



BASIS Annual Report 2020

This report contains the reports presented to the 202 Annual General Meeting by the Officers and Executive Management Board of BASIS for the period between the 2019 AGM (held 18th December 2019) and the 2020 AGM (held 29th October 2020).

This version of the report is for general release to the public. In accordance with standard business practice and the BASIS Constitution some elements of the full report have been redacted where these may be seen to breach privacy or confidentiality or may be commercially sensitive to BASIS or to one of our members or partners. Redacted elements are typically shown by square brackets []. BASIS Members may see the full annual reports by sending a request to info@basis.org.uk.

Chair's report

This year, notwithstanding the huge changes wrought on society and in our sphere the world of sport, there have been some positive outcomes for BASIS. The onset of the lockdown period gave us the opportunity to set aside time for a complete strategic review comprising our vision, values, and mission plus a revamp of our operational structure.

I feel in both cases we made enormous progress and in particular the decision of our Director of Communications, Dom Goggins as an initiative to improve our media output, the Wednesday Webinar series has attracted a bigger audience to our mission of embedding sustainability into the delivery of sport at all levels.

Operationally we have followed best practice and separated our Executive Board and Steering Committee and will be renaming the SC as a Board. This in terms of Governance makes more sense and allows us to put in place an executive team to deliver the day to day operations with the non-executives setting the direction and overseeing the approach. In time we will add a further group (or Think Tank) to help us formulate wider policy.

The Wednesday Webinars have allowed us to explore the full spectrum of the model of Sustainability, from a Social, Economic and Environmental evaluation. We attracted a fine body of Speakers and kept the debate going initially for 12 weeks straight and then to monthly. The discussions have been insightful and informative, leading to more meaningful dialogue with sports governing bodies and government.

It has also brought us to the Build Back Better in Sport consultation that ends shortly and which will be written up as a White Paper to put to the right part of Government to ensure that sport is part of the redesign of society that will follow after the pandemic ends. We are also currently developing our plans to be represented at COP26.

BASIS has also developed a number of relationships with external professional associations such as SAPCA (Sports and Play Construction Association), the SRA (Sport and Recreation Alliance), the Rapid Transition Alliance, Pledge Ball, Planet Earth Games and a host of other representative bodies from the world of sustainability. All this forming part of the strategy to try and unite us as one voice in Sport to help deliver more impact where it is needed.

A Certification Scheme has been unveiled and Russell Seymour, CEO of BASIS has launched the “Fundamentals of Sustainability for Sports Organisations” course to provide CPD and a learning opportunity for people coming into the world of sustainable sport.

Finally, we have taken a big step forwards with BASIS this year and it has drawn heavily on the voluntary time that the members of the Steering Committee and Executive team devote towards driving the Association forwards. I want to, as Chair, offer them and Anna Beeton, our tireless Team Coordinator, many thanks and huge appreciation for the work they do, we would not have progressed as we have without their efforts.

If you would like to join us on the Committee please let me know and, as and when opportunities arise, we will certainly put you forward for consideration to the Nominations Committee.

As always I would be happy to hear from anyone if you have a question about what we do or how we manage ourselves.

Chris Whitaker, Chair Steering Committee

Secretary's report

During this period, the Association has experienced the difficulties that the rest of the world has experienced with Covid-19.

In accordance with the constitution, the executive team has expanded to become more aligned with a traditional business model. The recruitment of an administrative resource has worked exceptionally well, allowing matters such as webinars to be set up, advertised and delivered successfully.

The steering group continues to operate thus, providing the guidance and direction for the association and for the executive team.

The past twelve months has seen BASIS venture into the world of webinars, due to the pandemic. The webinars have been highly successful and have been a good method of communication to the membership and of presenting the values that BASIS stand for to those who are interested.

Work to develop the BASIS Certification has been continuing and has reached a point that it is close to release.

Membership continues to remain low and needs to be addressed.

Darren Crossman, Secretary to the Steering Committee

Treasurer's report

The balance today is £7,197.19.

I do not know of any other income or expenditure expected imminently.

[Details of payments made and due have been redacted]

Kirstin McEvoy, Treasurer to the Steering Committee

Chief Executive's Annual Report

2020 has been a year unprecedented in living memory. At the time of the last BASIS AGM (18th December 2019) the Covid-19 outbreak was a news story about something happening in China. Within months the virus has spread to create a global virus pandemic and sport, both professional and recreational, was decimated. While the imposed reduced human activity during lockdown temporarily reduced our impacts on the natural world, the financial effects have been substantial, and are likely to be felt long-term. As the pandemic spread, the climate, ecological and waste crises continued on. Wild fires burned in California and Scandinavia. Record temperatures were felt all over the world – both high and low (with 2020 likely to be the hottest year on record). While a new type of single use plastic waste – the personal protective equipment use by workers and the public - found its way into rivers and the ocean. Meanwhile awareness of the environment and a desire for a more sustainable relationship with it increased among the general population, possibly providing a window for action. It was against this varying backdrop that BASIS strove to develop over the past year.

