

Minutes – SEMLA General Committee Meeting

7pm Monday 9 April 2018

In attendance: Trevor Rogers (TR), John Maynard (JM), Peter Compton (PC), Miles Whittle (MW), Ben Jessup (BJ), Peter Rawsthorne (PR), Nik Roberts (NR), Rob Clark (RC), Peter Mundy (PM), Rob Gooch (RG), Paul Milner (PM), Dale Haxton (DH), Tom Clohessy (TC), Alex Taiano (AT), Kieran Balmer (KB), Nick Hayman (NH), Julia Bose (JB), David Swarbrick (DS).

1) Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from: David Brucie Morris (DBM), Dennis Tobin (DT), Bob Sharples (BS), Jacqui Hicks (JH), Tom Paton (TP), Elliot May (EM), James Lucas (JL), Rob Conway (RC).

2) Acceptance of minutes

There were no objections to the March minutes.

3) Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4) President's Report

TR shared SEMLA's huge appreciation for the efforts of Resh Panesar and Matt Payne for aiding Dave Slaughter when he suffered his cardiac arrest. Thanks also went to Spencer LC and others who assisted. TR urged clubs to make sure that AEDs are always easily available at every training and fixture – the meeting heard that we need to be very strict with ourselves on this.

5) Treasurer's Report

MW verbally shared a summary of his written report, with SEMLA holding just under £9000 in the Association's current account – a healthy balance, but with plenty of expenditure to come including costs around the Nick Kehoe Trophy, officials for the Flags Finals and wider expenditure around the Flags Finals and SEMLA 6s. SEMLA has now received the balance of their budget from English Lacrosse and the National Lacrosse Committee.

6) Secretary's Report

BJ shared that he is making preparations for SEMLA around the GDPR deadline on May 25 including again looking at Google Forums and other alternatives to the existing email database.

BJ also informed the meeting that he will be stepping down as SEMLA Secretary at the 2018 AGM, but will support the new Secretary over the summer to ensure a smooth transition. If you are interested in taking up the position of SEMLA Secretary, please [contact](#) BJ.

7) Youth Development Committee's Report

PC updated the meeting that the Committee is working to rearrange the Junior Flags and is looking at fixtures for the 2018/19 season, before RC shared the success of pop lacrosse in Orpington.

8) University Liaison Report

There was no report for the meeting.

9) South Manager's Report

RC shared that South trials had been held on Sunday 8 April, with 36 players in attendance and PC and John Hubbard supporting as officials. RC is looking to select a squad of 18 for the Nick Kehoe Trophy, and will be spending around £1500 for the two nights of B&B, though also needing to purchase balls for when playing as the home team at the tournament.

10) Disciplinary & Complaints Panel's Report

PR shared the complaint from the University of London against Brighton regarding their Minor Flags semi-final, with

London alleging that Brighton fielded ineligible players. The meeting heard that a formal hearing was held and the game was awarded to the University of London, but that Brighton are considering launching an appeal.

11) Referees Secretary's Report

There was no report for the meeting.

12) Fixture Secretary's Report

There was no report for the meeting.

13) Development Officer Report

NR shared that Sophie Bartup has started as the Regional Development Officer for the Midlands, with a RDO team meeting on Wednesday 11 April to sort out geographic areas of responsibility across the team.

14) NLC Liaison Report

PR talked through the draft agenda for NLC's May meeting. With NLC being reviewed, the Committee has come up with two roles which aren't filled at present, with a focus on Clubs and Universities respectively. Anyone interested in taking up either role is asked to [contact](#) PR.

15) League Restructure Proposal

[Please note that proposal has seen a series of changes made since the following discussion.]

RG introduced the proposal and shared some context for the meeting – the distance of travel to some games has been a real challenge, as has the level of competition for some fixtures. RG, NR and DBM recognise that the proposal is not perfect, but believe that it helps solve some of these issues.

The meeting heard a number of concerns from those in attendance, and PM queried the timescales for implementation and the need for clubs to know what they're playing for from the start of the season.

RC shared thoughts that a league restructure could seek to keep the Premiership unchanged in structure to have as an aspiration for all clubs, before DS commented that he largely liked the proposal but was concerned that the Championship proposed wouldn't solve the travel challenge identified.

NH queried the number of games each club would end up with, and NR assured the meeting that the average number of fixtures would work as 20, with 18 the minimum and 25 potentially the maximum including Flags.

BJ shared Hillcroft's thoughts on holding all Flags fixtures at the close of the league season, and speaking for Spencer, PC asked why not set to allow second teams into the Championship with DS also reiterating this question. TR provided historical context around the cyclical nature of clubs' success.

BJ called for SEMLA and English Lacrosse to support players in establishing new clubs to drive the continued increase in competition and grass roots opportunities.

RG, NR and DBM will present an updated league restructure proposal at SEMLA's May meeting following further feedback over the interim period.

16) Recruiting and Supporting Volunteers

BJ shared context as a further discussion item following previous GCM discussions, and how clubs appear to be increasingly struggling to recruit and retain volunteers. The meeting agreed that PR should raise this with NLC at their May meeting.

17) Central Lacrosse Spring Ball

TR informed the meeting that Central LC are hosting their Spring Ball on Saturday 12 May at Twickenham Stoop, with clubs to [contact](#) Central directly if interested in attending.

18) Any Other Business

PC queried the scope for a bigger budget for 2018/19 Flags Finals to enable a larger scale event. MW explained that SEMLA's 2018/19 budget request had already been submitted, and that alternative streams might need to be

explored if wanting to increase the size of the event in 2019.

RG shared an update from Rob Ingham Clark around the development of Camden LC. Work is going well, with 15 players signed up at the time of the meeting.

JM also shared an update on Dave Slaughter, informing the meeting that he is out of hospital and recovering.

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