



RECORD OF DOMESTIC MANAGEMENT GROUP MEETING 10 FEBRUARY 2016

Present:	KC	Kirsty Clarke	GBWR National Development Director
	LS	Lee Stutely	GBWR Events & Competition Officer
	PA	Paul Arnold	GBWR Regional Development Officer (South)
	DH	Daniel Hook	GBWR Corporate & Membership Secretary
	NM	Nicola Mathew	Gloucester Wheelchair Rugby Club
	CP	Chris Perkins	Westcountry Hawks Wheelchair Rugby Club
	JP	James Price	Marauders Tigers Wheelchair Rugby Club
	GK-A	Graham Kamaly-Asl	Marauders Tigers Wheelchair Rugby Club
	SP	Steve Palmer	London Wheelchair Rugby Club
	IH	Ian Hosking	Stoke Mandeville Wheelchair Rugby
	NH	Nicole Hammerton	Stoke Mandeville Wheelchair Rugby
	VB	Vince Barton	Team Solent Sharks Wheelchair Rugby
	JM	Jonathan Marsh	Canterbury Rugby Football Club

Apologies: Lorraine Brown, GBWR Performance Director
Amanda Thomas, GBWR Regional Development Officer (Wales & South West)
Jo Arnold, GBWR Regional Development Officer (North)
Stuart McLindon, GBWR Youth Programme Manager
Luke White, GBWR Projects Officer
RGC Wheelchair Rugby
The North East Bulls Wheelchair Rugby Club
Glasgow Wheelchair Rugby Club
Woodbridge Wheeled Warriors
Liverpool Lions Wheelchair Rugby Club
Yorkshire Lions
West Coast Crash
Ospreys Wheelchair Rugby Club

1. Opening comments

- 1.1. KC confirmed that the DMG would meet at Twickenham for the foreseeable future.
- 1.2. Quorum was questioned and it was clarified that no quorum is defined within the Terms of Reference.
[post meeting note: following review, quorum for DMG set at 25% of invited clubs]

2. League and competition

- 2.1. New teams in 16 – 17 season
 - 2.1.1. It was noted that 1 – 2 new teams were anticipated to join the league.
 - 2.1.2. This would increase D2 to an 8 team league with the additional teams entering D3.
 - 2.1.3. D2 would therefore have no relegation or play-off moving into 16 – 17.
 - 2.1.4. D2 would be modified to D1's competition format.
 - 2.1.5. D3 would be modified from regional days to weekend competition, comparable to the present D2.
- 2.2. Promotion / relegation
 - 2.2.1. To be discussed when rules agreed prior to 16 – 17 season, following discussion over number of teams to face promotion / relegation and inclusion of play-off games.
 - 2.2.2. JM confirmed that Canterbury Hellfire wishes to forfeit promotion if achieved in 15 – 16.
- 2.3. Nationals 17



- 2.3.1. To take the same format as 2016 (6 team Cup and 6 team Shield) as accommodating additional teams requires an extended tournament which feedback has shown to be less attractive to the DMG / Membership.
- 2.3.2. The date will follow confirmation of IWRF Europeans 2017.
- 2.3.3. Any play-off games will be consolidated into the Nationals schedule to avoid teams incurring cost for attending such games separately.
- 2.3.4. Concern was raised over elite players being pulled, however it was clarified that the Nationals would take place no later than the final point at which elite players are available for domestic competition.
- 2.4. It was noted that a corporate deal on accommodation would be welcomed by clubs, and this will be investigated further once league 16 – 17 dates confirmed.
- ACTION: LS / DH to investigate**
- 2.5. Team sheets / membership
- 2.5.1. It was reiterated that these should be submitted 2 weeks in advance of each competition.
- 2.5.2. It was stated that GBWR would no longer chase clubs for membership registration, and any non-members on submitted on team lists would be excluded.
- 2.5.3. Clubs were requested to take ownership.
- 2.6. Transfers
- 2.6.1. Discussion held over a paper prepared by SP and previously distributed.
- 2.6.2. It was agreed that clubs would vote on the following options via SurveyMonkey:
- Keep transfer rule as is
 - Change transfer rule as per SP paper with additional point, wherein any playoff games at the Nationals must be competed in using the team roster as it was for the Super Series (i.e. prior to post-SS3 transfers)
- ACTION: DH to issue survey**
- 2.7. Europa Cup
- 2.7.1. It was noted that this tournament was being presented as an invitational rather than comprising the top 8 teams in Europe.
- 2.7.2. It was confirmed that elite players would not be available, but the long squad would be.
- 2.7.3. Discussion was held over the direction the DMG would like to see the Europa Cup take:
- IWRF support as a sanctioned tournament
 - Return to top 8 European team format
 - Central European location for travelling ease
 - Sponsor subsidisation
 - To sit alongside other zonal club competitions, forming a world league and leading to a World Cup
- ACTION: LB to note points for discussion with working group**
- 2.8. League feedback
- 2.8.1. Positive experience – last season was of a high calibre and this season is so far equal.
- 2.8.2. A review of international player inclusion will take place when tournament rules are reviewed over concern of an arms race situation arising.
- 2.9. Head Official
- 2.9.1. It was clarified that a different Official presently undertakes the role for each tournament, and this setup will be reviewed post-season.
- 2.9.2. It was reiterated that all officiating queries / concerns should be directed to Amanda Thomas.



