

MINUTES – SEMLA General Committee Meeting

7pm Monday 5 December 2016

In attendance: Trevor Rogers (TR), Ben Jessup (BJ), Miles Whittle (MW), John Maynard (JM), Jon Cooper (JC), Raymond Wood (RW), Peter Rawsthorne (PR), Simon Peach (SP), Russell Farrer (RF), Nik Roberts (NR), Gabbi Simmonds (GS), Dennis Tobin (DT), Harry Collins (HC), Tracey Woodall (TW), Alex Spearing (AS), Peter Mundy (PM), Rob Gooch (RG), Henning Schmidt (HS)

1) Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from: None.

2) Acceptance of minutes

BJ explained his error regarding detailing Foxes Lacrosse Club as Croydon Foxes, and informed the meeting that this has been edited following circulation of the November meeting's minutes.

JM reminded BJ that he had sent apologies prior to the November meeting, and requested that these be included - BJ actioned this during the meeting.

3) Matters arising

BJ updated the meeting regarding the RFU's retention survey and shared how he had circulated this to TR, PM & Centurions. NR, GS, JM, & RW requested sight of the survey in addition to this, and BJ offered to look into acquiring the final research report from the RFU.

PR updated the meeting regarding the Player Pool Scheme proposal discussed at the November GCM, and progress made in consultations with players across SEMLA. JM raised concerns regarding how disciplinary proceedings would work in practice, whilst AS queried whether clubs making use of the Pool scheme would play their fixtures for points or not - TR confirmed that this would be at the discretion of the opposition's captain. NR requested that, where clubs make use of the scheme, ELA RDOs should also be informed so that they can support the club moving forwards.

The Player Pool Scheme was formally proposed by TR and seconded by JM, with the meeting agreeing a trial period for up to the end of the 2016/17 SEMLA season. NR abstained from the vote.

ACTION – BJ to circulate the RFU's retention survey to NR, GS, JM & RW.

ACTION – BJ to investigate access to the RFU retention research's final report.

RE-ACTION – TR, BJ, NR, GS & RF to liaise regarding employing university clubs to engage schools in introducing lacrosse to their students.

RE-ACTION – RF & BJ to discuss linking Croydon with existing university clubs in the London area to provide an additional recruitment stream.

4) President's Report

TR gave the meeting a brief update following discussions with ELA regarding the Winter Classic since the November GCM, with the most notable point being that ELA management has moved the first day of the event from Saturday 10 December, to Sunday 11 December following members' feedback (see agenda item 14 from minutes of November). The ELA is taking steps to ensure that this does not happen again.

TR informed the meeting about an issue which has arisen with a clause within one of the ELA's byelaws – specifically 5.2 – regarding athletes playing for a team in both NEMLA and SEMLA. The clause is not clear and there have been some issues with contrasting interpretations, with Mark Coups suggesting that SEMLA looks at the rewording of the clause. It was requested that all look at [clause 5.2 within the ELA's byelaw document](#), and send in any comments to BJ.

It was agreed that BJ would circulate notification of any future ELA Annual, Special or Extraordinary General Meetings to all SEMLA clubs to promote SEMLA representation in these proceedings.

TR also informed the meeting that a redraft of the ELA's Competitive Review is due in February 2017.

ACTION – All to look at the rewording of [clause 5.2 within the ELA's byelaws](#), and submit any proposed edits to BJ ahead of the January GCM.

5) Treasurer's Report

MW updated the meeting as per his Treasurer's report circulated prior to the meeting, and informed the GCM that, following the passing of Roger Okhill, SEMLA's £50 donation has been cashed.

MW also informed the group that the ELA has requested that SEMLA share details of financial expenditure for 2016/17 before receiving any more budget from the National Lacrosse Committee, and reminded the meeting that the draft budget for 2017/18 is to be submitted in the New Year.

6) Secretary's Report

BJ informed the meeting that he had received details of SEMLA clubs player registrations with the ELA are below the level expected to enable them to field their registered number of squads in SEMLA, recognizing those clubs who have struggled with player numbers this year. The most notable are Bournemouth, Bristol and Chichester, with BJ to follow up with all clubs detailed in correspondence by the ELA to ascertain more information.

ACTION – BJ to liaise with SEMLA clubs regarding player registrations.

7) Youth Development Committee's Report

RW reported that there have been two match days since the November GCM, with one cancelled and one held on 4 December in Reading. There should be 30 boys playing U17 lacrosse once a month up to the end of March, and a junior festival is planned for Flags Finals Day. TW informed the meeting that Portsmouth are running out but they brought a couple of 13 year old players to the 4 December match day, but had to leave their U13 squad at home, and asked if U13s could play older players where new junior clubs were getting established. This was discussed as a potential solution for where there is no U13 opposition, and where new junior club players don't want to play other U17 teams.

RW also informed the meeting that U18s can complete safeguarding courses provided by their local County Sports Partnership - could be particularly appropriate to do if they are coaches to other junior players.

8) University Liaison Report

RF's phone ran out of battery and as such he exited the call before his update. BJ updated the meeting regarding their plans to meet in December to discuss university lacrosse in general, but more specifically how SEMLA can support linking Croydon with any university clubs in the London area.

ACTION – RF & BJ to discuss linking Croydon with existing university clubs in the London area to provide an additional recruitment stream (*also captured in matters arising*).

9) South Manager's Report

There was no update for the meeting.

10) Disciplinary & Complaints Panel's Report

There was no update for the meeting.

11) Referees Secretary's Report

SP reminded the meeting that the ELA's level 1 umpiring/officiating courses are now [available online](#). The cost is £55 if you are an ELA member, or £85 if you are a non-member, which includes equipment such as a jersey, whistle, flags etc, as well as log-in details for course attendees giving access to an online portal.

