

Minutes – SEMLA General Committee Meeting

7pm Monday 4 December 2017

In attendance: Trevor Rogers (TR), John Maynard (JM), Peter Compton (PC), Miles Whittle (MW), Ben Jessup (BJ), Ray Wood (RW), Nik Roberts (NR), Peter Mundy (PM), Tracy Woodall (TW), Bob Sharples (BS), Tom Paton (TP), James Lucas (JL).

1) Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from: Peter Rawsthorne (PR), Rob Clark (RC), Dennis Tobin (DT), Jacqui Hicks (JH), James Gibson (JG).

2) Acceptance of minutes

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

3) Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4) President's Report

TR informed the meeting that Phil Walker, long-term Wales Lacrosse coach sadly passed away in November, and asked the meeting to remember Phil and his contributions to the game. The meeting agreed to send a formal note to Phil's family via Jacqui Hicks.

TR also shared SEMLA's intent to hold a brief Special General Meeting (SGM) at the start of the January meeting to formally approve the introduction of two timeouts per half into the SEMLA byelaws. It was agreed that BJ would circulate the relevant existing byelaw and information regarding the SGM in due course ahead of the call.

TR closed by informing the meeting that English Lacrosse has donated a set of goals to each region, following their use in the 2017 Women's World Championships, with Reading looking after the goals at present.

5) Treasurer's Report

MW informed the meeting that SEMLA has now received its first major payment from English Lacrosse for the 2017/18 financial year, following back and forth communication between MW and EL.

NR reported that, following the recent departure of Dave Coldwell, EL have now confirmed the process of approving future bids for regional associations' funding, with NR responsible for approving any budget requests from SEMLA – NR is conscious of the conflict of interests in supporting the bid as a member of the SEMLA committee and then having to judge objectively on behalf of EL.

14 of 32 clubs have paid their SEMLA fees for the season as of the meeting, with BJ and MW to follow up with clubs to chase outstanding payments.

6) Secretary's Report

BJ reported two player transfers from the month of November – Rob Day (Reading to Walcountian Blues) and Casey Hughes (Welwyn to Hitchin). He also reported three October transfers retrospectively - Tom Naughton (Birmingham to Reading) and Patrick Timothee & Austin Holgate (Mellor to Hampstead).

7) Youth Development Committee's Report

RW reported that more boys are playing this season than last, with a monthly game day running successfully this season alongside ad hoc fixtures between clubs. The next monthly game day is on Sunday 10 December in Oxford, with U12, U14, U16 and U18 matches planned.

RW also informed the meeting that he has spoken to Martin Cragg of EL regarding the talent pathway and Junior Academy events, and will be meeting MC in early January to discuss steps forward. TW reiterated her ongoing frustrations with MC and asked the meeting to support addressing these.

8) University Liaison Report

There was no report for the meeting.

9) South Manager's Report

BJ shared a brief update from RC, informing the meeting that at present the Nick Kehoe Trophy is only allowing the South to enter one team at present, but RC still intends to select a large training squad to accommodate other events beyond the British National Championships.

BJ also raised RC's query about whether SEMLA would support taking a South team to Israel in July 2018 for the festival running alongside the World Championships. The meeting agreed that RC must draw together a more formal proposal, detailing costs and timelines for this to be discussed and considered properly.

TR raised the ongoing struggle with a lack of any invoice for the South team kit a couple of years ago. MW confirmed that this will remain captured in the annual accounts each year until it is paid.

10) Disciplinary & Complaints Panel's Report

There was no report for the meeting.

JM did however query the process for expulsions from university fixtures within the BUCS programme. BJ explained BUCS' existing regulations and the need for any disciplinary sanction or other formal action to be led by the respective university. The meeting agreed that any such incidents would be reported to BUCS, and it would then be their responsibility to follow up as appropriate.

11) Referees Secretary's Report

There was no report for the meeting.

NR did however query the deployment of unqualified officials in fixtures across the South, and shared his concern regarding anecdotal reports of insulting behaviour towards referees. The meeting expressed concern around how this could put off potential officials from getting involved in such a capacity in the future, and discussed how this could be rectified.

There were a mix of proposed actions discussed ranging from referees submitting match reports after every fixture, to increasing disciplinary sanctions for such offences. The meeting did agree that reporting mechanisms are not robust enough, and it was agreed that TR would speak to SP to consider comms with clubs and officials directly.

12) Fixture Secretary's Report

There was no report for the meeting.

13) Development Officer Report

NR shared that he would start to advertise the SEMLA sticks as a support mechanism to help players set up new clubs.

NR went on to raise the Junior Development Plan and how he considered it to have been a real success in acting as a catalyst for discussion. The meeting discussed clubs feedback reported to date – some clubs still expressed concerns about their resourcing of such a programme, whilst others had been very bought into the proposal. RW expressed that he is keen for the Youth Development Committee to discuss it in more detail.

14) NLC Liaison Report

There was no report for the meeting.

BJ & BS did however share a verbal report from the away day they attended in November. They explained that it had been a very positive meeting, with all in the room on the same page regarding frustrations, challenges and opportunities for developing lacrosse in England moving forwards. All had agreed that EL should look at how it must approach developing the game more strategically, and that one of the most significant frustrations and concerns was around member engagement and communication. The away day had agreed that action was required on both points.

BJ reiterated that one of the more tangible items discussed was the development of a club framework to support clubs in developing different elements of club activity – Senior Men's, Senior Women's, Juniors, university outreach and

mixed lacrosse programmes – to help clubs develop a broad, holistic model.

15) Junior Development Plan

This agenda item was picked up within the Development Officer report above.

16) Any Other Business

PC queried the relaunch of EL's LDO programme following the reactivation of EL's UKVI immigration endorsement license. NR explained how EL were previously endorsing and sponsoring as the same organisation, and have reacquired their endorsement rights, but not sponsorship rights. The meeting understood that clubs would therefore have increased responsibility as they would need to arrange sponsorship themselves, and it was agreed that this would be put on the agenda for discussion in the January GCM.

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