

Minutes of the SEMLA GCM Monday 2nd February 2015

Present:

Trevor Rogers	(TR)	President & Reading
John Maynard	(JM)	EVP, Disciplinary Chair & Purley
Jon Cooper	(JC)	Fixtures Secretary
Simon Peach	(SP)	South Referees Committee Chairman
Ray Wood	(RW)	Youth Chair
Tracy Woodall	(TW)	Pythons
Dominic Hewitt	(DH)	Oxford
Kieran Balmer	(KB)	Secretary & Brighton

1. Apologies for Absence.

Miles Whittle (Treasurer & Bath), Jacqui Hicks (Foxes), Peter Compton (Spencer), Peter Mundy (Croydon)

2. Acceptance of Minutes from the previous meeting.

Minutes accepted

3. Matters arising not included in the Agenda.

It was agreed previously that a discussion regarding funding methods relevant to SEMLA should be moved to the top of the agenda. DH introduced the subject, following on from SEMLA 6s discussion at last months meeting.

Noted Hillcroft's individual skills sessions-could other clubs offer similar, using LDO's? Also, could a different tournament (aimed at beginners) be viable?

JM agreed that only having 1 source of income is a risk, but as always the limitation is the availability of volunteers.

It was noted that sponsorship, either of divisions or of SEMLA as an entire league, is desirable but the task of securing sponsorship is realistically a job for a professional.

DH noted that clubs who rent playing fields face restrictions, such as the display of sponsorship hoardings or banners maybe restricted.

TR noted the ELA/BUCS development tournaments – DH stated that these tournaments often clash with SEMLA fixtures and at this years event only 2 weeks notice was given to potential participants.

SP likes the idea of replicating the Hillcroft skills clinic. Also noted that sponsorship, while difficult, should be explored.

TR noted the difficulty in obtaining sponsorship in the current economic climate: 'as a business man, what does sponsorship of SEMLA provide for a business?' TR noted that there does not appear to be a tangible benefit for a potential sponsor. We cannot make a

Minutes of the SEMLA GCM Monday 2nd February 2015

business case so we need to make an emotional case for sponsorship. It appears vital to have a pre-existing contact: even the ELA has failed to secure a sponsor.

TW asked if the lacrosse equipment suppliers might be interested? RW replied that previous experience suggests not.

RW noted that clubs with bars can offer beer sales to players and spectators: consequently some breweries sponsor cricket and rugby. Unfortunately cricket and rugby are considered as 'prestige' sports, whereas lacrosse is not. Brewery sponsorship of course hinges on the brewery being able to offer their products through the bar. Therefore clubs without bars cannot access such sponsorship.

DH suggested sponsorship of individual days/events. Examples given were flags final day, the county tournament or SEMLA 6's. DH suggested there is a greater likelihood of attracting a modest sum from smaller sponsor willing to invest in a particular locality.

TR noted that some companies are far more active than others with regard to corporate social initiatives. RW agreed, and further noted that some companies even have specific budgets at regional level but considerable research would be required to identify specific companies.

TR noted that in previous years red bull had expressed a preliminary interest in attending some SEMLA events but nothing ever materialised.

The conversation returned to the topic of skills workshops. TW asked if workshops would only be aimed at senior players, TR replied that junior level workshops were an equally good idea, provided that no child protection issues arose.

DH noted that if a centralised plan was drafted, topics and entire workshops could be pre-prepared and offered to clubs with LDO's. The aim of this method would be to reduce the amount of planning that any individual club would be expected to carry out.

TR noted that Reading hoped to have 3 LDO's again next season. TR further noted that Reading would be prepared to 'donate' these LDO's to run a Sunday clinic. TR suggested open age groups, with a cost per attendee of perhaps £20

JON COOPER JOINED THE MEETING

TW noted that a September date would be useful for youth teams: players who maybe wavering with regard to continuing involvement could well be encouraged to remain in the sport.

DH noted that there would have to be a cap on total numbers at each workshop. Any more than 30 attendees would be difficult to manage. Could workshops be held on more than 1 weekend? TR replied that multiple weekends would be a good idea. Additionally other clubs could be asked to donate their LDO's to help deliver workshops in return for nominal payment.

4. President's Report

TR reported verbally – Noted MPC remarks re SEMLA minutes from December. MPC apparently unhappy. TR is in contact with Eddie Owens to clarify the issues.

5. Treasurer's Report

Minutes of the SEMLA GCM Monday 2nd February 2015

Miles Whittle not present. KB reported verbally by reference to the written report from MW that had been previously circulated.

JM agreed to chase Purley.

