

## **PROPOSAL SUGGESTIONS FOR THE FUTURE OF THE BDO**

From: Derek Jacklin - BDO Director & Chairman Lincolnshire Darts Organisation

To BDO Member Counties & Members

Dear All

Further to the promise I made at the BDO EGM in Walsall on 29th April 2018 I have detailed below for the attention of all counties and their members an outline of some suggestions for taking the BDO forward which will form the basis of a full proposal that will be submitted for consideration at the BDO AGM on 5th August 2018

What I have put together on the following pages are some of my thoughts on what I hope are perceived as constructive ideas designed to bring a new dynamic to the BDO and the opportunities it presents to its players I am eager to hear the comments from other counties as to how the proposals are received together with any enhancements felt necessary

For that reason I have not gone into any great detail the full proposal has been finalised with any suggestions from counties and lodged with the BDO but you can be assured that once the proposal has been lodged then all counties will be sent a full copy for appraisal before the AGM

Firstly, I would like to say how pleased I was with how the majority of you received my comments at the EGM However, I do confess to disappointment with a minority that seemed unable to fully comprehend the magnitude of the business and cash flow problems that are clearly unfolding before our eyes and which will present a threat to the BDO's financial stability if not addressed immediately

Unfortunately, within this minority there were some persuasive speakers whose input left us with a less than satisfactory outcome to the meeting which in actual fact will have an adverse effect on just about every aspect of the BDO until at least the AGM in August

For me the most disappointing outcome that despite the exposure of the large amounts of money that have been wasted over the last 12 x months certain delegates took a stance of empathy over those that had overseen these losses rather than reviewing them in the business manner that the situation demanded. I am sure that the BDO Counties did not elect their delegates to make decisions on their behalf based purely on management personnel they felt more comfortable with or felt sorry for.

The BDO is at a crossroads that calls for hard decisions taken on hard facts and I feel that at this meeting the counties were left in limbo

There had been circulated a letter from the Chairman notifying the decision taken by the Directors and that the most appropriate scenario for the period following after the EGM would be for me to be in a position where I could have started the ball rolling so to speak, but unfortunately their advice was rejected and I therefore I am not now in a position to do any preparatory work for the consideration and hopefully the benefit of the new Directors when they are elected.

I have however spoken to many personnel over the past months to ascertain views etc and I am heartened by the numbers that have put their names forward to help as it all bodes well for the future

I am under no illusion that all of the changes needed can be effected overnight and fully realise that not all of my proposals will meet with full approval and those that do will of course be subject to the strictest of scrutiny by the counties and those Directors elected to work with and apply them, all proposals will undergo processes of alteration, tweaking and whatever else is necessary to ensure that we have a BDO system that is fit for purpose and ready to be set to work as soon as is practicable.

I have below given a summary on what I see as the most important aspects and again I would appreciate your views on their content and viability:

### **YOUTH**

I use this as my priority as it was a real sadness for me that because of the position of uncertainty that the BDO was left in after the EGM we have lost valuable time as well as opportunity to make a start with a credible Youth Programme and the downside of this uncertainty is that the new Youth scheme I describe below cannot now be implemented until 2019 which will be a matter of great regret to me and the team working with me

I have a real passion for the youth game and over the past 6 months myself together with some like-minded personnel who see that the future of the BDO in its status within the World of Sport depends on the development of a youth system and have been investigating the practicalities of a new youth tour, this new youth tour would hopefully see a first year minimum of 10 tournaments ( 5 in England 5 in Europe) that would be categorised in the same way as the adult tour and in actual fact be played alongside the existing adult tour giving the under 18 their own ranking tables rather than the current ( free for all ) at the Winmau World Masters. This would encourage the youth to play for something all year round and prepare them for the transition into the adult game and give our code more stability and with that worldwide recognition.

Cont/...

## **MANAGEMENT & CONTROL**

### **A. BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

At present we have only 5 directors, our rules state we need a minimum of 4 Directors and a maximum of 20 Directors

I believe in order to move forward now we need a minimum of 10 Directors and I am heartened to say there has been great interest from county personnel wishing to become involved so with these and further nominations from the counties I feel confident that the Director positions will be filled by those who have the experience and expertise required and whose sole aim is to take the BDO forward.