Partnerships

- Early in the year BASIS agreed a commercial agreement with Professional Energy Services to provide 100% renewable energy to BASIS members.
- A longer discussion took place with [a facilities management provider], to provide an energy and facilities management review to BASIS members with potential financing of recommended solutions. At the time of writing BASIS had received a first draft agreement for the proposed services and the discussions are ongoing.
- Time was spent early in 2020 discussing a possible relationship with [a professional league] to provide awareness training and assessment services to their teams. This agreement was due to be signed just before the Covid lockdown came into force. The lockdown stopped this agreement going ahead. However, the conversation [] has been maintained with goodwill on both sides to provide a similar service in some form in the future once the full impacts of the Covid lockdown have been resolved.
- BASIS joined the BBC/BAFTA Albert Consortium for sustainable sports broadcasting.
- BASIS further developed relationships with the Sports Ground Safety Authority (SGSA); the Sport and Play Construction Association (SAPCA); the Sport and Recreation Alliance (SRA); the Rapid Transition Alliance (RTA); and [].
 - SGSA – SGSA have designated an inspector to have responsibility for sustainability and to liaise with BASIS. Regular meetings taking place (RS and DC on behalf of BASIS).

- SAPCA – BASIS is a partner member of SAPCA and offering services to SAPCA members, including access to relevant webinars. RS and CW having regular meetings.
- SRA – CEO meeting established the need for a relationship between the two organisations. MOU in discussion. Relationship to be managed by the SRA partnership manager.
- RTA – less formal arrangement with occasional meetings (RS and CW).
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Activities

- Lockdown saw a successful series of weekly webinars running for twelve consecutive weeks. The webinars saw a peak of 96 attendees (with 120+ having registered), with an average attendance around 60-70 people. The success of these webinars has been continued with a monthly 'Autumn series'.
- Initiated a "Commonwealth Climate Conversation" webinar series with the Sport Environment Alliance in Australia.
- Lockdown saw the initiation of the BASIS Build Back Better consultation to survey the opinions of the sport sector with regard to a positive response to the Covid lockdown. The consultation white paper is due for publication in November.
- The Certification Scheme was due to be piloted as part of the [proposed agreement with the professional league], before launching in the summer. Instead time was taken to refine and improve the scheme before a 'soft' public launch in October 2020. The soft launch generated significant interest with a number of venues volunteering to undertake a review of their activities based on the scheme and so providing a final test of the scheme before a media launch in late 2020 or early 2021.

Management

- The Executive Management Board gained Toby Robins (former acting CEO of IEMA) and Paul Lewis (former CEO of Carbon Credentials). Paul was later unable to continue in the role, but not before he had led a review of the purpose, mission and vision.
- Regular Communications meetings take place each Monday morning.

Members

- Due to Covid-19 current memberships were renewed for at least 6 months as an act of good will for ongoing support from current members.
- [] have recently become a member of BASIS.

Miscellaneous

- BASIS participated in the Masters student intern programme of King's College London with Innes Christison completing a review of academic literature associated with climate change and sport in the UK under the guidance of RS. The papers produced will be reviewed and made available on the BASIS website moving forwards. BASIS has been asked to participate in hosting next year's round of students.

Dr Russell Seymour, Chief Executive

Finance Director's report

A busy year has seen a review of potential funding options and development of parameters for future agreements. Structured planned reporting for future needs has been prepared and financial perspectives more formally embedded into business planning processes, agreements and contracts. An approach for funding early costs as we roll out individual projects and the broader business plan has been agreed. We have seen improvements to our banking processes with our provider.

Simon Gibb, Finance Director

Communication Director's report

BASIS has had useful national media coverage in the last year including appearances for Dom Goggins (Communications Director) and Russell Seymour (Chief Executive) on BBC television and radio news programmes.

We have spent a good deal of time reviewing our databases and cleaning these for future communications. As a result, we have been in more regular contact with our network. The BASIS website has been rewritten and relaunched this year which has significantly increased traffic and online presence. During the pandemic lockdown, we ran a weekly series of webinars, these were incredibly well received reaching over 250 people across the 12 weeks, each with high profile speakers and contributors. These have continued on a monthly basis since September. We continue to build relationships with the COP26 Team in the Cabinet Office and the DCMS Secretary of State's political team for future collaborations. We now send out a fortnightly BASIS Briefing to our network which includes a round-up of news and key information in the sector. In light of the pandemic, we have launched the Build Back Better consultation, this will result in a White Paper and a plan for the future of sport post Covid-19.

Dom Goggins, Communications Director

Membership Director's report

Over the year full membership has remained stable with numbers being limited but representing the highest echelons of sport. This includes national bodies, high profile clubs, stadia, and key suppliers to the industry.

The measures to tackle the coronavirus have heavily impacted on the operations and finances of the sporting community at all levels. The focus at BASIS on membership over the past months has therefore been on a program to support the industry to build back better.

The program seeks to [] reflect the financial constraints within the sector. This data will inform benchmarking reports which will highlight opportunities for cost and carbon savings allowing the organisations involved to build back better and stronger for the future and contribute to the delivery of the BASIS mission.

It is proposed to pilot the program with a national body []. On completion the pilot study will be reviewed and amended as required before being rolled out through other governing bodies.

It is anticipated that the program will provide a significant increase in member numbers and a further program is planned to support ongoing engagement and value delivery and therefore ensuring a high level of retention going forward.

Toby Robins, Membership Director