SP also reiterated the need to encourage qualified level 1 officials to continue their development and to transition to level 2 and beyond. The meeting was informed that only 30% of clubs have disclosed referees for SEMLA this season, and SP raised communication around officials as something SEMLA needed to look into.

Bluesfest want to train newly qualified officials with mentors, with four assessors coming down from the north to facilitate this. They are asking for £600 to support this, and SP proposed that SEMLA fund this cost to support the

development of officials in the South. PM seconded the proposal and it passed unanimously, with MW asked to look at where this cost could be accommodated into SEMLA's budget this year and then moving forwards.

Rob Collinge has suggested the potential for a CBO qualification to support those carrying out this role on match days – noting the contrast in the role compared to officials on the field – and SP is pulling together 100 questions from a legacy document left by Jon Harrop to create an informal test to educate potential CBOs.

SP also raised that last September some rule changes went through the ELA regarding the number of time outs per match. NEMLA have got a byelaw stating two per team per half, in line with FIL regulations, but the ELA still have one per team per half. SP suggested that SEMLA requests the ELA bring their regulations in line with the FIL's, with this subsequently extending to SEMLA competitions by default.

ACTION – MW to work out where to add into this year's budget and action to add into next year's budget.

ACTION – TR to call Mark Coups to discuss ELA regulations regarding the number of time outs per fixtures, bringing back feedback to the January meeting.

12) Fixture Secretary's Report

JC began by outlining how the fixture between Hampstead & Spencer at the start of 2017 has been affected by SEMLA byelaw 6f regarding fixture postponement upon clashes with international duty. There is a SEMLA fixture on the Saturday, with a match for the senior England squad in Durham on Sunday, requiring all players to be in Manchester by 10am on on the Sunday. JC rules that the application of [byelaw 6f](#) is not applicable as there is not a direct clash.

JC asked if the meeting believed if the bye law requires any further clarification. RG raised the example of Welsh senior squad training on Sundays, and stated, supported by JM, that he believed there is a need to clarify the wording to detail a direct clash. DT requested clarification around the definition of 'international duty' and TR suggested the clause be redrafted to include 'including trials and for international squads' – has the ELA's special event calendar been updated?

JC shared the content of the Fixture Secretary's report, focusing on the number of conceded fixtures. In the West Ladder, 8 games have been played, whilst 8 have been conceded and 4 postponed, with Bournemouth, Plymouth and Warwick having conceded home fixtures. Meanwhile, in the Eastern leagues, University of London have lost their home field.

JC informed the meeting that conversations continue regarding the establishment of a Midlands league, AS stated support for the proposal from Birmingham. Both JC and AS will continue to gauge interest from other clubs.

ACTION – All to consider [byelaw 6f](#), with further discussion at the January GCM – BJ to circulate any adjustment to SEMLA clubs following the January meeting.

ACTION – RDOs to discuss conceded games with the clubs concerned, with Development Officer reporting back at the next meeting.

ACTION – JC & AS to gauge interest from other clubs in the creation of a Midlands league.

13) RDO Report

NR reported how Coventry and Warwick have been added to his regional portfolio, and GS shared how the University of Greenwich has recently set up a team supported by the Centurions, whilst junior development has been expanding in Bedfordshire.

Following the recent revelations surrounding child sexual abuse, NR encouraged the meeting to advise their clubs to get their house in order with regards to welfare officers and safeguarding of under 18s and vulnerable adults - SEMLA encourages clubs to do this as a priority. PR reiterated the need to be firm with wording of what is required of clubs, before NR informed the meeting that the current rules say that clubs don't need one if don't have any under 18s or vulnerable adults, however issues can arise if they play an opposition team with an player who is under 18, as then they are liable and must make sure they have appropriate policy in place. Members are encouraged to speak to the ELA's Regional Development Officers if they have any questions:

Nik Roberts – n.roberts@englishlacrosse.co.uk - 07734 725258

Gabbi Simmonds – g.simmonds@englishlacrosse.co.uk - 07751 747027

Helen Murray – h.murray@englishlacrosse.co.uk - 07743 894489

Following this, NR proposed the election of a SEMLA Development Officer who collates input from all RDOs to report to each SEMLA GCM. The meeting co-opted NR into the role temporarily, with the role to be formally added to the SEMLA committee at next year's AGM in summer 2017. NR proposed the motion, seconded by BJ.

The meeting was also reminded that Ian Ballantine distributed details of Masters and Super Masters opportunities, with clubs encouraged to share these with their clubs.

ACTION – BJ to contact the ELA's Safeguarding Officer to query if the ELA are going to have a ruling on club welfare officers.

14) NLC Liaison Report

There was no update for the meeting.

15) Summer League

HS reported that the 2016 schedule for men's Summer League will be repeated, with 6 game days and 4 teams. The women's League will also be repeated, but it is not yet clear how the World Cup in July might impact this. More information on prices and the like will follow in the coming months. HS requested that clubs share any information for their own scheduled activity across the summer period (e.g. club tours, club led tournaments etc) aside from the Men's Festival planned for alongside the Women's World Cup. In response to this, RG asked if the European Indoor Championships could be considered when it comes to clashes.

HS will also be having discussions with SP regarding potential opportunities to support officials development as part of the League. HS also informed the meeting that some players who played in the 2016 League didn't pay, and will be blacklisted if they don't pay following their match time in 2016 game days. The venue for the league (TMUFC) is also in contact with a local CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ales) group as well, and there are plans to hold a beer festival alongside one of the 2017 game days.

16) Any Other Business

There were no AOBs raised.

Please note that the date and time of the next meeting is Monday 9 January at 7pm.