



Record of Domestic Management Group dated 6th March 2014

Present: KC Kirsty Clarke GBWR National Development Director
PA Paul Arnold GBWR Regional Development Officer South, East and London
LS Lee Stutely GBWR Events and Competition Officer
BW Brian Ward GBWR Head of Officiating [via Skype]
LB Lorraine Brown Performance Director [joined during item 4.2]
DH Daniel Hook GBWR Corporate & Membership Secretary
DW Danny Dawoud West Coast Crash
VB Vince Barton Solent Sharks [left during item 7.5]
NB Neville Burrell MTWRC [joined during item 4.1]
DM Darren Matthews MTWRC
SM Shirley Massey MTWRC
SP Steven Palmer LWRC
JD Jim Deering South Wales Pirates

1. Meeting opened

1.1 Apologies

Amanda Thomas GBWR Regional Development Officer Wales & South West
Jo Arnold GBWR Regional Development Officer North & Midlands
Jonny Collingwood North East Bulls
Ryan Cowling West Coast Crash
Tony Stackhouse North Wales Dragons
Chris Perkins Westcountry Hawks
Paul Black Caledonian Crushers
Richard Wilding Woodbridge Wheeled Warriors
Nicole Talbot Gloucester Wheelchair Rugby Club
Garrett Culliton Gaelic Warriors

1.2 KC apologised for the late postponement of the previous DMG meeting, and indicated the intention to invite coaches to the next DMG meeting to be hosted by CEO.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

2.1. All actions completed, with the exception of:

2.2. Coach CPD to be developed.

ACTION: KC / LB

2.3. League locations to be discussed at this meeting.

2.4. Classification to be discussed at this meeting.

3. Website

3.1. KC highlighted new GBWR website

3.2. It was noted that this is a work in progress, and that feedback is welcome.

3.2.1. DM noted lack of clarity regarding navigation, including locating minutes.

3.2.2. VB noted that Coloplast Super Series opens to a blank page, rather than current season.

3.2.3. SP suggested that displaying club logos when hovering over map markers would be beneficial.

3.2.4. SP noted that updated logos for LWRC teams were required.

3.2.5. PA questioned GBWR's page ranking on Google.

ACTION: Clubs to request further feedback / suggestions from club members

ACTION: Clubs to provide high quality photos for website if available

ACTION: DH to clarify navigation to DMG

ACTION: DH to forward comments 3.2.2, 3.2.3 and 3.2.5 to site developers during review

ACTION: SP to provide DH with updated LWRC team logos, DH to update website

4. Competition

4.1. Feedback

4.1.1. It was noted that there has been limited feedback received from SS2.

4.1.2. Limited space at DMU was noted, and it was observed that this venue's capacity would limit use for future large competition.

4.1.3. Safety concerns were noted as support staff were observed walking across court areas, and a safety brief was suggested.

4.1.4. Safety concerns were also noted over visibility of photographers – high visibility jackets were suggested.

4.1.5. The need for onsite medics was discussed. KC advised that LS is present as a qualified First Aider, in addition to assigned First Aiders at venues. St John's was considered however would be unable to offer the support required by many members.

ACTION: LS to draft Safety Brief

4.2. Venues 14-15

4.2.1. The possibility of a single / central venue was discussed. Fenton Manor was proposed, however SP noted that this location offers poor exposure for the sport. It was suggested that this lack of exposure could be countered by increased regional activity by clubs, supported by RDOs – KC noted the potential of University venues and workforce.

4.2.2. Alternatively, the league and Nationals could take place regionally (South, North, Midlands and Wales).

4.2.3. It was agreed that a vote would take place to confirm, with Survey Monkey to be used.

4.3. Dates 14-15

4.3.1. Super Series

SS1 D1: 1-2 Nov 14

SS2 D1: 21-22 Feb 15

SS3 D1: 11-12 Apr 15

SS1 D2: 22-23 Nov 14

SS2 D2: 7-8 Feb 15

SS3 D2: 21-22 Mar 15

4.3.2. Nationals: 2-4 May 15, planned to be held at the Copperbox.

4.3.3. Low Point Tournaments

GB LPT: 11-12 Oct 14 (provisional, to be team entries)

Swiss LPT: 17-19 Oct 14

Bulls LPT: Dec (provisional)

Crushers tournament: provisional

ACTION: DH to arrange Survey Monkey voting re: single / mixed venue locations

ACTION: LS to confirm dates of Bulls LPT and potential Crushers tournament

ACTION: LS to distribute calendar

[Post meeting note: venue location vote took place, with a single venue location the preferred option]



4.4 Divisions

4.4.1 It was noted that there are a potential 5 new teams preparing to join the league, and therefore D3 will be required.

4.4.2 Accommodating more teams was discussed, and it was suggested that D2 and D3 could take place during 1 weekend, although this would reduce the number of games D2 have when compared to 13-14 season. VB noted that some players would be disappointed whereas others may welcome reduced games

4.4.3 VB noted the need for mobility across divisions, and requested the promotion/relegation be readdressed, concerning 1 or 2 teams to be promoted / relegated.

4.4.4 It was noted that this should be readdressed when the teams competing in 14-15 were confirmed.

4.4.5 It was questioned whether there were sufficient funds / Officials to cater for this growth. BW confirmed an increase in the number of available officials. KC acknowledged the financial challenge however noted a focus on developing workforce. KC also highlighted that there may need to be a shift from a centralised support model as clubs increase their own financial sustainability. It was also noted that funds for development and competition are received through different streams and that competition would not suffer as a result of other development. LS noted a previous DMG preference for lower cost venues in favour of increased competitions, and that this would provide game opportunities.

