

## **BRITISH WATER POLO LEAGUE**

### **MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING, THE LINK HOTEL, LOUGHBOROUGH, 9 DECEMBER, 2011.**

**146/11 Present:** David Andrews (Chairman), Chris Ducker (General Secretary/Publicity Officer), Michelle Horton (Officials' Coordinator), David Boot (Match Secretary), Jeff Parker (Treasurer), Mike Hesketh (co-opted).

**147/11 Apologies:** Lisa Marshall (Women's Clubs' Rep), David Quinlivan (Men's Clubs' Rep).

**148/11 Minutes of Committee Meeting, 25 October:** Approved as a correct record.

#### **149/11 Matters Arising:**

**107/11 Roger Hargreaves:** Committee approved the new trophy purchased in memory of Roger Hargreaves, for the winners of men's Championship 1. The Hargreaves family to be invited to make the first presentation at Guildford, 8 January.  
**Action: DB**

**125/11 Events Co-ordinator:** Mike Hesketh had accepted the Committee invitation to be nominated as Events Co-ordinator and was already preparing a 2012 draft plan.

**128/11 Rules:** Meeting agreed to propose a change that would extend Rule 101.10 (only one team per club permitted to compete in women's Super 5s) to all phase 2 women's divisions, from 2013.

#### **150/11 Chairman's Report:**

**151/11 Delegates:** Chairman expressed anger that, once again, BWPL appeared to have been ignored by ASA/British Swimming in the debate over the future of the sport. He said British Swimming had appointed a new Water Polo Development Group and Water Polo Task Force to make decisions that could well have a profound impact on BWPL member clubs. Yet the composition of both BS groups appeared to contain no one with current knowledge of the club scene. Frustration for BWPL was that on several occasions we had been assured that the key role we play was recognised as well as being promised that we would be included in discussions about the future of the sport. Once again, however, information about the new groups had only become available via a third party.

Agreed that Chairman would write to David Sparkes, BS Chief Executive, expressing our concerns and pointing out that, as a key stakeholder in the sport in this country (65 teams, 1,200-plus players, 55 divisional competitions this year and a self-funded annual investment in water polo of more than £120,000) we have much to offer in the debate over building a sustainable future.  
**Action: DA**

**152/11 Clinic:** Clinic for delegates, referees and club coaches (Minute 126/11) to be held in September.  
**Action: CD/DA**

#### **153/11 General Secretary's Report:**

**154/11 Medals:** Medals ordered for end of season presentation. **Action: CD**

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**155/11 Trophies:** Lisa Marshall assisting in gathering together League trophies so that a detailed inventory can be carried out at the next Committee meeting.

**Action: LM**

**156/11 Automatic Sanctions:** David Boot to contact ASA Office of Judicial Administration to seek improved clarification of rules relating to the imposition of automatic sanctions. This followed confusion over a case where a registered player was red-carded while coaching a BWPL women's match and then played in the League for his club the following week. It was stressed that currently sanctions imposed in BWPL apply across the board within BWPL and that men's and women's divisions form ONE competition – in other words, a person suspended in the role of player, team leader, coach or other official of a team may not act in any of those roles in the club's next game; neither may he/she act as a delegate, referee or table official.

**Action: DB**

**157/11 South Derbyshire:** Notification of South Derbyshire women's team's resignation at the end of this season.

**158/11 Treasurer's Report:**

**159/11 Fees:** All fees paid with the exception of one club.

**Action: JP**

**160/11 Fines:** The following was agreed regarding non-fulfilments etc:

**161/11 Carlisle (Jeff Parker declared an interest):** Carlisle, who withdrew their women's team mid-season, to pay a total of £650 in fines and costs relating to non-fulfilments and reimbursement of expenses to other teams.

**Action: JP**

**162/11 Hucknall (Michelle Horton declared an interest):** Hucknall women's team unable to field a full side for fixture against Invicta due to late arrival of some players held up in traffic. Committee considered a detailed letter from the club. Hucknall to pay £100 in costs but points not deducted.

**Action: JP**

**163/11 City of Birmingham:** Non-fulfilments of women's fixtures at Basingstoke. Birmingham to pay £380 in costs towards pool fire, share of expenses and fine. Points deducted as per rule.

**Action: JP**

**164/11 Match Secretary's Report:**

**165/11 Late Registrations:** Late registrations received so far have added £845 to League funds.

**166/11 Scottish Students:** Scottish Students fined £5 for playing an unregistered player in two matches, although the club stated that this was due to a clerical error and in fact the player in the water was registered. Scottish Students also deducted four points (Rule 103.8).

**167/11 Next Meeting:** 20 January (Manchester).

**168/11 Meeting closed at 9.35pm.**