

Minutes of the SEMLA GCM 12th May 2014

Present:

Trevor Rogers	(TR)	President & Reading
John Maynard	(JM)	EVP, Disciplinary Chair & Purley
Peter Compton	(PC)	EVP & Spencer
Miles Whittle	(MW)	Treasurer & Bath
Jon Cooper	(JC)	Fixtures Secretary
Peter Mundy	(PM)	Croydon
Simon Peach	(SP)	South Referees Committee Chairman
Ray Wood	(RW)	Youth Chair &
Kieran Balmer	(KB)	Secretary & Brighton

1. Apologies for Absence.

Jon Bowles (Croydon)

2. Acceptance of Minutes from the previous meeting.

Accepted.

3. Matters arising not included in the Agenda.

None

4. President's Report

TR referred to his written report, circulated prior to the meeting.

5. Treasurer's Report

MW referred to his written report, circulated prior to the meeting.

MW noted that future expenditure is expected in respect of pitch hire for the South Sixes tournament;

Income is expected from ELA and Centurions.

PM noted that there will be a grounds hire fee for the County games, despite the cancellation of the event. PM advised the meeting that he is attempting to negotiate a discount on that fee.

TR observed that the future of the County tournament will need to be considered in light of the recent cancellation.

SEMLA fees: KB noted that one of the officers from EG had contacted him to advise that payment was being made as a matter of urgency.

TR asked if any bills are expected in respect of South team participation at BNC; MW replied that this is not usually the case.

TR asked if SEMLA is expecting any money back; MW said this was unlikely, but agreed to seek confirmation from Nik Roberts.

6. Secretary's Report.

KB had nothing to report.

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7. Youth Development Committee's Report.

RW referred to his written report, circulated prior to the meeting.

RW noted that the incoming head of the National Academy is scheduled to review the structure of the National Academy after the World Championships in Denver draws to a close.

PC noted that some parents have reported receiving invitations for their children to attend National Academy sessions but no coherent exit plan has been identified for academy attendees.

PC also noted that the current plans for the National Youth Tournament, as communicated to SEMLA by John Sharples, are not workable as they effectively deny any southern representation. PC strongly recommended that SEMLA give a formal response to the proposals.

8. University Liaison Report.

No current officer, so no report.

9. South Manager Report.

Nik Roberts absent, therefore no report.

TR noted that the South had performed well in the BNC. The first team won the plate and the Development squad came 4th after forcing double overtime in their final game.

10. Disciplinary and Complaints Panel Report.

JM referred to his written report, circulated prior to the meeting.

The Disciplinary Committee sat on 17th April to adjudicate a complaint received from the Head Referee in the Blues v Hitchin fixture on 22nd March. The written decision of that Committee was circulated ahead of this meeting.

KB asked if the conduct reported took place during or after the game; JM replied that it started during the game and continued after the final whistle.

KB asked if the conduct was penalised during the game by the officials; JM confirmed that it had been.

PM noted with approval the use of a “suspended sentence” as part of the sanction issued.

TR noted the contrast between the South’s disciplinary process and the process used following the incidents in the Stockport v Spencer fixture in 2013.

11. Referee Secretary Report.

Steve Jarvis currently on sabbatical, so SP reported verbally.

SP noted increased coverage of games by panel officials this season, and the full crews at Flags Finals day. SP also noted that more BUCS Wednesday games are being covered by fully-qualified officials than in previous seasons, despite the increase in the number of Universities playing.

SP noted that a meeting of twelve referees took place at reading after the Flags Final. The MPC proposal to outlaw single-person officiating was discussed and the conclusion was that any solution for the South must be put forward by SEMLA, rather than by the Southern Referees Committee, because player input is vital.

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SP confirmed that the R&R meetings in Didsbury can be attended by someone else when SP is unavailable.

PM noted, in reference to the MPC proposal, that the North has a discipline issue that is not present in the South, and more “crime” requires more “policemen”. SP agreed and noted that recent developments in the North included allegations of spectators mimicking officiating calls in order to deceive players.

TR noted a rumour that Stockport players have as a group agreed to try to avoid giving away so many penalties – if true, this might be seen as an acknowledgement that they have until now been breaking the rules too often.

SP noted that for now the standard of play and levels of sportsmanship in the South allows for officials to competently referee games solo, but the long-term aim to increase the number of refs in the South does not run contrary to this.

12. Fixture Secretary Report.

Jon Cooper referred to his written report, circulated prior to the meeting.

KB agreed to distribute the West Division realignment proposal to all West Clubs and invite comment therefrom.

13. RDO Report.

Nik Roberts absent. No report.

14. MPC Liaison Report.

Sam Spurrell absent. No report.

TR noted developments regarding the National Club Tournament. Current proposal is not workable for the South and there is little evidence of Southern opinion being properly considered.

15. Any Other Business.

- a. PC asked if there was any news regarding the Iroquois Cup; TR replied that the fixture appears to have fallen away due to the North proposals for the National Club Tournament
- b. JM noted that Cheadle are reported to have little interest in playing the Wilkinson Sword fixture
- c. TR noted that Blues have been confirmed as invitees to the European Club Championships
- d. KB noted the Hillcroft summer league has registered one hundred and twenty players expressing an interest
- e. JM noted that Purley intend to host a sixes tournament again during the summer; TR noted that this tournament, and the Summer League at Hillcroft, will need to be formally declared to the ELA in order to gain cover under the ELA's insurance policies.

16. Date and Time of Next Meeting: 7pm, Monday 1st September 2014 via conference call

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END