



**ENGLISH LACROSSE ASSOCIATION Ltd.**

**MENS PLAYING COMMITTEE**

**2009 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Reports**

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## **Chairman's Opening Remarks – Alan Holdsworth**

Congratulations go to the England Men's U19 and Senior Teams for their respective performances in Canada and Finland last summer and also to the National Squads Management, Coaches and Volunteers for making both events successful.

We should also note the participation of both Wilmslow and Hampstead in the first ever European Club Championship and congratulate Wilmslow on their success. It is hoped that the event will continue despite the sad and untimely death of Ken Galluccio.

During the course of the year and after considerable preparation, English Lacrosse secured confirmation of substantial funding for the period 2009-13. The staff should be commended for their excellent input into achieving this funding.

The criteria and objectives need to be fully appreciated and there has been further discussion on the need to re-appraise the structure of the Men's game in order to better achieve our aims. This has been well supported by research and collation of information by John Sharples, which is much valued, and we should now identify the action points and time scales for implementation.

The ELA are currently in the process of appointing additional full time staff to support important areas of club development and input from this role should assist in decisions affecting any structural changes.

We have seen continued growth in the Men's University game and the formation of new start clubs. The BUCS finals held in Sheffield confirmed the continued enthusiasm for University Lacrosse and further help has to be found in the areas of Coaching and Officiating in order for the standards to continue to improve.

2010 approaches at a rapid rate and there will be high demands on the Men's game over the next season in order to successfully achieve the challenge of hosting the largest ever World Championships.

Sincere thanks to all members of the MPC for their support and particularly to Ron Balls who provides invaluable input both to the MPC and ELA Executive.

## **Executive – Ron Balls**

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

13th May 2008                      3<sup>rd</sup> June 2008                      23<sup>rd</sup> September 2008  
18<sup>th</sup> November 2007              27<sup>th</sup> January 2009 and 24<sup>th</sup> March 2009

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	Rick Summers
National Squads	Greg Caplin
Referees & Rules	Peter McGinnety
Special Events	Ken Haves

## **International and European Championships**

The **2008 World Under 19 Championship** took place in July in Coquitlam, Canada and the England team under Head Coach Tom Wenham and Manager Ravi Sitlani did very well finishing in 4<sup>th</sup> place after losing to Iroquois Nationals in the Bronze medal game. The team won a very close game against Australia in the Round Robin play.

The **2008 European Championship** was held in Lahti, Finland and the team under Head Coach Dave Elwood won all their games and finished as champions

The financial position concerning the U19 event has necessitated a number of ad hoc meetings and discussions to clarify matters. The MPC has agreed a number of procedural points to ensure greater control in the future.

### **World Championship 2010**

Plans are well advanced for this with the ground (The Firs) and accommodation secured and some financial support from the North West Development Agency, the FSA and Manchester City Council. Regular updates have been provided to the Committee regarding the ongoing activities.

## **Registration of players on the ELA database**

Following reports of some non-registration of junior players and subsequent investigation a fine of £250 was imposed on the Heaton Mersey Club. Whilst an individual member of that club voiced some criticism the officials of the club recognized the position, agreed the action and paid the fine promptly.

## **Territorial Funding**

Allocations were made on the same basis as last year with £400 to South and £200 to each of the three Counties.

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

Support of the South teams in the British National Championship to the extent of £450 for each of the two teams was agreed.

## **Structure of the Men's game**

Following on from observations related to the geographic coverage, membership and effectiveness of the organization of Men's lacrosse and critically to deliver the objectives of the Whole Sport Plan 2009-13 the MPC has started to look at this in further detail. Considerations will embrace the geographic structure and what needs to be considered to improve the performance at the elite level and also in relation to officiating. Consultations on a wide basis are underway through MPC representatives to their constituent bodies. A key element will be to consider what functional and organizational 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	Accreditation
Volunteer Awards	

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

## Finance – Ron Balls

The account for the ELA for the period ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009 have not as yet been finalised but based on the first cut figures the overall position of the MPC is as follows:

### Revenue

	£
Carry Forward monies from previous year	16,695
ELA Allocation	13,000
Income	96,157
Total	125,852

### Expenditure

Overall expenses	126,639
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Net position - £787

The major activities over the period in terms of financial impact have been:

1. European Championships with an overall income of the order of £36,000 together with the MPC allocation of £12,000 totaling £48,000 against an expenditure of £43,700 resulting in a net positive position of £4300 which could be allocate against Under 19s
2. World Under 19 Championships with, recorded in the mainstream ELA accounts, income of £81,500 compare to expenditure of £95,300 resulting in a negative position of £13,800. In terms of the U19 Accounts rather than the financial year a further payment of £3400 has been received on closure of the Parents Fundraising Account reducing the negative position to £10,400. The Parents Fundraising Group is to be thanked for contributing over £46,000 to the project.
3. Other major items of spend are :

MPC Administration and Trophies	£900
League North & League South	£2500 (includes BNC subsistence)
Territories	£1000
Under 19 Competition	£1800
University Support	£1200

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

During the 2008/09 season the Management Committee met on 8 occasions for its usual monthly meetings, plus one minor meeting which was held immediately after the 2008 AGM (as is normally the case). In addition, 2 meetings were held during the summer of 2008, mainly to discuss arrangements for the 5th division teams.

As always, 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 50 player transfers, 5 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 13 expulsion fouls, mainly for fighting, and foul and abusive language (mainly directed at referees). The Disciplinary sub-committee met on 2 occasions to discuss a serious incident at an Under 19's game, resulting in lengthy suspensions for 3 players, fines on both clubs involved, and the expulsion of both clubs from the Under 19's competition for the remainder of the season. Both clubs appealed against the penalties, and the Appeals Committee upheld the suspensions, but removed the fine from one club. The Disciplinary sub-committee is currently investigating a serious incident at the end of the Senior Flags Final.

