



DOMESTIC MANAGEMENT GROUP: 13 OCTOBER 2016 MEETING RECORD

Present:	SS	Simon Starr	GBWR Regional Development Officer (North)
	LS	Lee Stutely	GBWR Events & Competition Officer
	LW	Luke White	GBWR Projects Officer
	DH	Daniel Hook	GBWR Corporate & Membership Secretary
	KJ	Keith Jones	Ospreys Wheelchair Rugby Club
	GK-A	Graham Kamaly-Asl	Marauders Tigers Wheelchair Rugby Club
	DW	Dan Wade	Marauders Tigers Wheelchair Rugby Club
	SP	Steve Palmer	London Wheelchair Rugby Club
	VB	Vince Barton	Team Solent Sharks Wheelchair Rugby
	DD	David Durston	Gloucester Wheelchair Rugby Club
	IH	Ian Hosking	Stoke Mandeville Wheelchair Rugby
	SC	Sue Coombs	Dorset Destroyers Wheelchair Rugby Club
	JC	John Colgan	Dorset Destroyers Wheelchair Rugby Club

1. Welcomes and introductions

- 1.1. SS opened the meeting as Chair in Kirsty Clarke's (KC) absence.
- 1.2. Introductions were given by all present.

2. Apologies

- 2.1. Kirsty Clarke, GBWR National Development Director
Lorraine Brown, GBWR Performance Director
Paul Arnold, GBWR Regional Development Officer (South)
Amanda Thomas, GBWR Regional Development Officer (Wales)
Stuart McLindon, GBWR Youth Programme Manager
Sue Aldridge, GBWR Workforce Development Officer: Officiating
The North East Bulls Wheelchair Rugby Club
West Coast Crash
Rygbí Gogledd Cymru Wheelchair Rugby
Westcountry Hawks Wheelchair Rugby Club
Glasgow Wheelchair Rugby Club
Woodbridge Wheeled Warriors
Canterbury RFC: Canterbury Hellfire
Liverpool Lions Wheelchair Rugby Club
Yorkshire Lions Wheelchair Rugby Club

3. Minutes of last meeting

- 3.1. Agreed accurate record.
- 3.2. Final version to be prepared and distributed.
ACTION: DH
- 3.3. Actions arising:
 - 3.3.1. LWRC promotion to be included in Tip-off, pending provision of copy to GBWR
ACTION: Craig Streeter (London Wheelchair Rugby Club)

4. Super Series and league entry

- 4.1. SS1 D1 venue
 - 4.1.1. As per e-mail, no longer available due to the centre's prior contractual obligations.
 - 4.1.2. Alternate dates have been e-mailed and club reps asked to respond to LS with their club's preference.



