

South West Lacrosse Annual General Meeting

**Monday, 25 April 2022**

**18.00 via Zoom**

**MINUTES**

Present: Heidi Marvin (HM), Victoria Westwood (VW), Kate Nelson-Lee (KNL), Michelle Bray (MB), Clare Stoot (CS), Chloe Watterston (CW), Francesca Wilkinson (Birmingham), Tia Hislop (St Swithun’s), Phoebe Terelak (Bristol Bombers), Dave Abini (St Mary’s Calne, Tribe)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | Apologies for Absence:  Annabel Campbell (Oxford City)  Karen Coups (Cirencester)  Nik Roberts (EL representative) |
| 2 | Minutes of last AGM:  Accepted |
| 3 | Chairman’s Report:  See attachment to Minutes for full text. |
| 4 | Election of Treasurer:  Kate Nelson-Lee standing, proposed by Heidi Marvin, seconded by Victoria Westwood; unanimously elected |
| 5 | Election of Members of the Committee:  National Lacrosse Committee (NLC) representative: thank you to KNL who has been our representative for many years – no nominations at present  Schools’ representative: KNL and Sally Keogh standing down – HM thanked them both; Tia Hislop standing, proposed by Kate Nelson-Lee, seconded by Michelle Bray; unanimously elected  Senior Regional – CW staying on committee  Senior League – VW staying on committee  Head Umpire: limited contact from Sara Benbow recently due to time commitments; Annabel Campbell has offered her support and expertise to head up umpiring in the SW; proposed by Heidi Marvin, seconded by Victoria Westwood: unanimously elected. HM thanked Sara Benbow for her support this season  Michelle Bray is retiring from committee; HM offered our huge thanks for all her work and support; Michelle is happy to be called upon for future jobs when desperate! |
| 6 | Treasurer’s Report:  Statement begins June 18th due income of 2021/2022 fees    Our cash balance at the beginning of the period stood at £2592.96    (Income received through tournament fees, senior regional subs, Super Counties fees etc.)  Income received during the period of June 18th to April 25th, stands at £15,091,89    Expenses paid (which includes match and location fees, kit fees, grants and bursaries, umpire and coaching payments as well as refunds, first aid kits etc) is £14,789.32    Further Income and Expenses breakdown can be provided upon request.    We are expected to have further outgoings over the next few weeks of South West Senior regional umpires and coaches, in addition to this we are hoping to obtain a proportion of our development outgoings from the England Lacrosse proposed budget from the beginning of the season.    Cash balance as of today, £2895.53  HW thanked CW for her work as Treasurer – CW is moving to work for Benenden School next year and is therefore stepping down as Treasurer but is going to continue on SWL Committee as Senior Regionals representative |
| 7 | Senior League Report:  See attachment to Minutes for full text.  HM thanked VW for her work on the Senior League |
| 8 | Senior Regionals Report:  The Coaching Team consisted of:  Gavin Donaldson  Charlotte Williams  Chloe Watterston  Kate Nelson Lee    Lyndon Stewart, S&C  Rhianne Groome, Sports Therapist/Physio    The results were:  A team won against north and lost to SE    B team lost to north and won against SE.    Team was fairly well prepared but due to clashes with home internationals and covid issues we struggled to get the squad we wanted out. A big thank you to the coaching team for putting together two full squads and to the NLC for allowing a few U18 to play.  The squad were extremely happy with S and C and Sports Therapist and Physio on the one day we had her. They felt extremely cared for given the busy events of this year and would like this to continue in future.    The tournament format didn’t suit as we played back-to-back games and this did have an obvious detrimental impact in the squad.    From feedback from our coaching team this season: Overall, they were impressed with all staff and players and I think the programme has been progressively shaped to look very professional and it is very organised.    Moving forward: integration of senior and junior SW with other squads to build that integration and allow the junior players to see and train with high-level players.    Could we do selection earlier in future to allow the squad longer with an S and C coach and to allow more squad days    Manager aim: close off this season with questionnaire, both SHSK and Marlborough College deemed popular locations to host training and trials, hopeful to continue relationships with these locations to be able to use in future   and beginning recruitment earlier, with coaches announced early September to allow for easier player recruitment.  KNL advised that the back-to-back matches are on a rota so SWL should avoid this next season  HM thanked CW for her work with the Senior Regionals |
| 9 | Club/University Forum:  Nothing specific from Bristol Bombers – would like to get tournaments going consistently; VW to talk to clubs; HM raised danger that reducing number of fixtures leads to fewer opportunities, fewer players, etc becomes a downward spiral |
| 10 | Any Other Business:  HM thanked MB for being on the committee for around 10 years! All her hard work, support and enthusiasm are greatly appreciated.  MB – very difficult for small clubs and schools who struggle with numbers; is enough consideration given to the smaller schools - Milton Abbey and Bryanston have almost stopped, Canford want to continue lacrosse as a participation sport (rather than performance) but suitable fixtures are difficult to organise and recruitment of suitable staff is an issue; clubs should support local schools to help their own numbers; try to build further connections with local universities and colleges  HM thanked everyone for attending  CW put forward the committee’s thanks to HM for her excellent chairmanship this season  CS thanked the committee and clubs, and echoed MB’s thoughts re support for smaller schools and clubs |
|  | Meeting closed: 18.35 |