A total of 27 clubs entered the competitions this season, 4 more than the previous season, the newcomers being Birmingham, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Staffordshire University and York University, but the total of 51 senior teams represented a reduction of 1 team from the 52 in 2007/08. Ten U19 teams played in the Autumn League competition (2 fewer than in the previous season), but only 8 played in the post-Christmas knockouts (2 teams having been expelled by the Disciplinary sub-committee as already reported).

On the financial side, there was an excess of income over expenditure for the season of almost £3400, and this has enabled a repayment of the final outstanding balance of £2000 to the NELA Trust Fund to be made. The original loan of £5000 in relation to ground improvements at Rochdale to assist them in hosting the Festival Weekends has now been repaid.

As in the previous season, the final few Committee meetings proved to be busier than the earlier ones, with much discussion relating to dispensation requests for players to be allowed to play in various knockout competitions.

Three Open Forum meetings were held as usual, in October, December and February. All these were in the Manchester area, which made it difficult for more distant clubs to attend, and they were granted dispensation from the mandatory requirement to attend. Most of the other clubs attended. Those which did not, were fined, the fines totaling £150.

A further 2 fines were imposed on clubs, one being £50, the other being £200, both in relation to their fielding under-age players.

I have continued to send copies of all Committee and Open Forum minutes to all the clubs and certain other interested parties (by snail mail, as I am a dinosaur and don't have a computer) and I believe the ELA office staff are scanning these onto the website for all to see.

As I mentioned earlier, the Rochdale club hosted the Festival Weekend once again and we are indebted to them for their excellent organisation. The weather was very good, and ground

conditions excellent. The referees (without whom we could not stage the event) were totally committed as always, and we are grateful to them for their hard work.

The winners of the 5 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.

Finally, I would take this opportunity to comment on the composition of the Management Committee, and the Disciplinary sub-committee this season. The membership of the Management Committee consists mainly of persons elected by clubs at the AGM, but the current Bye Laws also provide for an additional person from each of the 3 northern Territories (Cheshire, Lancashire and Yorkshire). However, neither Cheshire nor Lancashire provided their appointee. Similarly, neither Territory provided an appointee to the Disciplinary sub-committee. The system clearly did not work this season.

## **SEMLA / League South – Ian Ballantine**

### **Clubs and Universities**

The 2008/9 started, after recent years of growth, with an unusual situation for SEMLA where some clubs were leaving to join the BUCS league. Despite the sad loss of losing one of the oldest SEMLA sides, Oxford University, it was all taken on board and further opportunities were explored to develop the clubs and involve the students in the Town/City teams.

In addition the experimental Midlands league was disbanded with some clubs joining NEMLA and others being absorbed in to the East and Zenith Sports West Leagues.

The league structures were further boosted by clubs forming 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> teams, some from the absorption of the university students and some from growth within the club structure.

At the end of the 2008/9 season we are able to see further growth and development with many whisperings of new clubs being formed, further university sides participating and continued growth within clubs.

### **2008/9 SEMLA Leagues**

In total the SEMLA leagues had 46 teams participating representing 35 clubs.

#### **UKLacrosse Premier League**

The top flight of lacrosse in the south has experienced one of the most open and competitive seasons in many years. Every week results would appear that would at the very least surprise people, drawn games became a more frequent visitor and many games decided by the slenderest of margins. A real roller coaster of a league and with only a couple of weeks to go 5 teams were covered by 7 points.

In the end Hampstead came back strongly in the second half of the season to clinch the title from Spencer in a late season double points match. Credit must go to all the sides who provided some very exciting and top class sport.

At the bottom end of the table Swansea Hawks struggled to get any momentum going this season, partly due to the moving on of several players at the end of last season coupled with the long travelling and it's impact on the players. However, they should be congratulated on the concerted effort they made to fulfil as many of the fixtures as possible and I am sure we will see them regrouping in Zenith Sports West One and returning to the top flight in years to come.

As Hillcroft finished 9<sup>th</sup> in the league they were faced with the unenviable task of accepting a challenge from Croydon (losers of the East/West Play Off) for survival in the premiership, and cemented it with a 20 – 11 victory.

#### **Final League Standing – UKLacrosse Premier Division**

	Played	Points
Hampstead	18	47
Spencer	18	45
Welwyn Warriors	18	41
Reading Wildcats	18	38
Hitchin	18	38

Walcountian Blues	18	38
Purley	18	36
East Grinstead	18	33
Hillcroft	18	23
Swansea Hawks	18	15

### East Division One

Another closely fought league with 3 sides going in to the final weekend with a chance of taking the title. In the end Croydon managed to claim the title by one point from Cambridge University with Walcountian Blues Two's taking third spot.

At the bottom Hertfordshire Comets had a tough season, having had some of their more experienced players graduate and move on to other clubs and the fresher's not quite making the grade. So they find themselves relegated to East Division Two.

### Final League Standing – East Division One

	Played	Points
Croydon	17	49
Cambridge University	18	48
Walcountian Blues 2	18	46
London University	18	40
Brighton Panthers	17	39
East Grinstead A	18	36
East Coast Lacrosse	17	27
Buckhurst Hill	18	22
Hitchin A	17	21
Hertfordshire Comets	18	12

### East Division Two

Nail biter may be an under estimate for the finish of this division. Welwyn Warriors 2, Reading Wildcats 2 and Spencer 2 had been battling out for top spot all season. Final game Reading Wildcats 2 versus Spencer 2, with 20 seconds of the game left Reading Wildcats 2 scored to take the championship.