- ACTION: Club reps**
4.1.3. Replacement venue to be booked.
- ACTION: LS**
4.2. Classification
4.2.1. Clubs asked to contact LS / DH if classification cards are required.
4.2.2. Clubs asked to contact RDOs where classification of new players is required.
4.2.3. A classification event was recently held at Nottingham Trent University, where new players completed bench tests and will have on-court observations during the league.
4.2.4. It was confirmed that players cannot be fielded until assessed by a classifier.
4.2.5. Players must be Members to undergo classification, and it was confirmed that refunds can be arranged where the player is classified out of the game and ceases training.
4.2.6. It was discussed that it would be helpful to investigate a distinct category of Membership for players classified out of the game yet still training.
- ACTION: DH**
4.3. Officiating
4.3.1. Due to the high level of competition, GBWR is investigating the Nationals being used as an IWRG licensing event for referees to obtain, for example, European licenses.
4.3.2. Vince Donohoe (VD) was congratulated on achieving his International license. SC questioned the fast tracking system, and it was clarified that the European Head Official had witnessed VD refereeing and noted he would be a good candidate for fast tracking.
4.3.3. Wheelchair users cannot reach International level due to a restricted view of games.
4.3.4. An officiating weekend has been held which welcomed potential new officials and up-skilled existing officials.
4.3.5. D1 will use experienced referees, and will bring referees from overseas if necessary.
4.4. Additional league weekend(s)
4.4.1. SP proposed as either part of the league or a distinct event with the aim of providing more gameplay opportunities and reduced periods away from the game. It was noted that this would benefit officials and players.
4.4.2. Advised that currently the budget doesn't exist, however will be investigated in future.
- ACTION: LS**
4.4.3. Friendlies were noted as an additional way to provide more gameplay and SC extended an invitation from Dorset Destroyers to LWRC. DD noted Gloucester wishing to participate in a match with Tigers coinciding with the Premiership Rugby Union match.
- 5. Confirmation of Membership and Affiliation Rules**
5.1. Club Affiliation
5.1.1. Congratulated 8 clubs provisionally approved by the Board: LWRC, Gloucester, MTWRC, Crash, RGC, Solent, Stoke Mandeville and Ospreys.
5.1.2. A number were provisional pending a low level of additional detail being supplied, and that RDOs will be in contact to discuss where necessary.
- ACTION: RDOs**
5.1.3. Once clubs fully approved, GBWR will return counter signed Affiliation Agreements.
- ACTION: DH**
5.1.4. Regarding currently non-affiliated clubs, it was confirmed that GBWR would not be immediately ceasing affiliation privileges to these clubs whilst working towards getting all clubs affiliated.
- 5.2. Club Affiliation Rules



- 5.2.1. KJ noted the benefits of affiliation, and it was discussed that specific funding sources were not referenced as, for example, the Welsh clubs will not access Sport England funding as do the English clubs.
- 5.2.2. For clarity, it was confirmed that Gaelic Warriors are invited to the Super Series, but are not able to be an affiliated club.
- 5.2.3. Club Affiliation subscription fees were questioned, and advice on these is to be communicated to the DMG.
ACTION: DH
- 5.2.4. For the record, the DMG acknowledged and agreed the Club Affiliation Rules.**
- 5.3. Clubmark
- 5.3.1. Affiliation status will help clubs achieve Clubmark, as some requirements are similar.
- 5.3.2. Clubs encouraged to speak to RDOs to initiate the process.
- 5.3.3. Advantages of Clubmark include exclusive grants, facility access, indicates to potential new partners / members that the club is well run and supports NGB funding applications as it demonstrates that the NGB's clubs have achieved a standard.
- 5.4. Membership Rules
- 5.4.1. The Associate Membership pool system for volunteers, referenced in section B1, was discussed and clarified.
- 5.4.2. Inconsistency was noted between the Membership categories listed and those available through Membership application. A question arose regarding the age differences in section B2. This is to be examined and amended, if appropriate. Current categories and requirements to be issued to the DMG.
ACTION: DH
- 5.4.3. Where Voting Membership refers to players, clarity was sought over what criteria define a player, and indeed if any disability makes an individual eligible for Voting Membership. Essentially, what defines disability? This mirrors some of the discussions currently on-going around who is eligible to play in the variant version of the game that is being developed. This is to be examined in more detail as it has some wide-ranging implications for the sport.
ACTION: DH / KC
- 5.4.4. Able-bodied volunteers training in chairs was questioned, as it was confirmed that in 2013 this was provided for by the NGB's insurance policy. This raised questions over whether this would raise any concerns over risk of injury similar to the risk of disabled adults competing with disabled youths, and raised implications for the variant game and who can train with whom. It was agreed that this would be investigated.
ACTION: DH / KC
- 5.4.5. It was confirmed that the late registration charge for late renewals was not applicable if a Member has not been present for the season prior.
- 5.4.6. For the record, the DMG acknowledged and agreed the Club Membership Rules, subject to clarification on the points raised above.**
- 6. Celebration Event**
- 6.1. The concept was outlined for a Christmas awards evening to celebrate the work of volunteers in the sport, at the end of this funding cycle.
- 6.2. Clubs were invited to advise possible take-up from their clubs, based on Members paying for their own accommodation and travel, and whether Members would be willing to contribute to an entry fee or if the NGB would need to fund this element.
- 6.3. It was noted that the concept is not defined enough and it would be too late notice. Members would be unlikely to want to pay for travel / accommodation for an awards evening without a tournament and that the end of the funding cycle has limited



