



RECORD OF DOMESTIC MANAGEMENT GROUP MEETING 10 MAY 2016

Present:	LB	Lorraine Brown	GBWR Performance Director
	LS	Lee Stutely	GBWR Events & Competition Officer
	AT	Amanda Thomas	GBWR Regional Development Officer (Wales)
	DH	Daniel Hook	GBWR Corporate & Membership Secretary
	DD	David Durston	Gloucester Wheelchair Rugby Club
	RC	Ryan Cowling	West Coast Crash
	BO'S	Bob O'Shea	Stoke Mandeville Wheelchair Rugby
	GK-A	Graham Kamaly-Asl	Marauders Tigers Wheelchair Rugby Club
	BP	Brian Pitchford	Canterbury RFC: Canterbury Hellfire
	SP	Steve Palmer	London Wheelchair Rugby Club
	CS	Craig Streeter	London Wheelchair Rugby Club
	CP	Chris Perkins	Westcountry Hawks Wheelchair Rugby Club

1. Opening

1.1. Apologies:

Kirsty Clarke, GBWR National Development Director
Paul Arnold, GBWR Regional Development Officer (South)
Jo Shenton, GBWR Regional Development Officer (North)
Stuart McLindon, GBWR Youth Programme Manager
Luke White, GBWR Projects Officer
Ospreys Wheelchair Rugby Club
The North East Bulls Wheelchair Rugby Club
Rygbí Gogledd Cymru Wheelchair Rugby
Glasgow Wheelchair Rugby Club
Team Solent Sharks Wheelchair Rugby
Woodbridge Wheeled Warriors
Liverpool Lions Wheelchair Rugby Club
Yorkshire Lions

1.2. LB offered GBWR's condolences to Canterbury following the passing of Chairman Jonathan Marsh.

2. Minutes of last meeting

2.1. Actions outstanding

2.1.1. Corporate deal on league accommodation

ACTION: LS and DH to meet with InterContinental Hotels Group and UK Sport following DMG meeting

2.1.2. Roma customer service comments

ACTION: Kirsty Clarke to follow up

2.2. Minutes agreed.

3. Review of rules for 16/17 season

3.1. Although agreement was reached regarding rule changes, feedback indicated a need to review certain areas.

3.1.1. 4.0 players

Presently no 0.5 point addition is granted to teams fielding 4.0 players who are female or aged over 45. It was discussed that this rule was implemented as permitting 4.0 players into the league is considered an accommodation and so no further advantage should be granted. It was suggested that the rule could vary across divisions, to



promote development in lower divisions, although this could cause teams issues if promoted.

ACTION: **DH to issue SurveyMonkey to further discussion**

3.1.2. Tied results

It was clarified that GBWR currently utilises the IWRF ruling whereby ties are decided by results between tied teams. Deciding based on GD was considered however it was noted discussed that this may encourage teams to aim for high scores rather than developing lines and players.

ACTION: **LS to consider options and present to DMG**

3.1.3. Youth players

It was highlighted that a common misconception had arisen that fielding a youth player grants a team an additional 0.5 points. GBWR is looking into a 0.5 point advantage to be implemented, and it was noted that although youth membership applies to those aged under 18, individuals may participate internationally from 16 years and thus this may be the most appropriate age to restrict any advantage to.

ACTION: **LS to report following discussion with classifiers**

3.1.4. Classification

It was noted that wording around 0.5 point on court additions should be updated to correctly reflect that this is an addition awarded to the fielded team, as oppose to a reduction applied to female / over 45 year old players.

A need for uniform classification cards was noted, with a record of any important notes (e.g. female / over 45 years) which impact classification.

ACTION: **LS / DH to review classification card template**

3.1.5. Import players

The increase in quality league competition brought about by use of import players was discussed, noting however that this reduces court time for GB talent. Ruling allowing import players encourages competition wherein some teams feel the need to include import players to maintain league status. Discussion was held around reducing the number of import players per team to 1, except in extenuating circumstances. The importance of flexibility to support the sport was highlighted.

