

# BOARD BASKETBALL ENGLAND



## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

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**Date:** 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025

**Location:** Maldron  
Hotel, Newcastle-upon-Tyne

**Present:**

Paul Blanchard (PB)  
Born Barikor (BB)  
Chris Walsh (CW)  
Matt Newby (MNy)  
Sadie Mason (SM) dial in  
Joel Baynes (JB)  
Brandie Deignan (BD) dial in  
Sandy Gill (SG)  
Katie Simmonds (KS) dial in  
Paul Mundy-Castle (PMC)

**Executives:**

Stewart Kellett (SK)  
Helen Penn (HP)  
Marc Dring (MD) for item no.  
Bud Johnston (BJ) for item no.

**Apologies:**

Egemen Onen (EO)

**Note Taker:** Karen Bailey (KB)

**Item No. 1 – Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from EO.

**Item No. 2- Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**

There were no conflicts of interest that had not been previously disclosed.

### **Item No. 3 – Minutes & Action Tracker**

The Board approved the minutes from the BE Board meetings held on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2025.

The meeting acknowledged the actions contained in the Action Tracker document which had not been updated.

### **Item No. 4 – Board Member Renewals and Recruitment**

The Board approved the extension of a current Board Member's term through to the 2026 AGM and the reappointment of another member for a second three-year term. Additionally, the Board approved the creation of two new "Associate Director" roles, aimed at engaging individuals aged 18–25. These roles will be developed and supported by the People Committee.

### **Item No. 5 – Strategy Implementation 2025–2029**

The Board approved the four-year strategic goals, associated KPIs and priorities subject to the incorporation of the comments from the Board specifically on the focus on membership. The draft 2025/26 budget was approved, subject to further review by the AFR Committee. The implementation plan is designed to align operations, finance, partnerships, and reporting with strategic objectives.

### **Item No. 6 – CEO Update and Business Performance**

The Board noted updates on business performance and key developments, including organisational health and changes to business risks. The Board also approved a new Vexatious Management Policy.

### **Item No. 7 – Digital Transformation Update**

The Board acknowledged progress on the digital transformation project, including the appointment of 93ft as the preferred website supplier and ongoing work with PlayHQ. It was agreed that selected clubs will participate in system testing ahead of the June 2025 launch. A brand review group has also been established to provide recommendations by year-end.

### **Item No. 8 – NBL Division 1 (D1) Project Update**

A phased approach will be undertaken, with designated Board members leading discussions and legal work. The Board reaffirmed its commitment to partnership with the clubs and requested urgent progress on league structure modelling and regulatory implications for 2025/26.

### **Item No. 9 – NBL Regulation Changes**

This item was not discussed during the meeting.

### **Item No. 10 – Subcommittee Updates**

#### **EDI Committee**

The Board noted progress in key areas including the Diversity & Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP),

gender policy development, committee membership changes, and policy audits. A revised EDI structure is being developed to prioritise tasks and drive engagement, with the Board and leadership team committed to supporting this work.

**People Committee**

Covered under Item 4.

**AFR Committee**

An interim Board meeting will be scheduled before the end of March to address the 2025/26 budget in detail.

**Commercial Committee**

A review of commercial partnerships and opportunities was discussed. A detailed commercial proposal will be presented at the next Board meeting in April 2025.

**Item No. 11 – Notes and Actions from Advisory Groups**

The Board noted that the committees had not met since the last board meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> of December 2025.

**Item No. 12 – Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

**Item No. 13 – Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on April 29<sup>th</sup> 2025, venue to be advised.

**END OF MEETING AT 16:45**