**Goalball UK – Competition Committee Minutes**

Saturday 2nd February 2019, 6:30pm

The Factory, Birmingham

**Present:** Dina Murdie (DM), Tom Dobson (TD), Steve Cox (SC), Faye Dale (FD), Sarah Leiter (SL), James Sindole (JS), Tommie Britton (TB), Meme Robertson (MR), Dani Dillon (DD)

**Apologies:** Charlie Woodhead, Becky Ashworth

1. **Introductions**

* DM opened the meeting with introductions around the group at 18:30.

1. **Competition/ Regional Update**

* TD updated the CC on the current competitions that have been taking place. Currently completed 2 rounds of fixtures and strong numbers within every region.
* TD also spoke about an increase in player numbers throughout every region and the hope that this continues throughout the rest of the season.
* TB told the group about the Regional tournament that took place in Oxted on Saturday 26th January. 18 players were in attendance for this.
* This has been down to the work that Robin, Tommy and Alex have been doing within local VI Schools.
* FD mentioned GUK need to be clear with the regional tournaments and who this is specifically for.
* TD to circulate dates of End of Season Tournament to CC members to be sent to clubs and push participants to attend.
* FD mentioned clash with international tournaments clashing with NL and how NL tournaments are planned 18 months out.

1. **Players Level Reassessment**

The CC looked through the player levels that have been submitted to Tom Dobson and the following people have had their playing level changed.

* Mark Powell (Fen Tigers) will be moved up to 4
* Lloyd Carswell (Cambridge Dons) will be moved up to 2
* Matty Woof (Lancashire Lions) will be moved up to 4
* Charlie Brown (Cambridge Dons) will be moved up to 2
* Megan Smithson Booth (RNC) will be moved up to 2
* Mo Ahmed (Birmingham Barbarians) will be moved up to 4
* Dan Hudson (Scarborough) will be moved up to 4

The CC also looked through the player levels that have been submitted and recommend the following players will be watched regarding their playing level being reassessed at the next committee meeting, these are;

* Karina Lang (Winchester) who is currently injured will be monitored on her return from injury.
* Ally Macgeekie (Lancashire Lions) will be monitored at moving to 3
* DM stated that one transfer request (Reece Mackie) has been received on 14th January 2019 to the committee. Copies of these are available from Goalball UK and were voted on unanimously by the committee.
* Following a request by the committee, a transgender policy will be developed by Goalball UK to be used within the National League. TD to liaise with Mark Winder and Mark Martin.

1. **Rep Updates**

* Nothing to report from Regional representatives.
* TD spoke to the CC about ensuring that representatives are available for clubs to talk with and feedback to the meetings at a further date.

1. **National League Format 2019/2020**

* Following from work that TD has been doing in preparation for the 2019-2020 season. A feedback survey has been sent out through the CC representatives to gauge people’s opinions on the format for next season.
* JS spoke about a conversation he had with Birmingham about the Bristol venue. Some of the comments are;
  + Venue isn’t suitable because of additional noise
  + No running water
* TD said that discussions have been had with Bristol over the poor facilities and this would be improved for the next tournament in March. TD also working with BA to source a new venue for 2019-2020 season.
* The majority of the CC agreed that challenges with having multiple teams and only one coach was taking its toll on teams. This was also a factor in having Novice and Intermediates on the same day.
* SC is now working to help clubs recruit coaches, however we need to ensure we give any new volunteers a good experience and not scare them off by expecting to much to soon. He asked CC members to speak with clubs and feedback on anyone who would be interested in helping during tournaments.
* SL asked if the NL tournaments could be altered to 2 days (Saturday and Sunday)
* It was also discussed about how clubs can help to provide more tournament dates for players. Can this be done through a Goalball UK fund to help clubs host a tournament once per year.
* TD also collated feedback from the NL Feedback sheet, this will be circulated to all CC members and answers to questions in this will be circulated through Goalball UK’s website.
* TD to speak with every club and ask them to give their feedback on 3 questions;
  + Do we stick with the same format as 2018/2019?
  + Do we move the format back to 2017/2018, by having a separate Novice and Intermediate tournament?
  + Would it be better to host at each club, and have less National League tournaments however at a better quality?
* Further discussions will take place during the Goalball UK Talent Camp as all committee members will be present.

1. **Warren Wilson**

* SL declared an interest in the matter and therefore wouldn’t vote
* TD received an anonymous letter about Warren Wilson and the reason for his player number remaining at 4. This is available upon request from Goalball UK.
* SL expected players to drop out and would only have 3 players for an intermediate side in Cambridge.
* DM stated to the group that Warren has never played for the GB side and only represented the team whilst at a training camp in Germany.
* FD believed that he wouldn’t make the talent group currently.
* TD and FD spoke about the region that Warren is playing in doesn’t represent other people that are top Goalscorers within regions A and B.
* DM asked the CC to vote on this matter and everyone agreed that Warren Wilson will stay at level 4.
* DD also asked about the feedback for the anonymous letter and DM stated that this will be given in the CC minutes.

1. **Croysutt Warriors**

* DM said a letter has been sent to the CC from Croysutt Warriors about the way players are patched during Intermediate games and has asked for clarity over this. A copy of the letter can be obtained from Goalball UK.
* TB mentioned that Sally has been patched and how this has occurred during the previous season and half.
* DM said that every team will be patched at least once during intermediate tournaments and this will be sent out prior to the tournament taking place by TD.
* A response shall be sent to Croysutt Warriors on behalf of the CC.

1. **AOB**

* DD to come up with a schedule to allow refs to ref different games and not against teams that they may have coached with. This is in-light of the Elite tournament and the high proportion of coaches/ referees that are associated with a team.
* FD spoke about #FindtheNext and there has been 44 applications for the talent camp at RNC in February. Only 30 can be accepted onto the programme for the camp.
* SC mentioned the official’s course that is also taking place at talent camp and there is 9 people taking part. Also, he said that the coaches workshop is still taking place (Tue 19th and Wed 20th feb) and asked CC members to ask coaches in their regions about taking part.

DM closed the meeting at 20:10 and thanked the Committee for their ongoing attendance at these meetings. It was agreed that the next meeting will take place on Saturday 27th April 2019 in Birmingham with dates and times to be circulated by Tom Dobson.