



DOMESTIC MANAGEMENT GROUP: 28 JUNE 2018 MEETING RECORD

Present:	DP David Pond [present only for item 2.]	GBWR Chief Executive
	JB Julie Bunnage	GBWR National Development Director
	LS Lee Stutely	GBWR Events & Competition Officer
	DH Daniel Hook	GBWR Compliance & Membership Officer
	PA Paul Arnold	GBWR Regional Development Officer (South)
	AS Adam Simmons	GBWR Projects Officer
	JC John Colgan	Dorset Destroyers Wheelchair Rugby Club
	SC Sue Coombs	Dorset Destroyers Wheelchair Rugby Club
	PJ Paul Jenkins	Ospreys Wheelchair Rugby Club
	SP Steven Palmer	London Wheelchair Rugby Club
	CS Craig Streeter	London Wheelchair Rugby Club
	VB Vince Barton	Team Solent Sharks Wheelchair Rugby
	CB Catriona Brown	Gloucester Wheelchair Rugby Club
	BP Brian Pitchford	Canterbury RFC: Canterbury Hellfire
	GS Gary Spratt	Northampton Saints
	BO'S Bob O'Shea	Stoke Mandeville Wheelchair Rugby *
	RC Ryan Cowling	West Coast Crash*
	DN David Needham	Leicester Tigers Wheelchair Rugby Club*
	LS Lyn Strong	Brighton Buccaneers*

1. Apologies

1.1.	Stuart McLindon	GBWR Youth Programme Manager
	Susan Aldridge	GBWR Head of Officiating
	Louise Satherley	GBWR Workforce Development Officer
	Tom Rogers	GBWR Regional Development Officer (Wales)
	Simon Starr	GBWR Regional Development Officer (Midlands)
	Dale Thompson	GBWR Regional Development Officer (North)
	Conor Murphy	GBWR Talent Programme Manager
		DMP Bulls Wheelchair Rugby Club
		Rygbí Gogledd Cymru Wheelchair Rugby
		Westcountry Hawks Wheelchair Rugby Club
		Glasgow Wheelchair Rugby Club
		Woodbridge Wheeled Warriors
		Liverpool Lions Wheelchair Rugby Club
		Yorkshire Lions Wheelchair Rugby Club

2. Minutes of last meeting

- 2.1. JB advised that outstanding actions around safeguarding and size of the Junior Programme goals would be reported on today.
 - 2.2. Minutes to be finalised and distributed.
- ACTION: DH**

3. CEO update

- 3.1. DP opened by saying how important the DMG forum had become as a mechanism for ensuring that the membership was fully involved in the development of the sport. He went on to say that the sport had developed since the start of the DMG – more clubs, more sport disciplines and a great focus on governance and so it was right to review



whether it remained the best tool for engagement between the GBWR management team and the membership. NDD would be discussing this with the DMG.

3.2. DP stated that the Board is committed to protecting the Paralympic discipline of the sport as it is at the core of the NGB's mission.

3.3. The CEO's 17/18 Review was presented in hard copy, and the full Financial Statements will be presented at the AGM Sep 18.

3.4. DMG Review feedback was highlighted:

- There had been some comment that the only focus was on GB team. DP said that this comment was not borne out by fact – the grassroots of the sport has grown from 7 – 22 teams, there is a youth discipline and a Rugby 5's discipline and considerable investment in growing and sustaining the sport. . But he said it is important to acknowledge the role the GB team plays in attracting sponsorship across the NGB and inspiring the next generation.
- DP said that without UK Sport funding the GB programme must be funded by other means and so there is a big focus on sponsorship and fundraising ng.

3.5. Club affiliation:

- DP acknowledged that greater support was needed for clubs to achieve accreditation and that the Governance & Finance Committee is looking to improve this area through working with RDOs to support clubs and enlisting an external verifier.
- The importance of affiliation was clarified, as governance / safeguarding failings can have a reputational impact to all involved with wheelchair rugby.

3.6. Growing membership: not only membership numbers, but highlighting areas in need of development – working with clubs to identify what works.

3.7. Volunteer strategy: DP said that he was committed to doing more for volunteers but that resource issues had precluded this so far. Now that Louise Satherley is in post as Workforce Development Officer we expect to have a Volunteer Strategy in place by the end of the year.

3.8. Sustainable funding streams: DP said that it was clear that we cannot expect government money to be available to the levels we have received in the long term and that it is important for the sport to look at ways it can become less reliant on such funding. Part of this has to be local fundraising and to make the Super Series and Nationals self-funding.