The expertise and knowledge that exists within the counties is our strength and has been overlooked for far too long and it is my intention to utilise that expertise to the BDO's best advantage

To this end I would ask for nominations from which I can draft a full list of candidates and positions for presentation to the AGM

1. Chairman
2. Vice Chairman
3. Financial Director
4. Tournament Director
5. BDO Rules & Documentation Director
6. Rankings & Database Director = John Smith
7. Disciplinary Director
8. Men's Players Director
9. Ladies Players Director
10. Merchandising Director [see below]
11. Director without portfolio [to hold a 'floating' brief]

#### **Merchandising Director**

As you know Merchandising Director John Weller is sadly retiring that the AGM and this will leave a void that must be filled. Please advise if interested in offering your services to this very important role

Each of the above Directorships will carry a job description that will detail the duties they are responsible for and this will serve to ensure that for every action or inaction within a specific Directorship there is responsibility and accountability for those charged with carrying out those duties

It is also important to note that the new formation as suggested does not contradict the BDO Management structure that the counties agreed to in 2016

### **B. OTHER POSITIONS**

There will then be several other positions created that do not require a Directorship but could carry the title of Executive Director or similar

- General Secretary
- Assistant to the Tournament Director
- Public Relations Officer
- I.T. & Website Officer
- BICC Officer
- Youth Officer
- Transport Manager [see also below]
- Etc., etc., as required

All of the above will play a vital role in the new way forward and again having spoken to many personnel over the past few weeks I am heartened by the response and willingness to help if needed

The Executive Directors will be appointed by the Board of Directors by application or nomination as and when required

It is possible that once this letter reaches the counties and they respond there may be other places available at the AGM, for example as part of my proposal there will be a split between BICC and the Professional game with a committee set up for both using the above Directors and any other person voted on at the AGM, there were to be a youth committee set up at the same time however due to the outcome of the EGM this committee will not be required just yet.

I am more than aware at the level of expertise with all things darts related that is available from those involved with the BICC and I fully intend to tap into those resources

Anyone who is interested in taking the BDO forward and who can give a little of their time will find themselves most welcome to lend a hand whether it be in an official capacity or just to help now and again

#### **Technical Advisers**

The use of this structure will also give the Directors an opportunity to seek assistance and advice from advisers with specialist skills who would be appointed as and when the need arises

The appointment of any Technical Advisor must meet with the approval of BDO Board Members and they would have an advisory role only and as such would not have any decision making or management responsibilities within the BDO.

Cont/...

## **BICC**

It would be suggested that there be formed an Executive Committee comprising of relevant BDO Directors, Divisional Directors, UK National Darts bodies and elected County representatives who shall have overall administration control of the BICC

There will still of course be County Delegate meetings to cover and vote on BICC and Member only events issues and who will not be concerned with issues relating solely to the professional game.

I do have a plan ready to set in place that, if allowed, will considerably cut the cost of County fees and will hopefully enable us to put money back into the Counties, this was something we have looked at very closely as many Counties are struggling financially.

## **TRANSPORT MANAGER**

You will also notice in the section above (OTHER POSITIONS ) the position of Transport Manager, I would like to explain this new position and what It means to BICC.

It is no secret that Lincolnshire look after its players and pay for all room costs for both County and professional tour travellers, this is because of the relationships we have with hotel chains and as a result the extraordinary deals we get, but that got me thinking as to, why couldn't every County team playing away book through the BDO and get these great room rate offers?

We are in negotiations with 3 well known Hotel chains to work with the BDO, this will mean that the Transport Manager will be the Counties best friend and wherever possible both book the rooms and get the possible rate for the County, this will both alleviate the stress of the County booking and save the County money.

## **PROFESSIONAL GAME**

There will be a Professional Game Executive Committee made up of the Directors and suitable candidates from UK National Darts bodies, Counties (this will no doubt include some players).

This committee will be responsible for all decisions made regarding the BDO tour but will not make decisions regarding the BICC.

## **TRANSPARENCY**

Well I think that I more than proved to everyone that this will never be an issue ever again, with the exception of anything commercially sensitive the players and county officials will be the first to know anything and there will be regular statements and updates on the new BDO website and across all social media.

## **MEMBERSHIP SCHEME**

Plans must be set in place whereby every player within the BDO system from super league all the way up to the top professionals on our tour will become a member of the BDO in some way or another and I cannot stress the importance of this as its success will create revenue enabling us to give better prize monies, provide better venues and cut BICC fees.

The instigation of a structured membership system is critical if we are to exercise our commitment to carrying out our responsibilities in the new GDPR Legislation

## **MY PROMISE TO YOU**

It is my aim to do my utmost to turn around the perception of the BDO, to furnish you with the information that you need to take back to your Counties to make informed decisions.

It will be my job to make your darting life easier, to have a more "arms around" approach to enhance county participation and awareness, to bring the social darts player back into our sport, to negotiate new and exciting venues and sponsors to take our organisation forward.

I'm hoping that I will soon be in a position to inform you all of the venue and dates for the World Professionals, WINMAU and WDT for the next 3 years

## **FINALLY**

Please give consideration to the foregoing and if you have any nominations for personnel then please let me know as I intend to circulate to counties all known details plus a more concise breakdown of my ideas for the future in good time for your perusal before what will hopefully be a milestone BDO AGM

We have some good people standing by to help why not become one of them?

Please do not hesitate to contact me on any of the foregoing

Yours most sincerely and in the Sport of Darts