

**BRISTOL & WEST WATER POLO LEAGUE**  
**COMMITTEE MEETING – Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2019 - 7.30pm**

**NOTES**

The Bristol Concorde, Filton, Bristol

Attendees:

Phil Whitting  
Mike Coles  
Harriet Tod  
Darren Nash  
John Sissons  
Simon Tomlinson  
Paula Manning

Apology for absence received from Daryl Ward.

**1. Matters arising from meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 2018**

Minutes from the committee meeting held 3/12/8 agreed as a true record.

Action 2018/6 – Committee to agree dates and venues for final stages of the Handicap KO competition.

Final of 2018 Presidents Cup competition set for March 9<sup>th</sup> at Newport International Pool

**Action complete**

2018/12 – Mike Coles to arrange ordering of new polo shirts for league referees.

Ordering in hand

**Action complete.**

**2. League Accounts**

HT confirmed that league has received subscriptions for 2019 season from all clubs, except Cwm Draig.

Noting that payment had to be made by end of Jan at the latest, the committee agreed that HT should monitor receipt and contact Cwm Draig requesting immediate settlement of the outstanding fee and make them aware that they may be liable to a fine in accordance with the league rules if no payment has been made by end of Jan.

**ACTION 2019/01 – HT** – Monitor status of 2019 subscription payment from Cwm Draig and contact the club if no payment is received by the end of Jan 2019.

Committee acknowledged intent by HT to settle outstanding dept owed Swindon WPC by a payment to Matt James personal account.

### **3. Matters arising from AGM held 8<sup>th</sup> Jan 2019**

*(see draft minutes of AGM attached at ANNEX B)*

Following agreement of proposed rule changes detailed in the AGM minutes, Mike Coles to implement wording changes in rules on the website.

**ACTION 2019/02 – MC** – Amend wording of league rules in line with changes agreed at 2019 AGM.

MC confirmed that Chris Ducker had previously been made a life member of the League. Committee also questioned if Andy Allen had been made a life member? MC agreed to formally record all life members on the website.

**ACTION 2019/03 – MC** – Add full list of life members to web site.

MC advised that City of Bristol Harlequins have failed to return the Mens Division 2 trophy that had been awarded to them at the end of the 2017 season.

It was noted that in accordance with league rule 7.7, CoB could be subject to a fine of up to £50 for this failure.

John Sissons, on behalf of CoB, agreed to return the trophy asap and would ensure the trophy was properly engraved at no cost to the league, in lieu of payment of any fine. This was agreed as an acceptable compromise by the Committee.

MC confirmed that the Mens Premier League trophy was in his possession and would be passed to the 2018 Mens Premier League winners Welsh Wanderers asap.

### **4. Registrations and starring (Mens and Juniors)**

Details of starring attached at Annex C

The committee agreed that in principle, any club fielding multiple teams in different leagues would be required to star 9 players in each of the higher division teams.

For example, CoB have teams in the Mens Prem, Div1 and Div2. They will therefore be required to star 9 players in their Prem side and 9 players in the Div 1 side.

Alex James not to be starred for CON as a uni player for Bath Uni.....requested another nominee

MC to provide list to include in minutes.

## **5. Arrangements for Junior Tournaments**

The committee agreed that the league should look to run both U13 and U15 tournaments in 2019, with the U13 tournament being held in Plymouth and the U15 tournament being held in Newport. It was agreed that establishing dates for the events was a priority.

MC was asked to liaising with Rob Coleman of Devonport Royals to organise U13 competition.

**ACTION 2019/04 – MC** – Liaise with RoB Coleman to agree dates for U13 tournament at Plymouth Life Centre

NT was asked to approach Newport International Pool to discuss arrangements for the U15 competition.

**ACTION 2019/05 – NT** - Approach Newport International Pool to identify dates for U15 tournament.

## **6. Presidents Cup**

2018 Cup Final – date and venue now agreed. MC requested to sort referee and table officials.

2019 competition – The committee agreed that it would want to try and avoid the roll-over of the final into the following year as has happened for the 2018 competition and so was looking to try and set the date for the final asap. It was acknowledged that it would be sensible to take into account the BWPL fixture lists for the 2019 season before the final date was set.

