



DOMESTIC MANANEMENT GROUP: 6 JUNE 2017 MEETING RECORD

Present	KC	Kirsty Clarke, GBWR National Development Director
	BP	Brian Pitchford, Canterbury RFC, Canterbury Hellfire WRC
	VB	Vince Barton, Team Solent Sharks WRC
	ASm	Allan Smith, Yorkshire Lions WRC
	LW	Luke White, GBWR Project Officer
	DD	Danny Dawoud, West Coast Crash WRC
	CS	Craig Streeter, London WRC
	SP	Steve Palmer, London WRC
	SMcL	Stu McLindon, GBWR Youth Programme Officer
	CB	Catriona Brown, Gloucester WRC
	AS	Adam Simmonds, West Country Hawks WRC
	YC	Yvonne Culloty, GBWR Head Classifier
	LB	Leigh Boswell, GBWR Corporate & Membership Secretary
	PA	Paul Arnold, GBWR RDO (South)
	LS	Lee Stutely, GBWR Events and Competition Officer
	SS	Simon Starr, GBWR RDO (Midlands)

1. Welcome and Introductions

1.1 KC opened the meeting and everyone introduced themselves. KC welcomed Yvonne X as the GBWR Head Classifier and Leigh Boswell as the new GBWR Corporate & Membership Secretary, replacing Daniel Hook.

2. Apologies

2.1 Keith Jones, Ospreys WRC
Sue Coombs, Dorset Destroyers WRC
John Colgan, Dorset Destroyers WRC
Lyn Strong, Brighton Buccaneers WRC
Sue Aldridge, GBWR Workforce Development Officer: Officiating
Dale Thompson, GBWR RDO (North)

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

3.1 Work was continuing with Mary Nichols to provide a copy of the Equality Plan for DMG.

ACTION: KC

3.2 Sport England funding for the Talent Programme has been secured to develop the pathway from grass-roots to elite.

3.3 The invoices sent to clubs for League payments will include a breakdown of the figures.

3.4 The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting of 15.3.17

4. 2017/18 League Season

4.1 LS provide an update on the 2017/18 League Season, which included the dates and venues for each Super Series and each Division.



Division 1	Division 2	Division 3	
30sept/1 st Oct – Leicester Arena	9/10 th Sept – Stoke Mandeville	28/29 th Oct - Stoke Mandeville	SS1
25/26 th Nov – Leicester Arena	21/22 nd Oct – Leicester Arena	27/28 th Jan – Fenton Manor	SS2
Feb – proposed awaiting venue confirmation	Feb – proposed awaiting venue confirmation	10/11 th March or 17/18 th March – Rivermead, Reading	SS3

- 4.2 The league will start earlier in 2017 due to the European Championships taking place in June. Then the World Championships in Sydney in 2018, will be early August. Ideally the League structure will align to ensure no conflict with the club season and international fixtures. This will continue for future seasons and dates are getting provisionally fixed in the diary for 2018 – 2019
- 4.3 The league will start with D2 on 9/10th Sept Positive feedback was received on Leicester as a venue, with only a single issue concerning car parking.
- 4.4 The final SS3 events in D1 and D2 is yet to be confirmed as the venue has other event commitments.
Action: LS to confirm by June 30th 2017
- 4.5 D3 format, based on 5 teams (Woodbridge, Brighton, Solent Hammerheads, Caledonian Crushers and Ulster Barbarians) will be a full weekend. This was the involved teams’ majority preference. This league contains teams from complete opposite ends of the UK, so finding a venue is challenging.
- 4.6 The Ulster Barbarians have asked to play in D3 in 2017/18 as an invitational side.
DECISION: DMG agreed that Ulster Barbarians be invited to play in D3.
- 4.7 Dates have been selected to avoid clashing with the Bernd Best Tournament scheduled for March 2018. The Nationals would be held in April 2018.
- 4.8 CB stated that Gloucester felt the season was starting too early due to holiday commitments. From an Officials perspective, a good spread of fixtures is helpful to avoid having a commitment on every weekend in a month. LS appreciated that it is earlier, however, this was the best format to accommodate international and domestic competitions.
- 4.9 Discussion followed on possible changes to the Tournament Rules. SP proposed that the rule requiring players to have played in two Super Series events to be eligible for the Nationals, be scrapped. There was a strong sense of agreement around the table and a belief that teams would not abuse or manipulate a situation. There were potential issues around Europa Cup qualification but the competition has not run for several years. BP believed that teams should still inform LS out of courtesy if they were playing someone in the Nationals who had only played in less than two Super Series.
- 4.10 BP stated that Canterbury would like the loan scheme to be extended downward as well as upward, enabling a D1 team to loan players to a D3 team but still be able to call upon those players if their D1 squad was hit by illness or injury. VB added that he thought that the one transfer per player was an unnecessary restriction.
- 4.11 The Talent Loan scheme would remain in place and the feedback was that it had worked well. The plan was the Talent Squad would be in place by the end of the summer.



4.12 CB mentioned that the gaps between games at the Nationals had been very tight. LS acknowledged this and stated that she and PA had both undertaken Officials duties so that Officials could have breaks. The number of Officials available was believed to have been an issue but there were apparently Officials who had not been asked.

4.13 **ACTION: LS to circulate the League dates, the current Tournament Rules, for review and discussion at the next DMG and a paper proposing some changes by Gary Banks, Head Coach at Team Solent Sharks.**

5 Classification

5.1 YC provided an update on the current situation regarding Classification. GBWR currently has 2 Classifiers, one of whom is YC. There is 1 Trainee Classifier and 3 potential new Trainees. There is a possibility that a further Classifier may return to the fold.