### Final League Standing – East Division Two

	Played	Points
Reading Wildcats 2	16	45
Spencer 2	16	44
Welwyn Warriors 2	15	36
Northampton Town Weasels	15	35
Canterbury University	16	31
Spencer 3	14	22
Imperial College	16	21
University of East Anglia	16	20
University of Kent	16	16

### Zenith Sports West Division One

Another closely fought contest with 3 teams going in to the final games with a shout of winning the title, Cardiff Harlequins, Cheltenham Cougars and Bath. Going down to the wire and Bath managed to hang to top spot by a mere one point.

At the bottom end of the division Southampton Tridents (University) struggled with the launch of the new city side (Southampton Sabres) and experienced players migrating across. Unfortunately this left them at the bottom of the division and duly relegated to Zenith Sports west division two.

#### Final League Standing – Zenith Sports West Division One

	Played	Points
Bath	16	45
Cardiff Harlequins	16	44
Cheltenham Cougars	16	41
Bristol Bombers	16	35
Portsmouth University	16	32
Southampton Sabres	15	25
Exeter University	16	20
Warwick University	15	17
Southampton Tridents	16	14

#### Zenith Sports West Division Two

Not such a closely fought contest this, as Penarth managed to complete the season unbeaten to claim top spot and promotion, showing that all the effort put in to the re-building the club has brought justifiable reward. Congratulations to Cardiff Harlequins A who in their first season took the runners-up position.

#### Final League Standing – Zenith Sports West Division Two

	Played	Points
Penarth	14	41
Cardiff Harlequins A	14	36
UWIC	13	28
Cheltenham Cougars 2	14	24
Bristol Sharks	13	20
Bath 2	12	18
Swansea Hawks 2	11	12
Aberystwyth	11	9

#### East versus West Play-Off

With the regional structure promotion to the UK Lacrosse Premier Division is decided on a play-off basis.

Bath (West One) played Croydon (East One) for automatic promotion, with Bath winning a very close game by a single goal, giving Bath automatic promotion and sees a return to top flight lacrosse after a few years absence.

Croydon then had the right to challenge the 9<sup>th</sup> placed team for the second promotion spot and details of this game are mentioned above, but failed to clinch it in a high scoring 20 – 11 strongly contested match.

As always leagues would not run smoothly with out a key administrator and SEMLA are indebted to the outstanding work of Jon Cooper our Fixtures and Competition Secretary. In addition we would also like to thank Andrew Dillon for his assistance in the West Divisions.

The premier division set the tone for all the other divisions in the south and the close fought competitions played in the greatest of spirit are a credit to all those players, officials and coaches who put in the season long efforts.

### **2008/9 SEMLA Flags Competitions**

The flags competition within SEMLA is split down to 3 levels. Senior – UKLacrosse Premier teams, Intermediate - East One and Zenith Sports West One and Minor – East Two and Zenith Sports West Two.

	Champions	Runners-Up	Score
Senior	Spencer	Hitchin	13 – 6
Intermediate	Cardiff Harlequins	Bath	13 – 3
Minor	Spencer 2	Penarth	9 – 6

### **2009 SEMLA – Centurions Sixes**

This competition is split similar to those of the flags and the winners are as follows:

	Champions	Runners-Up	Score
Senior	Welwyn Warriors	East Grinstead	7 – 2
Intermediate	East Grinstead 2	Brighton Panthers	2 – 1
Minor	Spencer 2	Brighton Panthers 2	5 - 1

SEMLA are grateful to Centurions Lacrosse Club for running this annual event and in particular to Rob Collinge in his first year as Tournament Organiser. In addition SEMLA would like to thank the South of England Lacrosse Education Trust for donating this years medals.

### **The London Tournament**

The summer of 2008 saw the return of the London Tournament held on the playing fields at Eton. Teams from all over the England and the USA attended the event which had the world famous landmark of Windsor Castle as it's back drop. Congratulations to Trevor Rogers and his team of volunteers for running this event.

In July 2009 the event moves to Barnes, just south west of central London and a strong interest has already been shown in entry for this tournament.

This is run by SEMLA as an elite lacrosse tournament to attract the top men's and ladies teams, as a show case of our sport to a wider audience. In addition any surplus funds are ploughed back in to the continued development of lacrosse in the south. SEMLA would like to thank all those who sponsor and support the event.

### **Youth Lacrosse Development**

Ray Wood took over as chair of Youth Development this year and our thanks to Ray for his sterling efforts.

Youth Development is one of the key emphasis of the work of many of the clubs who work alongside the LDO's to create and expand interest in young people of all ages to the sport of lacrosse. We recognise the huge input by those volunteers at the clubs who donate so much of their time to this work and to those parents who support the efforts.

Throughout the season there have been several competitions for children of all ages – The Spencer Trophy, Harrow Cup, Santa Claws Competition, TESIS Tournament, St Colomba's Competition. In addition to this many friendly inter club games have taken part.

The Eric Young Trophy was presented, after many years in hiding, to St Colomba's School for their efforts in developing lacrosse within their local area.

Other notable mentions here go to the involvement of SEMLA clubs in the National U13 Competition, Schools in the National Pop Competition, Spencer U13's Tour to the USA.

SEMLA are proud to thank all the LDO's who have worked in the South this year their efforts are greatly appreciated, especially in this essential area of youth development. In addition the tremendous support work and efforts undertaken by our Regional Development Officers Nik Roberts and Steve McDermott should also not go un-noted.

I understand that Kyle Witt and Peter Compton are currently discussing with Tom Wenham the optimum way to get southern involvement in the England Academy and we all look forward to the outcome of this situation.

All in all a very buoyant and positive feel about the continued growth in youth development and we look forward to further progression in 2009/10.

