

# MINUTES

## **JSN Committee**

*28 January 2009 at Brooklands Lacrosse Club*

The meeting was called to order by Richard Summers at 7:30 p.m.

### **In attendance**

R Summers, H Hewitt, I Ashworth, J Sharples, R Ambler, M Ford, N Wainer, D Clark, L Tobin, E Mooney, M Cragg, R Howie, A Cara, M Carney, B Carney, G Cork, I Fox, S Somerville

Apologies for absence: P Coups, I Wicks, A Parker

### **1. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of November 08 were taken as read and approved and any items arising dealt with from the agenda items.

### **2. Correspondence Received:**

- 2.1 Details of Prague junior tournament have been circulated by email. Timing does not appear to be good in view of GCSE exams.
- 2.2 Details of Dublin tournament to be held last weekend of July £280 per player – details circulated together with information on Brussels (same weekend as Flags) and Malta. These tournaments represent an opportunity to compete without travelling to the USA and may in fact attract US touring teams. However, the issue of timing needs to be communicated to the European organizers.

### **3. Dispensations**

Dispensation requests previously circulated prior to the meeting were all approved – HM players to be played 2 at a time.

G Cork reported an issue with a dispensated player at Oldham – M Ford will sort this out.

Sue S will contact Alan Collingwood regarding re-applying for dispensations for his overage players.

### **4. Registrations**

Still awaiting four teams to return registrations lists. Emma Mooney to pursue. Please note that each registration should have the player's home address and telephone number and cannot be registered under the club address. Recent audit of the data based revealed 83 players and one address – this needs to be rectified. All clubs must ensure that players are registered with JSN and ELA – further copies of the JSN registration form will be sent to all unregistered clubs – with a deadline of **19 February for return. Failure to do so will result in not being able to play games.**

### **5. Reports:**

- 5.1 **Fixtures:** Results are not coming in on time. Please ensure results are sent to Alison by Sunday evening to ensure early publication on ELA website. RS/AC looked at the balance and strength of teams for fixtures post Christmas to ensure that each team is able to play competitive games and fixtures issued accordingly. There will be a further issue as Timperley U12 has entered a 3<sup>rd</sup> team. M Cragg will contact opposition to confirm games for 3<sup>rd</sup> team.

Cup semi final draw for U12 and U16 took place at Brooklands with Club Chairman. There will be a draw at semi final stage for the U14 cup.

Roger Ambler thanked AC & RS for their excellent work with the fixtures.

## 5.2 MPC:

- (i) Whole Sport Plan approved by Sport England - funding of £2.2m which represents progress being made. If anyone is interested in learning more about how the game is run please contact D Shuttleworth or Mark Coups who are presently reviewing structure as part of the plan. H Hewitt requested that the Whole Sport Plan be posted on the website. RS reported that there will be some amendments subject to a meeting with Sport England to agree allocation of funds. There is a power point presentation available – J Sharples will clarify which pages need feedback by clubs. Emma will ask for the power point to be posted on the website for access by clubs.
- (ii) Communication with the South has been initiated by R Summers who is now in contact with Ray Wood. There is ground availability for an U16 tournament at the end of April to be held in Nottingham. 3 issues to consider as follows:
  - a) Commitment to a National Tournament. Require a quick feedback on interest. To be held at end of April, 10 per side. The number of teams entering will determine the length of the game. Minimum of 6 times required to make it viable.
  - b) Timing – The South does have an issue regarding GCSE exams.
  - c) International Teams – should we allow international teams to enter eg, The American School in Brussels.

### Issues discussed:

- Merged teams allowed but avoid 'star-studded teams'
- Clubs need to notify an interest to RS
- More than one team from a club permitted
- Overseas teams must provide own insurance
- Cash grant of £1K available to cover pitch hire, referees, etc. £25 per team entry fee suggested by RS
- Choice of two venues: Notts University pitches – 3 available – changing rooms but no catering etc or 2 pitches on astro turf on campus with catering in situ.

