

BRISTOL & WEST WATER POLO LEAGUE
MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday 18th April 2018 7.30pm

The Bristol Concorde, Filton, Bristol

Attendees:

Phil Whiting (Hon. President). Chair,
Mike Coles (Hon. Match Sec and Hon. Ref Co-ord),
Harriet Tod (Hon Treasurer),
Darren Nash (Hon. League Sec),
Robin Jarvis,
Daryl Ward,
Simon Tomlinson.

Apologies from Russ Thomas and John Sissons

1. Matters arising from meeting on 30th Jan 2018

(not covered elsewhere on agenda)

Agree minutes as a true record
Review of Actions (*see attachment 1*)

Minutes of the last Committee mtg held 30th Jan 2018 were agreed as a true reflection of meeting.

MC advised that Table officials and Refs course to be dealt with by ASA SW at mtg in July, with a plan to hold courses in the Autumn 2018.

Player starring by Ashley Castle of CoB has now been removed and replaced with Sean Coles.

HT advised that payment of league subscriptions and fines resulting from the 2017 season have been made by all clubs except Exeter (both fines and subscriptions outstanding)

HT actioned to issue a letter to Exeter requesting full payment of subs detailed in league invoice dated 24th Jan, which includes subs only. Will advise that League sec will be in touch in due course regarding fines.

MC advised that current registration for tournaments was as follows: U12 - 4 clubs, U14 5 clubs (WW, Chelt, Devx2 + BoA)

MC advised that BWWPL registration of league with ASA was now completed.

PW advised that a replacement KO trophy had been purchased.

2.League bank account

HT reported that the new on-line bank account for the league had now been set up, including all the necessary signature permissions. Consequently, any outstanding expenses accrued should now be claimed using new form.

HT further reported that bank account is in a healthy state.

3.Junior Tournaments 2018

12 and under (2006) – 22/04/18 - Plymouth

14 and under (2004) – 26/05/18 - Newport (new date)

MC confirmed that both tournaments will go ahead, with Phil Whiting managing the U12 event and Russ Thomas managing the U14 event.

4.Instances of Notification and Postponement (Rule 14) and Unplayed Fixtures (Rule 21)

13th April – D2 - Bath Uni v SGWPC (FP)

17th April – PD – Exeter v NA....no attribute [snow](#)

28th April – JD – Bristol v Newport (FP)

6th May – WD – Exeter v WW....no attribute [snow](#)

10th May – D1 – Harlequins v Cwm Draig....no attribute [snow](#)

7th Oct – JD – Exeter v WW....no attribute [snow](#)

11th Nov – JD – Devonport v Taunton....no attribute [snow](#)

5.RULES CHANGES

RULE 16.4 ON REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS. - FURTHER COMMENTS FROM MAX TENNANT OF COB. (SEE ATTACHMENT 2)

Agreed that the wording provided by Max Tennant was a sound starting point for consideration of a revision to Rule 16.4.

It was noted that if proposed changes were ultimately voted in at the AGM it could have an immediate detrimental impact on teams attending the AGM and preparing to take part in the 2019 season. It was therefore suggested that one change to the proposal would be that the changes if voted in would take effect the following season, allowing effected clubs a full year to make the necessary arrangements for their continued involvement in the league.

It was considered by the Committee that further consultation with member clubs should take place in advance of formally tabling a proposed rule change of this magnitude at the AGM. This would provide time for member clubs to fully consider the implications, without being subject to the necessary time constraints applied during debate at the AGM and hopefully deliver buy in to the proposal or the chance to offer

alternatives/amendments that could be used by the Committee to prepare a final draft rule change.

DN was actioned to distribute the current draft wording to the league club Secretaries.

DN was directed to: include some example scenarios to illustrate the effects of the current proposal in action and help explain its impact; include advice that the proposed rule change would take effect in 2020 and; clarify the voting rights of clubs with multiple teams in the league.

6.Exeter appeal against fines from 2017 season. (see attachment 3)

Each of the items of appeal lodged by Exeter WPSC were discussed by the members of the Committee.

In the matter relating to the fine for failure to play the Ladies fixture Cwm Draig v Exeter (count 3), Daryl Ward expressed a conflict of interest and was asked to abstain from the discussion.

Notes of discussions:

Count 1. Exeter Ladies away fixture to Cheltenham, cancelled 2 days prior to fixture date.

Given the lateness of the notification of cancellation, this was considered by the Committee to be an instance of an un-played fixture, subject to rule 21.1.2. and liable to a fine of up to £35. Noting that this was the first cancellation and so could have been dealt with under rule 14 if it had been handled by Exeter in a more timely manner, the fine for un-played fixture was limited to that applicable to rule 14 (£20), but the ability for the home club to claim the cost of extra pool time under rule 21.1.2 was maintained.

