

MINUTES – SEMLA General Committee Meeting

7pm Monday 6 March 2017

In attendance: Trevor Rogers (TR), Peter Compton (PC), Ben Jessup (BJ), Miles Whittle (MW), Jon Cooper (JC), Pete Rawsthorne (PR), Ray Wood (RW), Peter Mundy (PM), Harry Collins (HC), Tracey Woodall (TW), Jacqui Hicks (JH), Ed Simpkin-Bryne (ESB), Rob Rowe (RR), Tom Roche (TRo), Chris White (CW), Silas Voelker-Benson (SVB), Will Barrie (WB)

1) Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from: John Maynard, Rob Clark, Nik Roberts, Gabbi Simmonds, Dennis Tobin, Rob Gooch, Dan Sheaff

2) Acceptance of minutes

There were no objections to the minutes, and they were passed by the meeting.

3) Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4) President's Report

TR reported that the ELA's Men's Competitive Review is ongoing and might affect any proposed restructure to the SEMLA league structures.

5) Treasurer's Report

MW gave verbal report of report as circulated prior to the meeting. Notably, current assets just over £11k, with outstanding SEMLA fees from 6 clubs remaining.

6) Secretary's Report

BJ detailed how he had attended English Lacrosse's National Schools event prior to the subsequent ELA Board Meeting and had been able to discuss lacrosse in the South with a number of English Lacrosse staff and volunteers.

7) Youth Development Committee's Report

RW reported that the Junior Flags are to take place at Surrey Sports Park on 19th March, with 5 clubs entered. Three match days for juniors have also been offered by Summer League. TW is also in discussions with Dennis Tobin regarding arranging a date for juniors to be able to train with a number of England players.

8) University Liaison Report

MW shared SEMLA's congratulations to Bristol for reaching the semi-finals of BUCS' Lacrosse Championship, with particular commendations for Guy Oldring & Pete Wilson for their efforts with the squad. It was also reported that Foxes are supporting Greenwich University with coaching, with players making progress.

9) South Manager's Report

Rob Clark wasn't able to make the meeting, but shared a report prior to the call. South Trials are to be held on Sunday 26 March at Hillcroft Lacrosse Club, with the trials open to all SEMLA players. Also in the process of trying to arrange a second trial/training session at Kennington Park on a Monday evening, date to be arranged. Less favourable, but would give an option for those working in London during the week.

The Nick Kehoe Trophy (BNCs) is to be held over the May Bank Holiday weekend, 29/30 April at Wilmslow Lacrosse Club, with the intention still to take two squads. The Ales Hebresky Tournament in Prague is over the same weekend this year so a high proportion of prior South Squad players will be in Prague playing with London Knights rather than South in Wilmslow.

ELA have reduced South's accommodation allowance, but discussions continuing about making up the shortfall. On a positive note, Nick Ravenhall has also extended an invite to the South Squad to play in Latvia in mid August, with the

10) Disciplinary & Complaints Panel's Report

JC shared disciplinary tribunal report.

11) Referees Secretary's Report

There was no update for the meeting.

12) Fixture Secretary's Report

JC gave verbal update of report as circulated prior to the meeting, highlighting that the deadline for results is 2 April, with playoffs on 8 April. ESB queried the deadline for Prem fixtures and JC assured that this was 30 April. Notably, Maidstone 2 & Southampton have folded as squads for this season, so they will have to opt in to if they wish to return to the leagues next season, in contrast to teams who remain in the leagues who will automatically be re-entered.

13) Development Officer Report

Reported that 60 sticks have been ordered via UKLacrosse, and BJ reminded the meeting that the interview process for those RDOs employed centrally by ELA continues.

14) NLC Liaison Report

PR reported that NLC is between meetings at present, but that he will be contacting all clubs regarding AED access. The minutes of the most recent meeting of the National Lacrosse Committee will be circulated with these minutes.

15) Any Other Business

There was a broad discussion regarding the structure of SEMLA competitions, and CW introduced the conversation with stating how members had noted that there are issues with the West divisions, the quality of second teams across the South and the fact that there are a couple of really strong teams in comparison to the rest of the squads in the South.

The meeting heard that Bristol like the fixtures against those teams at the top of the Prem as, despite the difficulty, it gives the squad a level of play to aspire to. TRo also commented that the teams at the top of the leagues can struggle to remain motivated where competitive fixtures are lacking, and WB commented that Cambridge would likely prioritise competitive fixtures.

CW agreed to write up formal proposals to share at the next meeting.

JC also informed the group that he will be resigning as Fixtures Secretary at the end of the 2017/17 season. He has diligently served on the SEMLA Committee for almost two decades and will now be stepping aside. The meeting thanked JC for his unwavering efforts to support the development of the league and the fixture programs over recent years.

This also means that SEMLA is seeking a new Fixtures Secretary who will lead on the implementation of any papers.

ACTION – CW to draft formal proposals for a competitive league review.

Please note that the date and time of the next meeting is Monday 3 April at 7pm.