Feedback to RS by 5 February

- (iii) Academy: Meeting held 2 weeks ago 9/10 clubs attended presentations given by Tom Wenham and Phil Collier. 30 players have been selected and 1 session has already been held with other to be planned for later this year. Another trial will be held at the beginning of next season and training will be held in 2 age groups. Information available from Greg Caplin. If you require a training pack please contact ELA.

5.3 **Disciplinary:** There has been an incident on 20 December 08 at U12 level. Wilmslow informed JS. It is understood it was an unqualified referee in charge and did not witness an off the ball incident. Efforts were made to contact Poynton to obtain a report. In the mean time Wilmslow dealt with the matter by speaking to the player and imposing a ban in the absence of information of the incident. The report from the Poynton referee has now being received and although it is a serious incident given the time that has elapsed and that Wilmslow have taken action it will not be revisited. Clubs do need to comply with the schedule for reporting disciplinary incidents. A review by Rick Summers, Sue Sommerville and Mike Ford prior to the meeting took place and it was decided that a nominal fine will be levied on Poynton of £10 for not complying with the notification timetable subject to ratification by MPC. Note this is in accordance with Good Practice Guidance.

To clarify this matter in the event of an expulsion foul there should be a report sent by each club's junior secretary to Mike Ford with copies to Sue Somerville and Rick Summers within 5 days.

Robin Howie to seek clarification of rules regarding qualified/unqualified referees in relation to expulsions.

There does appear to be a problem with 'sledging' or winding up – this practice should be discouraged and attempts made to curb the practice.

M Ford reported an ambiguity in wording of Good Practice Guide regarding bans at U16 level and proposed in should be amended to read 3 match ban.

- 5.4 **Referees:** R Ambler reported that from a senior point of view NEMLA has identified that it may be prudent to establish team referees as opposed to home referees and he thinks this may be something for the junior game to aspire to. This will be a discussion topic at senior level. MPC may mandate each team has 1 qualified referee.

Refs course held at Stockport – 24 attended and about 2/3 passed with a fairly good % of U18 attending. J Sharples has spoken to Phil Pearson and Don Blacklock of Referees Association who are in favour of junior training. J Sharples commented that the course may need to be in 2 stages or to reassess the course to direct it at juniors. Historically the course was 2 evenings plus an exam. Now it is organised by ELA who may have a specific junior course. MPC would look to run courses for junior referees at a reduced price. Please note there are no minimum numbers for hosting a course. Minimum age for referees in the senior game is 16 and for juniors it was agreed that referees should be 2 years older than the age group playing. J Sharples proposed an U14 training course for progression to refereeing junior games as 2<sup>nd</sup> ref to a qualified referees. Clarification has been obtained from insurance underwriters that insurance policy covers junior referees. Feedback required by MPC from JSN and clubs before ratification. J Sharples has only had one dissension in his discussions. M Cragg commented that it could provide a valuable lesson for players to see the game from a referee's perspective. I Ashworth observed that referees are in favour of trying to help develop a younger cohort of referees but it should be noted that not enough qualified referees therefore this is not an automatic solution and needs to be a 2-pronged approach through both senior and junior games. In the South each team has to have a qualified ref for both home and away games.

Note that in cup semi-finals clubs are entitled to pay for a panel ref – RS suggested that clubs should consider doing this.

6 **Good Practice Guide**

Budget for printing 1000 black/white copies has been approved.

7 **Junior Development:**

Recruitment – clubs should be looking towards next year. Wilmslow may struggle at U16 and may need to consider merging with another team.

NO feedback received on CD Rom distributed

8 **Courses:**

8 Feb 2009 – Level 1 coaching at Timperley

1 & 8 Feb 2009 – Level 2 at Stockport commencing 9.15 am. If considering taking Level 2 please apply now via [info@englishlacrosse.co.uk](mailto:info@englishlacrosse.co.uk) this course can be undertaken on a module attendance basis.

