

**South West Women’s Lacrosse AGM - Minutes**

Monday, 26th April 2021 – 19.30

Via Zoom

Present: Heidi Marvin (Chair and Marlborough College), Chloe Watterston (Treasurer and Reading Uni), Kate Nelson-Lee (NLC Rep and St Swithun’s), Clare Stoots (Advisory), Sara Benbow (Head Umpire), Michelle Bray (Officiating Coordinator/Advisory, Bournemouth Town and Canford), Victoria Westwood (Secretary and Bath City); Sarah Thomas (Cheltenham), Karen Coups (Cirencester and Rendcombe College), Phoebe Terelak (Bristol Bombers), Brucie Morris (Oxford City)

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| 1 | **Apologies for absence**  Sally Keogh (Schools’ Rep and St Helen’s & St Katharine’s)  Megan Hill (Reading Uni)  Grace Miller (Bournemouth Town)  Elissa Clark (Bournemouth Town) |
| 2 | **Minutes of last meeting**  None as no AGM held in 2020 due to Covid-19 pandemic |
| 3 | **Chairman’s Report**  The Chairman introduced the current committee and expressed her gratitude for their support and commitment. She reported that the main focus of the 2020-21 season has been dealing with the challenges presented by Covid-19 and implementing the EL Return to Play; hopefully the situation will continue to improve as we move towards next season |
| 4 | **Election of Officers of the Committee:**   * Chairman: Heidi Marvin – proposed by Kate Nelson-Lee, seconded by Victoria Westwood – unanimously elected * Treasurer: Chloe Watterson – proposed by Heidi Marvin, seconded by Victoria Westwood – unanimously elected * Secretary: Victoria Westwood – proposed by Heidi Marvin, seconded by Kate Nelson-Lee – unanimously elected |
| 5 | **Election of Members of the Committee:**   * National Lacrosse Committee representative (NLC): Kate Nelson-Lee – proposed by Heidi Marvin, seconded by Victoria Westwood – unanimously elected * Schools’ representative: Sally Keogh – proposed by Heidi Marvin, seconded by Victoria Westwood – unanimously elected * Senior Regionals representative: Chloe Watterston – proposed by Heidi Marvin, seconded by Victoria Westwood – unanimously elected * Senior League administrator: Victoria Westwood – proposed by Heidi Marvin, seconded by Karen Coups – unanimously elected * Head Umpire: Sara Benbow – proposed by Heidi Marvin, seconded by Victoria Westwood – unanimously elected * Officiating Coordinator/Adviser: Michelle Bray – proposed by Grace Miller, seconded by Elissa Clark – unanimously elected * Adviser: Clare Stoot – proposed by Heidi Marvin, seconded by Victoria Westwood – unanimously elected |
| 6 | **Treasurer’s Report**  There has been little activity other than Senior League entrance fees (£480) and refunds following coronavirus cancellations (£230). We have made some Development payments to clubs to support Covid-19 requirements and unexpected pitch hire fees due to home/away structure of Autumn matches (£343.98) and pitch hire fees from 2019-20 season (£300). We have a £1,000 Covid Support Budget available to assist clubs as we recover from the pandemic which we must make clubs more aware of. The spreadsheet of the season’s figures is attached |
| 7 | **Ratify new Constitution**  Voted unanimously in favour of adopting the new Constitution |
| 8 | **Senior League Report: Return to Play in South West**  See attached addendum to Minutes. Chairman thanked Victoria for her work during a frustrating year. Karen Coups added there might be the possibility of running the Senior League tournaments at Cirencester Rugby Club |
| 9 | **Senior Regional Report: new initiatives for regional development**  There was no Senior Regional tournament in 2019 or 2020. Plans for next season include two Development play-days in the summer to help individuals develop their game and encourage more university undergraduates, graduates and school-leavers to aspire to Regional representation; Chloe has kept in contact with the last Regional coaches to run these  The reversible bibs have been located and an inventory of all kit has been created; going forward the Senior Regional representative will be in charge of the kit and where it is kept |
| 10 | **New initiatives for Umpiring**  Sara Benbow reported that EL has this year created the Umpire Advisory Group made up by people at many different stages of umpiring development to make sure decision-making caters for all levels and needs  UAG decided it would be best to work through the Regions as they have the best idea of what is needed to improve umpiring across the country  UAG has put together a set of Aims and Objectives: Recruitment, Retention, Development, Deployment and Service – the last reflecting the expectation of senior umpires to ‘give back’ to those more junior/inexperienced. This document will be available on the website in due course  Since Sara joined the SWWL Committee:   * discussions are ongoing regarding a national Calendar showing regional and national umpiring opportunities for individual development * Sara has attended the first Summer Scrimmage in Bath, guiding a number of recently qualified or limited experience Level 1 umpires; Phoebe Terelak expressed how helpful she had found her slot * this will be repeated at the Scrimmages in Oxford and Cirencester in May and June * next step is to find development opportunities for more experienced umpires who are already Level 2 and aspire to Level 3 eg Regional development days: the ‘classroom’ will be done via Zoom or similar to maximize the time available to be on field * umpiring ‘hangouts’ have been initiated with two having taken place so far to build a sense of support and community |
| 11 | **Club/University Forum – opportunity to put forward ideas for the future**   * Sarah Thomas said they were happy with what has been arranged and expressed her thanks on behalf of Cheltenham * Phoebe Terelak agreed and added that Bristol Bombers were keen for their second team to get the appropriate level of competition going forward; Victoria commented she was aware of some of the issues of the past and was really keen to get as many teams playing as possible in the right competitions * Brucie Morris suggested contacting Sam Patterson who is on the BUCS Advisory Committee to see which university teams might not be entered into BUCS next season and might therefore possibly want to participate with SWWL |
| 12 | **Any other business**  Clare Stoot thanked the Committee for their work through the Covid-19 pandemic, echoed by Kate Nelson-Lee; Victoria thanked the Clubs for their support and enthusiasm and the work they were doing to keep their members engaged  The meeting was declared closed at 20.11 |