ACTION: DMG to discuss Competition rules 3 months prior to new season

ACTION: DMG to vote on Competition rules 2 months prior to new season

4.5 Nationals 2014

4.5.1 For scheduling purposes, a need to confirm teams participating is required.

4.5.2 LS presented options based on 12, 14 and 16 team scenarios. 12 team option would be based on all clubs entering 1 team only. 14 team option would allow no new teams to enter at the Nationals- it was suggested that teams benefit from league competition with teams at a similar level before entering the Nationals.

4.5.3 It was suggested that the Nationals could operate as per the 2 SS Divisions – a Cup and Shield. A crossover day between the tournaments would maintain the social atmosphere to the competition.

ACTION: DH to arrange Survey Monkey vote re: rulings for teams to enter the Nationals

ACTION: KC to update rules based on results

ACTION: LS to provide summary of options for DMG to vote on

ACTION: DH to arrange Survey Monkey vote for DMG

[Post meeting note: Nationals entry vote took place, with teams entering only after completing a full Super Series the preferred option]

[Post meeting note: options for Nationals format distributed and vote took place, with Option 2 the preferred choice]

Nationals 2015

4.5.4 It was noted that expanding the Nationals further would be logistically impossible

4.5.5 A need to remain competitive and developmental was also noted, with this possibly achievable through a Divisional separation.

4.6 AGM / Challenge Cup/ Awards

4.6.1 DMG agreed 5th Sept evening AGM, 6th Sept Challenge Cup and Awards evening at Midlands venue.



4.6.2 Members to enter on individual basis, with teams constructed on experience / classification basis.

ACTION: DH / LS to look at Leicester Marriott / DMU

5. Rules

5.1. DMG to agree and confirm rules 2 months prior to season start

5.2. Classification

5.2.1. It was noted that some 4.5 players have been permitted to play as 4.0 players in the league, to enable clubs with limited player bases to participate

5.2.2. DMG agreed to current league rulings wherein there is no 0.5 reduction for >45 years / female players classified at 4.0.

5.2.3. DMG agreed no allowance for 4.5 players as other programmes exist for these individuals and there is a need to protect the sport.

5.2.4. DMG agreed 4.0 players to be permitted in the league, however their presence at the Nationals forfeits Europa Cup qualification.

5.2.5. A preference for preseason classification was noted, however the logistical difficulty was acknowledged.

5.2.6. DMG agreed classification panels to be introduced in instances of protests. These are to include a momentum of 1 rep from 50% of other teams at competition and 1 neutral GBWR / event rep who presents case.

ACTION: KC / LS to discuss with 4.5 players

6. Roma

6.1. KC noted that a partnership had been established, with agreed preferential rates for GBWR members (when ordering via GBWR).

6.2. LB discussed Roma's 12 month programme to develop a WCP chair, and noted the innovative setup also congratulated by UK Sport.

6.3. NB noted that current providers have poor advertising / promotion, and suggested a brochure would be beneficial. KC advised that Roma are expected to attend the Nationals.

6.4. An approximate 4-6 week lead time was confirmed.

6.5. It was noted that Roma chairs would benefit from Velcro at the back to make adjustments more easily.

ACTION: KC to forward point 6.5 to Roma

7. AOB

7.1. WWRC15

7.1.1. 8 teams participating, to coincide with the IRB World Cup 15.

7.1.2. To also include youth, military and RugbyWheels programmes.

7.1.3. There will be engagement with other cities to mirror IRB tournament.

7.2. Coaching CPD: LB noted a conference to be run later this year.

7.3. Hall of Fame: SP noted that only Bob O'Shea has been inducted into the hall of fame, and suggested that a new member should be inducted this year.

ACTION: DMG to consider and provide DH with nomination text prior to DMG

ACTION: DMG to vote

ACTION: DH to add Hall of Fame to website

[Post meeting note: GBWR looking at recognition as part of the new membership model, to be presented at AGM for approval]

7.4 Issues with new players

7.4.1 SP noted the issue of non classifiable players taking court time at training sessions from those with GB aspirations. LS noted potential benefits as training partners for high pointers. It was suggested that well managed court time could allow opportunities for all, however it would not be attractive to invite players to sessions with limited court time. The Japanese paraplegic version of the game was discussed, although funds were not currently available. It was questioned whether non classifiable players should pay full membership fees when not participating in tournaments.

7.4.2 Players with psychological issues. SP noted his discomfort working with such individuals without adequate training. The time devoted to such individuals also impacts on other members. SP noted that he had advised he could not support the player due to GBWR restricting involvement without sufficient training. KC noted that this was not an appropriate response, and that GBWR will look to support clubs when faced with such issues. It was also noted that clubs should glean as much information as possible from potential new players. This should form part of a regular risk assessment that is undertaken when delivering sessions. If there is an identified risk it needs to be tackled as not to impact upon session and measures taken for future mitigation.

7.4.3 DM noted similar issues with a visually impaired player attending training sessions. The potential for negative publicity was also noted if such situations are not handled carefully.

ACTION: DH to confirm membership fee situation with CEO

ACTION: KC to look at guidelines

[Post meeting note: A reduction in fees is not available this membership season, however this will be considered within the new membership model]

7.5 Visibility of numbers: BW noted that some shirt numbers are difficult to see during games. It was noted that this matter had been raised previously and needs to be addressed. LWRC and MTWRC confirmed that new kit was on order.

ACTION: Clubs to update kit at earliest opportunity.

8. DONM

8.1. Agreed to be held 5th June, with club coaches to be invited.

ACTION: DH to confirm venue