3.9. Team changes as of 1 Jul 18:

- National Development Director: shared role by JB & PA
- RDO: London & Midlands: Lee Parry, former RFU employee
- RDO: South: AS taking on PA's former role (in addition to role as Projects Officer)
- Coaching Officer: LS taking on PA's former role (in addition to role as Workforce Development Officer)

3.10. UK Sport consultation on the future funding of elite sport:

- Every Sport Matters aims to achieve baseline funding for all Paralympic / Olympic sports – equality of opportunity
- GBWR has been more successful in fundraising than other sports, but need to maintain to have a competitive team at Tokyo 2020
- Members invited to participate in survey, and DP can advise on key points

ACTION: DP

- Survey: <https://survey.euro.confirmit.com/wix/1/p1865845301.aspx>

3.11. World Championships:

- Positive pool placing with USA and Canada (other pool with Australia and Japan)



- Schedule: <https://www.2018wrwc.com/schedule/>
- 3.12. IWRF General Assembly: current President is standing down and Richard Allcroft (RA; GBWR Trustee with experience as Technical Delegate at Rio 2016) is a candidate – this would be good for our international profile and he has a strong campaign.
- 3.13. GBWR Trustee
- 3.14. As it is likely that RA will be elected as the IWRF President it will be important to identify someone from the sport who can step up and become a Trustee. There are 2 places on the board which are reserved for individuals who come from within the sport. DP will be placing an advert soon.
- 3.15. Q&A – DP took questions from the DMG:
 - If GB medal at the Worlds there is still a chance that no UK Sport funding will be awarded – the decision is taken at the cycle start, although can be reviewed annually
 - The GB team has a strong programme, typically with 1 camp per month but increasing close to competition; next year sees competition opportunities at Quad Nations, USA, Europeans and WWRC
 - Quad Nations is cost effective – as a draw for sponsorship, the aim is to break even which is less costly than travelling for competition
 - GBWR would have bid for the Europeans / Worlds had UK Sport funding not been lost; the deterrent being the cost of classification panels
 - AGM 2018 will be held in Midlands (Leicester) based on Membership preference – 1700-1900, preceded by DMG 1200-1600
- 3.16. DP said that he was always willing to attend the DMG if invited but the group has been set up as a working group led by the NDD. He said that he is always happy for anyone to contact him by email or phone .

4. Competition

- 4.1. Rules were discussed at the last DMG meeting, and survey distributed to league clubs – 12 clubs participated and results as follows:
 - Import players: 1 per team, registered at season start.
 - Transfers: a player competing in SS1 in any division may not transfer to another team and compete in SS1 for any other division.
 - Classification: no change will be made to the 0.5 point advantage to teams fielding players aged 45 and over.
 - Promotion: no forfeiture of promotion permitted.
 - Relegation: teams opting for voluntary relegation start the following season with a 10 point deficit.
 - Nationals: no change will be made to the wording, allowing players to attend the Nationals provided they have attended 2 Super Series events (with any team).
 - Results: results will be presented with tied places, however ranking will be determined and recorded for GBWR internal processes around relegation / promotion etc.
- 4.2. CB confirmed that Gloucester will not attend the rescheduled SS3 D2 event – this being due to team weddings at that time. It was also confirmed that Maulers will not attend, and having not attended SS2 D2 it is unlikely that Gloucester will suffer relegation due to non-attendance at SS3 D2.

5. Wheelchair Rugby 5s

- 5.1. The first WR5s Summer League has 1 of 3 events remaining (last being 2 Sep 18); so far 10 teams competed – 82 players at the first event, and 78 at the second (the second



- also saw an increase in female players and quadriplegic players from the Paralympic discipline).
- 5.2. Issue was discussed around experienced players from the Paralympic discipline outskilling new WR5s players, and whether this would dishearten or inspire new players; it was suggested that restricting the inclusion of experienced players could solve this issue, however this could limit development for some teams; it was noted that as new players become more experienced, the current advantage of experienced players of the Paralympic discipline will diminish, particularly with the classification system permitting players of higher function than in the Paralympic discipline; it was also highlighted that WR5s is a new game and can be developed and reviewed.
- 5.3. AS noted the unfortunate incident which occurred at the second WR5s event, wherein a player was injured – it was confirmed that this was a legal hit, however the player was hospitalised and physio is ongoing for a non-permanent injury; it was questioned why GBWR does not have a Head Injury Policy – this being due to the rarity of this in the sport (domestically / internationally), however may be reviewed in recognition of the higher functionality of WR5s players.
- 5.4. Next season
- 18/19 May 19 at SMS
 - 31 Aug / 1 Sep 19 at SMS
 - First and last dates confirmed, to be added to website
- ACTION: Nathaniel Holland**
- 1 date tbc
- ACTION: AS**
- 16 teams (submitted to GBWR around Feb 19)
 - Format will be 3 weekends, with each weekend comprising a 1 day competition for each conference / division
 - Discussion to be held around whether conference or division format
- 6. Database update**
- 6.1. DH provided an update on the new membership database:
- Slightly behind schedule, but confident of delivery in time for close of current membership season (end July 18)
 - Currently have access to test site – highlighted some areas that need clarification / amends and these are with the developers now
 - Highlighted that new system will operate on a rolling membership basis, rather than fixed period
 - The database will also reduce the admin burden when submitting documents for youth applications
 - Clubs will nominate a club admin, who will be able to manage their club's registrations and renewals and payments, if preferred to members managing independently
 - Additional features of the database will allow recording of coaching qualifications etc., and managing event registration, team rosters and transfers – however, the primary concern is ensuring all are comfortable with the new database's core function of membership management, and these additional features will be phased in as appropriate
 - Noted that this is a new system for GBWR and clubs, so requested some patience whilst we work through any initial issues we may encounter and will be available to help clubs as aware different clubs manage membership differently
 - Will contact clubs at the earliest opportunity to manage admin rights and provide further update



