



ENGLISH LACROSSE ASSOCIATION Ltd.

MENS PLAYING COMMITTEE

2008 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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Chairman's Opening Remarks – Alan Holdsworth

Recent events in the North have re-enforced the views expressed within the MPC that we need to seriously review the objectives of the Committee and the structure of our game nationally.

Over a 3 week period we have seen in the North 3 major events : Lancs v Cheshire (regarded by some as the 'big' game) ; LN Flags Final weekend and British National Championship – hardly conducive to preparation for the players, coaches and volunteers involved. Despite some valid reasons for this crowded end to the season it reflects a total failure to comply with dates set well in advance by Clive Perrin after consultation with all parties.

We have also seen restructuring proposals rejected in the North – I think this is for the third time over a long period and Clubs voting seem to be looking at the short term rather than solutions to a crowded programme and with clubs in the bottom division playing less games due to cancellations.

The main purpose of the MPC is to set the policy for the running of our game nationally however this becomes extremely difficult when the various sub-committees seem to look to their vested interests rather than the medium to long term benefits and at times tough decisions seem to be avoided.

Most players simply want their weekly fixtures however there is also a clear desire from wide ranging areas of the game for an elite programme to cater for National Squads bringing in a strategy of Long Term Athlete development and player identification coupled with a structure for promoting a professional and qualified coach programme – the Counties and clubs have to buy in to this to achieve success and realise the potential of the young talent that clearly exists.

There seems little point in promoting the development of new regional clubs unless we can provide a competitive league structure that provides all with the opportunity of a league and cup programme whilst catering for elite development.

It has to be said that the South has been more effective by introducing a regional structure – something that the North should perhaps look at in more detail in order to integrate clubs as distant as Newcastle, Hull etc and clearly now to include clubs in the Midlands eg Birmingham from next season.

National Squads and the Technical Committee now work much more closely and R&R committee have taken on board changes in the process of Referee's Course integrated into the ELA system and should be commended for their assistance with University courses - extremely important in view of the massive growth and formalisation of the BUSA Men's League 2008/09 onwards.

It's impossible to please all of the people all of the time and we have to take on board changes that are necessary to provide requirements of the modern game – this may upset some traditionalists and the MPC may have to be prescriptive however we have to focus on the best interests of the National game and remove some of the more time consuming parochial debates.

If re-elected that is certainly my aim with support of Committee members who I thank for their time and involvement over this season addressing a wide range of issues. Particular thanks to Ron Balls who keeps us on the straight and narrow especially in the challenging area of Finance.

Best wishes to our U19 & Senior squads participating in Canada and Finland this summer and to Wilmslow & Hampstead in the 'double header' for the Iroquois and Wilkinson trophies on the 17th May.

Executive – Ron Balls

Since the last AGM the MPC has met formally on five occasions these being :

22nd May 2007 11th September 2007 20th November 2007
22nd January 2008 and 22nd March 2008

The MPC was saddened to year of the loss Paul Fildes, President of Cheshire Lacrosse Association and extended condolences to the family and Stockport Lacrosse Club

In addition to the normal running of the game within the Committees and Territorial Associations, which the relevant Chairman or Delegate will report on, the MPC has debated and dealt with the following matters:

MPC Composition

In addition to the posts elected at either ELA or MPC AGM, or nominated by territories, the following appointments were ratified :

| | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Juniors & Schools | Brian Costello |
| National Squads | Greg Caplin |
| Referees & Rules | Peter McGinney |
| Special Events | Ken Haves |

International Championships

The **2007 World Indoor Championship** took place over the period May 14 – 21st with the England team organized by Jamie Tasko. On its first appearance in an Indoor Championship the team are to be congratulated on achieving 4th place. Credit must be given to Jamie, General Manager (and player) of the team and Head Coach Chris Hall. Lewis Ratcliffe is also to be congratulated on being named in the All World Team.

The **U19 2008 World Championship** will be held in British Columbia, Canada, over the period 3rd to 12th July with 12 teams competing. We wish Ravi Sitlani, his managerial and coaching colleagues and the squad the best of luck in this event.

To support the National Squads MPC allocated £12,000 for events this year.

World Championship 2010

Plans are well advanced for this the ground (The Firs) and accommodation already secured. Presentations have been given at Reading and Timperley Lacrosse clubs and further update will be given at the AGM.

European Championships 2008

This is scheduled to take place in August in Lahti, Finland. Communication with the Organizing Committee over accommodation and the ELF Executive over the playing schedule has not been as straightforward as is usual with major events. We wish Greg Caplin and Dave Elwood and their party success in this Championship

Iroquois Cup / Wilkinson Sword

Recognizing the difficulties in arranging these events over a number of years with poor team responses, penalties have now been introduced for default. These are attached to this report.

Wilmslow and Hampstead will contest a double header for the trophies this season on May 17th.

Equity Considerations

This has been raised again and the policy document following last years ELA AGM, which clarified the position referred to.

The WPC has confirmed that men may not play in Women's lacrosse.

Age Dispensation

The age limit for senior lacrosse is 16 and following the discussion last year and agreement of the process in terms of dispensation this has been exercised for 32 players in League South in season 2007/08.

Relevant League matters

As requested by NEMLA dispensation was granted to play without the "take out" rule in all Divisions below Division 2.

Referees and Rules

A number of issues relating to Referees and Rules have attracted attention this year including:

The unfortunate circumstances of some Officials, at the start of the season, not wishing to take the field without additional clarity in respect insurance matters and perceptions of the wording of the insurance policy.

The introduction of a procedure for club comment on Officials on field performance.
Copy appended.

Visibility to the MPC of the Referees and Rules Disciplinary process.