6. Secretary's Report.

KB had no report. Reminded the meeting that a replacement secretary needed to be identified in time for the next meeting (in March).

TR asked TW to consider taking on the role.

7. Youth Development Committee's Report.

RW reported verbally.

RW noted that game days for the rest of the season have now all been scheduled: the next game is on the Weekend of 7th February at Portsmouth.

Noted that Junior Flags will take place at Blues on April 26th

Academy planning is on going. RW noted Peter Compton's prominent involvement.

RW has asked Dave Slaughter to update the Youth section of the website.

TW asked if this update could include the collation of results from matches and game days. TW further noted it is currently difficult to keep up with fixtures and results without physically attending the games.

8. University Liaison Report.

No current officer, so no report.

DH noted that the BUCS 8 a side tournament on Feb 21st clashes with SEMLA fixtures. DH was disappointed at the apparent lack of forward planning by BUCS.

TR noted that Dave Coldwell is the ELA contact who deals with BUCS. JC agreed to speak to Dave Coldwell on the topic of fixture clashes.

9. South Manager Report.

Nik Roberts not present, therefore no report.

10. Disciplinary and Complaints Panel Report.

JM happy to deliver a nil report once again.

TR noted a sharp drop in on-field dissent, both in SEMLA and BUCS games. SP agreed, noting a similar situation in the Prem. SP further noted that he could not recall the last time he gave a 2 minute foul, let alone an expulsion.

11. Referee Secretary Report.

SP present, reported verbally.

Minutes of the SEMLA GCM Monday 2nd February 2015

Most panel referees now using database on google docs to assign themselves to games. This has led to improved coverage levels.

Mark Buckley, who has been living in Newcastle for the last couple of years, is shortly to relocate to Warminster.

Todd Shay (referee from Las Vegas) is soon to relocate to RAF Lakenheath.

Nick Flew of Spencer recently reffed alongside SP in the Spencer v Reading fixture: Nick received good feedback from the players. He will referee alongside SP again at the upcoming Spencer v Hillcroft fixture.

Applications now open for the 2016 European Championships: SP, Hazel Wisby, Gregg Irwin, Dan Wright and Mark Buckley have all applied, it is 18 months away and applications are restricted to Level 4 referees only, however there is time for a Level 3 referee to complete a Level 4 qualification and apply. SP noted that there is an U19s tournament running alongside the Euros

SP has not been able to speak further with Rob Collinge about the proposal to access referees and bluesfest but it was discussed at the most recent R and R committee meeting. At this meeting SP stated his reasons for preferring assessment to take place in Summer league games. SP cited the truncated length of games at Bluesfest as an issue. SP noted that wherever the assessments take place a budget would need to be approved to meet the costs.

KB asked whether any news had been received regarding the SEMLA proposal to subsidise referee courses and the lack of official response thus far from the ELA. SP replied that there had been no enthusiasm for the proposal: the ELA specifically want the referee courses to be run as an income stream.

JM suggested that SEMLA should run its own referee courses on a not-for-profit basis. SP replied that this is not possible. SP agreed to go back to the ELA again and push the topic as hard as possible, but expressed doubts that the ELA would change their position.

12. Fixture Secretary Report.

JC present, reported verbally.

No official contact has been received from Northampton, so JC cannot confirm rumours of Northampton folding. DH agreed to forward contact details from recent conversation between Oxford and Northampton.

JC noted that Cambridge are looking for friendly fixtures.

JC noted that the 6s tournament is scheduled for April 25th.

JC noted end of season dates (as previously reported in minutes and fixtures secretary report each month this season).

DH asked if Purley A was still fulfilling fixtures-JM confirmed that they were not.

Minutes of the SEMLA GCM Monday 2nd February 2015

13. RDO Report.

Nik Roberts not present, therefore no report.

14. MPC Liaison Report.

No officer, so no report.

TR noted recent mail out of documents from MPC. Budget document shows increased investment in funds for team entering European Club Championship: Sad to note that only 1 team however is eligible to represent England at this event.

JM noted slight increase in funding earmarked for SEMLA.

RW noted £16,000 has been allocated for a Men's Superleague. TR suggested that this sum may be the funding provided by Manchester Council in the run-up to 2018 World Tournament.

TR noted that the ELF has agreed to the ELA's request to limit entry to the KGC (European Club Championships) to the winner of the North/South game. This fixture will be held in Manchester during June.

15. Any Other Business.

RW noted that "Active Surrey" is offering assistance to sports clubs based in Surrey. Details are easily found using a search on google.

16. Date and Time of Next Meeting: 7pm, Monday 2nd March 2015 via conference call

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