

# Minutes of the SEMLA GCM Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 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
Nik Roberts	(NR)	RDO & Bath
Simon Peach	(SP)	South Referees Committee Chairman
Ray Wood	(RW)	Youth Chair
Jon Mills	(JM2)	Hitchin
Harry Kenyon	(HK)	Southampton
Eddie Owen	(EO)	Chair, Men's Playing Committee
Kieran Balmer	(KB)	Secretary & Brighton

## **1. Apologies for Absence.**

Peter Mundy (Croydon); Rob Gooch (Spencer); Danny Buckland (Epsom)

## **2. Acceptance of Minutes from the previous meeting.**

Accepted.

## **3. Matters arising not included in the Agenda.**

None

**NB: Points 9), 13) and 14) were moved to the start of the meeting and were heard after point 3) and before point 4)**

## **4. President's Report**

TR reported verbally.

The Hillcroft Summer League was very successful, the best attempt yet at running an organised summer league. Shows enormous potential as the answer to the yearly demand for regular summer lacrosse. Hillcroft have announced that the profits from running the summer league are going to be donated to running the South team.

## **5. Treasurer's Report**

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

The Sixes tournament generated nearly £1000.

Fewer clubs have approached SEMLA for grants than has been the norm in recent years.

## **6. Secretary's Report.**

KB reported verbally.

There seems to have been a large number of changes to the committee personnel at a higher than usual number of clubs – many emails are being bounced back. Whilst some new contact details have filtered through, few people seem to be using the link on the SEMLA website to contact Dave Slaughter and update their club contact details. More people seem to be

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emailing Jon Cooper than anyone else! Please can everyone remember to email Dave Slaughter AND KB to update contact details.

## **7. Youth Development Committee's Report.**

RW reported verbally.

Junior flags will be held on October 5<sup>th</sup> – venue TBC (Response expected from Sele School, Hertford).

Junior league to run as soon as entrant clubs are confirmed – please advise RW of any new schools wishing to compete.

Academy sessions: RW due to liaise with Jane Powell (Academy boss) in the near future.

PC noted that Dave Elwood had confirmed that the desire exists to hold Academy sessions in the South.

TR asked if International School Brussels are expected this year, PC replied yes.

TR asked if a date had been set for the Holder Trophy, PC confirmed that this would be the week before half-term.

PC noted that email had been received from John Sharples regarding an early June event in Manchester – does the committee wish for this to be listed on the agenda for a formal response? TR suggested that perhaps the point should be discussed with EO, due to SEMLA concerns re representation on MPC and in lack of consultation prior to the announcement of mandates such as this one.

EO noted that whilst he was not fully up to speed re the proposed event, he was aware that the date discussed was 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> June. EO further noted that the event was part of an agreement with Manchester Council. In return for financial investment from the Council, the ELA has to deliver summer events each year up to 2018.

JM noted that U12 and U16 national championships used to be held at a variety of different locations with varying degrees of success. Holding the new event in June will clash directly with GCSE exams, therefore a barrier to participation.

PC noted there is still a need for Junior championship events, but currently no such event exists. If Manchester Council is paying then we should try to respect that.

TR agreed but noted that the current MPC proposal includes the Wilkinson Sword fixture to be always be held in the North.

KB noted that the date of the proposed Junior event in June was the sticking point – PC and JM concurred.

TR suggested that PC and JM speak directly to the North's Junior representatives to try to identify a more suitable date.

## **8. University Liaison Report.**

No current officer, so no report.

## **9. South Manager Report.**

NR reported verbally.

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Trials before Christmas now being planned.

Henning Schmidt at Hillcroft has expressed an interest in running the South team this year.

Possibility of adopting an East / West format this year instead of the usual First / Development format, but no decision made as yet.

Four regional coaches to be recruited in order to repeat last year's successful format of a selection tournament.

NR hopes to perfect a model that will continue to function irrespective of future personnel changes.

## **10. Disciplinary and Complaints Panel Report.**

JM had nothing to report.

## **11. Referee Secretary Report.**

SP reported verbally.

Good coverage of referees in the Hillcroft summer league.

Gregg Irwin, Hazel Wisbey and SP all participated in the World Championships in Denver, Colorado – very successful.

In reference to ongoing discussions towards the aim of increasing referee numbers – these discussions have continued at R&R committee level, MPC level and ELA level.

SP noted that existing SEMLA byelaws could be more strictly enforced. Panel refs have agreed, following summer conversations, to insist upon home referees officiating at any game featuring a neutral panel ref. Home teams who cannot meet this requirement will see the panel ref withdraw from the fixture.

Online material for coaching and development of referees is being pushed by Paul Coups at ELA

## **12. Fixture Secretary Report.**

Jon Cooper reported verbally.