Clubs are responsible for checking website for availability of course. Note: All clubs should have a Level 1 qualified coach to meet insurance criteria and for Lacrosse Mark there should be 1 or more level 2 coaches.

15 **Recruitment Posters**

**Action:** RS to follow up with Caroline Royle

- 16 **National 12 Competition** – 4 definite entries with a possible 6/7 maybes – this competition is presents a good opportunity for bonding between clubs and parents.

- 17 Proposal to hold Six a Side competitions in the summer – awaiting feedback.

- 18 **Club Mark:** Heaton Mersey, Boardman, Cheadle Hulme, Cheadle working towards Level 1. There are some outstanding issues still at Rochdale and WACS, which Emma Mooney is progressing.

There will be a surcharge for clubs without Club mark for 2009-2010 ELA registration. R Howie commented on some contradictory information regarding volunteer lead status within the Club Mark documentation. Action: E Mooney to clarify

- 19 **Community Funding:** Clubs to approach borough strategy groups to enquire about funding routes to assist with refereeing course for junior referees:

Trafford – Martin Cragg  
Stockport – John Sharples  
Tameside – Roger Ambler  
Oldham – Mike Ford  
Macclesfield – Emma Mooney  
Salford – Boardman  
RS to contact on behalf of Junior and Schools

Useful website address [www.communityfoundation.co.uk](http://www.communityfoundation.co.uk)

- 19.1 Roger Ambler reminded the committee that funds are available by application to Tony Malkin from NELA Trust for development of lacrosse in the UK

- 20 **Club Development Officer** – please ensure name of Club Development Officer is sent to John Sharples

- 21 **U10 lacrosse** feedback – very positive. E Mooney happy to organize some tournaments – clubs please let Emma know of interest. Equipment should be well fitting and there may be a need share equipment between clubs. Short sticks only, on small pitches using an ordinary ball. N Wainer advised there are entry level sticks now available.

- 22 **2010** – RS attended festival meeting. There will be two festivals - International and English. The international will consist of grand masters, masters, U19 and U16. Entry fee £2000 per team. Standard envisaged to be very high and English junior teams may be composite team in order to compete successfully. At the English Festival it is proposed to hold U12, U14, U16 tournaments during the first weekend when no other games are being played. During the week to involve schools there will be pop and lax tournaments whilst World Series games are being played. International sides may be available to offer coaching clinics etc. The schools programme is intended as Key stage 2 participation and Key stage 3 and 4 performance via qualification.

Each international team will get a liaison officer to sort out arrangements. In parallel clubs will be linked to teams and will hopefully have access to the players and coaches to run coaching clinics at the club and / or in local schools.. Applications to be sent Alan Holdsworth to become club liaison; Stockport have requested Iroquois and Germany already.

It was requested that the ticket prices are set at a realistic price. Possibility that entry fee for English tournament players will include a voucher for games during the International festival.

Helen Hewitt requested information on lead up investment in Manchester. Emma has already had a meeting with Greater Manchester who are committed to the programme.

- 23 **Any other business**

- 23.1 Long sticks – at U12 level reminder that long sticks should be commensurate with the size of the player and not greater than body height.

- 23.2 RS requested feedback on possible proposal to allow players aged 15 year olds to play senior lacrosse; current age is 16. Brooklands have fielded underage players, conceded the game and in order to fulfill the game and have subsequently paid a fine. During these games the players were

capable both physically and skills wise enough to compete and had parents consent. In the South players aged 15 are able to play with the qualification that 2 Club members have confirmed their capability and that the parents have agreed. Consensus of the opinion is that it may help fixtures to be played especially in lower divisions. Note U19 has set a precedent. Junior coaches are the best people to judge, LTAD should also be considered. Feedback requested from clubs. In order for a rule change to allow 15 year olds to play it would need to be referred back to Forum, MPC and League North.

23.3 Please ensure that all results are sent by text by Sunday night.

24 Date of next meetings:

26 March

30 April (AGM)

All meetings commence at 7.30 pm at Brooklands Lacrosse Club