**SOUTH WEST WOMEN’S LACROSSE AGM**

**25. 04 22**

**Chairman’s report**

* Exciting to return to a full competitive programme following the pandemic.
* Numbers have been slightly down in senior club teams, with some of our more coastal clubs struggling to field teams. However, numbers in schools, especially the younger age groups are promising and continue to increase and hopefully as they move on from school and into clubs we should see club numbers improve.
* Super Counties returned with 72 signing up for U15 and 45 for U19. I am grateful to the coaches who willingly gave their time, experience and professionalism. It was great to host the Super Counties finals, with the SW winning the U15s.
* Encouraging to see how many junior SW players are attending Holiday camps, working hard on the regional pathway and clearly passionate about the game.
* Fantastic to hear of the development of the Cirencester, Phoenix and Oxford City. Congratulations for running such a good junior section.
* Lack of qualified umpires continues to be a problem in the SW but we are not alone. EL are currently re-writing courses and hopefully it will not be long before there is a clear and robust programme for development of umpires. We hope to start training and mentoring in earnest next season.
* The supply of coaches who are willing to work in holidays and on Sundays has also shown a decline, with EL needing to employ U19 Academy players to coach at Triple Arrow and on the talent pathway.

I am grateful to our committed and hardworking committee who have given their time so generously, but especially our secretary Victoria Westwood, who has been meticulously efficient, keeping us all on track and driving us hard to improve and develop all levels of lacrosse in the South West

**SWL AGM 2021-22: Senior League Admin report**

With very little lacrosse played during 2020-21, the relaxing of Covid restrictions last April meant that we were able to run summer lacrosse with 4 scrimmages organised around the region (Bath, Oxford, Cirencester and back to Bath). These were very popular and also gave Head Umpire Sara Benbow the opportunity to work with some of our newly qualified Level 1 umpires. This was greatly appreciated and our thanks go to her for her time and expertise.

We were then able to run Premier League and Development tournaments and Invitational Cup fixtures this season!

The Premier League had 8 teams entered (Bath, Birmingham, Bristol Bombers 1, Bristol Bombers 2, Cheltenham, Cirencester, Southampton Ladies and Tribe). Exeter Uni had hoped to send a team but ultimately transport was an issue meaning they weren’t able to attend enough tournaments for inclusion to be viable. One tournament was cancelled due to weather and subsequent pitch conditions leaving 5 dates to try to get as much play in as possible. The ultimate winners of the Shield were Bristol Bombers 1 with Cheltenham coming second. Bristol Bombers will go to National Clubs’ Finals on 8 May to play against the winners of SE Division One and we wish them every success!

The Development tournaments were a great success with teams coming from far and wide, including the recently formed CSM team from Falmouth and 2 ‘Fresher’ teams from Exeter University. Others taking part were Nuneaton, Cardiff, Plymouth Uni, Southampton Uni, UWE and Milton Keynes.

10 teams took part in the Invitational Cup (Group A: Bath, Cheltenham, Southampton, Cardiff, and Birmingham; Group B: Tribe, Oxford, Bristol Bombers, Cirencester and Bournemouth). The two groups played round-robin matches to decide Group placings. Play-off matches then took place across the two Groups with Cheltenham coming out Champions and Oxford City second.

There has been a lot of great lacrosse played but there have also been many frustrations, with teams conceding matches due to lack of player numbers, sometimes, but not always, due to Covid. There has also been an ongoing shortage of umpires but during the course of the season SWL has offered funding to 9 people for the Level 1 umpiring course and 3 people for Level 2. These qualifications need to be continued to be encouraged throughout the clubs’ and unis’ memberships to help spread the load. There are also several candidates keen to move up to Level 3 when the course is available from England Lacrosse.

Bursaries have also been awarded for 3 Field Coaching (Level 2) qualifications and for Club grants.

We welcomed a number of new clubs to the region - CSM, Phoenix Lacrosse (currently just juniors); and Milton Keynes (expanding to include women) and Nuneaton both participated in the SWL Development tournaments for the first time. Cirencester is now fully fledged and has a permanent home at Cirencester Rugby Club. Oxford City continue to grow their juniors section and Bath have introduced a juniors programme this season.

Diary clashes were partly to blame for some of the player availability issues and I will certainly be trying to avoid as many as possible next season. A lack of a national calendar makes it hard to know in advance what other lacrosse activities are being organised (EL Mixed League, Regional/National Academies, Senior Regional tournament etc). It may be that SWL needs to reconsider whether to continue to run two competitions – limiting activity to one would free up other weekends, and would hopefully increase the number of teams participating.

Finally, I want to make a special mention of the members of Bristol Bombers, Cheltenham and Birmingham who have been particularly supportive and have been ready to leap into the umpiring breach when other teams have not attended the tournaments! Thank you so much!!

Victoria Westwood

Senior League Admin

25.4.2022