### **South Team**

Last year's team came third at the British National Championships in May 2008, a very pleasing result having to beat Scotland and Wales on the way. In addition the tournament organiser's kindly invited the south development to participate in some scrimmage games and they too had some outstanding results.

It is worth noting here that last year's captain Matt Bagley was selected and played on the European Championship winning England team and our congratulations to Matt and all his team mates and coaches.

Throughout the season and selection and training have taken place for the South and South Development Squads for the British National Championships. Congratulations to all the players selected to represent the south and we wish them all the best with their endeavours over the May Bank Holiday, especially as both squads are participating in the full competition.

Special thanks go to the clubs who have provided training facilities to the team, to Matt Bagley and Tom Fewson who have greatly assisted in the training programme, to Jeff Kettlewell and Dave Arnot for volunteering to coach the teams at the BNC's. Also thanks to the ELA MPC and SEMLA for their fiscal support.

### **Conclusion**

In concluding this report SEMLA would like to thank the ELA and it's employee's for it's continued support and the hard work of the member's of the ELA MPC.

It also recognises the hard work of all of our officer's and volunteers within SEMLA. They all know who they are and the continued unflinching support and efforts are what greatly helps to maintain the growth and development of lacrosse in the south. A special mention should go to Trevor Rogers who through his continued chairmanship, enthusiasm and encouragement ensures that we all work to these goals for the enjoyment of all.

SEMLA could not write an annual report without thanking our referees and our referee secretary (Steve Jarvis) who despite being light on numbers cover so many games. They have done an outstanding job this year and have recruited more numbers to it's fold.

Also thanks to Dave Slaughter the SEMLA webmaster who's hard work gives SEMLA a very up to date and essential resource tool.

The 2008/9 season has been a hugely successful one for SEMLA and one where competition has been at it's hardest for the honours but at the same time played in an outstanding spirit. The sportsmanship and comradeship between players stands out as a credit to all concerned. An accolade to this is that the Complaints and Disciplinary Committee have virtually been redundant this season.

Interesting times lay ahead for all of us. The possibility of further new clubs emerging, more universities showing an interest, youth players striving to continue to develop, greater interest in the numerous summer tournaments. There is still a real huge buzz around southern lacrosse and it's great to be part of it.

## **National Squads – Greg Caplin**

The National Squads Committee has met on an ad hoc basis in season 2008/9. National Squads Committee submitted reports to every MPC meeting held in season 2008/9.

### **Personnel**

There follows a list of personnel and the capacity in which they served National Squads during the season:

Ravi Sitlani	– Manager Under 19, assistant manager seniors
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
Matthew Nugent	– Physiotherapist.
Dave Elwood	- Head coach Seniors
Greg Caplin	- General Manager

The following appointments have been made for WC 2010 in accordance with MPC procedure:

Dan Green	– Assistant coach
Tom Wenham	– Assistant coach
Phil Collier	– Assistant coach
Dave Elwood	- Head coach
Ravi Sitlani	– Assistant manager

Bob Patterson – Assistant manager  
Greg Caplin – Manager  
Matthew Nugent – Physiotherapist.

Dave Elwood and Greg Caplin offer themselves for reappointment as National Squads Coaching Director and General Manager respectively until September 2010.

### **Tournaments**

England competed in the Under 19 World Championships in Canada in July 2008.

Result – Fourth place

England seniors competed in the European Championships in Finland in August 2008

Result - Champions

### **Tours**

There was an incoming tour by the Oshawa Blue Knights an under 20 club team from Ontario who played a series of 3 matches against a young England development squad in March 2009.

Result – Blue Knights two games to one.

This was a very valuable experience for the young England players and developing coaches.

### **Building A Champion**

The overall strategy “Building a Champion” described in last year’s annual report has been implemented successfully. The first two sessions of the **England Junior Academy** were held in Manchester this season and the first **Annual National Open Trial** was held in January 2009. 60 players between 15 and 17 attended the first academy session. This was reduced by selection to 30 for the second session.

The Open Trial was attended by 68 players from all regions of the country and the USA.

Currently a squad of 47 senior players are training for 2010.

The England talent pool numbers 84 players aged 16 and over. The progress of all of them is being monitored by National Squads.

Regrettably problems were encountered in holding academy sessions in the South but now with the appointment by SEMLA of Peter Compton we are progressing towards a South session in September 2009.

**In conclusion** I would thank everyone involved in a very successful year and am pleased to report that in my opinion National Squads is more structured and controlled than at any previous time.

## **Referees & Rules – Peter McGinnety**

### **Courses**

During the season courses have been held at Loughborough, Hertfordshire, Edinburgh, Northumbria, Stockport, Portsmouth, UWIC, Bath and Swansea creating over one hundred newly qualified referees. The majority of these have been university students.

### **League assessments**

Assessors have worked closely with all panel referees in the North and all the officials have welcomed the process. It has been viewed as particularly useful to the home referees who have learned a great deal about referee mechanics during the feedback from the assessors.

Both the Northern and Southern Flags finals were assessed.

### **2010 World Championships**

- a) A site visit, early in the season, to the Firs was very useful and gave us an overview of the facilities for officials.

- b) There were 18 applicants to be the English officials at the Championships and it is hoped that all will receive at least five game assessments over the course of the selection process. The successful candidates will be announced in January 2010.
- c) For the first time all officials arriving at the Championships will have to have undertaken a fitness test as part of their selection process in their own country's and on arrival at the Championships they will have to re take the fitness test and a written examination on the International rules. We are presently in negotiations with Salford University in the hope that they will conduct the fitness tests on behalf of the FIL.
- d) An invitation was sent out around the lacrosse world for officials to referee at the Festival. The response has been very positive and invitations have gone to the first responders. Jon Harrop (RiC) has sent another e-mail around to inform potential international officials that no further invitations will go out until we know how many teams have entered the competition.

