

Minutes – SEMLA General Committee Meeting

7pm Monday 6 November 2017

In attendance: Trevor Rogers (TR), John Maynard (JM), Peter Compton (PC), Miles Whittle (MW), Ben Jessup (BJ), David Brucie Morris (DBM), Simon Peach (SP), Peter Rawsthorne (PR), Peter Mundy (PM), Tracy Woodall (TW), Bob Sharples (BS), Tom Paton (TP), Dale Haxton (DH), Tom Clohessy (TC), Aaron Day (AD), Jamie Morris (JM), Elliott May (EM), Nick Hayman (NH), Andrew Abbey (AA), Joe Nicholson (JN), James Gibson (JG), Rob Rowe (RR).

1) Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from: Rob Clark (RC), Ray Wood (RW), Russell Farrer (RF), Dennis Tobin (DT), Jacqui Hicks (JH), Robert Conway (RCo), Cameron Montgomery (CM), Alex Foster (AF), Will Barrett (WB), Ceri Hill (CH).

2) Acceptance of minutes

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

3) Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4) President's Report

TR shared information regarding the ELA's Men's Competitive Review (MCR) prior to the league restructure discussion later in the meeting, reiterating that one of the key recommendations coming out of the MCR was a maximum league size of 9 teams, with 8 recommended as the optimum.

5) Treasurer's Report

MW detailed that SEMLA has spent nearly £4500 so far this season, but with no real expenditure in October. The invoices for all club fees have been distributed and a number of clubs have paid to date.

The main October activity was reported as being confirming payment of budget from the ELA. MW explained that Dave Coldwell has signed this off, but SEMLA is still waiting for this to be processed.

6) Secretary's Report

There was no report for the meeting.

7) Youth Development Committee's Report

The meeting heard RW's written report below:

Overall there is an upturn in junior activity, with a few more clubs running junior sections this season over the numbers of the last few years – numbers in the South are around 200 players, supported by around 20 volunteers across the clubs.

Junior players are broadly between Year 7 – 13, with Pythons the biggest junior programme with approximately 37 players - 60+ juniors from across the South attended the recent Holder Trophy.

The Youth Development Committee met on 25 October, with a good attendance and upbeat discussion. More people have put themselves forward to support activity with various roles – Tracy Woodall is Fixture Secretary, Brucie Morris Publicity Secretary, and Rob Ingham Clark & Joe Nicholson taken on the representative team(s).

The meeting heard that the committee believed a national U12 competition should be reinstated, and would reach out to NLC to offer to organise this.

The committee also discussed the Junior Development Proposal compiled by NR, and agreed that this has the basis of a good scheme, but does need further consultation and more time is needed to work on it.

TW reminded the meeting that 19 November will see the next junior event take place in Bath, before a similar event planned to be held in Oxford on 10 December.

8) University Liaison Report

There was no report for the meeting.

9) South Manager's Report

BJ shared a short report from RC in his absence. RC has been making enquiries regarding a new coach for the South representative squad, with Nick Ravenhall now busy supporting the Denmark national team. He is also planning to reach out to captains to recommend players for trials to expand the pool of players getting attending.

BJ shared RC's query as to whether there would be interest in a West based trials as well as a London based one, and the meeting agreed that this would be well received.

10) Disciplinary & Complaints Panel's Report

JM informed the meeting that there had been an expulsion foul in a recent BUCS match, but that as it was a BUCS affair, this had been deferred to Dave Coldwell.

11) Referees Secretary's Report

SP reported that there are no men's officials from the South of England working out at the FIL World Championships in Israel next summer, but he believes that referees from the South are covering more BUCS games than those in the North.

The level 1 online course is still getting good take up, and SP informed the meeting that he and NR are pushing the national Rules & Regulations Committee to make the level 2 qualification available online as well.

12) Fixture Secretary's Report

TR invited comments from the meeting regarding the league restructure proposal.

AD opened, commenting that the biggest challenge for many was distance to travel for each fixture, but that they don't want to lose regular game time. TP shared Hillcroft's concerns that competitiveness is a big factor which should be considered at all levels, before RR went on to comment that Bristol are broadly happy with the league structure as it stands.

DH commented that it seemed that the proposal was trying to tackle too many things at once – trying to reduce distance of travel and increase competitiveness – where there are different issues in different places.

JM commented that reducing the size of the Premiership could reduce the quality of fixtures for the three teams dropping down into a Championship, though TP challenged the statement. TP reiterated the quality of a number of the teams in East 1 and how the existing Premiership structure could see lower quality fixtures where teams at opposite ends of the league play each other.

DBM reminded the meeting that the March 2019's Manchester Challenge will feature more than one club representing NEMLA & SEMLA, and DH queried if the intent with the proposal is to make lacrosse more competitive across the South or versus the North.

TR commented on the cyclical nature of clubs and their performances, and that SEMLA must continue to plan for the future not for the presently existing scenario – any change must be optimised for the future of lacrosse in the South. BJ encouraged the meeting to consider how SEMLA, clubs and the ELA must all push further work on supporting student players' transition from the university game into active participation with community clubs.

AA asked for clarification on games being conceded outside of Premiership and East 1. DBM informed the meeting that 27% of fixtures thus far across the 2017/18 season have been rearranged, with 9% conceded. RR summarised that geography is a significant factor and will continue to be so for the foreseeable future.

DBM shared that he would take comments away and look at they could be addressed to enable SEMLA to take a proposal forward.

13) Development Officer Report

There was no report for the meeting.

14) NLC Liaison Report

PR reported that NLC's next formal meeting is in January but that there is an away day scheduled for 19 November. BJ shared that he would be attending in Board capacity, and meeting agreed that BS would attend to represent SEMLA as PR is unable to make the away day.

PR reminded the meeting that the two documents circulated alongside the papers for this meeting should both be noted by club committees for information and action. They can be found [here](#) for readers' reference.

15) Junior Development Plan

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

16) League Restructure Proposal

Please see agenda item 12.

17) Any Other Business

DBM reminded the meeting that registration for the Winter Classic was encouraged ahead of the two weekend events, with potential players for the U23 and Senior squads alike invited to get involved.

On behalf of JH, BJ also reminded the meeting that the Wales national team have more open training/selection dates on 12 November and 16/17 December in Monmouth. Squads are being chosen for the National Championships, Dragons, Welsh Universities and U19s, in addition to the squad for WC2018 in Israel. If players are interested or have any queries, they are encouraged to contact Jacqui on jwaltonhicks@gmail.com.

Please note that the date and time of the next meeting is Monday 4 December at 7pm.