



**Record of Domestic Management Group dated 31<sup>st</sup> January 2013**

**Present:** Kirsty Clarke GBWR Head of Operations KC  
Daniel Hook GBWR Corporate & Membership Secretary DH  
Lee Stutely GBWR RSO / West Coast Crash LS  
Amanda Thomas GBWR RSO / South Wales Pirates AT  
Keith Jones South Wales Pirates KJ  
Steven Palmer LWRC SP  
Dave Smart East Midland Marauders DS  
Chris Perkins West Country Hawks CP  
Donald Hutton Caledonian Crushers DHu (via Skype)  
Vince Barton Solent Sharks VB  
Adie Scott Solent Sharks AS

**1. Apologies**

1.1 Bev Everton GBWR Team Manager BE  
Lyn Collins GBWR Head Official LC  
Paul Shaw West Coast Crash PS  
Noel Thomas North East Bulls NT  
Matt Sullivan North Wales Dragons MS  
Garrett Culliton Gaelic Warriors GC

**2. Meeting opening**

2.1 KC opened the meeting and thanked all for attendance.  
2.2 KC highlighted noted the funding agreements from UK Sport and Sport England.

**3. Strategic Plan**

3.1 The Vision, Mission and Core Values contained within the GBWR Strategic Plan were shared with the DMG, for discussion and comment.

**ACTION: DH / KC to share DMG suggestions (detailed below) with CEO.**

**3.2 Vision**

3.2.1 Accessible:

- The DMG discussed the sport focussing on quadriplegics and the need to make it more accessible to other disabilities.
- It was also suggested that full inclusivity could be considered as there are roles for able bodied individuals (coaching / volunteering etc.).
- It was discussed whether inclusivity should be extended only to all wheelchair users, however it was observed that high point players are not necessarily day chair users.
- There was concern over whether inclusivity of all disabilities would detract from the sport, however it was clarified that this would be done with the aim of providing others with opportunities and not making fundamental changes to the sport itself –e.g. making arrangements to include those with visual impairments.
- There was concern that inclusivity could result in an over saturation of able bodied players in clubs, however it was advised that with careful time / resource management, able bodied individuals could be given opportunities to try the sport without having a detrimental effect

on club training, and it was also considered that an increase in participation improves the club's finances (through membership subscriptions) and provides more training partners. It was discussed that 'Inclusiveness' could form part of the Vision rather than being within 'Accessible'

3.2.2 KC clarified that 'accessible' also referred to access to chairs.

### 3.3 Mission

3.3.1 DMG discussed including 'inclusiveness' within the mission statement: '...and achieving excellence and inclusiveness in everything we do'.

### 3.4 Core Values

3.4.1 Respect: DMG discussed updating the wording to show respect to a broader audience: '...and all who come into contact with the sport'

3.4.2 DMG discussed adding 'Teamwork' to GBWR's Core Values: 'Within the club and with its dealing with GBWR and the wheelchair rugby family'

## 4. Website Development

4.1 KC acknowledged that despite some small scale changes (images / news items), the website still requires an update with regard to functionality.

### 4.2 The DMG were invited to comment on problems they encountered with the GBWR website.

4.2.1 Some items are 'buried' in the site and can only be accessed after following numerous links.

#### 4.2.2 Events

- It was suggested that a calendar could be introduced to replace the current list of events
- It was observed that the current Events list does not display chronologically.
- Event details should be updated in one place, for example a page which contains all information for a tournament from schedule to result, whereas league results currently display separately.

### 4.3 KC noted that member input is vital to any changes which will occur.

4.3.1 It was suggested that the contract be put out to tender, to attract interest from within the sport.

4.3.2 KC confirmed that GBWR welcome member input, particularly those with experience in the field.

4.3.3 AT suggests contacting Roma Sports as there may be scope to work with them to develop the site.

### 4.4 The introduction of a members only area was discussed

4.4.1 It was suggested this could be a forum which clubs could update with training resources etc.

4.4.2 DMG minutes could be located within this section, and available to the public by request only. The value of placing DMG minutes in this section was questioned as DMG minutes are e-mailed to all members.