ELA Volunteer Awards Scheme

John Buckland Award – Tom Slade

David Walkden Award - Alan Boyle / Alan Hunter (joint winners)

Territorial Funding

Allocations were made on a similar basis to previous years that is to the Counties and South of England, with an increase in County funding from £180 to £200.

This is in addition to basic administration costs for NEMLA / League North and SEMLA / League South

ILF and ELF

Relevant matters from the respective meetings are covered in the International Report

Structure of the Men's game

Following on observations on the geographic coverage, membership and effectiveness of the organization of Men's lacrosse a sub-group has started to look at this in further detail and will consult on a wide basis. A key element here is to consider what functional and organization structure will be needed looking to the future rather than too much of an emphasis on short-term considerations.

Ex- Officio

David Shuttleworth, Paul Coups and Dave Coldwell have attended MPC meetings on a regular basis and kept the Committee advised on wider matters including:

Whole Sport Plan
Child Protection Policy
Equity Policy
Development & Coaching matters
Registration issues

We have benefited considerably from this and express our thanks to David, Paul, Dave and all the ELA staff.

MENS PLAYING COMMITTEE

NATIONAL CLUB COMPETITIONS

There are currently two national club competitions these being

- a) Iroquois Cup: the English Club Championship, instituted in 1890, and contested between the respective winners of the NEMLA and SEMLA Senior Flags competitions. This has traditionally been played in the April / May period and alternates between a north of England and a south of England location. Historically in the days of the North v South fixture (replaced by the British National Championship and predecessor events) the Iroquois Cup location alternated with the North v South game.

In recent years fixture scheduling has invariably resulted in this match being scheduled for Mid-May.

The currently scheduled date for the coming season is Saturday 17th May 2008 (South location).

- b) Wilkinson Sword: this is a newer competition instituted in the 1993/94 season when the Sword was made available from the Wilkinson Sword Company. It is competed for by the respective winners of the NEMLA and SEMLA Leagues (initially Division 1 but both renamed as Premier Divisions).

Originally the game was scheduled for September as curtain raiser to the forthcoming season (similar to the FA Charity / Community Shield) but in recent years, to better reflect the actual teams that have won the respective leagues has been scheduled in May. In those instances where Flag winners have won the League, in both North and South a single “double header (trophy) game has been arranged.

The currently scheduled date for the forthcoming season is Sunday 11th May 2008 (North location).

The continuation or otherwise of these games was discussed at both the MPC AGM and subsequent MPC Executive meeting on 22nd May where the following options were identified :

- ⇒ Continue with one or both games scheduled for end of season (April / May).
- ⇒ Continue with both games but curtain raisers to the next season (September).

⇒ Discontinue one or both games.

The general consensus was that both games should continue, these should be scheduled for the end of season (May) and that additional appropriate penalties should be imposed on defaulting teams as well as conceding the game.

Suggested Penalties (to be introduced as emergency measures for season 2007/08) to be recommended to the respective league bodies :

Iroquois Cup – Recognising that this is the culmination of the respective Flags competition then if a team defaults in 2008 it would be barred from entering the relevant Flags competition for season 2008/09.

Wilkinson Sword – With this being played between the respective League Winners the appropriate penalty for a defaulting team in 2008 would be a points deduction with effect from the commencement of the 2008/09 season. Penalty to be five (5) points.

It was agreed at the MPC meeting on 11th September 2007 that the penalties referred to above should be introduced with immediate effect noting that in discussion the penalty in respect of Wilkinson Sword default would be 5 points (rather than the 3 originally proposed).

It was also considered that the profile of both events should be raised and that Adam Sherlock (ELA Marketing) would be asked to assist.

Ron Balls

12th September 2007

MENS PLAYING COMMITTEE

REFEREE ASSESSMENT

Some of the events and surrounding the 2007 LN Flags semi-finals and resultant actions indicated a need to ensure that a clear and transparent process is in place to deal with any issues related to a referee performance and any genuine concerns raised by member clubs.

Following on from the discussion at the Men's Playing Committee on 11th September 2007 the responsibilities been clarified as :

a) Referees Association (North) [or indeed any Referee or Umpire Association]

Open to all Referees in the North of England but with in practice no real authority or executive powers, more a "trade union / friendly society" for referees.

b) LN Referees Appointments Secretary (or may be undertaken by a nominee of the Referees Association).

Responsible for the administration of referee appointments to games

c) MPC / Referees and Rules Committee

Responsible for (in addition to Rules matters) provision of Referees, which embraces :

Recruitment

Training

Awards (Policy, Structure of Awards, Setting / Marking examinations for potential referees at the proscribed levels).

Assessment

Assignment to Games (implicitly major events, tours and visits, Championships)

Within the remit of "Assessment" this must include those referees already qualified to confirm that they are still up to the standard etc.

If a club (as the Member) wishes to raise a matter related to Referee ability, performance or general behaviour etc. then the first point to address any such issue would be the Referees and Rules Committee. Only after consideration by that body would there be cause to appeal to the MPC (in the sense that the MPC is the body above all of it's subordinate committees etc.).

Ron Balls 29th October 2007

Agreed at the MPC meeting held on 20th November 2007

NEMLA / League North – John Partt General Secretary NEMLA Management Committee

During the 2007/08 season the Management Committee met on 8 occasions for its usual monthly meetings, plus 1 minor meeting (held immediately after the 2007 AGM), and a Special meeting held in March, which was attended by various other interested parties.

Once again the administration of the Senior League programme constituted the principal activity of the Committee, together with organising the Flags and Cup knockout competitions, the Under 19 League programme and the Under 19 knockout competitions.

