

BRITISH WATER POLO LEAGUE

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING, ASA OFFICES, SPORTPARK, LOUGHBOROUGH, 2 AUGUST, 2011.

68/11 Present: David Andrews (Chairman), Chris Ducker (General Secretary/Publicity Officer), David Boot (Match Secretary), Jeff Parker (Treasurer), David Quinlivan (Men's Clubs' Rep), Lisa Marshall (Women's Clubs' Rep). Co-opted: Mike Hesketh (Equipment), Sharon Worthington (Table Officials), Stephen Baker (Sponsorship).

69/11 Apology: Michelle Horton (Officials' Coordinator).

70/11 Welcome: Chairman welcomed the three co-opted representatives, including Life Member and former NWPL chairman Stephen Baker, who had been invited to discuss sponsorship opportunities.

71/11 Minutes of Committee Meeting, 17 May: Approved as a correct record.

72/11 Matters Arising:

25/11 T-shirts: Michelle Horton and Sharon Worthington to prepare a distribution list for the new League shirts. **Action: MH/SW**

52/11 25th/50th Anniversaries: Discussions regarding a possible joint event with Derbyshire Water Polo to mark the 2012 anniversaries of the NWPL (50th) and NWWPL (25th) had stalled because, due to a heavy Olympic programme at the National Water Sports Centre, Nottingham, no dates were available until after the start of the BWPL season in September 2012.

53/11 2012 AGM: David Boot confirmed that the usual Hockley Heath venue had been booked for the BWPL 2012 AGM on 25 March.

73/11 Chairman's Report:

74/11 British Championships: The meeting discussed a document from BSWPC recommending a new structure for the British Championships. It was noted that, despite BWPL having been given assurances that it would be consulted on such issues, the League had had no sight of, let alone input into, the document before its circulation. David Andrews said this raised many questions, not least why clubs likely to be in the vanguard of change – for example, regarding potential increased costs and the apparent “forced migration” of players – had not been consulted. The meeting agreed it was vital for BWPL to be seen to represent the views of its clubs and players over such issues. An initial straw poll of leading member clubs had been carried out in the limited amount of time available following publication of the report and this revealed clear concerns. Agreed that the British Championships should be a meaningful competition to determine Britain's champion club; and that other options, such as an inter-regional competition, needed to be considered before the current proposals were imposed on clubs. Chairman to respond on behalf of the League to Howard Cartwright, Chairman, BSWPC. **Action: DA**

75/11 Sponsorship: Chairman said that efforts to attract sponsorship for the League were ongoing. Stephen Baker explained details of a potential project and it was agreed that inquiries should continue. **Action: DA/SB**

76/11 Olympic Veterans: The committee was keen to organise a reunion event at the 2012 Olympics for surviving members of the last GB Olympic teams. Contact had been made with the British Olympic Association regarding acquisition of tickets. Veterans to be contacted. **Action: DA/CD**

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77/11 General Secretary's Report:

78/11, Website Advertising: Contact made with current advertisers on the BWPL website regarding renewal of agreements for another year. Legal firm Michelmores would be continuing their support. **Action: CD**

79/11 Lead Referees: A "job description" had been prepared explaining the role of lead referees and this would be circulated to clubs and others before the start of the season. **Action: CD**

80/11 Table Official Courses: GBASA had been provided with a list of potential dates when table official courses could be linked to BWPL competitive weekends. Nothing arranged so far and GBASA to be contacted again. **Action: CD**

81/11 Treasurer's Report:

82/11 Spring Cup Finances: Jeff Parker reported that the Spring Cup had made a profit of a few hundred pounds, mainly resulting from club fines.

83/11 Club fees: A number of clubs still owed money to the League. Treasurer to make contact. **Action: JP**

84/11 Match Secretary's Report:

85/11 LEN Dates: The programme in Women's Super 5s and Championship 1 required reorganisation due to a clash of dates with two rounds of the LEN Championship. The League had made every effort to avoid this situation, obtaining likely dates from LEN as early as March this year. The dates then provided were not those subsequently nominated for LEN rounds. Other options had been examined by the League and provisional additional bookings made for 17/18 December and 7/8 January. Clubs would be notified of the revised schedule as soon as possible after draws for the LEN competition on 8 August. **Action: DA/DB**

86/11 West London Penguin: The Committee discussed an email from Penguin stating that the club would be unable to fulfil Super 5s/Championship fixtures on either of the provisional alternative dates mentioned in 85/11. Agreed that, while every effort would be made to revise the programme in a balanced way, five months' notice of potential change was sufficient and, if necessary, those dates would have to be utilised.

87/11 City of Birmingham: Birmingham had indicated that it was likely their women's team would withdraw from Division 4. More information awaited. **Action: DB**

88/11 Registrations: All registrations received before the deadline. Women's details now being added to the established men's database.

89/11 Top Scorers: Agreed that the Peter Olson Trophy for men's top goal scorer should be awarded to the top marksman in Div 1 and Super 5s; and that a similar arrangement should apply in women's divisions. A new trophy would be required for the female winner. To be discussed at next meeting. **Action: CD**

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90/11 Officials' Co-ordinator's Report:

91/11 Referees: Michelle Horton (submitted report) said that refereeing appointments had been completed successfully and had been received positively.

92/11 Hotels: Hotel bookings for the season nearing completion. **Action: MH**

93/11 Goal Judges: Agreed that the League should aim to provide goal judges for the Super 5s. This would offer useful opportunities for developing referees and qualified table officials to gain extra experience. **Action: MH/SW**

94/11 2011 Arrangements:

95/11 Table Officials: Sharon Worthington reported that table official appointments for the new season were well advanced. However, adjustments would be required at events on 18/19 September due a clash with an Olympic warm-up tournament.

96/11 Database: Stephen Lorimer helping to create a detailed database of tablers.

97/11 Delegates: All appointments completed and confirmed by Ross Elder, with Women's Division 2 covered for the first time.

98/11 Event Managers: Mike Hesketh had completed event manager appointments and would arrange movement of equipment.

99/11 Spring Cup: The meeting discussed the Spring Cup, considering letters from City of Manchester and West London Penguin. It was agreed not to run it in future. This was based on a view that the competition was not consistent with BWPL's main objectives for top competition in the best pools etc; a clash was likely with ASA junior competitions; and its organisation would create extra administrative responsibilities for current officials. General Secretary to inform Judi Clayton. **Action: CD**

100/11 Next Meetings: 9 September (Sheffield) and 25 October (Loughborough).

101/11 Meeting closed at 10.30pm.