

## Minutes – SEMLA General Committee Meeting

*7pm Monday 2 October 2017*

**In attendance:** Trevor Rogers (TR), Peter Compton (PC), John Maynard (JM), Miles Whittle (MW), Ben Jessup (BJ), Bruce Morris (BM), Nik Roberts (NR), Russell Farrer (RF), Tracey Woodall (TW), Bob Sharples (BS), Silas Voelcker-Benson (SVB).

### 1) Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from: Simon Peach (SP), Peter Rawsthorne (PR), Rob Clark (RC), Jacqui Hicks (JH), Tom Paton (TP), Will Barrett (WB), James Gibson (JG), Ceri Hill (CH).

### 2) Acceptance of minutes

TR queried the margin at the bottom of page 2 and asked if BJ could extend this and then recirculate the minutes. Pending this change, the September minutes were passed by the meeting.

**ACTION – BJ to edit and recirculate the September GCM minutes as above.**

### 3) Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

### 4) President's Report

There was no report for the meeting.

### 5) Treasurer's Report

MW shared that he has not yet received SEMLA's budget from NLC yet, however the region's budget request has been approved. He continued to report that £1500 will be going to Rob Clark for BNCs expenses, and MW will produce a budget breakdown for the next meeting.

In the month of September, there was expenditure on sticks and duffel bags for deployment in SEMLA's development efforts, whilst invoices for club fees will be going out in October.

### 6) Secretary's Report

BJ reported that he has almost completed the collation of an up-to-date club contact database. This has been shared with Dave Slaughter as SEMLA Webmaster and will be shared with both the SEMLA committee and English Lacrosse staff once finalized to support communications with member clubs. Club committees are asked to please pass on all relevant information to club members.

### 7) Youth Development Committee's Report

PC explained the intention to bring together junior coaches to discuss the development of junior activity across the South – the draft Juniors fixtures programme hasn't progressed as would have liked. TW shared that the following postponement after the Grenfell Tower fire, the English Lacrosse Coaching Academy took place on 24 September with a full-on four-hour session for junior players.

PC reminded the meeting that he has had limited responses on the Holder Trophy at present, and reminded the meeting that this would be taking place on 15 October. NR asked that the meeting discuss the [Junior Development Proposal](#) under item 13.

### 8) University Liaison Report

TR explained SEMLA's vision for the University Liaison Officer and their role as a conduit between universities and SEMLA to RF. BM linked RF in with Chris Webborn & Jack Wallace during the meeting, with BJ to share university contacts for moving forwards, also linking RF in with discussions around the Japan tour in June 2018.

**ACTION – BJ to share university contacts with RF & link in with English Lacrosse.**

### 9) South Manager's Report

There was no report for the meeting. It was requested that BJ contact RC to ask for a report to be submitted for the next meeting.

### 10) Disciplinary & Complaints Panel's Report

JM reported that Matthew O'Leary (MOL), who began a six-match ban as of the 30 September, is moving to New York on 13 October. Should, or when MOL returns to the UK and plays lacrosse, his ban must be completed first.

### 11) Referees Secretary's Report

There was no report for the meeting, though NR reminded the meeting that the [Level 1 officials course](#) can be completed solely online.

### 12) Fixture Secretary's Report

BM reported that he had received results for 16 fixtures prior to the meeting, and that clubs are reminded to **submit results via WhatsApp to 07498 579759 or email to [semla.fixtures@southlacrosse.org.uk](mailto:semla.fixtures@southlacrosse.org.uk) rather than via social media**. Clubs are also required to share the names of their fixture's officials and their respective Man of the Match alongside each fixture result.

BM continued to share that he is hoping that the league restructure paper will be submitted for discussion at SEMLA's November meeting. English Lacrosse's Men's Competitive Review was discussed at [September's NLC meeting](#), and BM is waiting on Dave Coldwell to confirm so that this can move forwards.

### 13) Development Officer Report

NR informed the meeting that, now the SEMLA sticks have been acquired, he will post on social media to encourage clubs to contact him with plans for how they might use them to form a second team or the like.

NR went on to introduce the [Junior Development Proposal](#), and outlined how he has spoken to Rob Collinge regarding support from the newly created Lacrosse Foundation for the programme, before BM commented that action from the regional associations was an element of conversation at English Lacrosse's AGM.

NR shared that he is keen for Hampstead to support a programme in North London and that he has already had some discussions with DT, and BJ shared feedback from Hillcroft that very positive proposal, but that they have concerns around drawing together the necessary volunteer workforce and as such the scope for delivery.

BM queried the timeline for delivery of the proposal and NR asked to bring back to each GCM and requested that BJ re-circulate to all clubs asking for considerations and comment to be shared prior to the November meeting on 6 November.

### 14) NLC Liaison Report

There was no report for the meeting from PR, but clubs are reminded that the [NLC's September minutes](#) were circulated with the agenda and final papers ahead of the meeting.

TR invited BM to share an overview of [English Lacrosse's \(EL\) recent AGM](#).

BM reported that there were a number of procedural items within the agenda, with opportunities to ask questions as appropriate around these. Notable procedural items included passing the proposed changes to the Articles of Association and the announcement of a Board Diversity Policy, whilst a vote on introducing a fourth membership category fell by vote (7:4, with two abstentions).

BM commented that he was disappointed to observe some unsuitable etiquette and comments from the Chair in discussion of certain items, most notably ahead of the vote for the above.

BM also shared that Mark Coups (MC) reported that a full statement regarding withdrawal from hosting 2018 World Championships has not been made because outstanding items are still being discussed. MC continued to share that there is pressure on EL from Sport England for more accurate participant data, and that EL are keen to bring universities into the individual registration scheme.

BM continued to report a number of additional items. EL informed the AGM that they have provided UKVI (UK Visas & Immigration) with all the data requested following the termination of the LDO programme, and are waiting on their response. There has however been progress with the national game calendar, with a small committee from across the regions working with EL to develop this up to five years in the future. The process for any complaints regarding

byelaws around competing in the North/South were also clarified – report to regions, escalated to NLC as required, then to Board if necessary.

BM closed by reiterating that it was emphasized that regions will have more responsibility for delivery with changes to staffing and funding structures. This followed comment from MC that if individual registration income were to increase, the budget for regional associations would too. That being said, there was a request from Sallie Barker (Chair of NLC) for regions to provide a more substantial business plan around their budget.

BJ briefly commented that he has recently been working with English Lacrosse's new Governance Committee to create a Stakeholder Engagement Strategy, and is hoping that this will improve communication with members over the coming months.

Clubs can find the minutes of the AGM via [English Lacrosse's website](#).

### **15) Any Other Business**

BJ raised SEMLA 6s as an item to consider following dialogue at SEMLA's GCM & Centurions Committee meeting in September. There was discussion around Centurions not supporting a similar event in the North, and NR queried what might happen should TR not be able to lead delivery of the event moving forwards, with rotating clubs hosting being one solution considered.

BM commented that he would be happy to lead delivery and it was agreed that SEMLA would be delighted for Centurions to take ownership of the event, but also concern that if responsibility was shared it could negatively affect delivery. TR commented that should SEMLA lead delivery, Centurions could still deploy a tent and volunteers as the event is a clear recruitment opportunity. The meeting agreed for BJ to call Centurions to discuss.

**ACTION – BJ to call Rob Collinge to discuss, confirm and feedback to November GCM.**

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