

Minutes – SEMLA General Committee Meeting

7pm Monday 4 September 2017

In attendance: Trevor Rogers (TR), John Maynard (JM), Peter Compton (PC), Miles Whittle (MW), Ben Jessup (BJ), Nik Roberts (NR), Peter Rawsthorne (PR), Elliot May (EM), Dennis Tobin (DT), Peter Mundy (PM), Tracy Woodall (TW), John Horbury (JH).

1) Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from: Brucie Morris (BM), Rob Clark (RC), Russell Farrer (RF), Gabbi Simmonds (GS), Rob Gooch (RG), Tom Paton (TP), Tom Loake (TL), Rob Rowe (RR).

2) Acceptance of minutes

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

3) Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4) President's Report

TR began by reflecting on a great summer of lacrosse, with the Women's Lacrosse World Cup and the European Box Lacrosse Championship both taking place in July, and the meeting asked to share SEMLA's formal congratulations to the Senior England Women's squad and Head Coach Phil Collier on their bronze medal.

TR continued to inform the meeting that he had recently spoken to Mark Coups (MC), who had made him aware that a quantity of equipment had been provided by suppliers following the Women's World Cup (inc. goals, bow nets etc). The ELA are completing an inventory of the equipment and once this is completed will be asking regional associations to invite bids. More information to follow.

TR also shared that ex-USA captain and [John Tucker has been contracted as Team England Head of Performance for Men's Lacrosse](#), whilst the ELA are also investigating the creation of an U23 Men's Team, with the opportunity for such a squad's first activity to be a Japan tour in summer 2018.

5) Treasurer's Report

MW reported that there had been minimal activity over the summer, with some expenditure due shortly for the equipment (new sticks & bags) just bought by SEMLA. He also shared that he is awaiting a response from the ELA regarding SEMLA's £10,000 budget request for the 2017/18 season.

6) Secretary's Report

BJ reported that he continues to compile an up to date database of club contacts, and that [clubs are requested to share their existing committees' details](#) including names, email addresses and telephone numbers to enable effective communications.

BJ went on to remind the meeting that [the ELA's 2017 AGM will be taking place on Sunday 1 October in Warwick](#) with clubs encouraged to attend wherever possible.

PC queried the rotation of the National Club Championships and TR commented that the Manchester focus ahead of the 2018 World Championships meant the NCC had been scheduled to be held in Manchester until 2019. The meeting agreed this should be queried following the ELA's withdrawal as host earlier this year.

7) Youth Development Committee's Report

PC reported that he is looking to pull together a meeting of junior coaches from across the South, and TW reiterated that she will always be willing to help. TW continued to share that she is still waiting for confirmation from Martin Cragg regarding the rescheduling of the Junior Academy event following the cancellation of the event in the wake of the Grenfell Tower fire.

8) University Liaison Report

There was no report for the meeting from RF, however NR shared that there are 222 lacrosse teams confirmed as entered into BUCS competition for the coming academic year.

TR raised the need for RF to pick up activity with universities on behalf of SEMLA, with scope for him to link up with BUCS' Sport Advisory Group and supporting the coordination of the U23 Japan tour.

9) South Manager's Report

There was no report for the meeting.

10) Disciplinary & Complaints Panel's Report

JM shared that there was nothing to report ahead of the start of the 2017/18 season.

11) Referees Secretary's Report

There was no report for the meeting.

12) Fixture Secretary's Report

BJ shared a verbal report of BM's inaugural Fixtures Secretary. The full report can be found [here](#), with a number of notable items.

BM requested that clubs contact him via semla.fixtures@southlacrosse.org.uk as opposed to by phone, via Facebook or face-to-face. He also informed clubs that he has moved to a **WhatsApp system for score submissions (07498 579759)**, with clubs asked to send through the names of their officials for each match alongside the score so that SEMLA can compile a referee database. BM's report went on to remind clubs that a [new SEMLA Twitter account is up and running](#), with members encouraged to engage with it.

