

## **BRISTOL & WEST WATER POLO LEAGUE**

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – Monday 8 January 2018**

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

#### **1. Apologies and Roll Call**

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

*Apologies:* Phil Killa (Swansea), Robin Jarvis

*Officers of the League:* Phil Whiting (President), Mike Coles (Match Secretary), Matthew James (Treasurer), Tim La Touche (Gen Secretary)

#### **2. Minutes of AGM on 10 January 2017**

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

#### **3. Matters Arising**

None.

#### **4. General Secretary's Report**

The General Secretary reported that the Management Committee met on 5 occasions during the year with 75% attendance. We continue to have no female representatives on the committee which the management committee would like to rectify in 2018. The roles of Match Secretary and Referee Coordinator continue to be both done by Mike Coles who we owe thanks to.

It was satisfying to run both a 12 and under tournament and 14 and under tournament in 2017. Thanks to Devonport Royals for arranging the venue for the 12 and under tournament. We are planning to run these again.

After 13 years, I am planning to stand down as General Secretary and it is pleasing to see interest from others willing to take over the role.

#### **5. Match Secretary's Report**

The Match Secretary congratulated clubs for a 100% return of completed matchsheets which had also reduced fines. MC queried whether clubs felt we should continue with the referee evaluation as these are no longer being sent to the ASA coordinator for review. The majority of clubs agreed that the need for referee's evaluation should cease (aside from reports on those referees that are considered deficient).

The Match Secretary congratulated Welsh Wanderers on winning Division One, City of Bristol Harlequins on winning Division 2 (despite a points deduction for playing an

unregistered player) and Cheltenham on winning the Women's division. He anticipated that this would be a closely fought division in 2018.

He especially congratulated Newton Abbot on winning the Junior Division with the only 100% record – played 14 and won 14.

Congratulations also to Cwm Draig who won the President's Handicap cup in a one-sided final against Bradford-on-Avon.

#### 6. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer (MJ) circulated the League's Income & Expenditure accounts for 2017 as at 31/10/17 which included a comparison with 2016. Overall, the league made a loss of just under £800. This is the second loss in a row which was a policy adopted by the management committee as the reserves had grown to over £5000. The main item of increased expenditure was pool hire while income from fines was down. There was a query about income on the Junior tournament, but the treasurer explained that the income had not yet been realised in the accounts yet. The Junior tournament is currently running even.

However, with diminishing funds, the treasurer proposed that all subscriptions were raised by £10. This was agreed unanimously by the members.

The treasurer also explained that club invoices had not been produced for the meeting but would be emailed out afterwards. Consequently, the deadline for payment was extended from 31 January 2018 to 12 February 2018. However, the president reminded clubs that they would need to pay their subscriptions before playing their first match.

#### 7. Referee's Coordinator's Report

The referee's coordinator thanked all referees on the B&W panel. Most games had 2 referees, but a number only had one. There were 2 new referees added to the panel following the latest referee's course in November 2018. Clubs were asked to treat new referees with respect and allow for the fact that they are starting out. Referees only charge travel expenses – normally at 35p per mile. All expenses are equalised across each division so that all teams pay the same cost – irrespective of what they pay to the referee at the match.

#### 8. Proposed Rule Changes for 2018

The Management Committee proposed the removal of rule 16.4 that allows students and players in clubs in lower divisions to play for clubs in higher divisions.

There was a long discussion about the implications of removing this rule. There was concern that the removal of the rule would reduce the opportunities for students to play in the league. The Bath University representative stated that up to six players at the university could be affected by the removal of this rule. On the other hand, several clubs were supportive of the principle that all players should play for only one club at a time.

The Chairman put the proposal to a vote and with 10 For and 10 against, the proposal was defeated as a two thirds majority is required for a rule change.

The Management Committee accepted that this would need to be reconsidered.

