



DOMESTIC MANAGEMENT GROUP: 15 MARCH 2017 MEETING RECORD

Present:	DP	David Pond	GBWR Chief Executive Officer
	PS	Paul Shaw	GBWR Head Coach
	KC	Kirsty Clarke	GBWR National Development Director
	LStu	Lee Stutely	GBWR Events & Competition Officer
	SA	Susan Aldridge	GBWR Workforce Development Officer: Officiating
	DH	Daniel Hook	GBWR Corporate & Membership Secretary
	BO'S	Bob O'Shea	Stoke Mandeville Wheelchair Rugby
	DT	Dale Thompson	The North East Bulls Wheelchair Rugby Club
	RD	Ryan Dickin	The North East Bulls Wheelchair Rugby Club*
	AS	Allan Smith	Yorkshire Lions Wheelchair Rugby Club
	KJ	Keith Jones	Ospreys Wheelchair Rugby Club
	BP	Brian Pitchford	Canterbury RFC: Canterbury Hellfire
	RC	Ryan Cowling	West Coast Crash
	SC	Sue Coombs	Dorset Destroyers Wheelchair Rugby Club
	JC	John Colgan	Dorset Destroyers Wheelchair Rugby Club
	CB	Catriona Brown	Gloucester Wheelchair Rugby Club
	SP	Steve Palmer	London Wheelchair Rugby Club
	GK-A	Graham Kamaly-Asl	Marauders Tigers Wheelchair Rugby Club
	LStr	Lyn Strong	Brighton Buccaneers
	VB	Vince Barton	Team Solent Sharks Wheelchair Rugby

*joined at item 5

1. Welcomes and introductions

1.1. KC opened the meeting.

2. Apologies

2.1. Simon Starr GBWR Regional Development Officer (North)
Paul Arnold GBWR Regional Development Officer (South)
Stuart McLindon GBWR Youth Programme Manager
Luke White GBWR Projects Officer
Ryghi Gogledd Cymru Wheelchair Rugby
Woodbridge Wheeled Warriors
Liverpool Lions Wheelchair Rugby Club
Glasgow Wheelchair Rugby Club
Westcountry Hawks Wheelchair Rugby Club

3. Minutes of last meeting

- 3.1. Liaise with Mary Nichols to provide copy of equality plan to DMG
ACTION: KC
- 3.2. Newsletter included request for coaches to communicate when players were forming teams for international invitational, but ongoing vigilance would be required.
- 3.3. Not feasible to host a celebration event at the Nationals 17 as not on a Bank Holiday, however club reps invited to contact LStu if there is interest.
- 3.4. The shared calendar to be updated when possible, however currently have limited confirmation due to financial situation.
- 3.5. Website updates are ongoing and the website is to be looked at further in 17/18.
- 3.6. GBWR's DBS system is migrating to the RFU.
- 3.7. Overpaid DBS applications from DBS to be investigated.



ACTION: Paul Arnold

3.8. Minutes agreed and to be finalised and distributed.

ACTION: DH

4. Update on National Squad

4.1. DP opened and highlighted the DMG's significance as a forum to operate the grassroots game, and that he attends 1 meeting annually.

4.2. GBWR's current UK Sport and Sport England funding cycle ends 31 Mar 17, and BT sponsorship is in place for 1 further year,

4.3. The application for Sport England funding was successful, however the funding landscape is changing necessitating more member / club input, with an emphasis on sustainability over growth.

4.4. There was no indication that the UK Sport funding application would be unsuccessful, and GBWR was confident of receiving funds being halfway through an 8 year pathway.

4.5. GBWR conducted a representation to the UK Sport Board with support from Hogan Lovells and Loughborough University / Peter Harrison Centre, however this was not upheld.

4.6. UK Sport may review annually, however in 17/18 the elite team will only compete in the Europeans and as current number 1 in Europe a gold here will not influence the funding decision – to support a review is essential to maintain this position in Europe and medal at the Worlds.

4.7. 2019 Europeans will be Tokyo qualifier – need to continue playing best teams to remain competitive.

4.8. Going forward, the programme will be reduced, have no Performance Director, be more volunteer based and resources will focus on camps, competition and S&C.

4.9. It was questioned how GB can compete with reduced funding, and the importance of the coaching system to support players at club level was noted.

4.10. The need to financially support players to avoid risk of players being poached by funded sports was discussed.

4.11. The future of the Talent programme was discussed, and it was advised that this income was expected from Sport England, and a bid has been submitted to reflect the lack of UK Sport funding.

5. #saveGBWR campaign

5.1. Campaign operated by DynamoPR, at no charge, via a contact of Jonny Coggan – they have 3 people dedicated to our account.

5.2. BT have provided resource support for videos / photos.

5.3. Disappointing donations amount to date - £14k from 350 donations.

5.4. In consideration of having ~400 members and ~2000 news sign-ups, a higher response was expected – the sport needs to help itself though members promoting the campaign.

5.5. It was highlighted that the GB team attracts sponsors, but much sponsorship income is spent at grassroots level.

5.6. The issue that members have often exhausted contacts when fundraising for local clubs and a risk of competing for the same pots was discussed, with a disconnect between grassroots and elite level for those new to the sport – the need for GB players to visit clubs was acknowledged, and more generally the need to retain good relationships with clubs to avoid previous communication breakdowns.

