



Record of Domestic Management Group dated 28th March 2013

Present: KC Kirsty Clarke GBWR National Development Director
DHo Daniel Hook GBWR Corporate & Membership Secretary
BW Brian Ward GBWR Head of Officiating
SA Susan Aldridge Official
LS Lee Stutely GBWR Regional Support Officer / West Coast Crash
CE Chris Ellis West Coast Crash
JP James Price Marauder Tigers
DM Darren Matthews Marauder Tigers
SP Steven Palmer LWRC
CP Chis Perkins West Country Hawks
DHu Donald Hutton Caledonian Crushers [video conference call]
VB Vince Barton Solent Sharks

1. Apologies

- 1.1 James Dearing South Wales Pirates
Noel Thomas North East Bulls
Dave Smart Marauder Tigers (provided update on 3.5/ low point tournament in advance)
Matt Sullivan North Wales Dragons
Garrett Culliton Gaelic Warriors
Amanda Thomas GBWR Regional Support Officer / South Wales Pirates
Bev Everton GBWR Team Manager
- 1.2 DMG introduced themselves.
- 1.3 KC observed that SA was present as an additional officiating rep to BW, and asked for DMG approval which was unanimous.

2. Minutes of the last meeting: actions were reviewed

- 2.1 Strategic Plan: DMG comments were fed to CEO, and plan will be finalised on CEO's return from vacation
- 2.2 Website: GBWR will discuss needs and DMG comments with current provider in April
ACTION: KC / DHo to feed back to DMG
- 2.3 Availability of DMG minutes
ACTION: KC / DHo to confirm with CEO whether DMG minutes must be publicly available
[Post-meeting note: CEO confirmed that minutes should be available for transparency]
- 2.4 Club websites: KC looking at pitchero and other options for club websites
ACTION: KC to feed back to clubs
- 2.5 Balls: KC has discussed with Richard Allcroft (GBWR / IWRF) and been informed that some wheelchair rudy balls had released for testing, however no further releases were expected at present. SP noted that conversations between Ross Morrison (GBWR) and John Bishop (IWRF) indicated that the smoother prototype would be taken forward.
ACTION: SP to provide Pirates' feedback to Ross Morrison
- 2.6 Tournament dates: to be discussed as separate item during meeting
- 2.7 Insurance: KC / DHo put proposal to CEO based on DMG comments regarding membership for support staff



ACTION: CEO will discuss with insurance provider.

ACTION: KC / DHo to feed back to DMG

3. GBWR staff team

3.1 KC outlined the new GBWR staff structure:

CEO: David Pond

National Development Director: KC

Performance Director: Lorraine Brown

Head Coach: Paul Shaw

Corporate & Membership Secretary: DHo

Regional Development Officer (RDO) Wales and South West England: Amanda Thomas

RDO South East, East and London: Paul Arnold

RDO North and Midlands: Joanne Arnold

Events and Competition Officer: Lee Stutely

Head of Officiating: Brian Ward

3.2 RDOs will start on 2nd April, and will work with clubs to identify individual club needs

3.3 KC observed that this new structure would allow GBWR to more directly target and achieve aims.

3.4 Youth Programme:

3.4.1 KC noted that GBWR is still looking to acquire funding for a Youth Programme, which will consist of a Youth Officer and coaches. In the meantime, youth activities will be supported by RDOs.

3.4.2 It was confirmed that the youth programmes would be open to those of mixed abilities, with a focus on identifying those eligible for the sport when feeding into clubs

3.4.3 KC confirmed that the youth programmes had been considered in insurance proposals

3.4.4 KC is looking to confirm CRB arrangements by the end of April. If this is supported by the RFU, GBWR will still need to source other measures for those outside of England.

ACTION: KC

4. Competitions

4.1 Super Series 2014

4.1.1 KC reviewed proposed domestic competition dates.

ACTION: KC to provide DMG with electronic copy of proposed dates.

4.1.2 CP / DHu observed that travel time / cost may be prohibitive.

4.1.3 SP noted parking restrictions at Stoke Mandeville: 3 hour parking limit is not imposed if reception are informed on arrival, however was recently fined despite this.

ACTION: KC to speak to venue to ensure smooth running of SS2

4.2 Tigers entry to the league

4.2.1 KC introduced the Marauder Tigers proposal and noted the link with Matt Hampson and his enthusiasm for wheelchair rugby, and this natural progression to link with Marauders.

4.2.2 JP discussed Matt Hampson's interest in establishing a team, and that to preserve the Marauders, their wide player base has been split geographically to create 2 teams which have an even performance distribution

4.2.3 The DMG agreed that they were happy for Tigers to enter the league, starting at the Nationals 2013. JP confirmed that players for each team would remain with the specified team and would not switch to boost results.

4.3 League positions

4.3.1 JP raised the question of Tigers league position for the 13/14 league. It was proposed that their

position could be decided from Nationals results, as this would allow the experienced player base to demonstrate which division is most suitable. KC highlighted the importance of DMG reaching a decision, not GBWR deciding, and that it would be important to decide on a format which could be adhered to in future as there will be new clubs developing frequently over the forthcoming funding cycle – LS noted the development of an Ipswich team, and the possible requirement of 3 divisions in future.

4.3.2 The merits and disadvantages of the proposal were discussed by the DMG:

Merits:

Giving a team with experienced players early opportunity to reach D1 allows faster club development as it makes the club more attractive to potential players

It can allow more D2 teams to remain in their divisions, which they may wish to do for competition or youth player reasons.

