**Goalball UK – Club & Competition Committee Minutes**

Tuesday 12th November 2019, 11am at The Factory, Birmingham

**Present:** Dina Murdie (DM) Chair, Dani Dillon (DD) Dyfrig Lewis Smith (DLS), Alex Bunney (AB), Tom Dobson (TD)

**Apologies:** None

 **1. Introductions**

* DM opened the meeting at 11:00 and welcomed the members to the first meeting of the new Club and Competitions Committee.

 **2. Competition Update**

 • TD updated the group about the competitions that had taken place in the first 2 months of the season.

 • Current tournaments that have taken place are;

 • Peterborough, Bristol, Sheffield and Birmingham

 • Teams that have taken part in tournaments;

 • Novice – 11 teams over 3 tournaments

 • Intermediate – 18 teams over 3 tournaments

 • Elite – 8 teams from the one tournament in Birmingham.

 • 2 composite sides have also entered the tournaments at Novice and Intermediate.

 • TD mentioned to the group that having dedicated start times for each game has been a positive change to help tournaments flow for both clubs and volunteers, this is something that will be continued.

 • A big concern that noted by the committee is the number of officials that we have at tournaments.

 • AB confirmed that GUK are in the process of developing an introduction to officiating course to help upskill activators and club members. First course to run April 2020.

Discussion had on how to best develop volunteers, especially in a way that would encourage repeat participation.

**3. Player level reassessment**

TD presented to the committee a list of the current registered players.

The Committee reviewed each player individually and made changes where appropriate. Confirmation of current levels, including any changes, will be communicated to clubs and individuals.

Eight players were re-assigned a level - 3 were moved up and 5 moved down. These players will be advised of the changes.

Four players were identified as those whose levels will be monitored over coming tournaments to see if they need further change.

A spreadsheet of all player ratings will be made available to club leads so that they can advise their own players and plan appropriately for tournaments. Available in December 2019.

**4. Representatives and Interviews**

 • AB confirmed there have been two applicants for the player role and one applicant for the coach’s role. Applications have been assessed and telephone interviews will be arranged over the next few weeks. The aim is to confirm appointments by 20 December 2019.

**5. Queries Sent to the Committee**

\* a request from a player for a review of their level was included in the matters under 3 above.

\* Two queries about the interpretation of the rules were addressed:

1. Composite teams are given priority in entry over clubs’ second teams because Composite gives an opportunity for those who are currently training with a club which is not able to enter a full team at the player’s level. Composite teams are not aimed at providing opportunities for players who are not training or linked to specific clubs.

2. The rule requiring permission before filming or photography at competitions does not apply to use of devices to improve the ability to watch play. Use of devices for personal use - e.g. Zoom on Apple devices - is permitted, so long as any video or stills generated are not passed on in any way.

 **6. Player Behaviour**

Two matters had been referred to the Committee. DLS declared an interest in the first matter and did not take any part in the discussion of the substantive issue.

1. A complaint has been received from an official stating a player accused them of purposeful bias against their team after a game at a tournament.

2. A tweet by a player seeming to disrespect officials has been drawn to the Committee’s attention.

 • The Committee agreed that both matters will be dealt with in accordance with procedures in rule 6, and AB will make appropriate arrangements and will keep those involved informed of the process.

 • A discussion then followed of general behaviour issues.

 • Those present for the 2nd & 3rd November 2019 elite tournament agreed the general atmosphere and behaviour of players was not good and discussed the option to lay on before play sessions at tournaments to remind all players, coaches and officials of the standards expected. AB will lead on implementing this.

\* The Committee agreed that without the volunteers who officiate, the game could not be played, and antagonism towards officials will mean that many of them will likely decide to stop volunteering, putting the existence of tournaments at risk.

7. **National League format 2020/ 2021**

 • Committee briefly discussed options for the new season. AB highlighted the budget will be the same as 19/20 season so large expansion will be challenging.

 • AB presented the idea that the two hall venues currently being used, would continue to support intermediate competitions which would allow for further growth

 • . A plan was being developed to introduce more club led novice tournaments supported by 1 member of GUK staff and 2 referees with the club taking a lead on venue bookings and volunteer recruitment. This would free up GUK staff whilst allowing clubs to play a greater role in the flourishing of the sport.

The Committee agreed a club consultation was required. AB and TD to design and send out a survey to club leads no later than 9th December 2020. This will then be discussed at the next meeting following collation of feedback.

**8. AOB**

\* The Terms of Reference of the Committee will be monitored over the season to ensure they are suitable

\* AB and TD will identify and approach suitable international officials to assist with supporting the Goalball Cup and other elite tournaments

\* The next meetings of the Committee were fixed for Thursday 13 February and Thursday 30 April 2019, with venues to be advised. A further meeting will be arranged during the summer prior to the start of the next season.

* DM closed the meeting at 14:35 and thanked all committee members for their attendance and ongoing support.