ACTION: **DH to issue SurveyMonkey to further discussion**

3.1.6. Team sheets

It was highlighted that teams would not be chased to ensure membership of all attending players and staff.

Team sheets will no longer be requested for each event, instead teams will only be requested to submit a roster at the season start.

3.1.7. Cancellations

Sanctions for teams cancelling attendance were discussed, with it noted that fines seem inappropriate for struggling teams. It is important to distinguish between non-attendance due to inability or apathy.

3.1.8. Division structure

D1: 8 teams;

D2: 8 teams;

D3: 5-6 teams (no longer with a regional split)

3.1.9. Promotion / relegation

It was noted that the current setup allows for up to 2 teams to be promoted / relegated per season, a higher percentage than the majority of sports. Alternate options were discussed, including single team automatic promotion / relegation and single team promotion / relegation based on a play-off game.

ACTION: **LS to consider options and present to DMG**



- 3.1.10. Forfeiture
It was confirmed that forfeiture should result in 0 points awarded to the forfeiting team and a change was agreed whereby a forfeit at any time would result in a score of 1-0 against the forfeiting the team, to avoid situations where forfeiting teams may forfeit strategically to manipulate GD.

4. League 16/17

- 4.1. A hard copy paper was presented with league schedule and venues, and confirmed that all venues had been booked.
4.2. An early National Championships had been scheduled to avoid a clash with the as yet unknown IWRF European Championship date.

5. AGM

- 5.1. Taking place at 1700 on 13 Jul 16 at Rugby House.
5.2. The DMG were requested to support the AGM through attendance and encouraging club members to attend or submit proxy votes.

6. Membership rules

- 6.1. A hard copy paper was presented.
6.2. Additional membership categories to accommodate classifiers and officials as non-voting members had been created.
6.3. It was queried whether a membership category for non-eligible players would be possible, and what crossover this would have with the variant game.

ACTION: Kirsty Clarke to confirm

7. Classification

- 7.1. Hard copy paper presented.
7.2. The level of classifier development was highlighted, with an increase from 1 to 6 classifiers, a third classifier reaching international level this year and 61 classifications undertaken last year.
7.3. Sarah Leighton is stepping down as GBWR's Lead Classifier and in her absence was thanked for her work alongside AT. It was also noted that AT will no longer be leading on classifier development and in the interim period Kirsty Clarke or DH should be contacted.
7.4. Future classification will be attached to events and clubs were requested to submit classification requests at the earliest opportunity. Where need is present, GBWR will consider classification opportunities at club events.
7.5. GBWR are considering bringing an international classification panel to the UK.
7.6. SP queried GBWR's stance on identifying talent at wheelchair basketball clubs, and it was confirmed that GBWR has no issue provided that clubs conduct themselves accordingly and engage with wheelchair basketball clubs appropriately.
7.7. It was discussed that GBWR would benefit from a classification leaflet as available in wheelchair basketball to educate clubs on likely classifications of new players.

ACTION: Kirsty Clarke to investigate

8. Officiating

- 8.1. It was announced that Susan Aldridge had been appointed as Workforce Development Officer for Officiating.
8.2. Clubs were requested to direct any individuals interested in officiating to GBWR.



9. Date of next meeting

9.1. 1300 on 13 Jul 16 at Rugby House, prior to AGM

9.2. Future meeting dates to be scheduled in advance

ACTION: LS to consider dates

10. Any other business

10.1. Coaching

10.1.1. 2 courses to be run over summer, 1 open and 1 with selective attendance.

10.1.2. Elite will attend the course after Rio.

10.1.3. GK-A provided positive feedback on the pilot.

11. Performance update

11.1. Rio team to be announced Thursday.

11.2. Canada Cup in June, followed by 2 months of pre-Rio prep.

11.3. Rio seeding will be as at Oct 15.

11.4. Rio pools anticipated end May 16.

12. Promotion

12.1. It was discussed that events (e.g. BT Tri-Nations / BT WWRC) would benefit from increased promotion outside of the sport, including streaming and increased Twitter updates.

13. LWRC

13.1. SP announced that CS had been appointed Vice Chair.