**ACTION 2019/06 – Committee** – Set date and venue for final of 2019 Presidents Cup competition (once 2019 BWPL fixture list is set).

## **7. Any Other Business**

The committee approved £450 advance payment to MC to cover annual expenditure in administering BWPL business.

The committee acknowledged that with the introduction of a second junior division, there would be a need for another league winners trophy.

MC agreed to provide a Junior Division 2 Shield.

**ACTION 2019/07 – MC – source new Junior Div 2 winners shield**

MC proposed to investigate a new supply of medals, which would be of better quality than the current source This proposal was supported by the committee.

**ACTION 2019/08 – MC – Source new supplier of winners medals for use in the 2019 competition.**

### **8. Dates of next meetings**

*Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April*

*Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July*

*Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October*

*Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December*

Annex A – Actions

Action ID	Action On	Detail	Progress	Note
2018/6	Committee	To agree dates and venues for final stages of the Handicap KO competition.	Complete	Agreed March 9 <sup>th</sup> , Newport.
2018/12	MC	Arrange ordering of new polo shirts for league referees.	Complete	MC providing new shirts.
2019/01	HT	Monitor status of 2019 subscription payment from CWM Draig and contact the club if no payment is received by the end of Jan 2019.	open	
2019/02	MC	Amend wording of league rules in line with changes agreed at 2019 AGM.	Open	
2019/03	MC	Add full list of life members to web site.	Open	
2019/04	MC	Liaise with Ron Coleman to agree dates for U13	Open	

		tournament at Plymouth Life Centre		
2019/05	NT	Approach Newport International Pool to identify dates for U15 tournament.	Open	
2019/06	Committee	Set date and venue for final of 2019 Presidents Cup competition (once 2019 BWPL fixture list is set).	Open	
2019/07	MC	source new Junior Div 2 winners shield	Open	
2019/08	MC	Source new supplier of better quality winners medals for use in the 2019 competition.	Open	

**BRISTOL & WEST WATER POLO LEAGUE**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – Tuesday 8 January 2019**

The Lamb, 161 High Street, Weston-Super-Mare

**1. Apologies and Roll Call**

*Present:* (Representative of) Newton Abbot, Swindon, Welsh Wanderers, Exeter, Weston-Super-Mare, Cheltenham, City of Bristol I, City of Bristol Barbarians, City of Bristol Harlequins, Devonport, Bradford-on-Avon, Newport, Cwm Draig, Bath University, South Gloucester, Frome, Taunton, Swansea.

*Officers of the League:* Phil Whiting (President), Mike Coles (Match Secretary), Harriet Tod (Hon. Treasurer), Darren Nash (Hon. Secretary)

**2. Minutes of AGM on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

**3. Matters Arising**

Life membership for Matt James and Tim La Touche, awarded at the 2018 AGM was confirmed and it was agreed this would be recorded on the league website.

**4. Hon. Secretary's Report – Darren Nash (DN)**

The Management Committee met on 5 occasions during the year with all meetings having a quorum comprising league officers and divisional representatives. The addition of Harriet Tod as Hon. Treasurer brought a welcome female presence to the committee but we would again encourage further female representatives on the committee for the coming year. The roles of Match Secretary and Referee Coordinator continue to be both done by Mike Coles to whom we owe thanks.

It was satisfying to run the 12 and under and 14 and under tournaments again in 2018. On behalf of the league, the committee has expressed thanks to Rob Coleman and Russ Thomas for their support in the successful running of these competitions, which we plan to run again in 2019.

**5. Match Secretary and Referees Co-ord Report – Mike Coles (MC)**

The MC congratulated member clubs for another 100% return of completed match-sheets through the 2018 season.

MC congratulated Welsh Wanderers on winning the Premier Division, City of Bristol Barbarians on winning Division 1, Taunton on winning Division 2, Exeter on winning the Ladies Division and Devonport on winning the Junior Division.

MC confirmed that the President's Handicap cup final between Swansea and South Gloucestershire, was to be held at the Newport International Pool on Saturday 9th March 2019.