The Committee also dealt with 43 player transfers, 2 complaints from clubs and an assortment of queries, problems and circumstances raised by clubs. It also (through its Disciplinary sub-committee) handled various disciplinary matters. These included 10 expulsion fouls, all of which were dealt with under the established automatic three match suspension system. Fortunately, there was no need for the sub-committee to hold any formal meetings this season. At one point though, it did seem that a meeting might be necessary, as we were notified of an allegation of racial abuse, something which the Committee had never previously encountered. However, the matter was passed on to the ELA, Mark Coups taking responsibility for dealing with it.

A total of 23 clubs entered the competitions this season, 2 more than the previous season, the newcomers being Hull and Liverpool, but a total of 52 senior teams represented a reduction of 1 team from the 53 in 2006/07. Twelve U19 teams played in the Autumn League (the same number as in the previous season, but only 11 played in the post-Christmas knockouts.

The first 6 of the monthly meetings were relatively uneventful (which is not to say that no difficult issues arose) but then we were suddenly confronted with a major problem – the Rochdale club told us they would not be able to host the Festival Weekend on the agreed dates. Having put back the dates by one week, we were then confronted with a massive complication – one of the finalists in the Senior Flags Final might be unable to field its team. This caused us to hold a Special meeting in March, in order to find an acceptable solution to the problem. The valuable input from all at that meeting finally enabled a resolution to be found, but one unfortunate outcome of the predicament was the resignation from the Committee of Richard Gartside. Richard had been a member of the Committee since October 2001 and had been a strong participant and instrumental in the promotion of various ideas. He was a valued contributor to the Committee and we were sorry he resigned as he did.

The usual Open Forum meetings were held in October, December and February and an additional Open Forum in April to discuss the suggested League re-structure previously raised at the February meeting. This resulted in a formal proposition being put to the Clubs at the recent NEMLA AGM, but the clubs voted against it. All the Open Forum meetings were held in the Manchester area and once again the Yorkshire affiliated clubs, together with Liverpool, were granted dispensation from the mandatory attendance requirement. It was pleasing though, that the Liverpool secretary attended the April meeting and both he, and one of the Hull players, attended the NEMLA AGM. Most of the other clubs attended the meetings. Those which did not were fined, the total amount being £135.

The December Open Forum meeting was combined with a Special General Meeting at which the Bye Law relating to transfer windows was rescinded. The 5 Yorkshire affiliated clubs, together with Liverpool, were granted postal voting rights. However, 3 of these failed to register their vote, thereby contravening the mandatory requirement to do so. They were each fined £15.00

Once again this season I have continued the practice of sending copies of all Management Committee and Open Forum minutes to all the clubs and other interested parties.

As mentioned earlier, the Rochdale club hosted the Festival Weekend once again and we are indebted to them for their excellent organisation. The weather on the Saturday was very good; not so good on the Sunday. The referees did a sterling job at the Weekend (as always) and thanks go to them.

The winners of the 6 Finals for which the Committee is responsible, that is, the Flags and Cup competitions were presented with their trophies immediately after their respective games.

The winners of the divisional and other trophies were presented with them at the NEMLA AGM. It is with sadness through, that I have to report that the Stockport Express Award had to be presented posthumously to Paul Fildes, the Cheshire County President, who died suddenly very recently. The award was presented to his wife and family at Stockport Lacrosse Club's Dinner, Paul having been a member of Stockport for many years

13/5/08

SEMLA / League South – John Maynard

This season saw the inauguration of a second West Division., bringing the number of divisions in the SEMLA structure to five, involving forty three teams. There is also the Midlands Division of eight teams. In addition to these, there are four Flags Competitions and three West Midland Cup Competitions; plus the six a side competition. All fixtures were completed and the results are as follows:-

| Division | Champions |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Premier | Hampstead |
| West One | Bath |
| West Two | Portsmouth University |
| East One | Welwyn |
| East Two | Brighton Panthers |
| Midlands | Loughborough University |
| Senior Flags | Hampstead |
| Intermediate | Cardiff Harliquins |
| Minor | Brighton Panthers |
| Midlands | Birmingham Bulls |
| | |
| West Midlands Cup | |
| Senior | Warwick University |
| Intermediate | Nottingham University |
| Minor | Portsmouth University |
| | |
| Six a sides | |
| Senior | Purley |
| Intermediate | Welwyn |
| Minor | Brighton Panthers |

Next season the fixtures secretary will have extra assistance to cope with the work load. The fixture secretary has contacted the twenty-six universities in SEMLA asking for their intentions regarding the league they will be playing in. Of the thirteen replies received so far; six will play in both SEMLA and BUSA league, five in BUSA only and two in SEMLA only. The Royal Navy are withdrawing from the leagues next season.

The number of junior teams is up slightly on last season and the system of triangular games worked well. Clubs have hosted Czech and American teams of various age groups. It is anticipated that next season will see a growth in junior teams. Currently a junior

Surrey/Sussex summer league is under way. The dispensation system for under sixteen age players to play in senior lacrosse is working well.

The refereeing courses held at Welwyn and Cardiff, during the season were well attended and consequently the number of qualified referees has increased.

The South entered two teams into the British Nationals. The “first” team gained the best result we have had in years by coming third. The second team is regarded as a development squad for up and coming players. The South Universities also entered a team. The main idea behind this was to widen the playing experience for those relatively new to the game.

The London Tournament has been revived and is due to be played at Eton College from the 18th to 20th July. There are eight men’s teams entered and five women’s teams, with another three as possible participants. A website has been set up and talks are under way for a major sponsor. At the moment medical cover is being sought, since St. Johns cannot attend.

Nik Roberts is proving a valuable asset to our monthly SEMLA meeting.

National Squads – Greg Caplin

The National Squads Committee has met on an ad hoc basis in season 2007/8. National Squads Committee submitted reports to every MPC meeting held in season 2007/8.