3. Classification

- 3.1. It was confirmed that only members are eligible for classification.
- 3.2. Concern was raised over requiring individuals to pay the membership fee and them then being classified out of the game, however it was confirmed that in this situation a refund would be issued.
- 3.3. It was noted that a number of classifiers are developing, although are early on the pathway.

4. Funding

- 4.1. It was noted that funding is guaranteed until March 17, and GBWR is confident of success in the next funding cycle.
- 4.2. The DCMS strategy was discussed, noting GBWR's success in meeting social good aims around disability and youth.

5. Youth

- 5.1. The level of youth activity was highlighted, noting regional youth team tournaments and a national youth tournament in November 2016.
- 5.2. Clubs were requested to contact GBWR if aware of any young people wanting to get involved.

ACTION: Jo Arnold / Stuart McLindon to contact Canterbury regarding youth member

- 5.3. DBS and safeguarding course certification was discussed, and it was reiterated that these should be sent to DH for verification and copies to be taken.
- 5.4. Where too few young people are in a region to form a distinct team, they will be engaged with other local programmes.
- 5.5. Chairs
- 5.5.1. The cost of youth chairs was discussed, and the distinction between youth chairs (only for youth competition) and adult chairs in youth sizes (suitable for adult competition) was clarified.
[post meeting note: the cost of Roma youth chairs is confirmed as £1950]
- 5.5.2. It was noted that Roma representative are present at most league weekends.
- 5.5.3. Some clubs noted issues with customer service, although others noted good service.

ACTION: KC to follow up

6. Performance calendar

- 6.1. A hard copy of the Performance calendar was presented.
- ACTION: LS to e-mail DMG with updated calendar as available**
- 6.2. It was noted that there had been no further update regarding an online Performance calendar, accessible by clubs

ACTION: DH / LB to follow up

- 6.3. It was noted that access to the Talent calendar would also be helpful.
- ACTION: LS to follow up for electronic copy of calendar**
- ACTION: DH / LB to follow up for inclusion in online calendar**
- 6.4. It was noted that Talent sessions being held on weekdays makes travel for many difficult, with this impacting players from Hawks, Gloucester and Canterbury.

ACTION: LS to follow up with Talent Lead

*[post meeting note:
Southern Regional Training Centres: held Saturdays from April
Northern Regional Training Centres: positive feedback on schedule so no changes proposed.*



Talent Squad Camps: some scheduled for weekends and holidays, and will be looked at to confirm venue availability and scope to change dates]

7. AOB

7.1. ThisGirlCan

7.1.1. Session to be run 19 March 2016 in Loughborough with Julie Bunnage leading.

7.1.2. Aim to engage more female players.

7.1.3. Clubs will be contacted shortly.

7.2. Gaelic Warriors

7.2.1. Noted injuries and requested DMG authorisation to bring an alternate player at the next Super Series weekend.

7.2.2. Of D1 teams represented at the meeting, there were no objections.

7.2.3. The request was confirmed.

ACTION: LS to e-mail all clubs to confirm

7.3. On-court behaviour

7.3.1. It was noted that some instances of poor attitude on-court had been noted, conflicting with IWRF rules on good sportsmanship and of particular concern with increasing numbers of youth players present.

7.3.2. It was stated that this would not be tolerated and the DMG were requested to reiterate to members.

8. DONM

8.1. Agreed as 10 May 16 at Twickenham.

ACTION: DH to book

[post meeting note: arrangements made for meeting to be held 10 May 16 at Rugby House, Twickenham]