



Record of Domestic Management Group dated 8 January 2015

Present: KC Kirsty Clarke GBWR National Development Director
LB Lorraine Brown GBWR Performance Director
PA Paul Arnold GBWR Regional Development Officer South, East and London
BW Brian Ward GBWR Head of Officiating [video conference call]*
DDuf Deb Duffield GBWR Classifier [left at end item 6.]
JB Julie Bunnage WWRC15 Community Programme Manager
DH Daniel Hook GBWR Corporate & Membership Secretary
KJ Keith Jones Ospreys
FJ Fran Jenkins Ospreys
JC Jonny Collingwood North East Bulls
RC Ryan Cowling West Coast Crash
DM Darren Matthews MTWRC
GK-A Graham Kamaly-Asl MTWRC
SM Shirley Massey MTWRC
SP Steven Palmer LWRC
CP Ciaran Pryce Caledonian Crushers [video conference call]*
VB Vince Barton Solent Sharks
MS Martin Saych Woodbridge Wheeled Warriors
SH Stephen Hind Woodbridge Wheeled Warriors
DDur David Durston Gloucester [video conference call]*
BP Brian Pitchford Canterbury

*[all video conferencing disconnected at end of item 5., with intermittent connection thereafter]

- 1.** Meeting opening
 - 1.1. Apologies
 - 1.1.1. Rygbi Gogledd Cymru
 - 1.1.2. Westcountry Hawks
 - 1.1.3. Gaelic Warriors
 - 1.1.4. Lee Stutely GBWR Events & Competition Officer
 - 1.1.5. Amanda Thomas GBWR Regional Development Officer Wales & South West
 - 1.1.6. Jo Arnold GBWR Regional Development Officer North & Midlands
 - 1.2. Introduction
 - 1.2.1. KC welcomed all and attendees introduced themselves
- 2.** Nationals
 - 2.1. KC advised that due to recent developments, this item would be postponed until GBWR are in a position to make announcements.
- 3.** Classification
 - 3.1. KC introduced DDuf and advised that this was an opportunity for club reps to pose any questions they have regarding classification.
 - 3.2. DDuf led the classification discussion, and advised that classifiers would not be present at all competition, and welcome engagement with clubs to ensure players are seen.

- 3.3. VB queried how we arrived at a situation wherein >4.0 players were being classified as 4.0 only to later be reclassified ineligible. KC clarified that this arose to support the growth of new clubs however was curbed to maintain the integrity of the game. KJ queried current situation regarding 4.0 players

ACTION: KC to confirm

[post meeting note: as per GBWR competition rules 'Players with a classification between 0.5 and 4.0 are permitted to compete in the GBWR league.']

- 3.4. The distinction between ineligible and unclassifiable players was outlined as ineligible players having a classification too high to play and unclassifiable players demonstrating a discrepancy between testing and on-court actions through non-cooperation or medical reasons.
- 3.5. GK-A queried whether other countries were as scrupulous with classification and how this impacted Performance. LB advised that other teams now appear to have more robust systems in place than several years ago, and that in any case it benefits GB to have a reliable classification system going into internationals with confidence of playing classes. DDuf commented on the availability of information now that allows classifiers to cross reference against the database conveniently.
- 3.6. It was discussed that appeals can be lodged by classifiers as well as teams should a player appear to be mis-classified.
- 3.7. It was noted that classifiers are open to discussion with teams if there are any queries or concerns.
- 3.8. Trunk classification was outlined and a draft trunk test was presented.
- 3.9. SP queried whether other issues are considered, e.g. players breathing with lungs or diaphragm. DDuf explained that this was not presently addressed as classification is based in the SCI roots of the sport where such issues were less prevalent, however where a concern is noted in the sport, classifiers will look to respond (as has been evidenced with trunk and hand classification progression).
- 3.10. Development of hand classification was outlined, where the gap between a 3.0 and 4.0 hand is to be reduced with the neurologically normal hand being classed as 3.5 not 4.0. It was noted that this would impact 3-4 players across the IWRF database. KJ queried how equipment benefits / hindrance was accounted for and it was advised that classification aims to reflect the player's ability not any impact of equipment.
- 3.11. New assessments being developed for CP athletes were discussed, which give consistent assessments.
- 3.12. Sensory loss and fatigue were discussed as potential classification issues, however it was discussed that these are primarily matters for players and teams to manage rather than items for classifiers to consider.
- 3.13. It was clarified that classification is calculated as $((\text{left hand} + \text{right hand})/2) + \text{trunk}$. A review of the player on court is also undertaken.
- 3.14. The drop in classes over time was discussed, with many club reps noting that as a new player today their specific disabilities would not allow them to be competitive in their class. DDuf noted that this was also due to the increased involvement of non-SCI players born with disabilities, who have greater experience managing movement. KJ highlighted that any issue