ACTION: PS



- 5.7. SP commented that LWRC has players in the elite team, however has not donated directly as supports the programme in other ways – taking players to international competition and buying chairs.
- 5.8. Comments were acknowledged and it was clarified that the expectation was not to raise £3M funds solely from members / friends and families, but rather to increase the reach (e.g. through tweeting) to draw corporate sponsorship attention.
- 5.9. It was questioned whether the RFU would support further, and noted that the RFU already provides an annual donation and £100k VIK for office setup etc. and discussed the issue of GBWR's Great Britain coverage and the RFU operating in England.

6. Funding and fees

- 6.1. A new sponsorship deal has been agreed with Roma.
- 6.2. BT sponsorship is in place for 17/18, discussions for future funding will be held in 2 weeks.
- 6.3. A new sponsor was to be announced shortly.
- 6.4. Membership fees will be frozen for 17/18, however will review in 18/19 as the sport needs to be more self-supporting.
- 6.5. Super Series has received good feedback and GBWR wishes to maintain the standard, and fees for 17/18 season were outlined as:
D1/ D2 £350 per weekend
D3 £175 if 1 day / £350 if weekend (format to be confirmed)
- 6.6. A breakdown of actual league costs was requested to clarify to new teams – it was confirmed that this information can be proved and had been when fees were first introduced.

ACTION: LStu

7. AGM

- 7.1. Audit and AGM 2017 will be held in Autumn.
- 7.2. Presently forecasting a deficit budget, so auditor could not state us as a going concern.
- 7.3. Hopeful of increased sponsorship by Sep 17, so will be a going concern.

8. Recognition

- 8.1. Presently GBWR has just an historic Hall of Fame to which only BO'S was inducted.
- 8.2. Discussion held around the previous proposal to hold a veterans' game in memoriam of Brian Worrall, and BO'S presented the Coaches' Tournament trophy which could be donated.
- 8.3. For those newer to the sport, it was outlined that Brian Worrall was pivotal in bringing the sport to the UK and Europe and was GB Coach in 1996, and passed away 2 years ago.
- 8.4. It was discussed that the Nationals, as a sponsored event, is not the appropriate vehicle.
- 8.5. The need to have a formal recognition process was discussed, which acknowledges not just players, with a clear process for who is chosen.
- 8.6. It was agreed that a steering group would be set up, and is open to volunteers – BO'S volunteered although noted potential conflict as an existing Hall of Fame member, and other volunteers were invited to submit expressions of interest to DH.

9. Nationals and league

- 9.1. The same format as 2016 – Cup (6 D1 teams) & and Shield (1 D1 teams and 4 D2 teams), including promotion / relegation game for D1 / D2.



- 9.2. A draft schedule is to be issued and finalised after SS3 D1.
ACTION: LStu
- 9.3. It was noted that Gaelic Warriors will be missing 3 high point players so request DMG approval to bring an import player to the Nationals.
- 9.4. Clarity over the rules was sought, and these will be reviewed.
ACTION: DH
- 9.5. It was agreed that the Gaelic Warriors should submit a formal request in writing to clarify their position / requirements.
ACTION: Stuart McLindon
- 9.6. The league format for 17/18 was outlined as:
Start in Sep (due to early Europeans); Break in Dec; Restart in Feb
Nationals in May
GB season from May
- 9.7. Concern was raised over lack of equality between D3 and D1/2 due to lack of officials and no player awards or magazine write-up.
- 9.8. The lack of officials was due to last-minute cancellations.
- 9.9. Player awards are only issued at the season end as D3 operates with single days.
- 9.10. Need for magazine write-up will be communicated to editor.
ACTION: DH
- 9.11. Concerns over officials having conflicts of interest where they have relatives on teams which they referee were raised – it was requested that any complaints or concerns be formally addressed to SA for review / discussion within the SOG.
- 10. AOB**
- 10.1. It was noted that D3 teams have new players to field at SS3, and it was discussed that there was potential for a classification session before this.
- 10.2. Discussion was held around provisional classifications being granted, and whether this gives false indications to potential players.
- 10.3. Going forward, GBWR will look to hold classification at SS1 for all divisions, and at an additional date for D3.
- 10.4. AS noted a potential classifier who had previously been rejected due to club involvement – it was clarified that this should not be an issue and that his details can be provided to DH.
ACTION: AS
- 10.5. Players not skilled for their classification level were discussed, and it was suggested that they be transferred to other teams to grant them court time.
- 10.6. Where a player bench test as 4.5, they are then unable to get court time for an on-court observation and clarification was sought over this process.
ACTION: LStu
- 10.7. It was noted that the classifiers are finalising a document which outlines a 4.0 player's characteristics.
- 10.8. Following Amanda Thomas' departure, a funding application has been submitted WRCT to continue support in Wales, albeit in a new format which works with existing clubs to develop the sport.
- 11. DONM**
- 11.1. It was discussed that venues further south would help with fatigue issues and cost, although it was noted that a much higher attendance rate was achieved in the Midlands.
- 11.2. The date of the next meeting was agreed as 18 May 2017 in Birmingham.
ACTION: DH