



13/8/09

Dear Members, Athletes, Coaches & Snowsport Supporters,

Some of you may have been made aware of the recent negative press coverage delivered through The Scotsman newspaper on 12th August 2009. It was extremely disappointing to see this commentary especially when the story is at best three months old and given the efforts carried out by a significant number of people to rectify the situation through this period.

We are now at a stage where we are able to look forward to what we can do and what we can deliver both in the forthcoming Olympic season and beyond. We are certainly not bankrupt!

Through the support of a number of individuals and UK snowsport organisations we now have the financial packages in place to ensure that we can settle outstanding debts and plan programmes for our elite athletes. We anticipate the financial resources to be completed by the end of this week that will allow payments to suppliers, including any back pay to coaches, to be cleared within the next fortnight.

In the course of the past four months SnowsportGB has had to face up to a number of difficult issues. It was evident that significant steps needed to be taken to reduce costs at all levels to ensure we stayed in business and that short-term finance would be required to sustain the business through the following years. The Board has worked tirelessly in making these steps and was able to announce to the membership that the refinancing package had been agreed in mid July.

In May, with the support of my employer Snowsport Wales, the Board of SnowsportGB asked me to take up a role as interim CEO on a part-time basis whilst maintaining my duties with Wales. I have worked for the governing body in Wales for the past twenty years as coach to the Welsh team and as CEO. Thus it was felt that my experience would be valuable to the organisation through this challenging period. As we move into a longer term sustainable business it is vital the organisation secures the full time services of a CEO and as such the post is now advertised through the SSGB website.

Our programmes across the disciplines are now commencing and our focus is upon preparing our athletes for Vancouver as well as looking at the longer term development of our athletes through to Sochi 2014. It is vital that we all get behind our athletes to ensure they are supported by whatever means available to us. We have a number of hugely

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talented and committed athletes who are performing at the highest levels on the world stage, as well as a significant number of developing athletes who are ranked in the top ten for their age showing fantastic potential for the years to come.

Communications to our members has certainly been one of our weaknesses over the past few years, and with the focus upon restructuring the organisation over the past few months we have neglected to resolve this issue. Therefore it is my intention to keep you up-to-date with progress over the next few months by maintaining this communication pathway on a regular basis while I am acting CEO.

I now look forward to a successful season for our athletes and especially look forward to being able to report plenty of good news stories through the following years. I will be on leave for the next fortnight, however if you wish further information you may contact me by email: robin.snowsportwales@virgin.net.

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