Personnel

The following appointments were made in accordance with MPC approved procedure:

Ravi Sitlani – Manager Under 19
Tom Wenham – Head coach Under 19
Dan Green - Assistant coach Under 19
Alistair Wallace - Assistant coach Under 19
Sam Patterson - Assistant coach Under 19
Ben McAllister - Assistant coach Under 19
Scott Weddell - Assistant coach Under 19
Phil Collier - Assistant coach Seniors
Wilf Seville – Assistant manager Seniors

Dave Elwood and Greg Caplin remain in post as Head Coach and General Manager

Tours

There have been no incoming or outgoing tours this season.

Activities this season have concentrated on preparation for the two tournaments in which England compete in the summer of 2008, the Under19 World Championships in Canada, and the European Championships in Finland.

Under 19

Following trials in the north and the south last season successful players were taken on a weekend residential camp from which 46 players from 15 clubs including the south were selected to form a training squad. The squad received regular intensive coaching until the final cut in January 2008, leaving a tour party of 27 players. Coaching and preparation have been handled in a professional manner with a valuable contribution from a dedicated parents fundraising committee. I am sure the meeting will join me in wishing the tour party and their supporters the success in Canada their efforts deserve.

Seniors

As with the Under 19s, it was intended to hold trials in Manchester and London in order to select a truly national team. While the north trial attracted some 40 players from outside of the existing team only 6 eligible players applied for the south trial which had to be abandoned and instead the applicants were seen by the coaches whenever possible at events in which they played. This is far from ideal and did not enable the equal opportunity for all hoped for. Despite

our best efforts there was a regrettable lack of support from the south. A squad of 36 is now in training from which the final team will be selected in June.

Other Activities

In addition to team matters National Squads Committee has been working in conjunction with MPC Development sub committee to design and implement a structure for player and coach development including talent identification and involving effective pathways from junior level through to the senior England men's team. The draft document "Building a Champion" is appended to this report.

In conclusion I would confirm National Squads determination to select the best players for the England team regardless of which region of the country they play in and will continue to follow this policy despite this season's set back in the south. Finally and inevitably lack of finance remains a huge impediment to progress in all aspects of National Squads activities, although we are extremely appreciative of the efforts of MPC chair and members to divert what little funds are available to the England squads

11.5.2008

Referees & Rules – Peter McGinnety (presented by Graham Lester)

Referees Seminar was held at Didsbury on 15th Sept and was well attended by north refs and Dan Wright from the South. The content was well received and stimulated a great deal of discussion. Points of emphasis were given for the forthcoming season. It was resolved to hold another seminar prior to next season and to invite "home" refs to attend. Subsequently it was resolved that we would repeat the seminar in the South prior to their season.

Insurance concerns marred the start of the season and led to the ELA Referees and Rules Committee strongly recommending that all referees should not officiate until clarification was received from the Insurers.

Cyber bullying the protracted disciplinary action following the Flags semi finals and defamatory comments posted on the forum was finally left to the club to deal with as an internal matter. A similar incident in the South resulted in the player's club being deducted league points. When the club appealed further points were deducted. There is a need for a standard approach for this increasing problem.

Club courses Mellor hosted a course in September attended by 25 candidates from Mellor, Rochdale and Ashton clubs

BUSA Tournaments in Durham and the semi finals at Timperley and the finals in Sheffield were provided with referees. The inclusion of Lacrosse as a full BUSA sport has already stimulated demand for referee courses the most recent of which were held at Leeds and Northampton .

International courses Two referee courses have been held in Germany and two in the Netherlands during the season.

International Award. Graham Rushton (north), John Warrington (N) Daniel Wright (South) and Tom Slade (S) have successfully passed the Intermediate International Award.

U19 Floodlit tournament. Clive Perrin has suggested that in future both teams will be asked to supply a referee who will work with the appointed experienced panel ref, providing three refs per game and as a result improve their skills and gain confidence.

U19 World Championships and European Championships All candidate for these competitions have continued to be assessed during the season.

The following were selected to attend the U19 Championships:- P Davidson, D Doolan, P Long and T Nugent.

Later in the year the following were invited to go to the Europeans:-

I Ashworth, T Pugh, S Bamford, N Matlak and Simon Peach. More recently, we have been asked to provide further referees, due to withdrawal of refs from other countries. As a result, we have invited

T Slade and D Wright, both from the South, to join the other English referees in Finland .

Fitness testing following the ELA's agreement we have set up a trial of the fitness testing which will form a compulsory element of the preparations of referees on their arrival at the World Championships in 2010.

Chair of ILF Officiating Committee. Graham Lester has made the decision to stand down from the chair of this committee. In January, the R&R committee suggested that the ELA proposed Don Blacklock be nominated for the new FIL (unified ILF and IFWLA) for the position. Graham Lester was asked if he was prepared to be nominated for the new FIL role of Chair of FIL Rules Committee.

Rule books A consignment of rule books is being held by Tony Nugent, some were circulated to panel refs North, and the remaining will be given to candidates at future courses. The ELA dispatched another consignment to Jon Harrop for distribution to South referees. The remainder are to be held by the ELA.

Coaching Courses. It was suggested by R&R that all future coaching courses contained the requirement to take the Basic referees award. However, it was agreed that this was impractical due to time/cost constraints. As a compromise R&R are in the process of devising a "Rules Quiz" which will be included in future courses.

Player injuries. Following a player injury during the season it was agreed that in future injuries must be recorded by a member of the hosting club in their accident book (this is not the responsibility of the referee). The ELA has asked that the referee notify headquarters by e mail. R&R committee will have proforma ready for the beginning of next season so that essential information is recorded.

Minimum Age to referee. The MPC agreed that referees must be over 16 years of age.