### **Yorkshire Fresher Fest**

Was held in November and PM/GL went along to work with the qualified student referees from the previous season. They all quickly improved their on field mechanics and blossomed into competent referees over the course of the day.

### **BUCS**

We were pleased to support the BUCS semis and finals with panel referees. The standard of university lacrosse continues to improve and they were well contested games.

### **County Games**

Officials were appointed to all County games during the season and it was pleasing to note the favourable comments made by many of the officials regarding the standard of coaching and a concentration on good discipline within the squads.

### **Junior and Schools**

GL and CP have worked with officials at some junior games on Saturday mornings. This has been welcomed and seen as beneficial but fewer requests for help were received than had been anticipated. We hope to offer a similar service next season.

### **European Lacrosse**

- a) Assessors attended the Inter European Championships to assess German referees
- b) Referee courses were held in Europe, Germany had two and the Netherlands three.

### **Coaches Quiz**

A quiz which will be included in future coaching courses was prepared by TN/GL and forwarded to Paul Coups. It is hoped that the quiz will highlight the areas within the English rules that illustrate the coaches' duties and responsibilities.

### **U19 League**

Another successful season only marred by an assault on an official.

Finally I would like to thank all the members of the Referees and Rules committee for their commitment during the season. In addition, the assessors and tutors have given a great deal of their time to develop referee's skills and introduce new officials to the game.

### **Events Promotion – Ken Haves**

Details not yet available

### **Juniors & Schools (N) – Rick Summers**

Four meetings and the AGM were held during the year. The meetings were well attended but some Clubs are not attending regularly. This is being addressed.

There are seventeen Clubs running junior programmes. Eleven Clubs ran teams at U16, U14 and U12. Two Clubs ran teams at U12 with combined teams at U14 and U16. One Club ran teams at U12 and U16. One Club ran teams at U14 and U16. One Club ran teams at U12 and U14. One Club ran a team at U16.

Cup competitions at U16, U14 and U12 levels were successfully completed along with two U11 tournaments and six a side tournaments for U16, U14 and U12. No leagues were run. This has been discussed and pros and cons discussed. However until the standard at any level is more level serious thought needs to be considered before they are introduced.

There were three disciplinary issues due to expulsion fouls. The mandatory bans were imposed.

The Polices and Good Practice for Boy's Lacrosse was issued to all Clubs. This is currently being updated prior to a print run for copies to be distributed to Clubs.

A registration system was operated for the first time to ensures all junior players are registered. This involved all Clubs having to submit list of registered players for each age level at the start of the season and updated sheets were to be submitted during the season. On the whole this has worked but the policing of this will need to be increased to ensure compliance through out the season.

Issues which have been discussed at committee and need to be addressed are as follows :-

1. The strength of junior clubs in terms of numbers and playing level.
2. Provision of two qualified referees for all games
3. Training of junior players to referee
4. The inclusion of reports, fixtures and results on the ELA website

N J& S will look to promote and support these issues over the next twelve months.

The lowering of the age to fifteen for players to play senior lacrosse was discussed. There are mixed views on this and it is for an individual Club to propose such a change to NELA.

Due to a lack of interest from the South of England an U16 National Tournament was not staged. Following discussions with South of England considerations is to be made to stage it on the same day as the U12 Nationals. This will be discussed with the ELA's Tournaments Manager.

#### Officers for 2009 -2010

Chair	– Richard Summers
Secretary	– Sue Somerville
Disciplinary Chair	– Mike Ford
Fixture Secretary	– Alison Cara
Registration Office	– Emma Mooney

**International**

**– Ron Balls**

## **European Lacrosse Federation**

The main points from the European Lacrosse Federation (ELF) meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> August 2008 and subsequent developments are as follows :

**Finance** : Report presented, no fixed financial year and this will be corrected  
England owed subscription for 2007 and 2008, no invoice presented. The new Treasurer will invoice, this has been done and payment made.

**Development** : There is ongoing activity in Hungary, Poland, Portugal and Russia and also a need expressed to consolidate the position in existing countries.

**Indoor (Box) European Championships 2009** : Austria reported that they were not ready for an event in 2009 and the ELF issued a general invite to countries to consider hosting an indoor event. Noted that how the referees would be provided had to be part of any proposal. Subsequent to the meeting Austria then advised that they would host the event and this detail was posted on the ELF web site with an August 2009 date. Then Austria pulled out again.

**New Members** : Poland was elected as a member but the application from Bermuda was rejected. The ELF Executive advised that Bermuda had sent a 17 page document explaining why they should be allowed to join ELF. Ireland voted in favour, all others against.

**European Club Championship** : Details advised to the meeting with Hamburg hosting over the period October 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>. 7 teams at present (Hampstead and Wilmslow from UK). The event took place with 5 teams and Wilmslow are to be congratulated on winning the inaugural event. We have advised the ELF that we would like the event to continue but preferably the date to be changed to the penultimate weekend in September to minimize domestic disruption.

**Referee Proposals** : Principle of wanting more European referees agreed but proposal to limit non-Europeans in Europe was rejected by the membership. The two new ELF elected officers (Referee Coordinator / Umpire Coordinator) were asked to consider and present to the membership proposals to increase the number of Officials including holding camps.

**Passport Holders – Residential Qualification of 5 years in past 10** : This would effectively kill off Scotland and Wales in terms of international teams. A number of countries asked what the point was of trying to have different rule (to FIL /ILF / IFWLA) when the whole intent at the last European Championship (2004) was to have the same! Proposal rejected by 29 votes to 4.