Accordingly, the original fine of £20 and costs for extra pool hire (£125) were upheld.

Count 2. Exeter Ladies re-arranged fixture to Cheltenham, cancelled on the day of the fixture.

This was considered by the Committee to be an instance of an un-played fixture, subject to rule 21.1.2 and liable to a fine of up to £35. It was however agreed that since Exeter had already been fined for the failure to play this fixture in the previous count, it would be a reasonable gesture on the Committees behalf to waive the original fine.

Accordingly, the original fine of £20 was waived.

Count 3. Exeter Ladies away to Cwm Draig. Fixture cancelled two days prior to the greed date of the fixture.

Given the lateness of the notification of cancellation, this was considered by the Committee to be an instance of an un-played fixture, subject to rule 21.1.2. and liable to a fine of up to £35. It was decided by the Committee that in the interests of ensuring a swift conclusion of these matters to recover the outstanding pool hire costs owing to Cheltenham WPC, the original fine of £30 should be waived.

Accordingly, the original fine of £30 was waived.

The Committee actioned DN to send a letter conveying the decisions of the committee wrt to these appeal matters.

He was further directed to make it clear to Exeter WPSC that this was a final decision and that the Committee would not consider the matters further and also to direct Exeter WPSC to ensure that they paid the outstanding fine balance within the 28 day period laid down in the league rules (5.2.3)

7.Any Other Business

Referee polo shirts to be purchased...agreed to be white.

MC actioned to request sizes from all refs on panel and process order.

PW advised that Newton Abbott were experiencing an ongoing issue regarding access to Teignmouth Lido during months of May and Sept. Matter to be progressed but may introduce problems outside their control regarding fixtures currently arranged in those months.

MC advised, all Swim England clubs will be presented £500 in the next 12 months. New clubs forming will receive a grant of £2000.

8.Dates of next meetings

~~Monday 7th~~ Tuesday 10th July; Tuesday 25th September; Wednesday 5th December

Attachment 1 – Actions

Action ID	Action On	Detail	Progress	Note
2018/1	MC	Registration of starred player Ashley Castle - To raise query with CoB Secretary.	Complete - Starring removed against Ashley Castle and replaced with Sean Coles.	
2018/2	Committee	To review proposals for revisions to Rule 16	Complete.	Further action agreed to involve clubs in development of proposed changes. See 2018/10
2018/3	HT	To complete application for on-line bank account for the league and contact committee officers to request necessary details to set-up executive authorities.	Complete - On-line bank account no set up and functioning. Exec authorities established.	
2018/4	MC	Issue reminder to BWWPL clubs seeking entries to both tournaments	Complete.	
2018/5	MC	To update committee at end of Feb of entry numbers for 14U tournament with a view to considering extending invitations outside BWWPL clubs if numbers are not adequate.	Complete.	
2018/6	Committee	To agree dates and venues for final stages of the Handicap KO competition.	Ongoing.	

2018/7	MC	To complete BWWPL registrations with ASA	Complete.	
2018/8	DN	Propose future meeting dates for the remainder of the 2018 season	Complete.	
2018/9	HT	Send letter of final demand to Exeter WPSC addressing outstanding payments of league subscriptions.	New	Note: matter of outstanding Exeter fines is handled under separate action 2018/11.
2018/10	DN	Send letter to each club secretary to outline current proposals for changes to Rule 16.4	New	
2018/11	DN	To issue letter to James Baker of Exeter WPSC to advise on Committee decisions on appeal.	New.	Note: Subsequent to issue of letter by DN and response from James Baker, new action 2018/13 raised.
2018/12	MC	Arrange ordering of new polo shirts for league referees.	New.	
2018/13	DN	Arrange phone conversation with James Baker to clarify Committee action and Exeter WPSC continued grievance.	New.	

Attachment 2 – Rule 16 changes proposed by Max Tennant of CoB (email 02/02 – M Tenant to M Coles)

Current Rule 16 text

16. Players

16.1 All players must be registered with the League. Such registration shall include each player's full name, ASA or WASA registration number, gender and, for junior players, date of birth.

16.2 Registrations must be sent to the Hon. Match Secretary in writing at least seven days prior to a match taking place, and no later than 31st January in the year of competition.

16.3 Applications for the registration of new players during the season must be received in writing seven days prior to playing and will be subject to a £1 administration fee per player and will also be subject to review in relation to the list of "starred" players below.