ELA Referees and Rules Budget season 2008/9 Looking to the future this committee will need to submit a budget to cover, such things as, the expense of assessing regionally and nationally. (P Coups has already offered to help with the necessary paperwork).

May 2008

Events Promotion – Ken Haves

EVENTS PROMOTION COMMITTEE ACCOUNT SEASON 2007-2008

Financial Year 2008 /09

| | EXPENSES | | INCOME |
|--------------------------------|----------|-----------|----------|
| Semi-Finals | | | |
| Referees | 80 00 | Gate | 726 00 |
| <i>Festival Weekend</i> | | | |
| Medical Cover | 150 00 | Clubs | 2270 00 |
| Tickets | 174 00 | Donations | 105 00 |
| Medals | 458 27 | Gate | 2127 60 |
| P A Systems | 250 00 | | |
| Referees | 680 00 | | |
| | _____ | | _____ |
| | £1791 27 | | £5228 60 |
| Surplus | £3437 33 | | |
| <i>Distribution</i> | | | |
| England U 19 Squad | | | 1000 00 |
| NELA Trust Fund Repayment | | | 1500 00 |
| | | | _____ |
| | | | 2500 00 |
| Residual | | | £937 33 |

Juniors & Schools – Brian Costello

No report available.

International – Ron Balls

European Lacrosse Federation

Main points from the 2007 AGM (Aachen 26th May)

Apologies for Absence : England, Wales, Scotland, Slovakia, Ireland, Austria, Switzerland, Denmark and Spain.

1. Bulgaria and France accepted as members
2. All countries were encouraged to continue to promote women's lacrosse.
3. To consider a European Champions Competition to take effect in 2008: Overall idea of Champions Competition was discussed and high interest in the idea. All member nations were encouraged to discuss concept in their countries. The ELF will welcome initiatives that will bring a champions competition to life. (*No progress since last meeting*).
4. Membership fees revised as follows:
 - a. New nations not obligated to pay fees in the year they join.
 - b. In the three years following their joining the ELF they pay a membership fee of Euros 50 per annum.
 - c. In following years membership will increase to Euros 100 per annum.
5. Election of Officers: President: Peter Mundy, Vice President Men: Kristian Gotsch, Vice President Women: Liisa Matinvesi, Honorary Secretary vacant. Honorary Treasurer: Florian Muth. Michael Hoeck has subsequently taken up the Ho. Secretary position.

Proposal Related to the European Championships

The ELA has put proposals to the ELF Executive regarding appointment procedures for the Referee-in-Chief and the numbers of Referees / Assessors at the European Championship in 2008. Copies attached. To date there has not been a satisfactory response to either item.

European Championships

These will take place in Lahti Finland over the period August 8th – 16th with either 17 or 18 teams competing. The original team entry date was set as July 30th 2007 and then revised to February 28th 2008 and is now flexible. We are awaiting advice from the ELF Executive as to the number of teams competing and the format of the playing schedule.

International Lacrosse Federation

Main points from the meeting held in Halifax, NS in May 2007

Successful World Indoor Championships held with the winners being Canada, with extensive TV coverage in Canada, Europe and Asia.

It was agreed that for the 2010 World Championships and beyond that :

Referees would be allocated into two groups – Blue for the elite and a Qualification Group for the remainder.

Assessors would similarly be set up in two groups

Fitness tests on Referees would be conducted in advance of selection, and also on arrival on site –only those passing would be in the Blue Group.

Theoretical Examinations would take place for Referees in advance of selection, and also on arrival on site –only those passing would be in the Blue Group.

Updates were provided on the Under 19 2008 World Championship by Cliff Pascas and on the 2010 Senior World Championship by David Shuttleworth.

The “senior” members of the ILF (Canada, England, Iroquois Nationals, Japan and USA) have all contributed funds to “Project World Lacrosse” to boost development funds for both the expansion of the game and support in the newer countries.

Draw for the Under 19 World Championship was conducted.

Expressions of interest in hosting the next World Indoor Championship (2011) had been received from a number of locations and action left with Peter Hobbs and Ron Balls, two formal bids have been received, these being from the Czech Republic and the Iroquois Nationals.

Finland has submitted a bid to host the 2012 Under 19 World Championship.

A number of Bylaw changes have been agreed covering :

- Games Committee composition (selected, not every country, too many)
- Eligibility (U19 over age for “weaker” countries)
- Official Party size (30)
- Costs of Officials (extended to from 9 to 12 days)
- Rule Books / Mechanics Manual / Log Books / Assignment Software (finance)
- ILF Patches on uniforms (location and penalties for non-compliance)
- Drugs Testing (to include recreational drugs)
- Betting (involved parties not to bet on game results)
- 2nd Tier All Star Team (excluding Blue Division)
- Format for 2010 World Championship.
- Timing between games (minimum 14 hours)
- Participation Fees
- Player Eligibility Information Provision - timescales.

Graham Lester re-elected as Chair of the Officials Committee.

International Federation of Women’s Lacrosse (IFWLA) International Lacrosse Federation (ILF) - Unification

The work on Unification of the IFWLA and the ILF into a new organisation probably to be called the Federation of International Lacrosse (FIL) is well advanced and the expectation is that this will be agreed at the relevant meetings (IFWLA, ILF and FIL) all scheduled to take place in Lahti, Finland (location of the 2008 European Championships).

12th May 2008

Cheshire – John Sharples

To say that the last year has been a difficult one for the County would be something of an understatement. In 2006/7 the County Clubs rejected all suggestions for raising income for the Association except for finding Sponsors. The clubs were then less than forthcoming in helping in this search, while the officers made a number of useful contacts which are still being pursued, but without any firm pledges of funds as yet.

