



DMG 4 JUNE 15: MEETING RECORD

Present

DP	David Pond	GBWR CEO	
KC	Kirsty Clarke	GBWR NDD	
LS	Lee Stutely	GBWR Events & Competition Officer	
AT	Amanda Thomas	GBWR Regional Development Officer Wales	
PA	Paul Arnold	GBWR Regional Development Officer South	
BW	Brian Ward	GBWR Head of Officiating	[conference call]
DH	Daniel Hook	GBWR Corporate & Membership Secretary	
SJ	Steve Jones	Ospreys WR	
DM	Darren Matthews	MTWRC	
SM	Shirley Massey	MTWRC	
DG	Dave Goddard	LWRC	
VB	Vince Barton	Team Solent Sharks	
JC	Jonny Collingwood	North East Bulls	
MS	Matt Sullivan	RGC	
DD	Dave Durston	Gloucester WR	
BP	Brian Pitchford	Canterbury Hellfire	
SB	Steve Brown	Canterbury Hellfire	[from item 2.11.3]

Apologies

Jo Arnold	GBWR Regional Development Officer North
Lorraine Brown	GBWR Performance Director
West Coast Crash	
Westcountry Hawks	
Woodbridge Wheeled Warriors	
Caledonian Crushers	
Gaelic Warriors	

Minutes

1. Minutes of last meeting 19 Mar 15

- 1.1. VB highlighted a need for clarity over which decisions were to be made in-meeting, and which were to be sent out for e-mail responses post-meeting.

ACTION: KC

2. CEO presentation

- 2.1. 2014
 - 2.1.1. 2014 highlights were noted: volunteers, the Invictus Games and membership increase
- 2.2. New partnerships
 - 2.2.1. Roma: sponsorship for the Nationals, WWRC15 and the R&D project with Performance team.
 - 2.2.2. Wales: Good work on RGC and Ospreys partnerships noted, but will look for more funding support here and in Scotland.



- 2.3. BT
 - 2.3.1. A good partnership when larger NGBs are failing to find sponsors.
 - 2.3.2. Beyond financial support, this will provide increased profile for the sport.
 - 2.3.3. Two BT Ambassadors (GB players) to be announced soon.
 - 2.3.4. Youth Programme: Necessary for the sport's sustainability – a manager has been recruited, to be announced soon.
 - 2.3.5. Competition: BT National Championships and BT Super Series.
- 2.4. 2015
 - 2.4.1. Three new clubs preparing to join and others starting up too – only introducing new clubs where there is a marketplace and they will be sustainable.
 - 2.4.2. Europeans: Gold medal target for GB – require 1st / 2nd finish to qualify for Rio.
 - 2.4.3. BT WWRC15
 - 2.4.3.1. ITV live broadcast.
 - 2.4.3.2. Ticket sales should peak leading up to event.
 - 2.4.3.3. Clubs asked to support promotion via social media.
- 2.5. New challenges
 - 2.5.1. There is a need to grow infrastructure to support the sport's growth.
 - 2.5.2. Nationals
 - 2.5.2.1. The current format is logistically / financially unsustainable with the number of teams.
 - 2.5.2.2. This should remain a showcase event.
- 2.6. Costs
 - 2.6.1. UK Sport / Sport England
 - 2.6.1.1. Need to meet UK Sport / Sport England targets.
 - 2.6.1.2. Risk of not being funded e.g. basketball / swimming.
 - 2.6.2. Clubs
 - 2.6.2.1. Want to support clubs to be self-sufficient.
 - 2.6.2.2. Need to have open dialogue to avoid partnership conflicts.
- 2.7. GBWR Membership: Costs of supporting the Membership (insurance, safeguarding etc.) were highlighted to demonstrate the disparity between these costs and Membership fee income, with this difference made up by other funding.
- 2.8. Sport comparisons
 - 2.8.1. Competition costs in other sports were presented, highlighting that GBWR is unique in not charging for competitions.
 - 2.8.2. GBWR previously charged competition fees 5 years ago, however this was changed when the sport was professionalised and events were sponsored.
- 2.9. Competition costs: The cost of running the 14-15 Super Series weekends and the BT National Championships was outlined.
- 2.10. 2015 – 16 fees
 - 2.10.1. Fees for 15-16 competition were presented – the fees will not cover competition costs, and the difference will be met by sponsorship.
 - 2.10.2. It was confirmed that Membership fees would remain unchanged for a second year.
- 2.11. Discussion on above points
 - 2.11.1. DM questioned whether the increased cost of the Nationals translated to a better experience and if this served primarily as a test event for BT WWRC15, and noted the increased cost of a 3 day competition.
 - 2.11.1.1. DP clarified that clubs are not being asked to pay fees to supplement the cost of the Nationals at the Copper Box Arena. The Nationals were not used as a test event, although there was some benefit in seeing how the venue works in competition. This was an attempt to raise the profile of the event. Initial feedback has been positive.
 - 2.11.1.2. LS noted that a 3 day competition was necessary to accommodate the number of teams.