ACTION: DH

6.2. Club reps raised questions:

- Volunteer fees: confirmed as per previous meeting record, but for clarity volunteer fee is now £22 – calculated as previous pool system (unmanageable in new database) charged £40 for 2 places, and we have put in place a 10% increase on fees
- Correct category for supporter (not staff): the correct category is Associate, and it was noted that the number of membership types has been reduced for clarity (e.g. officials are now included within Associate as a ‘workforce’ category)

7. DMG self-review

7.1. The importance of the DMG forum was highlighted and JB & PA intend to speak directly with reps.

7.2. DMG Terms of Reference need updating to reflect new disciplines and growth – this will be done at the first DMG meeting after the AGM (Nov 18; as per current ToR guidance).

7.3. The self-review showed an increase in the ‘importance of the DMG’, and generally consistent results with the last self-review (2016).

8. Programme updates

8.1. Lord’s Taverners Junior Programme

- Want to use young people to influence the programme – Libby of Ospreys gave a speech at the National, and a consultation was held with participants
- This is a key strand for development
- Nationals had 5 teams (some linked to clubs, and others to schools), each with 8-10 players – competitive games
- Some players will be eligible for Paralympic discipline
- New Scarlets club in Wales

8.2. Workforce

- Volunteer strategy in development
- Time to Listen course – sourcing venue in Midlands at the weekend (based on past feedback)

8.3. Coaching

- Places available for the next Level 2 course
- Safe Session being phased out to Level 1 Activators; once tutors are trained this will undergo a pilot before launch – serves as a baseline course for people without wheelchair rugby experience, and as a path to Level 2
- Currently do not require a qualified coach for league participation, however as affiliation is reviewed this may change

8.4. Competition: SS1 dates confirmed as per last meeting record, and other dates tbc

8.5. Wales

- New Scarlets team in development
- Tom Rogers running Activators course

9. Club updates

9.1. Dorset

- Good participation due to WR5s
- Funding going well

9.2. Ospreys

- Increased numbers due to WR5s (through military)
- Difficulty with finding players for Paralympic discipline



- 9.3. Northampton
- 3 players funded own chairs
 - Junior numbers have increased from 4 to 12
 - Setting up a committee
- 9.4. LWRC
- Pushing awareness on social media
 - Decrease in funding, but witnessed across the sector
 - Focussed on Paralympic discipline – good numbers, but ageing
- 9.5. Canterbury
- Youth team in development
 - 10 tickets available for charity rides
- 9.6. Hawks
- Separation of military link led to some players moving from club, however they may play as Endeavour
 - Designated training days for Paralympic / Youth Programme disciplines
 - Some youth players starting to age out of programme
- 9.7. Gloucester
- Membership is static, but low
 - New venue at barracks
- 9.8. Solent
- Some new players from wheelchair basketball / WR5s, but looking for more
 - Some youth players starting to age out of programme
- 9.9. Brighton
- Committee change at AGM
 - Working towards affiliation
 - Membership increasing for Paralympic and WR5s disciplines
- 9.10. Crash
- Taster session in Manchester – aim for second session venue or satellite club
- 9.11. Maulers
- Coaching 3 sets of rules for Paralympic / WR5s and Invictus disciplines can cause confusion
- 10. DONM**
- 10.1. Next meeting: 19 Sep 18 at Leicester, following AGM – venue tbc
ACTION: DH
[Post meeting note: venue confirmed as Leicester Marriott]
- 10.2. Following: 15 Nov 18 – tbc
ACTION: JB
- 11. AOB**
- 11.1. DMG incited to take copies of CEO Review document to club members.
- 11.2. Safeguarding advice: it is acceptable to carry personal data with you (e.g. in a backpack) if you do not have a secure way to access this from a central system when out of the office – the data needs to be useful, and is not useful if not accessible when needed.
- 11.3. Youth goals are 1m from the sidelines.
- 11.4. Transgender classification: IWRP in discussion / clarification.