teams have with classification boundaries is not the fault of classifiers and teams would have to direct the NGB to raise the issue if needed.

- 3.15. KJ congratulated the classifiers for taking positive steps to incorporate other disabilities in the classification process.
- 3.16. DDur queried the situation with 4.0 players pending a classification for SS2

ACTION: KC to confirm

[post meeting note: 4.0 players are permitted to compete in SS2 if they have been seen by a classifier during the current season, or have otherwise had permission from GBWR. 4.0 players classified in previous seasons require a review of this classification before they may compete. Clubs have previously been made aware and GBWR thank those who have liaised with us regarding this matter.]

- 3.17. KC highlighted the recent growth with GBWR now having 2 classifiers, a third now completing the process and 4 trainees.
- 3.18. KC requested that all classification requests go to DH / Amanda Thomas.

4. Coaching update

- 4.1. PA led discussion on GBWR's coaching progression.
- 4.2. It was noted that following the referendum, GBWR would continue to engage with Scotland.
- 4.3. The work of the Technical Coaching Group was outlined.
- 4.4. The development of a coaching qualification was discussed, with this following work with First for Sport. It is anticipated that a course pilot will be available in July / August, to then be rolled out to current coaches. The course could be extended outside of the sport at a later date.
- 4.5. A mentoring programme was also discussed, wherein experienced club coaches would support new clubs. This is due to be rolled out soon.

5. WWRC15 Update

- 5.1. JB was introduced as Community Programme Manager and outlined the initial programme.
- 5.2. It was noted that the community programme was funded by Sport England and London, and the programme would have a focus on London as the tournament takes place there. There will be national engagement however, mirroring the Rugby World Cup (RWC) fan zones.
- 5.3. VB queried ticketing for the tournament. It was advised that ticketing was being confirmed however we will look to provide preferential access for members. Level of accessible seating was queried by SP and it was advised that this was being discussed, with the possibility of utilising the top tier as all wheelchair seating. The Nationals would also be an opportunity to look at seating.

ACTION: KC to make Martyn Salt aware of members' wish to have preferential access

- 5.4. Events for the community programme will be separate and free of charge, but will require attendees to register for tickets.
- 5.5. The programme for fan zone days was queried and it was noted that each fan zone would be tailored to the needs of the area and to feed into local partners / RWC.



5.6. DM queried whether GBWR have access to RWC tickets and it was confirmed that this is not possible.

6. Membership and club affiliation

6.1. KC shared hard copy documentation with the DMG, which would be taken back for full review within clubs.

ACTION: KC to distribute electronic copy

6.2. It was outlined that individual membership would be retained under the new system, with club affiliation added.

6.3. This would promote professionalisation and good practice, with clubs needing to have certain policies and procedures in place.

6.4. Minimum criteria would be set for clubs, to consist of 5 players and 2 courtside staff. It was clarified that these did not need to be the same individuals throughout a year and that the club would just need to ensure that its membership consists of these minimum numbers at any one time. DM queried whether the minimums would apply to MTWRC's 2 teams or collectively as a club. It was advised that this applies to clubs and would depend on whether MTWRC wished to remain as a single club, or instead have the 2 teams operate as distinct clubs. It was advised that the 5 players need not have classifications eligible for the league, and may be recreational / training players only.

6.5. VB queried whether players without an affiliated club to join could still register, and this was confirmed although it was noted that the process should allow players to join affiliated clubs easily.

6.6. It was confirmed that club affiliation would undergo an annual review for clubs to ensure all details are up to date, however RDO engagement would identify any major changes earlier.

