



**U.S. Biathlon Association, Board of Directors Meeting
Pineland Farms Conference Center – Tuesday, September 15th, 2009
Meeting Minutes, Submitted by Art Stegen, Secretary**

I. Call to Order

Chairman, Larry Pugh called the Board of Directors regular meeting of the U.S. Biathlon Association to order at 8:30 A.M. on September 15th, 2009 at the Pineland Farms Conference Center, New Gloucester, ME.

II. Roll Call

Members of the Board of Directors present were: Larry Pugh, Charles Kellogg, Bill Alford, Phyllis Jalbert, Art Stegen, Jerry Baltzell, Sarah Konrad, and Brian Olsen. Joining the meeting via telephone conference call were Roger Hartley, Bernd Eisenbichler, Per Nilsson, Armin Auchentaller and Ed Williams. Absent from the meeting were Michael Dubie, and Jeremy Teela. Members present represent a quorum. Others attending the meeting were, Max Cobb, Gary Colliander, Andy Parsons, Barbara Baltzell and Eileen Carey.

III. Opening Remarks

Chairman Larry Pugh thanked the members present for their attendance and welcomed Eileen Carey of the Maine Winter Sports Center and MAJ Andy Parsons who is the new Director of the National Guard Biathlon Program and MG Dubie's representative at the meeting. He thanked those responsible for the previous day's Golf Tournament for which their efforts netted approximately \$23,000. He also related the mention of USBA by the USOC CEO, Stephanie Streefer, in the recent USOC meeting in Chicago indicating that USBA had become a model NGB within the U.S. Olympic movement. He announced that elections for the USBA Board of Directors were approaching and that the Board will be soon working through the process according to the By-Laws.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Chairman Larry Pugh asked for a motion for acceptance and approval of the regular Board of Directors' meeting minutes from June 13th, 2009. The motion was made, seconded and approved.

V. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Max Cobb announced that with 150 days to the Opening Ceremony, USOC registration for the Winter Games in Vancouver was on-going and final preparations were approaching quickly. He asked Bernd Eisenbichler to review his written report that he had submitted to the Directors for the meeting. Bernd reported that the National team was currently involved in a good training camp environment in Ruhpolding, Germany and would spend a total of seven weeks training in Europe before

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returning to the U.S. for a three-week altitude camp in Utah. Haley Johnson had returned to train with the other women following a two-week stay in Sweden that included some rollerski racing. He reported that the athletes are at the appropriate level of training for this point in the season and that there would be no early push for top performance as the training would be crafted for a peak in February. Following the training in Ruhpolding the men would go to Oberhof where they would participate in the IBU Summer Biathlon Championships (rollerski racing) and train on-snow in the newly opened ski hall. The racing would provide another opportunity to evaluate the training against many other teams that would also participate.

Bernd told the members that the staff planning had been finalized and the events, including World Cups, NorAm Cups, and IBU Cups were all staffed with a great “international” group of coaches who are working well together. Five men and four women will be named to the Olympic team based on the ICC criteria. Two men, Jay Hakkinen and Tim Burke had met the prequalification standards for the Olympic team, with 3 additional men and 4 women still to be named. The ICC would also determine the team to participate in the December World Cups.

Bernd related that the current focus of training is on improved shooting and this was going well with the new coach Armin Auchentaller. The team would now be entering the hardest phase of their training. He said that all the staff would be present, including Dr. Ed Merrans for the final pre-season training camp in Sweden. He gave Armin an opportunity to speak to the members and Armin thanked the Directors for their continued support of the staff and programs.

Following Berndt’s review, Gary Colliander reported that the B team group now included 10 women. Analysis on those participating since 2006 had shown little progress. The goal now is to make more improvements towards 2014, raising the level of performance for the women at all levels. The principal strategy would be to bring the women together more often and have them push each other through a higher number of training camp days. The recent training camps in lake Placid and Ft. Kent provided great opportunities for “team building” and competitive training. The Roller Ski Festival races at Jericho were extremely helpful in assessing the athlete’s individual needs and current skill levels with the junior women joining the training with experienced athletes. They will continue the combined training with the entire group at Soldier Hollow in UT.

Concerning IBU activities, Max reported that the IBU Technical Committee would meet in Germany and that the IBU would also be approaching an election. The current President would step down; however at the moment there is no clear “leading” candidate for the position. The IBU Medical Committee is currently heavily involved with anti-doping issues and is moving forward with a concept of “Blood Passports.” This would provide a blood profile for the athletes with a way to identify unusual deviations. Max asked Ed Williams, who took part in the hearing of three banned Russian athletes, to report on the findings and rulings of the IBU’s Hearing Panel. Ed reviewed the process and the decision.

On USOC activities, Max reported that the USOC was working through the stumbles over its recent television efforts. The new CEO, Stephanie Streeter is

professional but inexperienced in the Olympic movement and is learning from the struggles. There have been a number of reductions in the USOC staff and projected flat or decreased revenues. Of 42 National Governing Bodies, she singled out the USBA and Max Cobb as a model. Max announced that it was his 20th anniversary with the USBA and is proud of its accomplishments.

On the budget Max reported to be ahead or on target in most areas. He noted that although the projected balanced budget was based on assumptions that the Euro would remain at \$1.5, there was a chance that it may strengthen and threaten the plan. As the budget is not in a position to run deficits, a new budget may be developed by the November meeting, with some opportunities to absorb differences by scaling back spring activities.

Max reported that contributions are ahead of schedule with strong participation by the membership and small gifts. He also announced that Katy Cook would be leaving and that a replacement needed to be found. Katy played a primary role in organizing the Golf Fund Raising Tournament. There was discussion about having a new position to include media and web skills. Concerning other fund raising activities, Max met with Visa to discuss the Visa Olympic Campaign and there is apparently interest in receiving more information about biathlon. He concluded by saying that the Vancouver Olympic Hospitality program was two-thirds full, with the first half complete.

VI. Athlete's Report

Sarah Konrad and Brian Olsen reported that they were trying hard to get feedback from the athletes. They felt that there was positive progress on previous issues, especially concerning the women's issues. The women reported that they were enjoying the group training and were satisfied with the efforts of Gary Colliander and communication with the ICC and the staff. The athletes did express some concern about the work-load of the coaches and the quality of their time away from the athletes. They felt that better coordination was required regarding the training in Lake Placid with respect to schedule of daily training and that they would like to have more advance posting of longer-term scheduling. They also expressed some interest in seeing a more "holistic" approach to competitive and social needs. The junior athletes were interested in help on seeking individual sponsorship, financial security and other issues related to their long-term participation.

VII. Committee Reports

Jerry Baltzell reported that there had been discussion by the Safety Committee concerning the recent fatal accident. He reported that there was communication with USSA and that the USOC was in approval of the USBA's approach. Prior to the accident the committee had presented the USBA's safety policy concerning roller-ski training and that education was an important key.

VIII. Date of Annual Meeting

The date for the Annual Meeting is November 12th at 5:00 P.M. at the USBA office at Pineland Farms, New Gloucester, ME. Anyone is welcome to attend, however most members will be present by telephone conference.

IX. Adjournment

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 A.M.