MC advised that the decision taken at the beginning of the 2018 season to remove the obligation for clubs to provide referee evaluations except when notifying deficient performance had worked well. The league had only received one deficient report in the 2018 season which was passed to the Swim England Coordinator for review and action.

MC thanked all referees on the BWWPL panel and asked for clubs to continue to encourage new and existing referees to join the panel, as many referees were still being asked to cover an unreasonable volume of matches.

MC advised that whilst the league is making all efforts to run referee courses in the coming year, there is currently a block on course expenditure at Swim England SW. Clubs will be advised if and when this situation changes.

PW expressed thanks on behalf of the league to the referees involved in the 2018 competition and highlighted the fact that they are a crucial resource to the running of the league. PW reiterated previous requests for members clubs to treat all referees with respect. MC confirmed that all Referees only charge travel expenses – normally at 35p per mile and that all expenses are equalised across each division so that all teams pay the same cost – irrespective of what they pay to the referee at the match.

## **6. Treasurer’s Report – Harriet Tod (HT)**

HT circulated the League’s Income & Expenditure accounts for 2018 as at 31/12/18 which included a comparison with 2017. HT advised that the small increase in fees applied to the 2018 season, coupled with an increase in the number of teams competing in the League, should result in the league breaking even for 2018 once all liabilities have been settled.

As a consequence, the league committee propose to keep the subscriptions at the same level again for the 2019 season.

## **7. Referee’s Coordinator’s Report - Mike Coles (MC)**

Taken with the Match Co-ordinators report at item 5 above.

## **8. Proposed Rule Changes for 2019**

DN advised the meeting that following the consultation with member clubs, the wholesale changes that had been proposed to Rule 16.4 have been withdrawn.

Some minor changes to clarify the intention of existing rules were proposed.

### **Rule 16 - Players**

A change to the first paragraph in Rule 16.4 to read

*16.4 A player who is registered with a University team and is a bona fide student at that university may also register as a player for their home Member Club Association, provided the home club team plays in a different division to their University team.*

*A player from a team in a lower division .....*

### **Rule change carried – 12 For, 2 Against, 1 Abstention**

A change of the wording of rule 16.7 to clarify that the BWWPL role in approving movements of players between clubs is limited to those that directly affect running of the league.

*16.7 A player is permitted to change the league team they are registered to play for once during each playing season. This change of registration will only be permitted if both Member Club Association Secretaries have confirmed their agreement in writing to the Hon. Match Secretary, no monies are owed by the player to their current Member Club Association and the permission of the Hon. Match Secretary has been granted (not to be unreasonably withheld). The player can play for their second registered team if that team is not playing in the same league division as the team the player was previously registered for that season.*

**Rule change carried – 13 For, 0 Against, 2 Abstention**

## **Rule 21 Un-played Fixtures.**

Remove action by the BWWPL committee to seek associated costs for un-played fixtures.

*21.1.2 Order payment of a fine not exceeding £35 by the offending team or teams.*

**Rule change carried – 14 For, 0 Against, 1 Abstention**

## **General.**

Adoption of the recently published revisions to FINA rules of Water Polo.

This matter was discussed at length amongst the meeting attendees. MC advised that the Midlands League had committed to implementing a small number of the rule changes. It was recognised that early introduction of the rule changes could bring benefits in terms of building experience for both players and officials involved in national/international competition. There remained however some uncertainty about the application of some of the new rules and it was agreed that until clarity had been received from Swim England on the scope of the changes to be adopted and interpretation to be applied, any attempt to introduce some or all the rules could be counter-productive. As a consequence, it was agreed to play the first part of the 2019 BWWPL season up to the end of July under the existing FINA rules.

It was agreed that league competition would be suspended for the month of August and at that time the Committee would review the maturity of the rules changes with a view to potentially running the remainder of the 2019 competition (September to November) under revised rules.

It was agreed unanimously by the league club membership that the Committee should be granted the power to implement any of the proposed FINA rule changes they considered practical and of benefit to the league membership.

The Committee were asked to continue to work with Swim England to monitor developments on this matter and seek to arrange a technical meeting hosted by Swim England to brief league officials and member clubs on the scope and application of agreed rule changes ahead of any potential changes.

