discuss this with clubs sometime in the New Year.
<b>Question:</b>	RH enquired if there is going to be an East Club Development Officer as Adam has not been replaced, as far as I know.
<b>Answer:</b>	KP advised that this is currently being considered.
<b>Question:</b>	KZ asked if all the NL games have been entered on In Game and, if not, have the scoresheets been manually updated onto the league tables?
<b>Action:</b>	BL undertook to check and report back.

<p><b>Question:</b></p>	<p>SF advised that a question had been raised around whether the AGM would ever be held in person again and suggested it would be good to get a sense of what people on the call thought. SF felt the online version allowed for a more diverse group of clubs to attend. Thoughts from others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JT felt the AGM was good online as they have the opportunity to attend whilst attending a club game. He would like to see more conferences with clubs and referees.</li> <li>• LM suggested online is good but would welcome more opportunities for face to face communication and discussion.</li> <li>• GT noted there seems to be better attendance online than in person.</li> <li>• Dundee Madsons would welcome face to face meetings.</li> <li>• JA noted it was positive last year when staff visited clubs.</li> <li>• RH noted that saving on the carbon footprint, the AGM is better online. He also agreed that face to face workshops or <b>basketballscotland</b> roadshows are welcomed.</li> <li>• AR noted, if more clubs are involved then that's a good thing and better than face to face with less clubs. BL highlighted the spread of areas of attendees on the call.</li> <li>• DG thinks the AGM works better online but noted that he still thinks clubs are not represented from the West. BL advised that meetings have taken place with Strathclyde and work continues to engage the Regional Associations.</li> <li>• SS felt a hybrid (in-person/digital) meeting could be managed. In person but with an opportunity for others to dial in.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Question:</b></p>	<p>KZ enquired how many referees are on YesRef just now.</p>
<p><b>Answer:</b></p>	<p>EE advised there are currently 80 referees on YesRef who are active and picking up basketball games. We are looking at referees who were previously on YesRef and trying to find out why they have not re-engaged.</p> <p>BL advised that club cultures are having both a positive and a negative impact on our referees. He stressed that the culture has to change and we will not tolerate the abuse of referees. Clubs have to appreciate that referees are volunteers who don't get paid very much and he noted that, if we do not get a hold of this culture, the game will die. In order to deal with this BL is operating a traffic light system and if more than three negative comments are reported about a club, a red flag will be assigned. This behaviour is absolutely unacceptable.</p> <p>TG encouraged that we have Respect ROOTS (Rules, Officials, Opponents, Teammates, Self). Club Culture Keepers and Coaches can use this to address negativity. It's something we adopt in wheelchair basketball.</p> <p>Points noted from clubs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DG suggested a first step could be game day promoters could say hello and make themselves visible to the referees when they arrive.</li> <li>• AM suggested that bad behaviour from some clubs goes beyond the referees and she would be grateful if this system was extended to include behaviour of everyone.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AM also suggested that referees could be permitted to attend the AGM, even though they are not members of clubs. BL advised that Lawrie Hill, from the Referees Development Group, is on the call and will feedback via Spond.</li> <li>• JT suggested that more coaches and referees could get together. EE agreed and highlighted that referees still have a seminar twice per year and that Regional Academy sessions are used to train new referees. Also, coaches are together and have the opportunity to connect around Regional Academies.</li> </ul>
<b>Question:</b>	KZ enquired if it would be possible to have someone explain a bit about what happened with the FIBA registrations for people from overseas? (Her daughter was born in Australia and she is worried that she might not be able to play). She has also heard that others have been told that they can't play at the moment.
<b>Answer:</b>	<p>BL advised that a FIBA letter of clearance is required for all non-domestics. They have to have clearance from the country they came from, even if they were born in Scotland. He noted that he will be posting a webinar to provide further information and will work with clubs.</p> <p>KP clarified that we won't be stopping non-domestic youth players from playing, but we have stopped seniors who do not have clearance through from FIBA as the clubs will get fined.</p>

### Conclusion

SF thanked everyone for attending and for their information sharing too. He noted that this has been a really worthwhile exchange and that the culture conversation has been a good place to start.

He noted that it has been a pleasure to see everyone and is looking forward to seeing people at games.

Meeting closed at 8.29pm.