### **Election of Officers:**

President – Peter Mundy	V/P Women – Liisa Matinveesi
V/P Men – Kristian Gotsch	Treasurer / Friends of ELF – John Debnam
Secretary – Gordon Shumack (helping out for one year)	
Referee Coordinator – Matthias Lockemann	Umpire Cord. – tba

It was noted that job descriptions needed for all positions

**Postal Votes** – The proposal to have postal votes permitted was agreed

### **England Proposals – The England proposal covering :**

RIC / Head TD nominated by the National Governing Body (NGB) and agreed by membership 12 months out

Officials numbers for a Championship to follow ILF / IFWLA (FIL) guidelines  
Structure / Format of a Championship to be agreed by membership 12 months out.  
Fixture programme published at least four months out and preferably six  
were all agreed.

### **Other Matters raised**

**Games / Disciplinary Committee** – Sweden concerned about the format of the committee that had been set up by ELF for this event because of the inherent bias, vested interest and lack of objectivity / impartiality. Sweden requested an Appeal Panel to review a decision made earlier.

**Advisory Group** – Ireland suggested that an Advisory Group be set up to provide assistance to the Executive. Chair not very happy with this but agreed that the ELF Executive would consider.

### **European Championships 2008**

Our squad together with the Coaching and Managerial staff are to be congratulated on winning the European Championship.

Our concerns about the structure of the event unfortunately proved to be correct with a very high number of mismatches. 21 out of 45 games (46%) had a goal differential of 15 or higher. This is not beneficial for the development of the game in Europe and with the Championship Rule changes agreed will not be repeated.

### **European Championships 2012**

The ELF have called for bids to host the 2012 Championship noting that with the growth that separate men's and women's events would be considered.

We have replied and based on the experience of 2008 have requested :

- a) If there is to be a separation then change the dates to avoid clashes with World Championships i.e. hold the women's in 2012 and the men's event in 2013
- b) Ensure a minimum separation of 4-6 weeks from the World Under 19 Championships (to be held in Finland)
- c) Avoid scheduling at the same time as the Olympic games.

### **International Lacrosse Federation**

The main points from the ILF meeting held in August 2008 are as follows:

#### **Financial**

Non paying Full Members were identified as Finland, Netherlands and Sweden. Agreed that if no payment within 90 days then voting rights to be withdrawn (Noted: all now paid).

#### **Membership**

Full membership extended to Austria, Latvia and Spain. New Associate Members : Bulgaria, Costa Rica, France, Norway, Poland, Portugal and Switzerland.  
Tonga membership withdrawn.

#### **Referees**

5% contingency increase in numbers of Officials needed at World Championships. Number of days funded by competing teams increased to 14 for Referees and 12 for Assessors.

## **Rule Changes**

A number of rule changes were agreed at the meeting and these have been implemented in England, the principle having been agreed previously by the MPC.

## **Competition**

Update on World Championships 2010 provided to the meeting by David Shuttleworth. Formal contract signed by Peter Hobbs, President of the ILF and David Shuttleworth CEO of the ELA.

It was agreed that the proposed Festival would be part of the overall ILF (now FIL) event with recognition of the Masters winning teams.

In terms of future World Championships the World Indoors 2011 were awarded to Prague, Czech Republic and the 2012 Under 19s to Turku, Finland. Australia, Germany and USA had expressed in bidding for the 2014 World Championships. The bid date has now passed and Australia and Germany have fallen by the wayside. The USA bid will be considered by the Federation of International Lacrosse (FIL) Board at its meeting next month in Prague.

## **Development**

In addition to the countries attaining Associate Membership contacts and development support has continued with Hungary, India, Mexico and South Africa.

## **Unification (ILF and IFWLA)**

The documentation submitted to establish the Federation of International Lacrosse was approved and the meeting agreed the dissolution of the ILF.

## **Federation of International Lacrosse**

The inaugural meeting of the General Assembly was held on August 7<sup>th</sup> 2008. The Constitution, Byelaws, Policy statements and draft 2009/10 were agreed. The following were elected :

Feffie Barnhill	President	Stan Cockerton	Vice President
Jack Emmer	Men's Director	Shelley Maher	Women's Director
Tom Hayes	Development	Ron Balls	Finance
Women's Competition	Beth Stone	Men's Competition	Ron Balls
Women's Rules	Susie Ganzenmuller	Men's Rules	Graham Lester
Women's Officiating	Sandy Goldthorpe	Men's Officiating	Don Blacklock
Communications	Bill Rebman		

## **Cheshire**

### **– John Sharples**

The year has been a troubled one for the County. Despite numerous appeals to clubs and members alike it was not possible to find volunteers to fill the officer posts until very recently and so it has not been possible to hold the Association AGM. Hopefully the MPC will approve the appointment of officers and we will then move to hold the AGM and normalise the situation.

Despite organisational and financial problems Cheshire met all its playing commitments though the year. Lancashire proved to be very strong, and our U16s, U17 and u19 squads were not able to make headway against the Red Rose Squads, congratulations to them. However our Senior Squads gained a close victory in the Christmas fixture, and a resounding result at the British National Championships, winning the Nick Keogh Trophy for the third consecutive year. The Trophy is housed at Wilmslow as the home of the BNC this seems appropriate.

We also travelled to Warwick to play South and South Development Squad as part of their selection process for the BNC. This was a great day in wonderful surroundings, with our Senior squad gaining a win and the B Team, mainly U19s drawing with a large South Development Squad. Discussing these fixtures with South they are seen as an important development opportunity and until some other inter-regional programme is introduced both South and Cheshire would like to see the fixture retained.