**ACTION: DH / KC to discuss with CEO the governance necessity of having DMG minutes publicly accessible on the website.**

4.4.3 It was agreed that a members' area would be costly and not used by a majority of the membership.

4.5 Images: It was suggested that uniformity of images would enhance the professional image, and it would be possible to obtain photos of most members at the Nationals. These images could also be used by clubs. SP suggested contacting Michaela Greene.

**ACTION: KC to follow up with SP**

### 4.6 Club pages

4.6.1 It was discussed that a simpler site would be preferred, to signpost to club websites rather than GBWR holding all information on players etc. This would give clubs ownership of their online presence.

4.6.2 CP noted that pitchero is efficient and cost effective for hosting the Hawks' site, and other clubs may

benefit from this setup.

**ACTION: KC to determine potential for pitchero to cater for wheelchair rugby clubs specifically.**

4.7 Content: It was discussed that the GBWR site should contain more information about the sport and GBWR, including videos. Promo videos for the Hawks and LWRC were presented as example.

4.8 News: It was agreed that having notice boxes for recent updates is useful, and clubs should continue to provide details to DH of any relevant items they would like to feature on the GBWR site.

**ACTION: DH to update GBWR site with news of Pirates featuring on Channel 4, AT to provide details.**

**ACTION: Clubs to continue providing news updated for DH to feature on GBWR website**

*[DS joined meeting]*

## 5. AOB

### 5.1 Glue

5.1.2 SP noted the increase in glue usage, which has forced usage on others for competition. Also noted was the indication that the IWRF will look to eliminate glue from the game in the near future and it was suggested that alternatives should be sought now and that GBWR could lead on this.

5.1.3 2 wheelchair rugby ball prototypes were presented as alternatives to glue due to improved grip, one with a textured finish, the other smooth. The textured ball has received the most positive feedback at LWRC. Pirates were provided the prototypes to train with and provide feedback.

5.1.4 It was suggested that GBWR could obtain a batch of prototypes for clubs to train with.

**ACTION: KC / SP to discuss and progress**

5.1.5 It was also noted that glue can discourage hall providers from permitting wheelchair rugby, and this may improve the sports' relationship with certain providers. It was however noted that damage to softer floors is also a cause of venues denying access.

5.1.6 Referring to the interest in inclusivity, it was suggested that the balls could be manufactured in smaller sizes (Youth players) or brighter colours (for those with visual impairments)

5.1.7 It was agreed that once the balls had been ordered, the DMG would meet to agree on a competition introduction date, to allow time to train with the new balls and acclimatise to playing without glue.

### 5.2 League dates

5.2.1 SP noted that the introduction of divisions and more teams has reduced the number of league games for Division 1 teams.

5.2.2 It was discussed that the remedy would be removing the division split or adding a weekend. KC commented that a division split would be most appropriate given the increasing number of teams.

5.2.3 It was noted that an increase in weekends increase costs for clubs / members. It was suggested that weekends could feature a selection of teams only, to reduce the number of weekends each team is present at, however LS noted that the DMG previously agreed it was important for the social aspect to have all teams present.

5.2.4 It was suggested that round robins could be played, with the bottom 2 teams not progressing to finals, however it was noted that here those teams would play fewer games still.

5.2.5 CP noted that a division split was important as Division 2 teams cannot compete with Division 1, however SP indicated that Division 1 teams would aim to give the Division 2 teams an opportunity to develop in these matches, including loaning players.

5.2.6 It was suggested that there would be difficulty in getting Officials to more weekends, and the need for more Officials was highlighted.