5.2 The limited numbers of Classifiers available created difficulties during the season and no Re-Assessments of players can take place until all elements have been completed. 39 new players were classified during the season and a small number of reviews.

5.3 YC stated that the Bench Test considers the range of movement of a player and their muscle strength. For non-spinal injuries, the Bench Test is more challenging. For example, with CP athletes the bench testing still needs to be completed to ensure there is full range of movement and strength and the classification outcome is predominantly based on technical assessment and on court observations. Players need to meet the Eligibility Criteria in order to be classified.

5.4 For CP athletes, there is currently ongoing research focussed on co-ordination, which forms the basis of what they can be assessed on. Cognition cannot be classified. It is likely that a CP athlete would be regularly reviewed.

5.5 Any changes to a player's classification would be based on function, not their skill level. Resources are an issue in delivering on this side of things. There will be a trial period at both domestic and international level.

5.6 There are a large number of players needing court observations. There is a list of these players. Clubs need to be pro-active in making requests in regard to those athletes who still have temporary cards and there will also need to be a deadline for requests prior to tournaments.

5.7 The Classification process will usually take 1 hour. It is helpful if non-spinal injury players take along any medical documentation they have regarding their condition to assist the classifiers. Ideally, Bench Testing and On-court observations will be carried out on the same day.

5.8 Classifiers are aiming to be at each Super Series 1 event for each Division. There is an issue over testing being undertaken at Variant events. Clarification is required regarding the London and Stoke Mandeville event and whether it is a suitable opportunity for classification.

ACTION: SP and Bob O'Shea to liaise and inform YC if it is an appropriate event for classification.

5.9 All requests for classification should be made via the Classifiers E-mail address: classifiers@gbwr.org.uk RDOs have a role to support the clubs and to assist in co-ordinating requests by performing an initial trawl of their clubs to find out their classification needs.

5.10 ASm enquired whether there should be an addition of 1.0 for players aged 60+?

ACTION: YC to enquire what other countries are doing in that respect

5.11 The process involved in an assessment of a 4.0 player is that they first have to satisfy the eligibility criteria. There is then an algorithm applied that is based upon trunk support in 3 planes, pelvic and hip stability.



6 DMG Going Forward

- 6.1 KC circulated an analysis of DMG attendances over the previous 6 meetings and the results of a Survey carried out in November 2016. Conclusion was that overall, there was nothing bad coming out of the survey but equally, nothing great, either. DMG meetings are costly to arrange and GBWR would like them to be well attended, effective and of real value to the clubs.
- 6.2 Geography is clearly an issue, as is ease of access and the availability of club members. There was some discussion in regard to rotation of venues, days and timings. LW asked whether evenings or weekends might work for some club members but there was limited appetite to explore this amongst the ‘Tuesday Club’ members.
- 6.3 VB felt that it was important that the RDOs fed back to their clubs that hadn’t been able to attend and to seek their feedback on matters. Particularly to create understanding on matters that were voted on. Similarly, encouraging their input into future agenda setting.
- 6.4 SP believed that in the early days of DMG there had been a lot of things to address as the NGB and the clubs got themselves into shape. As a result of the work that had been undertaken, there is now less things to sort out. Discussion followed on the frequency of meetings and whether less meetings, with potentially longer agendas might be the way forward.
- 6.5 It was proposed to hold 3 meetings of DMG (1 pre-season, 1 mid-season and 1 post season) in future. KC would look at the potential to create a Forum and possibly add a Conference to the Calendar, potentially linked to a Workforce Development event.
- 6.6 AS requested that papers be sent out in advance of meetings with the agenda, rather than be an attachment to the minutes, so that clubs could discuss these prior to the meetings. Voting would still be carried out, post meeting, by Survey Monkey.
- 6.7 The attendance of Trustees was raised and it was stated that they have attended in the past and could be requested to do so, again, to provide an update on the work of the Board.

7 Staffing Update

- 7.1 KC updated DMG on the recent changes to the GBWR staffing roster. Leigh Boswell joins from the RFU as Corporate & Membership Secretary, taking over from Daniel Hook. Her priorities will be sorting the financial backlog and governance issues. KC urged clubs to use their RDOs for the next few weeks for other matters, with the exception of Safeguarding issues which must be dealt with by Gill Camina or David Pond.
- 7.2 Lucy Knight also joins on 12 June as the Head of Fundraising. Her focus will be on finding funding to support the GB Team and as a consequence will be attending the European Championships.
- 7.3 Dale Thompson has been appointed as RDO (North), SS now covers the Midlands and South Yorkshire whilst PA still has the entire south of the country, London and the East. Recruitment of a fourth RDO is ongoing.
- 7.4 KC is waiting on a reference in order to appoint a new Workforce Development Officer, hopefully by the end of June. Her remit will be targeted at Classifiers, Officials and general volunteers. PA will retain management of the Coach Development Programme.
- 7.5 It has not been possible to recruit to the Project Officer role as LW is clearly irreplaceable. Nonetheless, a second attempt to recruit will be made. Interviews for the Safeguarding Officer are scheduled for Tuesday.

Domestic Management Group

6 June 2017 Meeting Record

Great Britain Wheelchair Rugby



7.6 Funding for the new structure and posts is available due to an increased award from Sport England for the 2017 – 2021 cycle.

8 AOB

8.1 Leigh's e-mail is leighboswell@rfu.com

9 Date of Next Meeting

9.1 8th August in the Birmingham area, for the 'Tuesday Club'. Exact timings and venue to be confirmed. This will be the Pre-Season meeting assuming that the new frequency of meetings schedule is adopted.