

david.meli@englandhandball.com

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Dear David,

I would like to apply for the Independent Non-Executive Director role at England Handball. It has been a privilege to help directors, yourself and staff bring England Handball to its current, exciting position. I would like to continue as a director to help create a new era, build on the directions of travel initiated since I joined the board and support Tracy, the new leadership team and staff in building a new culture within the sport. Please find attached my CV in support of my application.

I have passion and desire for Handball to help make a positive difference to the health and lives of people throughout the country. To bring to fruition I pro-actively support equality, inclusion and diversity. I have argued for investment in women and girls, equal representation and surpassing guideline tariffs of the code for sports governance. I have worked with Power2Inspire to demonstrate the inclusiveness of handball and have championed engagement with and recruitment from different sectors to build a diverse, skilled and balanced board to help the sport flourish.

I am active promoting communication, understanding, co-operation and collaboration with openness, clarity, transparency and accountability as the means to improve productivity, efficiency, sustainability and fulfil potential. I have attracted investment in facilities, have joined with other directors to bring strategic discussions to the fore at board meetings with the objectives of developing commercial function, safeguarding, governance and improving service to members.

I have worked hard to build strong relationships with key stakeholders to achieve the ambition I set myself of Handball being a legacy sport from the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. I co-wrote for UK Sport "A Plan for Handball in England" on behalf of British Handball in 2007 and in 2010 co-authored with the London 2012 Competition Manager Handball's submission to the Olympic Park Legacy Company for the Proposed Use of the Handball Arena. In 2011 I was supported when asked to help establish the London Academy of Excellence, the first selective sixth form free school in the country which is helping more children from deprived backgrounds access the best universities. I have argued for education being at the centre of the new strategy and took a gap year to help write the funded England Handball plan. Earlier this year I was interviewed by a representative of University of Tsukuba, Japan as part of the legacy project for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

As a visiting lecturer to universities I have grown the handball workforce on teacher training and coach education courses. To support workforce development further and promote club growth I won funding for tournaments and inclusion of handball in the London Youth Games competition. Students have been judged "excellent" by Ofsted, created clubs in schools and the community and represented teams internationally. 88% of local authorities have entered London Youth Games Handball competitions, the number of clubs in London has doubled since 2007 and new facilities are progressing through planning.

While on the board I have provided creative contribution, independent oversight and constructive challenge to the executive as a director. I have attended all board meetings bar one, participated in 100% of operational calls, supplied all board reports ahead of deadline and have written seven additional documents for consideration. I have visited clubs, attended league matches, the university championships and junior tournaments. My contributions to the board are informed through research and consultation and supported by ambition, attention to detail and teamwork. I would like to use my knowledge, skills and experience to help write the next exciting chapter of Handball development in England and give full support to creation of a culture in which everyone can thrive.

Thank you for considering my application.

Yours sincerely,



Chris Smith