

MINUTES – SEMLA General Committee Meeting

7pm Monday 9 January 2017

In attendance: John Maynard (JM), Ben Jessup (BJ), Miles Whittle (MW), Jon Cooper (JC), Peter Rawsthorne (PR), Russell Farrer (RF), Nik Roberts (NR), Rob Clark (RC), Harry Collins (HC), Tracey Woodall (TW), Peter Mundy (PM)

1) Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from: Trevor Rogers, Peter Compton, Ray Wood, Gabbi Simmonds, Dennis Tobin, Rob Gooch & Jacqui Hicks.

2) Acceptance of minutes

There were no objections to minutes; they were approved unanimously.

3) Matters arising

The meeting discussed SEMLA clubs' progress with ELA player registrations and NR reminded the group how opposition teams can ask for evidence of players' registration. If this cannot be produced or if the team is fielding unregistered players, then the team in question forfeits the match or loses points. JM reiterated that if players are not registered, then they are also uninsured which is a significant concern.

BJ informed the meeting that he had contacted the SEMLA clubs identified by the ELA who had particularly low number of registered players and as such were expected to be fielding ineligible players on match days. It was agreed that BJ would send out communications to clubs, reminding them about player registration, asking for evidence and the sanctions of non-compliance.

Following the December GCM, the meeting was asked to consider the rewording of [clause 5.2 within the ELA's byelaws](#), and submit any proposed edits to BJ ahead of the January meeting. Sending his apologies, Dennis Tobin insisted that the overriding principle should be for more participation and more playing time for players, regardless of whether they are at university, or playing in SEMLA or NEMLA. JM agreed that the byelaw should enable greater player flexibility and the meeting agreed that no change would be proposed, though it was commented that attendees were confused as to why SEMLA had not been informed of the change originally.

Similarly following the December meeting, SEMLA club representatives were asked to consider [SEMLA byelaw 6f](#), ahead of further discussion at this January GCM. The meeting noted Trevor Rogers' suggestion from 5th December that the wording 'including trials for international squads' could be added, with further discussion regarding how this would be implemented for all home nations. The meeting agreed that the above rewording should apply to England and Wales, with Scotland and Ireland also applying by exception. This was proposed by PR and seconded by HC, before passing unanimously. Please note that any permanent changes to the byelaws for the 2017/18 season and beyond must be formally passed at SEMLA's next AGM on 19 June 2017.

It was also noted that the absence of the ELA's previous 'special event calendar' could increase the number of instances where this byelaw might apply, and it was agreed that if the ELA were to continue to produce such a calendar, this should be made accessible via the SEMLA website.

ACTION – BJ to send out communication to clubs regarding player registration, reminding them about player registration, asking for evidence on match days and the sanctions for non-compliance.

ACTION – BJ to contact ELA to discuss why the recent edits to the byelaws were made and why SEMLA had not been informed of the change.

ACTION – BJ to contact ELA to enquire as to a 'special events calendar', with DS to subsequently link this from the SEMLA website.

4) President's Report

There was no update for the meeting.

5) Treasurer's Report

MW updated the meeting as per his Treasurer's report circulated prior to the meeting, and informed attendees that 22 out of 34 clubs are yet to pay their SEMLA fees for the 2016/17 season.

The £100 fee for facility hire for the junior tournament on 4th December has been paid, and MW will be speaking to Ray Wood to process the match fees collected on the day. MW will also be submitting the report of SEMLA expenditure so far this year to the ELA, having submitted a draft budget for next season, requesting £9200.

6) Secretary's Report

BJ reported that two U16 player dispensations had been received since the last meeting. These were for Callum Oliver and William Tilson of Foxes and Bath respectively. Both requests have been approved by SEMLA and returned to the clubs as well as being circulated to English Lacrosse for their records.

BJ informed the meeting that he has contacted the ELA's Safeguarding Officer to share SEMLA's query regarding if the ELA are going to have a ruling on making it compulsory for clubs to have Welfare Officers, but is waiting on a response.

