



DOMESTIC MANAGEMENT GROUP: 19 SEPTEMBER 2018 MEETING RECORD

Present:	JB	Julie Bunnage	GBWR National Development Director
	PA	Paul Arnold	GBWR National Development Director
	LSt	Lee Stutely	GBWR Events & Competition Officer
	DH	Daniel Hook	GBWR Compliance & Membership Officer
	AS	Adam Simmons	GBWR Projects Officer and RDO: S&W England
	LP	Lee Parry	GBWR RDO: Midlands & London
	DT	Dale Thompson	GBWR RDO: North England
	TR	Tom Rogers	GBWR RDO: Wales
	LSa	Louise Satherley	GBWR Workforce Development Officer
	CM	Conor Murphy	GBWR Talent Programme Manager
	SA	Susan Aldridge	GBWR Lead Official
	JH	Jamie Higgins	Northampton Saints
	JC	Jonny Collingwood	DMP Bulls Wheelchair Rugby Club
	AA	Alan Ash	West Coast Crash
	DN	David Needham	Leicester Tigers Wheelchair Rugby Club
	SP	Steven Palmer	London Wheelchair Rugby Club
	CS	Craig Streeter	London Wheelchair Rugby Club
	IF	Ian Farrant	Westcountry Hawks Wheelchair Rugby Club [video]
	VB	Vince Barton	Team Solent Sharks Wheelchair Rugby
	JP	James Price	Gloucester Wheelchair Rugby Club
	BP	Brian Pitchford	Canterbury RFC: Canterbury Hellfire
	BO'S	Bob O'Shea	Stoke Mandeville Maulers Wheelchair Rugby

1. Apologies

- 1.1. Stuart McLindon
- GBWR Youth Programme Manager
Ospreys Wheelchair Rugby Club
Ryghi Gogledd Cymru Wheelchair Rugby
Caledonian Crushers Wheelchair Rugby Club
Woodbridge Wheeled Warriors
Liverpool Lions Wheelchair Rugby Club
Yorkshire Lions Wheelchair Rugby Club
Dorset Destroyers Wheelchair Rugby Club
Brighton Buccaneers

2. Minutes of last meeting

- 2.1. Minutes approved with no changes.
2.2. Minutes to be finalised and distributed.

ACTION: DH

3. Talent Programme

- 3.1. The Talent Programme structure was outlined, and all athletes in the programme are considered under the 'Talent' umbrella:
- 12 player squad, with monthly training at Lilleshall – AA and Darren Matthews Lead Coaches
 - Regional Training Centres (RTCs) in the North and South with 10 players each – AS and Danny Dawoud Regional Coaches
- 3.2. Players can move between the squad and RTCs depending on performance.
3.3. The programme gives athletes experience and it is hoped that some will transition into GB.



- 3.4. Programme funding is in place until Mar 21 and not guaranteed for future cycles, and so it is important to use this opportunity to identify talent and develop a lasting curriculum.
- 3.5. Players are the focus of the programme, and there is no pressure for the programme to be prioritised over clubs.
- 3.6. Training is scheduled in consideration of club training, but feedback / issues should be raised to CM.
- 3.7. Concern was raised over the distance some players are expected to travel for day training sessions, however this was due to difficulty in identifying suitable regional venues at locations reasonable for all players.
- 3.8. Players are subject to physiological and sports science testing in comparison with GB benchmarks twice annually, and this shows athletes at comparable fitness levels to GB and so requiring more court time to develop skill.
- 3.9. Competition:
- Rugbymania entry had been considered for 2018 however will now be reconsidered in 2019
 - A mini-development team international tournament is in consideration, held either here or overseas
 - Bernd Best was considered, however top tier is too high level competition, and lower tiers have modified points systems
- 3.10. Classification reviews take place at camps, to minimise possibility of classification change at international competition.
- 3.11. Programme funding covers camp and kit costs – athlete expenses must be covered personally, although some athletes have been put forward for SportsAid and GBWR is happy to discuss individual needs.
- 3.12. One of the programme coaches will be at each GBWR tournament for scouting purposes, although club reps are invited to contact CM to put forward players at any time.
- 3.13. More volunteers are sought for the programme.

