



RECORD OF MEETING

Present

KC	Kirsty Clarke	GBWR NDD	
LS	Lee Stutely	GBWR Events & Competition Officer	
BW	Brian Ward	GBWR Head of Officiating	[conference call]
DH	Daniel Hook	GBWR Corporate & Membership Secretary	
SJ	Steve Jones	Ospreys WR	
PJ	Paul Jenkins	Ospreys WR	
AA	Alan Ash	West Coast Crash	
RD	Rebecca Daley	RGC	
TS	Tony Stackhouse	RGC	
DM	Darren Matthews	MTWRC	
SM	Shirley Massey	MTWRC	
RD	Rachel Dickie	MTWRC	
SP	Steven Palmer	LWRC	
VB	Vince Barton	Team Solent Sharks	
DD	Dave Durston	Gloucester WR	
BP	Brian Pitchford	Canterbury Hellfire	

Apologies

North East Bulls
Westcountry Hawks
Woodbridge Wheeled Warriors
Gaelic Warriors
Caledonian Crushers

Amanda Thomas	GBWR Regional Development Officer Wales
Paul Arnold	GBWR Regional Development Officer South
Jo Arnold	GBWR Regional Development Officer North
Lorraine Brown	GBWR Performance Director

Minutes

1. **BT Wheelchair Rugby National Championships 2015**
 - 1.1. Placing would be confirmed after SS3.
 - 1.2. In case of any team dropping out, it was noted that the non-qualifying team would be invited to attend.
 - 1.3. The D1 event takes place over 3 days rather than 2 due to the number of games and the desire to make the finals day appealing for spectators.
 - 1.4. In addition to a drop off zone, it was noted that parking was available at the venue and this would have 24/7 security. The area would be divided as necessary to accommodate teams.
 - 1.5. The requirement for complete team lists was stated, being necessary for accreditation purposes.
 - 1.6. Storage areas and changing rooms are available at the venue. These will be allocated to teams and will offer sufficient space. This will be accessible on Friday for drop off.
 - 1.7. A maximum of 6 volunteers / support staff may attend per team.
 - 1.8. The hotels with rates secured by GBWR are 20-25 minute pushing distance from the venue. Closer hotels are available however no special rates were agreed with GBWR.



- 1.9. Classifiers will be present at the Nationals, and also before at SS3 D2/3, but not SS3 D1. Unclassified players must be seen by classifiers prior to competing

ACTION: Teams to submit classification requests to Amanda Thomas

- 1.10. Marketing for the event would be pushed from 30th March, and clubs were encouraged to push the event flyer through their local networks.
- 1.11. The event will not be ticketed, however spectators will be invited / welcomed.
- 1.12. Community engagement will involve taster sessions etc on the concourse, and partners will be able to promote their products / services.
- 1.13. It was confirmed that GBWR are not making available any Club VIP packages, and GBWR will manage its own VIPS in a low key manner.
- 1.14. Catering will be available at the venue, with separate kiosks for teams and the public. An athlete lounge will also be available for teams to bring own food etc.

ACTION: LS to confirm that venue will permit usage of own kettles in the athlete lounge

- 1.15. The venue has a standard wooden surface. The Invictus Games made use of an overlay spring floor however budget would not permit for this event.
- 1.16. 2 courts will be in use, with a central area for warm up. The final day will have once central court.
- 1.17. There is no broadcasting planned, however there is potential for filming to take place ahead of BT WWRC15 for promotional materials / testing.
- 1.18. All media personnel will need to be accredited by GBWR. This includes photography and video analysis.
- 1.19. Score clocks will be in use on the final day as the system cannot display scores from 2 courts consecutively on the earlier days.
- 1.20. Accessible bathrooms are available on court level.
- 1.21. The hotel booking process was outlined to supplement recent e-mail sendouts.

