

Minutes – SEMLA General Committee Meeting

7pm Monday 5 February 2018

In attendance: Trevor Rogers (TR), John Maynard (JM), Peter Compton (PC), Ben Jessup (BJ), David Brucie Morris (DBM), Nik Roberts (NR), Peter Mundy (PM), Bob Sharples (BS), Elliot May (EM).

1) Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from: Miles Whittle (MW), Ray Wood (RW), Rob Clark (RC), Gabbi Simmonds (GS), Dennis Tobin (DT), Tracy Woodall (TW), Jacqui Hicks (JH), Rob Gooch (RG), Tom Clohessy (TC), Robert Conway (RC), Cameron Montgomery (CM), David Austin (DA), Tom Clohessy (TC).

2) Acceptance of minutes

There were no objections to the January minutes.

3) Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4) President's Report

TR shared an overview of English Lacrosse's (EL) recent governance in sport workshop with members of NLC, regional Presidents and EL regional staff. He reported that it was a helpful meeting, with a number of actions identified for EL and NLC to take forward the positive conversation. BJ added that he had noted a number of actions for EL's Governance Committee to progress and would be working with other Board members to push these on.

5) Treasurer's Report

MW sent his apologies for the meeting, so BJ read out his written [Treasurer's Report](#). PM queried why SEMLA has so much money in the bank, and the meeting heard that there a number of expenses remain in the last couple of months of this season. PM asked that SEMLA fund some physical level 1 courses, before NR explained that online access to the level 1 officiating course has enabled greater take up, but that there remains a broader issue around a lack of volunteers within the game and people not stepping forward to officiate where they might be qualified because they want to play.

It was requested that a future meeting discuss how SEMLA might address the challenges around number of volunteers across club and regional administration and officiating.

6) Secretary's Report

There was no report for the meeting.

7) Youth Development Committee's Report

RW sent his apologies for the meeting, and PC updated the meeting in his absence. He reported that there was a youth development meeting in the last week of January, with a successful tournament also run by Portsmouth, bringing around 60 junior players together.

A South U18 clinic has been arranged for 25 February, with open trials for the South U18 team to go to Brussels taking place on Sunday 4 and Sunday 25 March. Epsom have also been asked to host junior flags in mid-March.

It was proposed and approved by the meeting that SEMLA authorise a payment of up to £500 to purchase a set of reversible pinnies for use at each of the Junior tournament days.

8) University Liaison Report

There was no report for the meeting from Russel Farrer. TR did however reassure the meeting that although Chichester, Brunel and Royal Holloway had withdrawn from SEMLA, they were all still playing in BUCS competition.

9) South Manager's Report

RC sent his apologies for the meeting, and BJ shared a verbal report from him on his behalf. RC asks that all club

captains and coaches email him with their suggestions for players to be invited to trial for the South squad. He asked that he be sent the player's full name, email address, contact number, playing position and relevant experience. Further information with trial venues and dates will be shared in due course.

The South will only be taking one senior squad to the Nick Kehoe Trophy over the Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 May bank holiday weekend, but that it will be a truly international tournament this year with teams including Belgium, Ireland, Spain and Switzerland all joining the regular contenders.

This will not be the only opportunity to play with the South squad this year, as we have been asked to provide opposition for a number of European sides as they prepare for the World Championships this summer.

10) Disciplinary & Complaints Panel's Report

There was no report for the meeting, however JM shared a correction to the January report circulated that the Cambridge keeper did in fact serve a one-match ban following his exclusion from the game on 6 January.

11) Referees Secretary's Report

There was no report for the meeting.

12) Fixture Secretary's Report

DBM shared that Birmingham have withdrawn from the league, with only one fixture played and travel constraints remaining a consistent challenge – the meeting noted Birmingham's comments that they were disappointed by a lack of support from EL and SEMLA. He continued to share that there have been 8 conceded fixtures this month but that the Minor and Intermediate Flags quarter-finals went well.

DBM has secured a number of quotes for hosting Flags Finals, including Richmond Athletics Club, Sports Park Reading, Surrey Sports Park, UCL Shenley, Bisham Abbey and a number of universities including Royal Holloway, Brunel and Oxford. Further information will follow at SEMLA's March meeting.

The meeting had a discussion around the proposed SEMLA awards and the meeting agreed that this should look to be organized on the back of another event. DBM will draw up some draft invitations to share for comment.

EM expressed concern around teams conceding fixtures with short notice and the hosting club then lose their payment for the pitch booking. DBM assured the meeting that there is a growing consensus of extending the required cancellation notice to more than 48 hours.

NR shared that he has had favourable responses to his informal circulation of the draft league restructure.

13) Development Officer Report

NR informed the meeting that he is revisiting the junior development proposal, changing the structure so that clubs bid to get involved and reassured the meeting that more clubs seen to be delivering more junior activity than in recent years.

NR confirmed that beyond Bluesfest, the BUCS 8s and Bath 8s tournaments have both been introduced as level 2 referee assessment days to help broaden the base of qualified officials, and that more assessors are being developed for coaching as well.

The meeting heard that there were more than 50 applications for EL's new Regional Development Officer position, with this likely to focus on the Midlands region. NR also shared that EL are launching a University Liaison Officer programme, with conversations ongoing with the 30 identified universities. PM commented that this should help leadership within the game in future years and BJ offered to help link in with university staff through professional contacts from his time working for BUCS.

PR queried how clubs will be able to secure LDOs moving forwards, and NR reiterated that clubs will have to sponsor any LDOs with a certificate of sponsorship in their name, though EL will be able to endorse any certificates of sponsorship.

14) NLC Liaison Report

PR encouraged the meeting to read the away day notes circulated and talked through the updated NLC agenda

ahead of their upcoming meeting. The group asked PR to push discussions around individual registration and defibrillators at the approaching NLC meeting.

15) Any Other Business

The meeting wished MW a Happy 70th Birthday, and thanked him for all that he does for SEMLA.

EM asked if the papers could be sent round any sooner ahead of each meeting. BJ apologised for the late circulation and said he would work to do share the papers further in advance.

Please note that the date and time of the next meeting is Monday 5 March at 7pm.