4. Competition / Talent Loan

- 4.1. Competition rules
- Following the previous DMG, these have been finalised and distributed / published, to be reviewed in 2 years
 - If any issues arise concerning rules, GBWR should be made aware so that this can be considered for review
 - IWRF review of ball holders was discussed and it was agreed that GBWR should implement any IWRF rulings when made, however to avoid a situation where players become reliant only to find the device banned clubs will also review their own recommendations to players
 - Securing venues for 18/19 proved difficult, and unfortunately there is a date clash with the Level 2 coaching course in Wales
 - Dates have been distributed and any classification requests should be sent to LSt
 - Yvonne Culloty is no longer GBWR Lead Classifier however will continue to perform classifications
- 4.2. Talent Loan scheme
- A number of requests had been received, and the scheme appears established and understood – when put to clubs to vote, the decision must be unanimous.



- Clubs cannot decide which player they request, and likewise players cannot decide which club they will be suggested for, however in reaching a decision GBWR will take into consideration factors such as whether a player already trains with another club and the benefits for the athlete in competing with that club
- For received Talent Loan requests, a SurveyMonkey will shortly be issued to relevant clubs

5. Wheelchair Rugby 5s

- 5.1. The concept was to deliver a sport open to more physically disabled people, including young people.
- 5.2. Competitions were held Dec 17, May 18 and Sep 18.
- 5.3. The season saw 235 instances of participation, with 40% of players from the Paralympic discipline, 20% female and 35 new members.
- 5.4. It is envisaged that the reliance on players of the Paralympic discipline will diminish as the WR5s discipline is better established and players are more experienced.
- 5.5. The season resulted in 2 hospitalisations, and mechanisms to avoid this in future are being put in place.
- 5.6. A broad classification system was in place, and this will require tighter guidelines as classification is not currently feasible.
- 5.7. Future tournaments will move from 1 to 2 day formats and dates have been published online.
- 5.8. The opening season had no charge, however an entry fee will be charged to clubs for the 18/19 season.
- 5.9. Clubs were thanked for their support.
- 5.10. A feedback survey is being issued via SurveyMonkey.
- 5.11. Feedback was provided in-meeting:
 - At present, skill allows players of the Paralympic discipline to dominate, however in time they will prove ineffective competing with higher function players
 - Concern that skills is replaced by power / large hits and suggest looking at IWRF article 91 with regards unreasonable contact
 - Initially supported training sessions by increasing numbers, but later found that players of the Paralympic discipline have left training as they are unable to compete against WR5s players, and clubs are unable to offer distinct training sessions due to limited numbers
 - Training sessions are difficult to coach as players compete across 3 disciplines: Paralympic, WR5s and Invictus
 - The fast pace and added numbers on court make the game difficult to officiate
 - It was questioned whether changes to the goal width could influence the pace

6. Membership and newsletter

- 6.1. Database
 - Clubs were thanked for support in adopting the new membership database and working to ensure members are registered
 - Feedback from club reps was largely positive, although noted that it is not immediately clear to members how to assign themselves to a club
 - It was clarified that the database offers additional features, such as recording of qualifications and classifications, and that these will be rolled out in due course



once the initial setup phase has been completed and all are comfortable with the system

- It was noted that the summary report of members from the Club Area was not downloading as a pdf, and this will need to be investigated by the database team

ACTION: DH

6.2. Newsletter

- The database offers newsletter sign-up, however this is for member-specific news, whilst the generic newsletter sign-up (via MailChimp) is open to all and will remain the primary GBWR news email
- Due to GDPR, resubscription was required which saw a drop-off in subscriptions, however the resubscription rate was comparable to the open rate of emails and so loss of readership was minimal
- Clubs were asked to share the sign up link (available on the GBWR website) to encourage subscription

ACTION: Club reps

7. Programme updates

7.1. Lord's Taverners Junior Programme

- An increased bid to grow the programme will be shared in the coming weeks
- Proofs of the Good to Great Awards documents were shared, and the intention is to pilot with clubs involved in the programme

7.2. Workforce

- The Introduction to Officiating course was piloted earlier this year, and resulted in 7 new officials – the next course will be scheduled alongside an event to provide an opportunity to watch a live game
- An Educator will be at each event to support the needs of officials
- The present focus is on officials due to the low numbers, however this will expand to all workforce
- The Strategic Officiating Group has been disbanded in anticipation of a Workforce Team (incorporating officials, coaches and classifiers) – expressions of interest for this new team will be welcomed soon, for the team to meet in Nov 18 and hold a conference in Feb 19
- Time to Listen training specific for wheelchair rugby held in Mar 18 with the next scheduled for Nov 18, in Stoke-on-Trent – contact LSa to attend