There are questions though about the Lancashire match. The Christmas fixture was not popular and I think both sides struggled to turn out a senior Squad. This may be because clubs did not look at the Special events calendar, or the Emails I issues in June 2008 and arranged other things, or that players just want a break over Christmas. I have been asked to suggest that the fixtures are reviewed.

Financially, the county has struggles along. With the bank account frozen until officers are appointed bills have either been settled by personal loans to the county by myself, or by the use of Registration fees paid by players who trial (£5 annual fee covering all trials), and match fees. The MPC grant has been paid into the County account. The Cheshire 6's were held in September with Stockport winning both trophies. Unfortunately the event was not well supported and a loss was made on the day, and there seems little enthusiasm continue with this event.

The major outlay during the year was for new playing kit, though additional shorts are required when funds allow. The County also now has its own website.

The lack of support from the clubs within the Association continues to trouble me. It is generally agreed that the major representative group for clubs is NEMLA and this undermines the role of the County association. However NEMLA does not engage in the development and promotional work that Counties are placed to undertake. There seems to be a general acceptance amongst the majority that Counties are now archaic, but until something better is introduced to replace them then they should be retained.

My thanks for all the work and effort that have been put into the Association during the last year, Mike and Karen Robinson, Mike Roche, Dan Green, John Adshead, Sam Patterson, Simon McGuigan, Jan and Clive Perrin in particular; all players, referees and officials, parents and supporters from whatever club they come, and to the MPC for their continuing understanding of the problems we have faced.

## **Lancashire**

### **- Alan Boyle**

The Association met on four occasions during the season at our headquarters, Brooklands Hulmeians Lacrosse Club. The attendance at the meetings was varied with the usual core of 4/5 clubs attending all meetings but then at the January meeting seven of our member clubs present. This also included, at our invitation, a representative of the Lancashire Ladies. This will continue in the future as we look to integrate with the female side of the sport.

We ran the Ted Donnett Trophy at Brooklands at the beginning of the season. Congratulations to all the participants who provided some exciting matches with both finals ending in overtime victories.

In the County matches this season we have had mixed results, although the future is looking up after comfortable victories at Under 16 and Under 19 levels over Cheshire. At Senior level, we lost a closely contested County match by 2 goals at Christmas. In the British National Championships Lancashire comfortably won their group games notching up a large number of goals and letting in few. So we went through to the Semi Finals where we beat English Universities North by a couple of goals. In the final Cheshire retained their dominance of the British Nationals by winning by 4 goals. So runners up was achieved which was a vast improvement on previous seasons.

Thanks to Allan Collingwood for his organisation and management of the teams; Rick Summers for his work both coaching and organising our teams; and the coaches, Jamie Gallagher (Seniors), Gary Wilson/Nick Hewitt (Under 16's) and Nick Anderton/Robin Foster (Under 19's).

Our clubs provided a number of winners at the Flags Festival Weekend. Rochdale were the main winners with 2 trophies, and Brooklands finally succeeded at the end with one trophy and 4 runner ups.

At our AGM at the end of the season we elected a new President, Bob Altoft, from one of our smaller clubs, Heaton Mersey Guild. Hopefully this will provide them with some impetus.

We also discussed a proposition to set up an academy at Under 14 level to assist the development of our younger members. This will hopefully provide a stepping stone for young players to move up to County and International Lacrosse. We hope to bring together players from all Lancashire clubs to attend a set of coaching clinics to improve their skills and understanding of the game. This should enable us to assist their eventual movement to the senior level.

## **Yorkshire**

### **- Neil Crosby**

Our Committee met, as usual, four times during the season. Our member clubs extend from Newcastle to Nottingham and it is difficult for some to attend meetings. Contact is maintained, however, by telephone or e-mail. It is pleasing to report that there is a good spirit of co-operation between our clubs and a keenness to work to increase awareness of the game, especially in universities.

Most clubs can claim to have had a very good season. Sheffield University won the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division, the Stockport Cup and two BUCS competitions, Leeds won the 5<sup>th</sup> Division and the Nigel Wayne Trophy, York University and Newcastle finished in good positions in the 5<sup>th</sup> Division and Hull experienced better results than last year. Nottingham had a relatively poor season, but managed to retain 2<sup>nd</sup> Division status and Nottingham University performed well in BUCS competitions. Sheffield Steelers just managed to retain Premiership status. Their newly promoted "A" team did well in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division and all their junior sides performed well, with the U14s being unbeaten and

winning the Centurion Cup. The Association would like to congratulate the NEMLA Management Committee for its decisions, which resulted in a greatly improved fulfillment of fixtures in the 5<sup>th</sup> Division. It was a pity that the weather caused problems in the later stages. All our clubs enjoyed a much better level of competition and are grateful to those second and third teams of clubs in Greater Manchester, which undertook the long journeys.

Development of lacrosse remains the major priority in the Association. We now seem to have clubs with close contacts with local universities - Newcastle with Newcastle, Northumbria and Durham Universities ; Leeds with Leeds and Leeds Metropolitan Universities and Nottingham with Nottingham and Trent Universities. The universities play in midweek BUSA competitions and the better players play Saturday games with the local club. Hull has close contacts with Hull University and has undertaken coaching at Lincoln University. Steelers assist with coaching at Hallam University. In addition all clubs are trying to make contact with local schools. We hope that the ELA will be able to help us by supporting a full or part time development officer in these endeavours.

This season we inaugurated a Fresherfest for players new to the game at our universities. Eight universities and just over 100 players met in York in November. Next season Hull have suggested a follow up tournament in February. The Yorkshire Shield is held in May and is aimed at teams of 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Division standard. There has been a request for a competition for the senior teams at our clubs and it is hoped that a Yorkshire Cup can be contested in late October. We are currently seeking a "Tournament Co-ordinator" to oversee competition arrangements.