The meeting was then invited to discuss what stats clubs might like BM to collect across the coming season, and TR proposed that Anthony Thornton might be able to support collation and tracking of these where required.

The league restructure discussion was delayed until a subsequent meeting, following September's National Lacrosse Committee meeting.

13) Development Officer Report

NR reported that he has purchased a number of sticks from Northern Soul for SEMLA to support clubs across the South as required when developing new opportunities. He also reported that he has developed a plan for juniors across the South, which has been shared with PC, TW, Ray Wood, Luke Wylie and others for their consideration. He will update further as this progresses.

14) NLC Liaison Report

PR commented that there was no report as the agenda for the upcoming NLC meeting was yet to be circulated. The meeting shared frustrations that this was the case.

NR raised concerns that national trials appear to have been scheduled alongside [Bath 8s](#) and that there seems to be a lack of consideration for the overlap between, and need for linking up, participation and performance. In response to this, BJ shared that he is working with the ELA on a stakeholder engagement strategy to help the organisation ensure that they improve collaboration with members and partners.

15) Player Eligibility Proposal

JM introduced [the proposal](#), sharing context around discussing this and the sub-committee who developed the eligibility proposal – John Maynard, Amit Biswas, Nick Ravenhall & Paddy Atkinson – and TR reconfirmed that the formation of this sub-committee led by JM was to enable a number of clubs to have input.

TR reiterated that the meeting's discussion would guide further progress with revision, removal or adopting as it stands all options, but that an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) would be required to formally accept the proposal.

PC fed back proposal as stands would allow players from anywhere in the UK to compete, raising concern on this but that he was happy for the proposal to go to an EGM for a vote as it stands. DT responded reiterating his concern that the proposal was draconian and that it would leave Hampstead in a very difficult position when it came to maintaining

a roster and recruiting new players.

NR shared his concern that he perceived the proposal to be heavy handed and that it would adversely affect university students, particularly those recruited to be over in the UK on Masters programmes with the likes of Oxford, UCL etc.

PR went on to share his concerns as well, before BJ detailed Hillcroft's reflections that the proposal would likely be difficult to police. JH shared how great an opportunity it could be to play against players of such a calibre, but he recognised that the two most important games of the season were affected – EM agreed with both points.

JM brought the meeting's considerations back to if the proposal was fair. Not debating that might have been a great experience, but is it fair. TR commented that rules founded on one instance are often not well founded, and that there is a need to rebuild trust between Spencer & Hampstead, going on to propose that the two clubs share their team sheets with one another prior to their fixtures.

The meeting that down the line, team sheets across the league would be the desirable route, with MW commenting that this should be for the Prem only.

The meeting voted as below:

For the proposal – PC, subject to rewording of the residency on a permanent basis clause.

Against the proposal – TR, MW, BJ, NR, PR, DT, TW, EM, JH.

Abstained – JM, PM.

TR closed discussion on this item, reminding the meeting that PC could resubmit a revised proposal where desired.

16) Any Other Business

Following discussions at a recent Centurions meeting, BJ raised SEMLA 6s and Centurions involvement in the organisation of the event. There had been some discussion about Centurions stepping back from their involvement in the event, but PM & JM commented that they were keen for Centurions to stay involved.

BJ went on to share an update from GS, detailing how the ELA are interested in discussing regions' opinions on National Lacrosse Day and the timing – for example, should it be later in the year or following the end of the season? The ELA will be starting some of these discussions in the coming weeks. There will also be a club update being sent around from the ELA's Head Office, with [answers to a number of questions regarding insurance and individual registration available online](#).

NR reported that 8 September has been set as the 2018 [Bath 8s](#) tournament and is keen for the referees committee to discuss using the 8s tournament as an assessment opportunity similar to Bluesfest. He reiterated that Bath LC would like to thank all volunteers for their support across the weekend and reported that Spencer and Sheffield beat Hillcroft and Nottingham Trent Alumni respectively in the semi-finals before Spencer came out on top in the final.

Please note that the date and time of the next meeting is Monday 2 October at 7pm.