2. BT Super Series 2015 -2016

- 2.1. Discussion was held around location, with pros and cons for a central venue or regional tournaments raised. It was agreed that GBWR would lead on decisions.
- 2.2. Potential dates for the forthcoming season were proposed:

SS1 D1 28/29 Nov
SS2 D1 5/6 Mar
SS3 D1 9/10 Apr

SS1 D2/3 21/22 Nov
SS2 D2/3 19/20 Feb
SS3 D2/3 2/3 Apr

Nationals 30 Apr – 2 May (pending confirmation of Bernd Best dates)

- 2.3. The value of changing the Division names to be more marketable was discussed, e.g. football's Premier League, rugby union's Premiership Rugby.
- 2.4. A fourth league weekend was suggested, however it was noted that GBWR are unable to provide due to budget limitations. Options were proposed, including clubs paying all costs for GBWR to operate an additional weekend, or clubs arranging their own regional tournaments.



3. Promotion and relegation

- 3.1. The closeness of competition was noted this year, and it was noted that potentially relegating 2 teams (25% of D1) was excessive in comparison to other sports which relegate 8-16%. The pros and cons were discussed and it was suggested that this should be raised for decision when the league rules are agreed prior to the 15-16 season commencing.
- 3.2. Following discussion, it was agreed that teams may forfeit promotion until SS3.

4. Affiliation

- 4.1. GBWR will look to support clubs, and where a deficit of any particular criteria is identified across the board, GBWR will look to offer a solution (e.g. Safeguarding training / policy support etc.).
- 4.2. It was discussed that this should not be a hurdle to clubs, and should instead professionalise wheelchair rugby in line with other sports.

5. Safeguarding

- 5.1. GBWR will reimburse agreed expenses up until 30 Mar 15 and clubs were requested to submit expenses asap.
- 5.2. Clubs with enquiries were encouraged to speak with Jo Arnold.
- 5.3. The Club Welfare Officer training will take place on 17 April 15, however the course will be available via other NGBs if unable to attend on that date.

6. DMG Survey Results

- 6.1. It was noted that some members feel GBWR push too many decisions to the DMG and should be leading. GBWR are happy to do so but will keep dialogue open with clubs, particularly around key decisions.
- 6.2. It was also noted that messages from meetings are not effectively communicated amongst the wider membership. It was discussed that the meeting records are available to all members, although most clubs do not expect their members to read / engage.

7. Voting

- 7.1. Discussion was held around non present clubs voting post meeting via SurveyMonkey / e-mail. Those not present may not have a full understanding of the issue as discussed.
- 7.2. A quorum meeting should be able to make decisions at the meeting, although it was noted that the goal of the meeting was discussion / progression rather than being quorate.

ACTION: KC to confirm quorum number for DMG

[post meeting note: quorum defined as '1 GBWR staff member and 25% of invited clubs to have a minimum of 1 representative'. When club affiliation is implemented, the quorum will be redefined as '1 GBWR staff member and 25% of affiliated clubs to have a minimum of 1 representative'.]

- 7.3. Offering votes to the membership was discussed, however club reps should be in a position to accurately communicate club views.
- 7.4. Provided a full summary of the issue is provided to non-present members, the discussion and decision can be made online / via e-mail.

8. AOB

- 8.1. BW highlighted an issue at the previous Super Series where an issue led to a delay in tip-off. It was requested that any issues be communicated as early as possible to avoid delays.



8.2. BT WWRC15

8.2.1. It was questioned whether BT WWRC15 would be profitable, and if in case of any deficit how this would impact GBWR. It was clarified that any profit would go back into the sport, whilst there is no risk to GBWR from deficit as the tournament is underwritten as a separate business entity.

8.2.2. The 10% ticket discount was outlined, and members were advised that tickets would be priced £5 - £45, with 100 wheelchair seating spaces available.

8.3. International players

8.3.1. It was noted that the rules bar overseas players from participating in the Nationals unless they attend 2 Super Series events. It was observed that a GB player has not attended the Super Series due to his time in the USA. Whilst no teams took issue with the player competing, it was agreed that clarity over the distinction of international / overseas players was required in the rules. It was suggested that this should be raised for decision when the league rules are agreed prior to the 15-16 season commencing.

8.4. Swiss Low Point Tournament

8.4.1. SP noted that he and Dave Goddard would be available for any players wishing to put together a team for the October tournament.

9. DONM

9.1. This was agreed as 14 May 15.

[post meeting note: the DONM was changed to 4 June 15 to accommodate schedule conflicts]