7.3. Coaching

- Future Level 2 courses in Sep 18 and Nov 18 are fully booked
- Level 1 Activators course is accredited (a development of the Safe Session basic coaching course to be piloted / reviewed), and will serve as a prerequisite for Level 2 course for those without existing experience – this can be run by RDOs and so will have a lower cost than the L2 course, with costs dependent on venues

7.4. Midlands & London

- Hatfield club now set up
- Work in developing clubs in Midlands, London and Cambridgeshire
- Activator course pilots next week

7.5. North

- Newcastle club set up and looking to join WR5s
- Bolton sessions to operate as satellite to Crash
- Sessions to develop clubs in Manchester and Cumbria



- 7.6. South & West
- Sessions in Aldershot, Cornwall (Truro College), Oxford and Andover
- 7.7. Wales
- RGC link with WRU union club funding / kit
 - Ospreys session saw new players turning up
 - Scarlets started as junior programme but developing into adult and junior club
 - Dragons looking to develop into adult and junior club
 - Each Welsh club has 1-3 coaches at Level 2
- 7.8. NDD
- RDO training session scheduled for Nov 18 with GBWR Board members, so that RDOs are better equipped to support clubs – there will be no change of current affiliation status, but clubs are reminded that healthchecks are annual
 - GBWR can support clubs wishing to apply for ClubMark – the benefit being that the club is presented positively to newcomers and potential funders, and feedback from clubs has shown the process to be more user friendly than previous iterations, and that the process helps identify areas of weakness at the club
 - Terms of Reference are to be reviewed at the next DMG meeting, and it was suggested the DMG consider the purpose of the DMG and frequency of meetings – it was noted that not all clubs engage, and reported that many players are interested only in playing and not the wider actions of the NGB (different clubs having different goals)
 - The potential for a GBWR website forum was raised, mirroring that in place in the US, rather than splinter groups operating independently on various social media channels – it was suggested that this would allow individuals to communicate with less fear of intimidation, however it was noted that other NGBS (cycling and gymnastics) dropped the service over insurance concerns and that other sports choose to focus topic of conversation using social media channels
- 8. Club updates**
- 8.1. Bulls
- Recently updated Facebook page to reflect DMP Bulls partnership
 - Training with WR5s
- 8.2. LTWRC
- Embraced WR5s and look to put forward second team
- 8.3. Solent
- Now also have 1 WR5s team and 1 junior programme team
- 8.4. Northampton
- WR5s was first competition
 - Looking to increase number of players for Paralympic discipline
- 8.5. Maulers
- No update
- 8.6. Canterbury
- Setting up junior programme team
- 8.7. LWRC
- Looking forward to new season
- 8.8. Crash
- 2 teams and will use Bolton sessions to feed second team
 - Trying to generate membership



- Considered WR5s however dissuaded due to complexities around additional training
- 8.9. Hawks
- Tring to increase membership from Exeter
 - Junior team started training last week
- 8.10. Gloucester
- Changes - new venue and lost some players
 - Compete in WR5s and junior programme
- 9. DONM**
- 9.1. Next meeting: 15 Nov 18 – venue tbc
ACTION: DH
- 10. AOB**
- 10.1. BP: Further discussion around loaning to give all new players a chance to develop in a lower division as players can register with an alternate team, this prevents them gaining any court time with their home team, although it was discussed that it is more advantageous for a new player to compete with a lower division team than gain limited or no court time with the home team, and in contrast some players would prefer to remain with their home team than gain more court time by competing at a lower division – alternatives including ‘sister clubs’ and ‘transfer tokens’ were put forward.
- 10.2. LSt: Many players have been classified with function test but on-court observations are outstanding, and will take place.
- 10.3. BO’S: Protest process for chair appeals – not enough officials at this level, however chair checks are completed with regards to safety.
- 10.4. JP: Concern over safety of old chairs (illegal) now competing with new chairs (legal).
- 10.5. JP: Scotland activity – currently not funded to work in Scotland.