6.7. It was confirmed that GBWR were happy for clubs to adopt GBWR template policies or implement their own (provided they are appropriate). It was noted that the latter would be particularly relevant for clubs affiliated with Rugby Football Union clubs or universities.

6.8. KC welcomed all comments from the DMG, and advised that a draft would also go out at a later date for final review.

7. AOB

7.1. Anti-doping

7.1.1. LB outlined the new WADA code – particularly longer terms and potential to investigate staff where there is cause to suspect their coercion.

ACTION: LB to distribute code

7.1.2. VB queried whether anti-doping would take place at the Super Series or Nationals. It was confirmed that this would not happen presently but was a future possibility.

7.1.3. KJ highlighted the importance of the banned substance list being available to club coaches, as non-international players are likely to take medicine without considering ingredients.

7.1.4. KJ also noted the potential benefit of regular anti-doping updates.

ACTION: LB to provide newsletter updates and engage GBWR CMO



- 7.2. Low Point Tournaments
- 7.2.1. SP noted funds to help support provision of low point competition.
- 7.2.2. SP also noted the Real Deal LPT in Germany, and suggested the possibility of a mixed team participating.
- 7.3. Team colours
- 7.3.1. SP noted the importance of each team having a light and dark kit.
- 7.3.2. It was also suggested that teams could advise kit preferences so that this could be built into schedules – allowing players to arrive at matches in correct skins and kit.

ACTION: Lee Stutely to look into

[post meeting note: for reference, all teams provide kit colours on team sheets and rulings advise that first team on schedule wears lighter colour, however to minimise confusion LS will look to colour code schedule in future.]

- 7.4. League start date
- 7.4.1. SP requested clarification over league start / end dates.

ACTION: KC / DH to confirm

[post meeting note: season start is first SS1, and closes at following Nationals - as per league rules, team registration and season rosters are required 3 and 1 month before season start respectively and these dates are set before the start of SS1 each season.]

- 7.5. Support staff membership
- 7.5.1. SP queried membership for support staff and the pool system was outlined.
- 7.6. Coach mentoring
- 7.6.1. KJ noted an occurrence where the presence of a D2 coach on a D3 bench was questioned – it was not apparent who had raised the question, however it may have been an official. It was confirmed that there are no rules preventing staff working with multiple clubs (as there are with player transfers being monitored). Furthermore, with a coach mentoring programme on the horizon, such engagement is to be encouraged, particularly with new teams.

ACTION: Lee Stutely to include note in information pack to clarify that coaches may work with multiple clubs

ACTION: BW to advise officials that mentoring may take place

- 7.7. League clashes with other dates
- 7.7.1. The possibility of scheduling future league weekends to avoid clashes with rugby union games was discussed. The cost impact of league events during school holidays was also noted. Although it was noted that avoiding clashes with all desired sporting events etc was not feasible as this would shift the season and thus impact Performance, we are happy to look at potential clashes when setting dates for future seasons.
- 7.8. Photography



- 7.8.1. MS noted that he would be taking photos at all D2/3 weekends and the SS3 D1, and that teams are welcome to request photos free of charge.
- 7.9. Playoff games
- 7.9.1. Scheduling options were requested.
- 7.9.2. Confirmation over whether promotion / relegation rules apply to just D1 / D2 or also D2 / D3 was requested.

ACTION: Lee Stutely to confirm

[post meeting note: scheduling options unavailable until close of SS2 at which point there will be an indication of teams involved – DMG to be updated at earliest opportunity]
[post meeting note: confirmed as per previous DMG discussion that rulings apply to D1/D2 and D2/D3].

- 7.10. GB camp at Lilleshall
- 7.10.1. LB outlined GB's new training base at Lilleshall which allows for permanent GPS and VA set up, with accessible accommodation.
- 7.10.2. The previous invite for club coaches to visit GB training was also noted as still open.
- 7.11. Ospreys
- 7.11.1. KJ noted the change of name for South Wales Pirates to Ospreys.

8. DONM

- 8.1. The next meeting was proposed for 12th March, Leicester Marriott or Midlands area.

[post meeting note: date changed to 19th March]

ACTION: DH to arrange / confirm

- 8.2. Other dates to be confirmed.

ACTION: KC to provide additional dates

[post meeting note: other dates proposed as below:

14th May

9th July

17th September

19th November]