

Introduction

I apologise for the lateness of this report. This is mainly caused by the fact that I wanted to report on the Division meeting which took place last week.

During the year I have attended two Games and Sports Division Meetings. The only other representative from another Mind Sports organisation present at these meetings was from the British Go Association, the other representatives being mainly from what would normally be regarded as minority sports (wrestling, petangue, gliding, dodgeball, mini-basketball and so on). There is also significant representation from school sports organisations and those organising sports for the disabled.

Manifesto for Sports (2015)

The SRA is drawing up this document to try and get the political parties and candidates to sign up to positive policies promoting sporting activity. Mind sports will receive (at least) a brief mention in this document.

Sporta

Sporta is a UK association of leisure and cultural trusts. About 30% of public leisure/ sports centres in the UK are run by non-profit sports trusts who are members of Sporta. The January Division meeting was addressed by the policy and projects officer of Sporta who explained that many of these centres hold "taster days" where members of the public are invited to try out different sports. The Sporta officer (who has been an active chess player) believes that most of these centres would be happy to include chess and so there is an opportunity here for local chess clubs or leagues. Please contact me if you would like to try this out.

Fund Raising

The September meeting was addressed by a professional fund raiser. One significant thing he pointed out was that company sponsorship produces only a small proportion of funds raised by charities and voluntary bodies. Overwhelmingly the largest proportion of funds comes from individual members and supporters of the organisations that are raising funds. He highlighted the importance of social media in fund raising although he

emphasised that this should only be regarded as part of a fund raising strategy.

Governance

At the January meeting I asked if there were any other sports governing bodies present where individual members played a significant role in governance (e.g. by electing the governing board). It turns out that all the bodies present (well all the ones who spoke to me) have a federal structure similar to ours. One other organisation elected its board and determined its budget through the federal structure represented at the AGM and in a second annual meeting individual member representatives (elected through a separate system) determined policy in relation to playing matters.

Mike Gunn.

7th October 2014