## **9. Format of Divisions for 2019**

The committee proposed to retain the league structure for the senior competitions that had been used in 2018.

It was agreed that whilst COB Barbarians had won the Mens Div 1 competition it would not be in the interest of the club or league for them to be promoted to the Premier Division. With Frome being demoted from the Premier Division, it was noted that if this situation were to persist an alternative approach to promotion and relegation may need to be considered.

In an effort to attract new junior teams, it was proposed to divide the Junior division in two with the strongest teams from the 2018 season playing in one division and the lower performing sides grouped in another. This seems to have generated a quick win with two new junior sides applying to join the lower division.

Newton Abbot announced that they would be unable to field a junior team for 2019. This has created some in-balance in the numbers of teams in the top division and lower division of the Junior league.

The current Junior teams to be involved in the lower division were offered the opportunity to fill the gap in the upper division created by the loss of Newton Abbot but all declined.

The league structures for the 2019 season were agreed as follows:

### **Men's Division**

#### **Premier**

Cheltenham  
City of Bristol I  
City of Newport I  
Exeter  
Newton Abbot  
Welsh Wanderers

#### **Division 1**

City of Bristol Barbarians  
Cwm Draig  
Devonport Royal  
Frome  
Swindon  
Taunton  
Weston-Super-Mare

#### **Division 2**

Bath Uni  
Bradford on Avon  
City of Bristol Harlequins  
City of Newport II  
South Gloucestershire  
Swansea

### **Women's Division**

Cheltenham  
City of Bristol  
Cwm Draig  
Exeter  
Newton Abbot  
Welsh Wanderers

### **Junior Division**

#### **Division 1**

City of Bristol I  
Devonport Royal  
Exeter  
Welsh Wanderers

#### **Division 2**

City of Bristol II  
Cwm Draig  
City of Newport  
South Gloucestershire  
Swansea  
Taunton

## **10. Election of Officers**

The following officers and delegates were proposed unopposed:

- i. President: **Phil Whiting**,
- ii. Honorary Secretary: **Darren Nash** - Proposed by Phil Whiting and seconded by Mike Coles
- iii. Treasurer: **Harriet Todd** - Proposed by Phil Whiting and seconded by Darren Nash Coles
- iv. Match Secretary: **Mike Coles** – Proposed by Phil Whiting and seconded by Harriet Todd
- v. Referees' Coordinator: **Mike Coles** – Proposed by Phil Whiting and seconded by Darren Nash
  
- vi. Divisional Representatives
  - Premier Division: **John Sissons**
  - Division 1: **Simon Tomlinson**
  - Division 2: **Nick Tod**
  - Women's Division: **Paula Manning**
  - Junior Division: **Daryl Ward**

All above divisional representatives were jointly proposed by Mike Coles and seconded by Darren Nash

vii. Appointment as B&W rep on Swim England SW Water Polo Technical Committee:

**Sarah Tomlinson** - Proposed by Mike Coles and seconded by Phil Whiting.

**The above nominations were voted en-block and agreed by all member clubs, with the exception of Newport, who abstained.**

## **11. Presentation of Trophies**

Presentation of medals and trophies to winners was made as follows:

Men Premier Division Champions **Welsh Wanderers** (accepted by John Griffiths)

Mens Division 1 Champions **City of Bristol Barbarians** (accepted by John Sissons)

Mens Division 2 Champions **Taunton** (accepted by Simon Tomlinson)

Women's Division Champions **Exeter** (accepted by James Baker)

Junior Division Champions **Devonport** (accepted by Rob Coleman)

President's Cup Winners **match on March 9<sup>th</sup> 2019**

## **12. Any Other Business**

Rhys Tamlyn (proposed the introduction of a Masters tournament for the 2019 season. This was agreed as a proposal with the committee tasked with considering arrangements.

Martyn Thomas of Cheltenham asked for clubs to consider being more flexible in acceptance of fixtures during school holiday times to ensure the volume of fixtures could be managed.

The meeting finished at 8.55pm.

Annex C – Details of starring for 2019 season.