7) Youth Development Committee's Report

TW shared that there is a junior game day scheduled for 22 January in Portsmouth. Spencer will be sending a squad of their older players, Foxes will also be in attendance and Reading may be joining, although Guildford won't be this time. NR informed TW that he understands that Reading's LDO is looking to take some junior players down.

8) University Liaison Report

RF reported that he had met with BJ to discuss increasing university clubs engagement with established SEMLA clubs across the South of England and what support university clubs might require from SEMLA. Also updated that they discussed how SEMLA can work to support Croydon in linking them up with local universities, and BJ shared how he, RF and Gabbi Simmonds had begun discussions about supporting Greenwich.

9) South Manager's Report

RC informed the meeting that the annual British National Championships (BNCs) is coming up on the May Day bank holiday weekend, however Clive Perrin has told RC that the event has changed its name from BNCs to the Nick Kehoe trophy.

RC has not yet been told if the South Development squad can be accommodated, and RC asked the meeting to advise whether he should continue plans for trials and squad recruitment or if he should halt this activity until further notice. It was understood that the event will be discussed at the next National Lacrosse Committee meeting on 26 January, and JM assured RC that he should continue with plans for trials.

RC continued to report that, unlike previous recent years, there is no funding for the South representative squads from the Summer League programme. The meeting discussed SEMLA supporting the project further financially and also the potential venue for trials, and JM requested that RC collate estimated costs, proposed venue details and submit a formal proposal to the February GCM.

ACTION – PR to ask NLC if the Nick Kehoe Trophy will remain the national championship event.

ACTION – RC to submit a paper, for consideration by the February meeting, regarding proposed venues, estimated costs and timescales moving forwards.

10) Disciplinary & Complaints Panel's Report

There was no update for the meeting.

11) Referees Secretary's Report

There was no update for the meeting.

12) Fixture Secretary's Report

JC reported how he has arranged for SEMLA's Easter break to be on the weekend of 1 April, with fixtures to be scheduled around this, continuing to share how the Birmingham v Exeter Flags fixture from before Christmas still has no result recorded, but the winner is playing Cheltenham at the start of March.

PM also informed the meeting that Croydon understand that Purley have made enquiries about the availability of Croydon's training and match day venue. The meeting noted that Croydon continue to operate and PM should submit any formal complaint in writing to SEMLA.

ACTION – BJ to contact Bournemouth & Exeter to confirm the result from their Flags fixture.

ACTION – TR/BJ to contact Purley to understand their enquiries regarding the availability of Croydon's ground.

13) Development Officer Report

NR commented that there is a need for a member of the SEMLA committee to lead on administering the development packs before also reporting that the club at Northampton is possibly being revitalised – NR is looking to support them as required. The meeting was also reminded that [coaching](#) and [officiating](#) courses continue to be made available online, with a level 1 coaching course coming up in Reading and a level 2 coaching course soon to be held in Bristol.

NR continued to inform the meeting that English Lacrosse development staff are going through a review following a [reduction in funding from Sport England](#), with sports across the sector seeing significantly reduced funding from the grass roots sport quango.

There was some discussion regarding graduate retention, and BJ informed the group that he had been unable to access the RFU's final report following their research into graduate transition. All clubs must take an active role in marketing their opportunities to graduates, although the need for a coordinated response was acknowledged.

The meeting also discussed the creation of a new North London club to support opportunities to play lacrosse in North East London.

14) NLC Liaison Report

PR reminded the meeting that the player pool is now active via Facebook. The SEMLA Facebook group must be used further to promote and ensure transparency with recruitment of players for individual game days.

15) Summer League

There was no update for the meeting.

16) Any Other Business

BJ shared how Henning Schmidt had been approached by two men's players from the US, in their senior years at NCAA Division 1 schools, who are looking to do something over the summer. If there is interest from any clubs, please contact Henning Schmidt.

BJ also informed the group that the [ELA has a Special General Meeting on 5 February in Manchester](#), to formally elect new English Lacrosse board members. BJ has submitted a nomination to the ELA ahead of the Manchester SGM and requested SEMLA clubs' support in the election.

Please note that the date and time of the next meeting is Monday 6 February at 7pm.