

MINUTES – SEMLA General Committee Meeting

7pm Monday 3 April 2017

In attendance: Trevor Rogers (TR), Peter Compton (PC), John Maynard (JM), Miles Whittle (MW), Ben Jessup (BJ), Ray Wood (RW), Peter Rawsthorne (PR), Nik Roberts (NR), Peter Mundy (PM), Dennis Tobin (DT), Dom Hewitt (DH), Bruce Morris (BM), Tracy Woodall (TW), Jacqui Hicks (JH).

1) Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from: Jon Cooper, Simon Peach, Harry Collins, Rob Gooch.

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

There was no update for the meeting.

5) Treasurer's Report

MW gave a verbal update of his Treasurer's Report, reiterating that March & April are typically the months where SEMLA spends the most money - expenditure includes pitch hire for the [Flags Finals](#), SEMLA 6s & the Junior Flags. Four clubs still owe SEMLA their league fees for the season – Epsom, Bournemouth, Canterbury Christchurch & Warwick – and with the ELA's end of financial year falling on 31 March, it is a busy time.

TR reiterated that the large sums in SEMLA's accounts are not redundant, and outlined a series of more significant expenditures approaching, namely the uniforms for the South representative team and a contribution to the squad's accommodation costs for the Nick Kehoe Trophy (BNCs).

6) Secretary's Report

BJ informed the meeting that he had received a player transfer for Sava Grkinic from Maidstone to Hillcroft, and had attended further meetings of English Lacrosse's Board. He will be attending [Centurions' next meeting on 11 April](#).

7) Youth Development Committee's Report

RW reported that the [Junior Flags tournament](#) had been successfully held at Surrey Sports Park, with the event successful on a number of fronts. The tournament received good support from Guildford, Portsmouth Pythons won all competitions, with 11 teams attending in total (3 in U13, 3 in U15, 5 in U17). Also important to highlight that had a number of new junior players fielded on the day, notably from Guildford & Maidstone. BM queried the cost of Guildford as a host venue and whether the change in venue had been well received. RW, TW & JH all commenting that it had a great day, with some good feedback received from parents and players alike.

TW continued to remind the meeting that a training camp is being organized for junior players on 18 June, with a Hampstead v Team England match to take place on the same day.

TR also informed the meeting that a Norwegian school has been in touch following a visit in 2016. They are looking to bring a number of students over again, potentially presenting junior programs with an opportunity to play against a group of athletic, but inexperienced young people.

8) University Liaison Report

There was no update for the meeting from Russell Farrer, however following the [BUCS Big Wednesday finals in Bath](#) last month, it was noted that the quality of men's lacrosse in BUCS leagues continues to improve.

9) South Manager's Report

The meeting heard that there were approx. 27-30 people at the South Trials held last month. There is a maximum

squad size of 24 for the Nick Kehoe Trophy (BNCs), but SEMLA will only be entering one team, although there will be the opportunity to play against the likes of Israel & Poland at a tournament in Latvia in the summer.

10) Disciplinary & Complaints Panel's Report

There was nothing to report from within SEMLA's league structure, however JM reported that the BUCS final was held within the region, and there were two expulsion fouls at the close of the Men's Championship Final between Durham and Nottingham Trent. JM explained how that, due to the ELA's new disciplinary process, the ball had been put in SEMLA's court to deal with these disciplinary proceedings, however John Sharples from NEMLA had volunteered to facilitate the process seeing as the two players in question are based in the North of England. JM will share the results of this process at the next meeting.

11) Referees Secretary's Report

There was no update for the meeting from Simon Peach, however DH explained how he had come up with a [proposal regarding referee development](#) following discussion on the SEMLA Facebook group. There was some concern over administration time for MW, and increased cost for clubs, and it was agreed to share the proposal with SEMLA members for their feedback.

ACTION – DH & BJ to share referee development proposal with broader membership.

ACTION – PR to query national database of officials at next NLC meeting.

12) Fixture Secretary's Report

There was no update for the meeting from Jon Cooper, however PC introduced a [player qualification proposal](#), summarizing his contention that SEMLA provides playing opportunities for players based in the South of England.

RW shared his thoughts around player eligibility being more based upon players having a right of abode in the UK and limiting the number of otherwise overseas players which a club can field within the season, and DT commented that limiting player eligibility would be detrimental to the development of the sport. JH suggested employing DT's overseas connections to arrange an exhibition game with overseas players competing against the best domestic players.

JM proposed that SEMLA form a sub-committee to consider player eligibility in more detail, and the meeting agreed that JM would chair this group of approx. 5 players from clubs within the Premier Division to discuss the matter and return a number of options for SEMLA and members' consideration.

The meeting also agreed that SEMLA should continue with our league review, with scope for this to run concurrently alongside the ELA's Men's Competitive Review.

ACTION – BJ to contact all Premier Division clubs for representation on the player eligibility sub-committee.

13) Development Officer Report

NR gave a brief update on changes to the ELA's Regional Development team, explaining how each RDO maintains some regional focus but will now also lead a portfolio with a national remit. Most notably, Helen Murray will be leading on tournaments, Gabbi Simmonds on club development, Nik Roberts on education and Martin Cragg on talent.

14) NLC Liaison Report

There was no update for the meeting from PR. The next meeting of the [National Lacrosse Committee](#) is on 3 May.

15) Any Other Business

The meeting was reminded that the 2017 Bath 8s will be taking place on 2 September, with a women's tournament running alongside the men's for the first time. Club 1st teams have priority up until 14 April, but any teams can register once that date has passed. 10 teams are currently registered for the event.

Before closing the meeting, TR also informed the meeting that Croydon have recently voted themselves out of existence. Reiterating that PM started the club 52 years ago, TR thanked PM and all other Croydon volunteers for their support over the years, and with great sadness recorded the demise of Croydon Lacrosse Club.

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

Please note that the date and time of the next meeting is Monday 8 May at 7pm.