- 2.11.2. DM noted that on reflection there were no tangible benefits to the competition being held in London – player experience would have been enhanced by providing catering, physio etc.
- 2.11.3. DM noted that Super Series 14-15 D1 had some of the highest level competition ever seen in GB, however this did not carry forward to the Nationals due to the divisions being mixed.

[SB arrived]

- 2.11.4. DM felt that the event focus was BT, noting use of the central court on Monday.
- 2.11.4.1. DP clarified that this was intended to improve the spectator experience to focus on the final games.
- 2.11.4.2. KC noted the increased number of spectators compared with previous events.
- 2.11.5. DD noted that there is a need for showcase events for the future of the sport.
- 2.11.5.1. DP agreed however noted that the Nationals can return to being a low key event if that is the Membership's preference, however sponsorship is difficult without a marketable product.
- 2.11.5.2. DD suggested holding a European invitational, and SJ suggested a 6 Nations. DP noted that these have been considered, however there would be issues around cost / resources and identifying competitive European teams. SB noted an oversaturation of competition, evidenced by the Europa Cup being cancelled.
- 2.11.6. DP noted the importance of the evaluation survey in understanding the needs of the Membership.

ACTION: DH to resend survey link

- 2.12. Articles of Association
- 2.12.1. Reviewing the Articles
- 2.12.1.1. The last changes took place when GBWR transitioned from an association to a limited company.
- 2.12.1.2. GBWR currently has Articles and a Memorandum of Association – moving forward this will be streamlined to only Articles of Association.
- 2.12.1.3. The Articles have been prepared by law firm Farrer & Co.
- 2.12.1.4. The new Articles will need to be approved by the Membership at the AGM.
- 2.12.2. The following were confirmed to be remaining the same:
- 2.12.2.1. GBWR's objects.
- 2.12.2.2. GBWR will be a company limited by guarantee.
- 2.12.3. The main changes were highlighted.
- 2.12.3.1. The Board will now set Membership fees. This will help budget planning. The current process of approval by Membership at the AGM was carried over from the period as an Association.
- 2.12.3.2. The Board will now elect a Vice-Chair – this is Mike Spence.
- 2.12.3.3. Provision for proxy voting is now included, allowing a Member to ask someone to attend the AGM and vote in their stead. This will remove the requirement for the meeting to be quorate, although it was highlighted that attending the AGM is still recommended for greater clarity. Proxy voting is a requirement by Company Law, and so will be available at this AGM before adoption of the new Articles.

ACTION: DP to confirm percentage of votes required to pass a resolution



- 2.13. Board interviews
- 2.13.1. Interviews are being held to recruit for Trustees to look after GBWR's Legal and HR portfolio.
- 2.13.2. GBWR is presently the only Olympic / Paralympic NGB without a female Director / Trustee. Whilst diversity is sought, the strongest candidate will be selected regardless of other factors.
- 2.14. AGM 2015: This will be held 15 July at the Leicester Marriott, following the DMG.