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9. Format of Divisions for 2018

Following consultation with all clubs on the format of the men's division in 2018 (and the addition of four new teams), it had been decided to create three divisions in 2018 as follows:

**Men's Division**

<b>Premier</b>	<b>Division 1</b>	<b>Division 2</b>
Welsh Wanderers	City of Bristol Harlequins	Bath Uni
City of Bristol I	City of Bristol Barbarians	Bradford on Avon
Exeter	Swindon	Taunton
Cheltenham	Devonport Royal	South Gloucestershire
City of Newport I	Cwm Draig	City of Newport II
Newton Abbot	Weston-Super-Mare	Swansea
Frome		

**Women's Division** – Cheltenham, Exeter, City of Bristol, Cwm Draig, Welsh Wanderers, Newton Abbot

**Junior Division** – Exeter, Welsh Wanderers, Newton Abbot, City of Bristol, Cwm Draig, Newport, Devonport Royal, Taunton

10. Election of Officers

The following officers and delegates were elected unopposed:

- i. President: **Phil Whiting**
- ii. Honorary Secretary: **Darren Nash** – Proposed by Mike Coles and seconded by Alison Williams (replacing Tim La Touche)
- iii. Treasurer: **Harriet Todd** – Proposed by Mike Coles and seconded by John Sessions (replacing Matt James)
- iv. Match Secretary: **Mike Coles** – Proposed by Phil Whiting and seconded by Tim La Touche
- v. Referees' Coordinator: **Mike Coles** – Proposed by Tim La Touche and seconded by Russell Thomas
- vi. Divisional Representatives
  - o Premier Division: **John Sissons**
  - o Division 1: **Robin Jarvis**
  - o Division 2: **Simon Tomlinson**
  - o Women's Division: **Darryl Ward**
  - o Junior Division: **Russell Thomas**
- vii. Appointment as B&W rep on ASASW Water Polo Technical Committee:  
**Sarah Tomlinson**  
All above jointly proposed by Tim La Touche and seconded by John Griffiths.

The Chairman proposed that **Tim La Touche** and **Matt James** are made honorary life members to recognise their long service to the league. This was passed unanimously by the meeting.

11. Presentation of Trophies

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

Division 1 Champions	<b>Welsh Wanderers</b> (accepted by John Griffiths)
Division 2 Champions	<b>City of Bristol Harlequins</b> (accepted by Max Tennant)
Women's Division Champions	<b>Cheltenham</b> (accepted by ?)
Junior Division Champions	<b>Newton Abbot</b> (accepted by Sarah Tomlinson)
President's Cup Winners	<b>Cwm Draig</b> (presentation made at final)

12. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

The meeting finished at 8.50pm.

## **Fixtures Meeting 2018 Season**

1. The following clubs confirmed their participation in the President's Cup competition for 2018: Weston-Super-Mare, Bradford-on-Avon, Frome, Harlequins, Newport, Newton Abbot, Swindon, Cwm Draig, Exeter, Taunton, Welsh Wanderers, South Gloucestershire.

The draw for the first round was made as follows:

Exeter v Bradford

Taunton v Newton Abbot

Newport v Swindon

Swansea v Welsh Wanderers

These matches to be played by 31 May.

The draw for the quarter-finals was made as follows:

Cwm Draig v Newport or Swindon

South Glos v Weston

Taunton or Newton Abbot v Frome

Swansea or Welsh Wanderers v Exeter or Bradford

These matches to be played by 31 July.

The draw for the semi-finals was made as follows:

(Swansea or Welsh Wanderers or Exeter or Bradford) v (Taunton or Newton Abbot or Frome)

(South Glos or Weston) v (Cwm Draig or Newport or Swindon)

2. All clubs were asked to arrange fixtures no earlier than 12 February 2018 to allow registrations to be considered and referee appointments to be made. Clubs were advised to avoid the following dates:

Easter Weekend – 30<sup>th</sup> March – 2nd April

May Bank Holiday - 7th May

Spring Bank Holiday - 28th May

August Bank Holiday - 27<sup>th</sup> August

Clubs were advised that they could send their list of fixtures to MC after the meeting.