**SWWL AGM - Monday, 26 April 2021**

**Addendum to Minutes: Senior League Report**

**2019-20 Season**

Due to Coronavirus the season ended abruptly mid-March with the final two tournaments un-played; no team was announced Premiership winner and no National Clubs’ Championships took place

**2020-21 Season**

EL established a Return to Play pathway enabling 1v1 matches, but not tournaments, to take place with rule amendments and Covid-19 Protocols in place. SWWL arranged 3 ‘friendly’ match weekends during the Autumn term with home/away fixtures with 22 teams hoping to participate; unfortunately some were unable to do so due to local restrictions and 15 teams took part to one extent or another; refunds have been issued to clubs who had matches cancelled due to Coronavirus restrictions/issues

A more formal League with three divisions (Premier, One and Development) was planned for the Spring term with 16 teams participating and using the results from the Autumn series to guide into which division each team was placed. We also arranged for the winner of Division One to attend National Club Championships to play the winner of SE Division Two. Sadly Lockdown #3 led to all this being cancelled

With the lifting of lockdown, our Return to Play means 3 Summer Scrimmages have been arranged so that there is some competitive lacrosse available without the pressure on individual clubs to find teams and venues. The first of these on 11th April at Bath was a great success; others are on 9th May in Oxford and 13th June in Cirencester. SWWL would like to thank these clubs for arranging availability of their venues (and Bournemouth Town who tried very hard to do so!) Lots of clubs are also arranging friendly matches

**2021-22**

Next season we plan to return to our familiar tournament structure with hopefully enough teams participating to establish the three divisions – Premier and One playing 5 or 6 tournaments during the season and Development playing 2 depending on entries (will reach out again to all clubs/unis who entered in previous seasons). Westonbirt School has been approached with potential dates and we are waiting their response. Alongside will be the Invitational Cup - be home/away fixtures leading to a knock-out formula to decide the winner. Additionally there can be an indoor tournament in January 2022