3. Club Affiliation

- 3.1. KC shared draft club affiliation documents.
- 3.2. RDOs will complete the affiliation application with clubs, and submit to the Board's Governance & Finance Sub-Committee for review.
- 3.3. The process will be staggered over 3 phases, with clubs with a more established infrastructure partaking first.
- 3.4. Comments on the documents:
 - 3.4.1. VB requested an anti-doping policy be available, which can serve as a basis for a club policy.

ACTION: KC to provide policy; DH to make available on website

- 3.4.2. DD noted that the start date of the club may be unclear where clubs have formed from RFU clubs etc, and KC confirmed that RDOs will work with clubs to identify an appropriate date.
- 3.4.3. JC noted that the Bulls are an established club with limited infrastructure, and would welcome further discussion around partnership support from other organisations (e.g. Falcons / universities), and KC confirmed that the RDO will look to support.

4. AOB

- 4.1. MTWRC proposal
 - 4.1.1. DM shared a paper outlining a proposal for D1 teams to enter a development team in D2, with these players remaining on the D1 season roster. This would benefit players through increased court time and exposure to D1 competition for development players. It was also suggested that this could extend to D2 / D3.
 - 4.1.2. The DMG discussed the proposal and offered the following comments:
 - 4.1.2.1. If the D1 team were relegated, there would be a question over whether the D2 development team would be collapsed.
 - 4.1.2.2. Unfair on D2 teams and players to populate D2 with development teams and D1 players.
 - 4.1.2.3. Any new teams should start at the lowest division, not D2.
 - 4.1.2.4. The league needs consistency so this idea would need greater clarity to avoid having a changing system.
 - 4.1.2.5. The current potential to loan players was discussed, however this differs to the proposal in preventing a player to continue playing for their original team.
 - 4.1.2.6. Comparisons were drawn with the wheelchair basketball system, wherein players can play up a division. The difference between players playing up a division rather than playing down a division was discussed. Additionally, the basketball system permits this for a limited number of games only.
 - 4.1.2.7. Having a spare team place was discussed, which could be populated with players wishing to partake – however it was noted that this provides an inconsistency in the league. It was



- also suggested that such players could form a new team at the start of the season, however they would be required to start at the lowest division.
- 4.1.2.8. It was questioned if a player is not good enough to get court time in D1, they may be better suited to a D2 team.
 - 4.1.3. In summary it was agreed that no changes would be made, although transfers are still available as per league rules (1 change per player per season). Coaches can also advise GBWR if they have players wishing to play for other teams and GBWR will look to facilitate them into another team. Additionally, players wishing to form a new team may do so as per league rules (notifying GBWR 3 months prior to the season and starting in the lowest division).
 - 4.2. Classification
 - 4.2.1. This year, GBWR has grown from having 1 classifier to 3 international classifiers and 3 developing.
 - 4.2.2. Sixty one player classifications took place this year.
 - 4.2.3. Clubs were reminded to contact AT asap where players require classification.
 - 4.3. Game variants
 - 4.3.1. GBWR is funded by Sport England to support development of game variants for those who do not classify.
 - 4.3.2. Insurance is being confirmed as we are insured for the game as is, and the variants may not be included.
 - 4.3.3. The risk of game variants proving more popular due to players having higher functionality and providing a faster paced game were noted, however GBWR intends to protect the game in its current form, but also meet demand from new groups. Having ownership of the variants will better place GBWR to protect the sport.
 - 4.4. Officials' training day
 - 4.4.1. AT outlined a training day for existing officials and newcomers.
 - 4.4.2. The course will be free, however expenses cannot be reimbursed.
 - 4.4.3. The day takes place on 25th July in Birmingham and details will soon be available via the GBWR website.
- 5. DONM**
- 5.1. This was agreed as 15 July 15 at the Leicester Marriott, at the later start time of 1300 due to the AGM taking place at the same venue following this meeting.