The main fundraising event was planned to be the Cheshire 6s, which has not been held for a number of years, but was to be held at Cheadle Hulme, and had attracted entries of over 20 teams from as far away as London and Scotland. Unfortunately, the actions of the Referees Association meant that the event had to be cancelled at only three days notice disrupting the plans of the Association, and eating into our cash reserves. The funding issue is an urgent one, a decision was made to purchase new kit and a deal is ready to be signed on this, but without a guarantee of support from the clubs or other sources it will probably not happen.

Plans for developing our coaching staff, and introducing training sessions, and academy days for younger players were also hit by lack of funding, but also by the unavailability of the senior Coach for health and personal reasons. It is with some relief that I can report his return to the fray during the later part of the season. In fact human resources has been a problem through the year, sterling work from Mark Love (as U16s manager and general gap filler/fixer), Sam Patterson and Rick Jones (U16s coaches) and Ashley Tarran Jones (U19s Coach) and Dave Doolan kept us ticking over, but I could get no volunteers to help with the Senior squads as the Club season was so intense. In the end I had to write to all clubs and players explaining the situation and giving a 2 week deadline to find Captains and Coaching staff for the Seniors or I would withdraw the County from all fixtures until September.

At the eleventh hour Ben McAllister, Mike Reynolds, Mike Roche and John Adshead stepped up to the mark, and have done a great job allowing Cheshire to meet our fixtures v South, Lancashire and the BNC. My thanks again to Ashley Tarran Jones who is soon to leave the UK for marriage and a new life in the USA, good luck and happiness for the future!

Our matches, have generally shown the continuing strength of Cheshire with victories in the U17, U19, U16 v South, Senior v South and Lancashire matches. The one defeat suffered, and it was a resounding one, was by an impressive Lancashire U16s squad, that bodes well for their future. I was particularly pleased that Cheshire was able to fulfil its fixture with South, after the other Counties felt themselves unable to play. The trip to Birmingham was enjoyable, the opposition friendly and sociable, and the venue at Birmingham university, was excellent and if available could be a possibility for higher profile matches than normal club facilities.

Cheshire retained their British National title, being undefeated during the weekend of the Championships. The match against Lancashire was a real tough one, and a low score could have been predicted. The final against the England U19s underlined the improvements in the national squad, and they were impressive on the fast break and particularly in defence. Good luck to them in Canada.

Finally, whatever problems we faced during the year, the worst possible blow came with the sudden death of Paul Fildes our Chairman and Treasurer. Paul worked with me closely in developing ideas and preparing events for the County, and while I am new to the role he had already given years of service. Paul was a character, as people like to say, he could be frustratingly stubborn, or sometimes obtuse in his responses, but he was also loyal, dedicated, always ready to help, to put himself out for others, and do whatever he could to improve matters for the County and the Sport. Of all the people I have met since becoming involved in the sport, Paul was the only one who would never criticise other people, and who always looked for the positive in everyone he dealt with. Cheshire has lost a valuable asset with Paul's passing, and I will miss his advice and companionship.

5 May 2008

Lancashire - Alan Boyle

The Association met on 4 occasions during the season at Brooklands Hulmeians Lacrosse Club. Unfortunately as in previous seasons there has only been a hard core of 4 or 5 clubs out of the 10 member clubs turning up to most of the meetings. However, business went ahead as usual and all County matters were dealt with.

The season started with a successful Ted Donnett U19 Trophy at Brooklands which was won by Poynton. Congratulations to the Poynton Club and runners up Heaton Mersey.

We have played representative matches at Under 16, Under 17, Under 19 and Senior levels against Cheshire, with a convincing victory 11-3 being achieved at the Under 16's. At the other Junior levels Cheshire came out victors in close fought encounters.

The Senior match was played this year, as last, at Ashton Lacrosse Club on the Astroturf with the Under 16's played beforehand. Cheshire won the match 12-4. Thanks go to Ashton for their hard work on the day.

Allan Collingwood has been the Manager for the representative sides this year – assisted on the coaching side by Gary Wilson and Rick Summers at the Junior levels. There is a brighter look for the future with the organisation at the Under 16's. Unfortunately we were unable to find someone to coach at Senior's so Allan Collingwood had to undertake that role as well.

At the British Nationals, Lancashire finished 2nd in their conference and so had to play Cheshire for a place in the main competition finals.

We lost 3-1 and so were in the Plate Competition. We ended up in 7th place and won the Plate Final against Yorkshire 7-1. We were unfortunate in that many of our eligible players represented the University sides and the England Under 19's. Congratulations to Cheshire on winning the British Nationals and to the England U19 for a spirited fight in the final.

Good luck to the Under 19's in Canada. We hope they have a very successful tournament in Vancouver and do the country proud.

At club level, the shining light has been Timperley who finished third behind Stockport and champions Wilmslow, their highest ever position, and at one stage looked as though they could win the title.

Finally on a personal note, I was saddened to hear of the sudden loss of the Cheshire President Paul Fildes, who was always the perfect gentleman whenever we met. He will certainly be missed by everyone in Lacrosse.

May 2008

Yorkshire - Neil Crosby

The Committee met four times during the season. When a club was unable to attend a meeting, contact was maintained by telephone or e mail. Attendances averaged 10 representatives and we were especially pleased to welcome representatives from York and Hull Universities at most meetings.

Our clubs generally had a successful season especially Sheffield Steelers, whose first team won the Junior Flags and gained promotion to the Premier Division. Their second team won the David Beesley Cup and gained promotion to the Third Division. Sheffield University won the Stockport Cup. Nottingham maintained their place in the Second Division. Both Hull University and Leeds were new teams in the Fifth Division. Leeds narrowly missed promotion and were runners up in the Nigel Wayne Cup. Hull improved over the course of the season and we were pleased that one of their players, who was new to the game, was selected for the Yorkshire team at the British Nationals. Both clubs, however, suffered from opposition teams unable to fulfil fixtures east of the Pennines and as a county we look to NEMLA to devise a realistic competition next season, when we expect York University and Newcastle to be joining the Fifth Division.