relevance to individual Members. It was questioned whether GBWR funds would be better used elsewhere. It was also noted that similar past proposals including tournaments had limited take-up and so an awards evening alone would be less likely to encourage attendance. It was suggested that the awards evening would be more successful if held alongside the Nationals, although this would create a longer event and infringe on weekdays / Bank Holidays against previous DMG decision.

- 6.4. The importance of acknowledging volunteers was noted and clubs discussed their own thank yous which comprise of end of year gifts / meals.
- 6.5. It was noted that Volunteers' Week is annually held in April and this may provide more notice to arrange an event.
- 6.6. Clubs were invited to e-mail GBWR via DH or RDOs with any thoughts / suggestions.

ACTION: Clubs reps

7. Sport England – update

- 7.1. All targets in the 13-17 cycle had been achieved comfortably and so are in a good position for future funding.
- 7.2. It was outlined that the 17-21 strategy was focussed on sustaining participation, and so GBWR will focus on club development, SIUs, Military and youth.
- 7.3. SP expressed concern that the sport had reached a saturation point, as we have an increase in number of teams, however only half can now attend the Nationals as it is not feasible to accommodate all. Whilst a reduction in travel times for players to reach clubs was welcome, it was discussed that as a sport with a finite audience some travel is inevitable in order to have strong clubs. It was noted that going forward, the focus will be on sustainability rather than growth.
- 7.4. It was suggested that more competition opportunities may decrease drop-off rates.
- 7.5. Issues surrounding players getting into the sport were discussed. The improvements in medical care and the reduction in the use of SIUs were key factors in the number of players available to play in the classifiable version of the game.
- 7.6. It was questioned whether GB's Rio performance will affect Sport England funding and it was confirmed that this was distinct and related to UK Sport funding, which also looks positive due to improved performance.

8. AOB

- 8.1. DD requested a loan of a larger chair if any clubs have 1 available. It was suggested that Brighton or MTWRC may be able to assist.
- 8.2. The lateness of the agenda was noted, and it was requested this be sent out at least 1 week prior so that clubs can discuss with Members.

ACTION: KC

- 8.3. Wooden Spoon
 - 8.3.1. The initiative to get 1 chair into each club was discussed.
 - 8.3.2. It was confirmed that only Roma chairs were to be provided.
 - 8.3.3. SP noted that LWRC would be happy to donate their chair to another club.
 - 8.3.4. Wooden Spoon will be contacting clubs to arrange.
- 8.4. IH noted a youth player may have been deterred by the prospect of completing the Fit to Play test due to nervousness. The need for the procedure was discussed, in order to assess the youth in a real training environment. It was agreed that this case would be looked at and accommodations made where possible to ensure the youth is comfortable.

ACTION: Stuart McLindon

- 8.5. Variant game



- 8.5.1. VB noted players keen to participate.
 - 8.5.2. It was discussed that the game was at a difficult stage in development, as a pilot day to investigate the potential classification system highlighted a high proportion of players with psychological or fluctuating conditions. This is an area of ongoing work.
 - 8.6. Women's Sport Week
 - 8.6.1. GBWR held a women's tournament which was successful and saw new faces and some returning from taster sessions.
 - 8.6.2. SP noted that LWRC had no female players available at the time to support.
 - 8.7. 4 year planning
 - 8.7.1. LS advised that DMG and league dates would be looked at when completing a 4 year planning session with Elite.
- 9. DONM**
8 Dec 16 at Rugby House, Twickenham Stadium, Twickenham.