We had hoped to hold a referees training course in May, but the number of applications was too low to proceed. The cost of panel referees traveling to our area remains a concern. It has been raised at the MPC. Payment of the referee's fee and then his motor expenses (at 40p per mile) is expensive and, whilst we readily acknowledge a referee should not be out of pocket we feel that there should be some central system to even out, or subsidise, the costs for the more outlying clubs.

The County has entered a team in the British Nationals. Some players in our member clubs are playing in other teams in that competition and we congratulate them. We do, however, recognise that county competition is an area where we could do better and we will try next season to put out teams at other levels.

The winner of the Yorkshire Volunteer of the Year Trophy is Graham Blyth (Leeds) and the Player of the Year will be selected shortly.

Our supporters have been generous with their donations and the County remains fortunate to have so many dedicated and enthusiastic members. Thanks go to them all.



## **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.

### **BUCS**

BUCS for the first time this year facilitated a Men's Lacrosse League. BUCS agreed to institute a league system based on:

- Success and growth of the BUCS Tournament Structure (2006-07 & 2007-08)
- Support from university Athletic Unions
- Partnership with English Lacrosse
- Growth potential of men's lacrosse in universities

There were 37 university league entries across England, Scotland and Wales and were divided by the BUCS regional structure. Table 1 outlines the league structure for 2008-09 below.

Table 1- 2008-09 League structure (Division winners in **bold**)

<b>Scotland</b>	<b>North 1/A</b>	<b>North 1/B</b>	<b>Southeast</b>	<b>Southwest</b>	<b>Midlands</b>
<b>St Andrew's</b>	<b>Manchester</b>	<b>Sheffield (BUCS Champions)</b>	<b>Portsmouth</b>	<b>Bristol</b>	<b>Oxford</b>
Edinburgh	Manchester Met	Northumbria	Herts Comets	Cardiff	Cambridge
Aberdeen	Liverpool	Newcastle	Canterbury	Swansea	Northampton
Stirling	Lancaster	Leeds	Imperial	Bath	Loughborough (BUCS Trophy Winners)
Glasgow	Keele	Durham	Royal Holloway	Exeter	Birmingham
		Leeds Met		Southampton	Warwick
		Hull		Gloucester	Nottingham
		York			

The top 16 teams qualified for the Championship knockouts with all other teams playing in the trophy competition. The semi-finals again took place at Timperley Lacrosse Club with Sheffield defeating St Andrew's and Nottingham winning over Oxford. The final took place at Mount St Mary's College in Sheffield and was played alongside the women's finals. Sheffield defeated Nottingham for the 2009 Championship with Loughborough claiming the Trophy title with a win over Northumbria.

### 2009-10 League Entries

English Lacrosse has recently received the confirmed entries for the 2009-10 season. In total 46 teams have entered with new clubs from Reading, Essex, College of St Mark and St John, Kent, Sheffield Hallam, Staffordshire and Brighton. Table 2 highlights the team entries for the upcoming season.

Table 2- BUCS 2009-2010 League Entries (New Teams in bold)

<b>Scotland</b>	<b>North 1/A</b>	<b>North 1/B</b>	<b>Southeast</b>	<b>Southwest</b>	<b>Midlands</b>
St Andrew's	Manchester	Sheffield	Portsmouth	Bristol	Oxford
Edinburgh	Manchester Met	Northumbria	Herts Comets	Cardiff	Cambridge
Aberdeen	Liverpool	Newcastle	Canterbury	Swansea	Northampton
Stirling	Lancaster	Leeds	Imperial	Bath	Loughborough
Glasgow	Keele	Durham	Royal Holloway	Exeter	Birmingham
	<b>Staffordshire</b>	Leeds Met	<b>Brighton</b>	Southampton	Warwick
		Hull	<b>Essex</b>	Gloucester	Nottingham
		York	<b>Kent</b>	<b>College of St Mark &amp; St John</b>	<b>Nottingham 2nds</b>
		<b>Sheffield Hallam</b>			<b>UEA</b>

### English Lacrosse Leagues

Due to the introduction of the BUCS Leagues there was reduction in team registrations for the SEMLA and NEMLA leagues. Although there has been a reduction of team entries, there has been a positive impact on the growth of clubs.

New clubs have been formed from places such as Northampton, Newcastle, Hull, Birmingham to name a few which still have a large proportion of students but also people who are live in the local area.

Existing clubs have also benefited with 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> teams forming in the South for the first time in many years.

### Coaching/Courses

Universities continue to benefit from the coach education programme with numerous courses being held at HE institutions. Table 3 outlines courses at universities this past year.

**Table 3- Coaching Courses at Universities 2008-09**

University	Date	Attendees
York University	27 <sup>th</sup> April	16
Sheffield Hallam	18 <sup>th</sup> May	12
Leeds Met	7 <sup>th</sup> December	8
Hertfordshire	2 <sup>nd</sup> December	5
Leeds Met	15 <sup>th</sup> March	32
Southampton Solent	29 <sup>th</sup> March	23
<b>Total</b>		<b>96</b>

### Officiating

The growth of universities and implementation of the BUCS League system has created an immense amount of pressure on both the coaching and officiating infrastructures.

Although support has been provided by facilitating coaching and officiating courses to support universities, there is still a considerable amount of teams that struggle to have qualified referees for Wednesday matches thus creating an even greater demand of training needed.

### Lacrosse Sport Management Group (SMG)

English Lacrosse has established a “working group” in partnership with BUCS to act as a communication conduit to inform universities, BUCS and English Lacrosse about issues such as:

- Workforce development
- Development of participation including (new clubs & intramural programmes)
- Competitions
- Rules and regulations

The group is scheduled to meet for the first time in June and meet two times throughout the year.