The county remains committed to the development of the game and were pleased to hear of the acceptance of men's lacrosse as a recognised university sport by BUSA next season. We held a course in February for players wishing to qualify as referees and contributed £150 towards the cost. The Kehoe Fund loaned £1000 to Leeds University for the purchase of equipment to be used by freshers new to the game. We have submitted an application for a full time Development Officer for the region and have committed £1000 to the project. A great deal of our funding comes from Vice – Presidents' donations and we are most grateful for their help.

Coaching activity continued in Lincolnshire and the East Midlands (Mike Aspinall) at Leeds and Leeds University (Simon Gill) and in the Sheffield area (Steelers club members) and we thank all for their work. It was very pleasing to note that all but three players in the two Steelers sides at the Flags Festival this year had come from that club's junior programmes. The Yorkshire Shield competition will be held on 10th May at the Leeds club and an introduction to competitive lacrosse for our university freshers together with some coaching will be held at York University next November.

The County entered a team in the British Nationals Tournament and finished in mid table. Some of our players were selected for the English Northern Universities and Welsh squads in the Tournament and we congratulate them.

The winner of the Yorkshire Volunteer of the Year Trophy is Steve Mills (Steelers) and the Yorkshire Player of the Year will be selected shortly.

The County is fortunate to have so many dedicated and enthusiastic members and thanks are due to all of them.

Universities - Dave Coldwell

The following is a brief report on the progress for university development prepared for the MPC AGM. The report has been broken down to a few headlines.

BUSA

This year saw the 2nd year that Men's Lacrosse was featured as a BUSA Tournament Sport. 4 regional tournaments took place with (North/Midlands/Southeast/West). There was an increase in the amount of teams that registered and took part from 23 entries in 2006 to 32 teams in 2007.

The regional tournament winners took place at Timperley Lacrosse Club with Edinburgh defeating Portsmouth and Oxford winning over Bristol. The final took place at Mount St Mary' College in Sheffield and was played alongside the women's finals. Oxford defeated Edinburgh in the 2007 Championship.

The success of the 2007 tournaments and consultation between BUSA and English Lacrosse has led to the inclusion of Men's Lacrosse as an official BUSA league sport from the 2008-09 season. Registrations are now taking place for the upcoming season.

Clubs/Teams

2007-08 also saw an increase in the amount of teams competing in English Lacrosse leagues.

SEMLA saw 27 clubs registered for league competition with 28 teams participating up from the 22 university teams that competed in 2006-07.

In the north university league (organised by Durham University) there were 11 teams and teams from Liverpool, Hull, Sheffield and Leeds also played the NEMLA league.

Table 1- University Clubs 2007-08 (as per BUSA Conferences)

| North | East | West | Midlands |
|--------------------|----------------|-------------|---------------|
| Durham | Herts Comets | UWIC | Oxford |
| Newcastle | Brighton | Cardiff | Cambridge |
| Leeds | Canterbury | Swansea | UEA |
| Leeds Met Carnegie | Portsmouth | Bath | Northampton |
| Manchester | ULU | Bristol | Keele |
| Manchester Met | Royal Holloway | Exeter | Staffordshire |
| Liverpool | Reading | Southampton | Loughborough |
| Hull | | Aberystwyth | Birmingham |
| York | | | Warwick |
| Sheffield | | | Gloucester |
| | | | Nottingham |

New teams for the upcoming season include Kent University, Imperial College London, Lancaster University, Northumbria University.

Table 2- BUSA Leagues 2008-09 (if all current University Lacrosse Clubs register for BUSA Leagues)

| North/Scotland | East | West | Midlands |
|--------------------|------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Durham | Herts Comets | UWIC | Oxford |
| Newcastle | Brighton | Cardiff | Cambridge |
| Leeds | Canterbury | Swansea | UEA |
| Leeds Met Carnegie | Portsmouth | Bath | Northampton |
| Manchester | ULU | Bristol | Keele |
| Manchester Met | Royal Holloway | Exeter | Staffordshire |
| Liverpool | Reading | Southampton | Loughborough |
| Hull | Kent University | Aberystwyth | Birmingham |
| York | Imperial College | | Warwick |
| Sheffield | | | Gloucester |
| Northumbria | | | Nottingham |
| Lancaster | | | |
| Aberdeen | | | |
| Edinburgh | | | |
| St Andrews | | | |
| Glasgow | | | |
| Stirling | | | |

The expansion of men's lacrosse at University level is also leading to the formation of new clubs and teams. There are several clubs in the SEMLA leagues that will now form new city club teams (Southampton) and assist with the forming of 2nd and 3rd teams at existing clubs (2nd teams- Bath, Welwyn, Cardiff) (3rd teams- East Grinstead, Spencer and Walcounatian Blues).

There are also new clubs forming in Newcastle, Birmingham and York that are competing in the northern league.

Coaching/Courses

The coach education programme has developed a focus on running courses at universities over the past 18 months. This can be attributed to the growth of lacrosse at this level.

Table 3- Coaching Courses at Universities 2007-08

| University | Date | Attendees |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------|
| Canterbury University | 2 nd April | 10 |
| York | 21 st October | 7 |
| Portsmouth | 18 th November | 11 |
| Hertfordshire | 2 nd December | 5 |
| Leeds | 10 th February | 14 |
| Bristol | 17 th February | 27 |
| Liverpool | 2 nd March | 25 |
| Hertfordshire | 2 nd March | 19 |
| Liverpool | 15 th March | 15 |
| | Total | 133 |

There is an increasing demand that needs to be facilitated to train university students to referee matches for the upcoming season. A letter has been drafted and sent to BUSA for circulation to all universities to schedule refereeing courses in preparation for men's lacrosse leagues.