5.2.7 KC suggested that increased regional competition could take the place of fewer league games

5.2.8 It was suggested that an extra weekend for Division 1 would provide the lost league games, and not

- financially burden developing teams.
- 5.2.9 SP noted that previously the GB structure eliminated the league as developing players wanted to compete with Elite, however KC noted that now Talent ID would identify talented players and support them into Division 1 teams. CP suggested this can harm developing clubs as it can leave them without their most talented player and diminish player numbers
- 5.2.10 It was suggested that the Christmas tournament could be replaced with an extra Division 1 weekend, with the option of a 'fun' tournament in the summer.
- 5.2.11 It was agreed that the structure should be reviewed annually.  
**ACTION: DMG to review**
- 5.2.12 The DMG agreed the following league dates for 13-14:  
 12-13<sup>th</sup> Oct 2013: SS1 (Divisions 1 & 2)  
 30<sup>th</sup> Nov – 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 2013: SS2 (replacing Christmas tournament, Divisions 1 & 2)  
 15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> Feb 2014: SS3 (Divisions 1 & 2)  
 15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> Mar 2014: SS4 (Divisions tbc, depending on number of clubs)  
 April: Bernd Best & Europa Cup  
 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> May 2014: Nationals  
**ACTION: KC to book venues**
- 5.2.13 The DMG agreed the following league dates for the current 12-13 season:  
 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> Feb 2013: SS1 (venue tbc)  
 27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> April 2013: SS2 at Stoke Mandeville  
 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> May 2013: SS3 at Medway, Kent  
 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> May 2013: Nationals
- 5.2.14 Potential SS1 2013 venues were discussed, with a Southend proposal proving difficult for Crushers / Hawks. It was suggested that Midlands venues are ideally situated, and to overcome issues with accommodating all clubs in one venue, 2 nearby venues could be used so that teams can socialise together in the evening. It was suggested that GB Wheelchair Basketball may have suitable venues.  
**ACTION: KC & LS to research and book venue(s)**
- 5.3 Recruitment: KC summarised recent and upcoming recruitment of Regional Development Officers, Performance Director and Head Coach. SP and KC, as panel members, confirmed that a high calibre of candidates had been interviewed, with experience both in wheelchair rugby and networking in other sports.
- 5.4 Insurance / membership**
- 5.4.1 Youth Players in Division 1: LS raised an issue raised earlier by the Warriors. They are in Division 1 yet have a player under 18 in their first team and would like clarification on whether this is acceptable as they operate under separate insurance. It was clarified that all teams in the league must adhere to the rules agreed by the DMG, however it was noted that the Warriors agreed to participation before the age limits were set. SP noted that the age limits were set for safety and should not be altered. DS noted that the Warriors could move to Division 2, or use that player in the Nationals only when facing Division 2 teams.  
**ACTION: KC / DH to discuss with CEO**  
**ACTION: KC to discuss final decision with Warriors**
- 5.4.2 Insurance: CP highlighted a recent RFU case, wherein the club was sued for injury to a player despite being insured through the RFU, and noted that clubs being incorporated avoids the ability for them to be sued directly.  
**ACTION: KC to discuss possible implications with CEO**
- 5.4.3 Staff membership: SP and AT queried the possibility of floating membership. It was clarified that the



membership categories are set for this season and that the insurance policy does not permit this. It was questioned whether this could be introduced at the next insurance renewal. It was clarified that non-members may only attend for a maximum of 3 sessions on a trial basis, with further attendance requiring membership, with these sessions limited to training and not including tournaments. It was discussed that once GBWR implement a club affiliation structure, it may be more feasible for clubs to operate with a pool of support staff who do not require direct GBWR membership. It was clarified that, for example, assistants with personal / professional insurance are permitted to attend tournaments / training to assist with their designated person but are not permitted to otherwise become involved.

**ACTION: DH / KC to discuss with CEO**

5.5 KJ noted a requirement that all clubs must utilise mats at tournaments, and KC clarified that GBWR would supply these to clubs at SS1 from 2012 Legacy Equipment.

**ACTION: KC to provide Legacy Equipment to clubs**

5.6 DONM

**ACTION: KC to confirm, DH to source venue**

*[Post meeting note: DONM to be 28<sup>th</sup> March, venue tbc]*