Final fixture list has been circulated. Several clubs yet to respond, and some individuals have been in contact seeking a fixture list, demonstrating that some clubs have changed committee personnel without updating SEMLA.

This season will use the existing two up, two down promotion / relegation model between West One and West Two, East One and East Two, and East Two and East Three. The playoff system for promotion and relegation between East One, West one and the Premiership will continue as per last year's format.

Flags this year has been re-organised at both the Intermediate and the Minor levels. Each will now see preliminary rounds organised geographically, in the hope that this will see fewer matches conceded. Prem flags remains unchanged.

Flags finals day: 11<sup>th</sup> April

East / West playoff and County tournament: 18<sup>th</sup> April

Sixes tournament: 25<sup>th</sup> April

9<sup>th</sup> placed prem team v loser of East / West playoff: 02<sup>nd</sup> May

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## **13. RDO Report.**

NR reported verbally.

Ten LDOs now in SEMLA area and commencing training – three females amongst this year's crop. SDOs already in place.

David Abini, Joey Burnett and Helen Murray are all still in place. Sam Spurrell has stepped down but Joey Burnett has taken over Sam's geographis area in return for an enhanced salary.

TR asked how the LDO / SDO numbers compared to previous seasons: NR replied that this year is equal to last year.

Guildford co-ed satellite club is up and running.

Buckhurst Hill are setting up a youth team. PC asked if this is for a specific age group and NR replied that it is likely to be secondary school age for now.

NR noted that University of London home games will now be played at North London Cricket Club.

EO asked if the Sportivate scheme was being utilised in SEMLA: NR replied that there had been nine bids last year and three new satellite clubs.

JM noted that the Centurions had been in contact with William Deferrs School – NR confirmed he was aware of this.

NR had also received contact from Bishop Wordsworth's school in Salisbury, where a boys' programme is being set up following some success in mixed participation with a local girls' school.

NR reminded all present of the imminent Bath Eights tournament.

## **14. MPC Liaison Report.**

EO explained that he was attending with the aim to bridge the gap between MPC and NEMLA / SEMLA, and to evaluate the effect of board-level decisions at grassroots level.

EO explained that the major concern at this point is not changes at performance level or strategic level, but the proposal to merge the Men's Playing Committee and the Women's Playing Committee. It is suggested that the merger could be one way of meeting the Olympic participation requirement of "the coming together of the game".

EO asked if SEMLA experiences much contact with the Women's territories in the South – TR confirmed that he and RW have arrangements in place to attend Women's meetings and are in discussions re SEMLA support for the Women's World Cup in Guildford 2015.

RW noted that his involvement includes running a Women's club and provision of sponsorship. RW has regular contact with Claire Smoothy and Jan Kiddle and confirmed TR's reference to regular meetings, although there had been no meeting recently.

EO noted that attempts are being made to organise a joint meeting of the MPC and the WPC to share ideas (Women's Super League format is one likely point of discussion) and to seek opinions on the advantages of merging the two committees.

TR asked what mandate the proposed merged committee would hold.

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EO replied that it was hard to say at this early stage. For now the MPC simply wants to find out how the WPC operates, to discover what things are done differently and if the MPC could adopt any of these different practices. The grassroots game would continue to sit with SEMLA / NEMLA – the work of the Playing Committee is more strategic.

JM noted that there was scope for merging publicity functions and events organisation, despite the two games being quite different. Also noted differing participation demographics – sharp drop in female participation after marriage.

EO noted that the Women's game is trying to set up more clubs and that this would be very welcome in the North. There have been attempts to encourage universities to make more of their women's players and to provide more exit opportunities for graduating players.

JM noted that growth in the Women's game in the South had been fairly slow in the last ten years. Most South women's lacrosse is schools-based and the schools to senior conversion rate is poor, perhaps because most schools lacrosse is run by school staff on Saturdays.

JM2 noted Hitchin has witnessed substantial growth in the Women's team. Female LDO this year and several new female players of all ages.

EO noted that the junior take-up is better when a club has both men's and women's teams, and this is not just the case in lacrosse but also in other sports.

TR noted that it was hard for SEMLA to comment at this point. What need does the MPC see a merger filling? What benefit will SEMLA, and by extension all clubs and players in the South, derive from a merger?

EO replied that the ELA head office has drawn up documentation identifying targets – if this has not yet filtered down, EO will see that it does – attending an MPC meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> September and will mention it there.

JM noted that southern clubs could benefit from increased communication with each other, so that female juniors can be directed to their nearest senior teams. Also contacts with women's league administrators should be shared so that clubs wishing to set up women's teams can be assisted by the women's league.

EO agreed. Noted that continual flow of information was vital.

## **15. Any Other Business.**

None

**16. Date and Time of Next Meeting:** 7pm, Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2014 via conference call

**END**