16.4 A player who is registered with a University team in a lower division and is a bona fide student at that university may also register as a player in a higher division for his home Club Association. A player from a team in a lower division may also register for a team in a higher division, except where his home Club Association has a team in the top Division. Any student or player registered for more than one Club Association may not be a starred player.

16.5 Registration for the Senior Knockout Handicap competition shall be confined to one Member Club Association, and this must be declared by the player concerned in writing to the Hon Secretary prior to 31st January in the year of competition. A failure to abide by this Rule will result in the player concerned being prevented from participating in the Senior Knockout Handicap competition for the season respect of which there was non-compliance with this Rule 16.

16.6 Club Associations participating in more than one senior division shall register with the Hon. Match Secretary their nine best players as "starred" players, none of whom shall subsequently play in a lower division, unless permission to re-register as a lower division has been granted by the Hon. Match Secretary. In that event, another player must be "starred" in his place. The Management Committee shall approve the list of registrations and nine "starred" players. This rule shall not apply to junior players as defined by ASA Law.

16.7 If a player registered with one Member Club Association wishes to move to another Member Club Association during a playing season, and if both Member Club Association secretaries have confirmed their agreement in writing and no monies are owed by the player to his or her current Member Club Association,

then with the permission of the Match Secretary (not to be unreasonably withheld), the player may transfer to the new Member Club Association.

16.8 In the Junior Division players must be 16 years of age or under on 31 December in the year of competition.

16.9 Any Member Club Association playing an unregistered player shall forfeit any points gained in the match to their opponents and, further, be liable for a fine of £10.00 per unregistered player. The non-offending team shall have the choice of either a 0-0 score, or the score as recorded to stand.

Wording proposed by Max Tennant

Rule 16.4 Any player aged over 17 on 1st of January at the start of each competition year can only be registered to play for one club.

Rule 16.7 Any player aged over 17 on 1st of January at the start of each competition year can move their registration to another Member Club Association during a playing season, and if both Member Club Association secretaries have confirmed their agreement in writing and no monies are owed by the player to his or her current Member Club Association, then with the permission of the Match Secretary (not to be unreasonably withheld), the player may transfer to the new Member Club Association. A player can only reregister once during any one competition season.

Attachment 3 – Exeter Appeal against fines from 2017 season (email – 02/04/18 – James Baker to Mike Coles)

Dear Mike

2017 Season - Appeal to Imposition of Fines

Please accept this email as a formal appeal under the Rules of the BWWPL to the imposition of the fines for the 2017, which Matt James helpfully summarised as follows after a request for the minutes of meetings and a more detailed explanation as to the Committee's rationale for the rationale. I have based the Grounds of Appeal on the Rules of the League as they appear as at today's date and published on the BWWPL website, although I am aware that there are some rules which are no longer relevant / no longer being implement / which have been superseded.

Matt's summary appears as italicised text and the Club's Grounds of Appeal appears in red text thereafter:

A brief summary of the fines based on minutes is as follows:

1. *Exeter men and women were due to travel to Cheltenham in May. Exeter men cancelled over 10 days prior to the fixture however Exeter women only cancelled two days prior to the fixture. Due to the late cancellation Exeter ladies were **fined £10**. Cheltenham has booked extra pool time for both fixtures and made a claim for both sessions booked. The men's claim was rejected due to being outside the ten day window however the female claim was upheld hence **£125 pool hire costs**.*

1.1 The Rules governing Fixtures are contained in Rule 14. There is no basis within the Rules for a fine of £10 to be imposed for 'late cancellation'.

1.2 There is no basis within the Rules of the League for the imposition of an award of costs in the event on an un-played fixture in the first instance, Rule 14.4 applies where a postponement or cancellation occurs after a second cancellation or postponement, and accordingly Rule 21 is then applied. This however is not the case in relation to the above fixture, which was the first attempt at getting the fixture played. Accordingly Rule 21 (and specifically Rule 22.1.2) does not apply.

1.3 In addition /supplemental to Rule 21 (which does not apply for the reasons set out above), the League has for some time permitted fixtures

to be arranged outside of usual Club time, and providing that written notice is provided to the visiting Club that if they cancel they will be liable for the cost of pool time, and the visiting Club accepts those terms, then the League has been content to award costs of pool hire and associated costs on that basis. No written notification was received by Brian Steer or myself from Cheltenham relating to this fixture, and which we know to fall within Cheltenham's regular Club hire agreement with the pool provider (evidence available on request).

Accordingly we invite the Committee to reconsider its position and dispose of both fines.