Disadvantages:

If league positions are decided on Nationals, it disadvantages teams who have a bad weekend

The Nationals are a cup tournament – the league is designed to establish standings

4.3.3 League structure and format were discussed: SP noted that LWRC enjoyed the tournament set up of the league last year (each weekend having a tournament winner with combined tournament results producing the league results), and suggested this would be welcomed next year. It was suggested that with 13 teams in the 13/14 season, D1 could consist of 8 teams competing at league weekends on a tournament basis, and D2 could consist of 5 teams on a league basis.

4.3.4 With more teams, split venues for divisions would be required, and it was noted that although socialising would be difficult across venues, it would be difficult to achieve a central base for socialising with a high number of teams. Separate dates for each division were also discussed, and it was observed that this would prevent D2 teams conveniently watch higher level players. BW confirmed that arranging officials across separate venues / dates would not be problematic with suitable notice. DMG agreed GBWR to determine best logistics for the league.

ACTION: LS and BW to propose dates / venues

[DHu video conference call ended, could not be re-established]

4.3.5 It was agreed that the format for league places in the 13/14 season should be decided by vote. The following 3 options were proposed, based on 8 D1 teams and 5 D2 teams:

Option A: all new teams enter in lowest division. It was noted that this applies to newly established teams, not those changing names.

Option B: Nationals results used to determine all teams' league placing

Option C: the league promotes 1 team from D2 and relegates 2 from D1. The remaining D1 place is decided by Wildcard at the Nationals

4.3.6 Option A: 7 votes

Option B: 0 votes

Option C: 1 vote

It was noted that reps from, Pirates, Dragons, Crushers and Bulls were not present to vote and it was agreed that they should have the opportunity to do so.

ACTION: KC to contact above club reps to vote within 1 week

ACTION: KC to update Tournament Rules

[Post meeting note: the above noted clubs submitted votes, and these are included within the above results]

4.3.7 Promotion: It was discussed that certain D2 teams may not wish to be promoted due to competition levels or having youth players in D2. It was discussed that it is not in the spirit of

competition to decline promotion. DMG agreed that any teams wishing to decline the possibility of promotion must make this clear to DMG at the outset of the league.

ACTION: KC to update tournament rules.

4.4 Nationals

4.4.1 It was confirmed that a round robin would not be possible with 13 teams, and LS and BW will investigate options.

ACTION: LS / BW to update DMG

4.4.2 CP noted that Hawks may not be able to attend Nationals

ACTION: CP to confirm Hawks' availability

4.5 June Challenge Cup: This was proposed for 22nd June following the 21st June AGM. It would be a mini tournament and could be participated in 'barbarian' teams assigned with a mixture of experience as was done at the Christmas tournament. CP confirmed he would not be available to transport Hawks' equipment.

ACTION: KC / CP to discuss other options for Hawks players to attend

4.6 3.5 / Low Point Tournaments

4.6.1 The DMG reviewed Dave Smart' proposal.

4.6.1.2 Date was agreed

4.6.1.3 BW confirmed officials would be arranged

4.6.1.4 DMG agreed a .5 reduction for female players, but no reduction for 45 years+

4.6.1.5 DMG agreed that only those classified as 1.5 before reductions would be included

4.6.1.6 DMG agreed that new players can participate with provisional classifications

4.6.1.7 DMG agreed to a shot clock being introduced to speed up the game and provide further training opportunity for Officials

4.6.2 The DMG expressed interest in further 3.5 / low point tournaments, and these would be decided on at a later date.

5. Officials

5.1 KC noted that BW is Head Official, but Head of Officiating role also incorporates development of officiating.

5.2 The expenses discussion was removed from the agenda, and DMG agreed that this was an issue for GBWR to decide.

ACTION: KC / BW to discuss

5.3 BW summarised some development going forward:

a grading system so that officials officiate appropriate games

a pathway for development

5.4 Overseas appointments: BW asked that teams needing officials overseas contact him for this to be arranged with GB officials, to improve their development

6. Demos and taster sessions

6.1 KC summarised the weekly taster sessions which have taken place and are scheduled for military rehab centres and schools, and thanked clubs for their support, in particular LWRC.

6.2 KC asked that clubs discuss with GBWR to ensure that their players supporting the sessions is not having a detrimental effect on training

6.3 VB questioned how insurance of club run sessions differs to GBWR run sessions. KC observed that GBWR run sessions involve GBWR completing risk assessments with venue

ACTION: KC to confirm on insurance position of club run sessions.



7. Schedule

- 7.1 KC presented WCPP schedule to demonstrate how this fits around league season
ACTION: LS to update when D1 and D2 dates / venues confirmed

8. Future agenda items

- 8.1 Clubmark
ACTION: KC to look into
- 8.2 Safeguarding
ACTION: KC to look into
- 8.3 CP noted the need for discussion surrounding those players who are more difficult classify. KC suggested Sarah Leighton to attend if possible
ACTION: DHo to invite Sarah Leighton to next meeting

9. AOB

- 9.1 Kit: KC discussed GBWR working with Canterbury kit, and LWRC, Hawks and Burn also expressed interest in Canterbury kit.
ACTION: DHo to confirm situation with CEO
ACTION: KC to discuss further with clubs
- 9.2 Gloves: SP discussed the possibility of Global Leathers developing wheelchair rugby sports glove, and KC noted that Wheelpower were also discussing the possibility of a sports glove.
ACTION: SP to update
- 9.3 Chair checks: BW noted that random chair checks would be introduced to educate officials on the process. It was confirmed that these were not official but only to educate officials.

10. DONM

- 10.1 This was agreed as 30th May in Birmingham
ACTION: DH to source venue
ACTION: KC to compose agenda with DMG invited to provide input