Table 4- Officiating Course Requests (Source: BUSA University Survey, November 2007)

| University | Current Qualified Referees | Proposed Attendees |
|------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| North | | |
| Durham | 2 | 5 |
| Lancaster | 0 | 3 |
| Leeds | 0 | 4 |
| Manchester Met | 2 | 6 |
| Manchester | "lots" | 0 |
| Northumbria | 0 | 15 |
| York | 0 | 4 |
| West | | |
| Bath | 2 | 10 |
| Bristol | 3 | 10 |
| Cardiff | 2 | 5 |
| Exeter | 3 | 15 |
| UWIC | 0 | 5 |
| Southampton | 4 | 10 |
| Midlands | | |
| Cambridge | 3 | 4 |
| Birmingham | 5 | 4 |
| Loughborough | 2 | 8 |
| Nottingham | 2 | 5 |
| Oxford | 2 | 3 |
| Warwick | 4 | 8 |
| Southeast | | |
| Brighton | 5 | 6 |
| ULU | 1 | 6 |

Outlook

English Lacrosse staff has assisted with the development of new university programmes for the upcoming season.

Durham University will host an LDO which will mark the first time a university has hired a full-time coach from the development programme. The LDO will run the lacrosse programme at Durham coaching three women's teams, one men's team and coaching in the intramural college system at Durham (11 teams). The Durham LDO will also coach in the community in identified schools to start a junior lacrosse academy at the university.

English Lacrosse staff has also set up a development programme with York University with students coaching in local schools and setting up a junior lacrosse academy at the university. This development programme will also aid in the transition to York City LC at senior and junior levels.

Initial discussions are also set to take place at Bristol University to set up a programme similar to Durham University.

English Lacrosse is also in the process of writing the club development strategy as part of the whole sport plan for 2009-2013. University development will be one of the main areas of focus for this plan with a view of creating more university clubs and converting more university clubs to city clubs.

Universities currently, give lacrosse the best geographical spread in terms of participation and universities will be identified to develop into standalone city clubs.

Education of students in terms of coaching and officiating will also underpin part of this development and linking universities with existing clubs to provide regular coaching to improve overall playing standards.

2The last element as part of the university development will be to look to initiate community lacrosse development programmes with universities that offer sports development degrees. As there are higher demands on the development programme and the new immigration laws, there will be a greater need to train long-term lacrosse development officers to create more sustainable and continuous posts within lacrosse.

Finance

Financial Statement MPC Use of Funds 2007-08

Available Funds

| | | Note 1 | Committed Allocations | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Events Promotion | 3567 | | U19 | NELA Trust Fu |
| ELA Allocation | 13000 | Events Promotion | 1000 | 1500 |
| Residual from 06/07 carried forward | 23041 | CDW Collection | 1407 | |
| | | Residual c/f | 2880 | |
| Total | 39608 | | | |
| less already committed | Note 1 | | | |
| | 6787 | | | |
| Available for allocation | 32821 | | | |

Expenditure

| | Original Estimate | Spend |
|------------------------------|-------------------|-------|
| Administration | | |
| MPC | 700 | 487 |
| League South (including BNC) | 1500 | 1444 |
| League North | 500 | 874 |
| U19 Pitches | 1900 | 2200 |
| Territorial Allocations | 940 | 1000 |
| BNC | 50 | 0 |
| Referees & Rules | 1350 | 1803 |
| Universities | | |
| Administration | 600 | 555 |

| | | | |
|--|--------------|-------|------|
| BUSA Tournament Costs | 1150 | 1964 | |
| Juniors & Schools | 180 | 0 | |
| National Squads Entrance Fees / Participation Bond | | | |
| U19 WC \$1500 | 800 | 774 | |
| EC2008 e2000 | 1360 | 1360 | |
| Reserve / Contingency | 970 | | |
| Sub total | 12000 | 12461 | -461 |

| | | | |
|---|-------|-------|--------|
| Total | 14000 | 12461 | £1,540 |
| Estimate increased to £14,000 20/11/07 | | | |

Available for allocation after Administration Expenses **18821**

| <i>Programme Allocations</i> | <i>Allocation / Income</i> | <i>Expenditure</i> | <i>Balance</i> |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--|
| University Strategy | | | |
| Allocation 2007/08 | 2000 | 500 | Initial allocation of £2000 agreed 11/9 /07 |
| Midlands Univ Skills Day (DA) | | 360 | |
| YCLA Donation | | 344 | |
| Sub total | 2000 | 344 860 | 1484 |
| WILC 2007 | 1463 | | |

| | | | | |
|---|--------------|-------|--|------|
| National Squads | | | | |
| Allocation 2007/08 | 12000 | | | |
| WC 2006 Payments | | 950 | | |
| Trial Fees | | 780 | | |
| | Sub Total | 1730 | | |
| | | | | |
| NS Under 19 | | | | |
| "David Walkden" Collection | | 1407 | | |
| Net c/f from 2006/07 | | 2880 | | |
| Special Events | | 1000 | | |
| Player Deposits | | 13383 | | |
| Expenditure | | | 22770 | |
| | Sub total | 12000 | 18670 | |
| | | | | |
| NS Sub total | 12000 | 20400 | 22770 | 9630 |
| | | | | |
| Programme Allocation Total | 15463 | | | |
| | | | | |
| Residual available for allocation / carry forward | 3358 | | Assigned to NS if no other agreed calls on this | |