2. *Exeter ladies were due to travel for the rearranged fixture against Cheltenham. This was cancelled on the day of the fixture due to road issues. **£20 fine** was awarded.*

2.1 Rule 21 is engaged. The Committee were aware of the circumstances on the day by virtue of my having conversations with Mike Coles which explained the following:

2.1.1 The team became aware of issues on the M5 north of Bristol arising from road works which resulted in very heavy traffic and an increased travel time of approximately 45-50 minutes and a diversion. The Team made arrangements for team members to leave earlier than had been planned.

2.1.2 Late morning there was an accident on the M5 around Bristol which resulted in the M5 being closed and static traffic in both directions for many miles.

2.1.3 There was an accident north bound on the M5 in Somerset which resulted in static then slow moving traffic in the Taunton area.

2.1.4 Mr John Herring and Mrs Katy Powell were driving team players and phoned me from Devon / Somerset border where they were sat in intermittently static traffic. Despite having left earlier than planned, they had taken over one hour to drive a 25-30 minute drive. Their sat navs were forecasting them to be over 1 hour late for the start time of the match.

2.1.5 I spoke with Rob Smee having looked at the online road traffic advice. He agreed with me that because of the M5 issues it was not feasible for the Team to continue travelling.

2.1.6 I phoned Mike Coles who informed me he had just driven south bound on the M5 around the Bristol area and he has seen the stand still traffic on the north bound M5 and had wondered what was going on. After discussing the timescales involved, I agreed with Mike that there was no point in continuing the journey.

2.1.7 There are internet based records clearly showing the events and timings on the day in question if the Committee has any doubt as to the road works, accidents or traffic delays.

2.1.8 I have been informed that the Committee took into account a report from two individuals one of which is not a member of either of the Clubs concerned, that the Exeter Team made no attempt to travel to the match, and that the Committee would fine Exeter on that basis. This is not recorded in the minutes of the Committee meeting and no request has been submitted to the Exeter Club to verify such allegations. Both Mr Herring and Mrs Powell along with the players who were due to attend and are over the age of 18 are prepared to submit statements confirming the account presented in these Grounds of Appeal if requested.

2.2 The Committee can only exercise its discretion with regard to financial penalties where it is reasonable to do so. Given the above, I can think of no valid reason to exercise discretion to fine a team who attempted to travel but were unable to attend the fixture due to circumstances outside of their control. If the Committee believes that such an exercise of discretion is reasonable, then would it not be reasonable to expect fines to be awarded against teams who could not travel due to inclement weather conditions? Of course not.

3. *Exeter ladies cancelled away game with Cwm Draig ladies two days prior to the fixture being played. £30 fine awarded.*

3.1 This was an original fixture, and accordingly there is no basis within the Rules for applying a financial penalty – see 1.1 above which is deemed to be repeated here.

3.2 The fixture should have been the subject of a rearrangement pursuant to Rule 14. This opportunity was denied to the Clubs concerned because of the decision of the League Co-ordinator set out in his email of the 22nd September 2017:

Following on from information received, firstly I'm sorry to say that Exeter Ladies will be reported to the management committee for failing to give 10 days notice of cancellation of the away game with Cwm Draig which was scheduled for Sunday, 24th September.

Notwithstanding, receipt of the above, the Exeter Club sought new dates from Cym Draig in respect of the fixture on the 10th October 2017 (none having been forthcoming). No response was received from Cym Draig (indicating that they are in breach of Rules regarding the re-arrangement of fixtures, or alternatively the League Committee are in breach of the Rules by failing to enforce them appropriately.

4. *Exeter ladies home v Cheltenham ladies 12.09.2017. Lack of notifications and follow up with referees. £30 fine awarded.*

No appeal is submitted – I personally forgot to notify the new referees of the revised date for the fixture.

Aside from the specific grounds of appeal, there are generic grounds of appeal that result in the award of all such fines being in breach of the Rules of the League.

Rule 6.2 requires declarations of interest in any decision to be voted on by the Committee. Presumably there was a declaration of interests in relation to the imposition of fines from individuals who have connections to / are members of the relevant Clubs and furthermore, any individuals who are members of the Committee and who have a formal disciplinary sanction issued by the ASA and which directly relates to a relevant Club. Such declarations are not recorded in your Committee minutes, and should be. The extent to which they are not, means that there will have

been influence of individuals who should have declared an interest in the determination of and award of the fines.

Accordingly, I will ask Brian Steer to make payment of the £30 pursuant to '4' above, and I shall await your advice as to the process to be followed in determining the appeal. In order to assist me in providing further evidence in support of the appeal I have an additional request for information which I will need to submit to you in the future.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

James Baker
Chairman – Exeter Water Polo & Swimming Club