



MINUTES – GLSML AGM 2018 SEASON Monday 12 November 2018

Attendance and Registration : 18:30
Refreshments : 19:00
Meeting Starts : 19:15

Location : Sir Christopher Hatton Pub

Agenda Item	Title / Description
1.	Meeting Started at 19:09 KM Welcomed the teams and opened the meeting
2.	19:09 - No comments on the 2017 Season AGM meeting minutes; Approved
3.	Kat gave season overview and end of season survey feedback – 19:10 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 53 teams in 2018 – most ever• League expanded to 7 divisions by splitting the Minors divisions – reasonably good feedback from players; thank you to Vijay for fixtures. <p>Show of hands taken from Minors teams– Majority felt division set-up / fixtures worked well; no teams thought it didn't work</p> <p>Reasons for expanding and adding another division was divisions can only have so many teams to fit games into the season. Early goal for the committee is to sort the structure of the divisions. If we get more teams we can add a division or make them 8 teams each</p> <p>Regents Park – many teams like it while others don't so only one tournament was held there this season. We are still looking at Firstball at RP and Lastball at Wormwood scrubs. This will be confirmed.</p> <p>Committee debrief after Lastball . . . it was recognised that we may have tried to fit in too many teams. We will look at improving safety as there were some issues / accidents at Lastball. Thank you to Steve for all the work he did and to Elliott for supporting.</p> <p>Developments – S101 – Average 23 attendees per session and we expect a new league team to come from it. Thank you to the coaches, Liam and Ryan; also Rocco, Kim and others who helped</p> <p>We had a lot of ideas for development initiatives but we didn't manage to get everything done that we wanted to get done; e.g. women's sessions. Players are also keen for the committee to support training for new players. Committee is keen to grow the league and develop players</p> <p>New code of conduct introduced and a new complaints procedures. We had a few incidents during the season. Some we dealt with quickly and others took a bit longer to resolve than we would have liked. We've looked at putting processes in place to make sure we respond to people quickly.</p>
4.	Presentation of Annual Accounts – 19:17 <p>Vix presented the accounts – hard copies available to attendees if required.</p> <p>Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Main changes in the accounts since last AGM – we found £150 lost profit from 2016; slight adjustment to pitch fees paid out. But pretty much the same as last season• Wandsworth pitch fees – we are in discussions with them to get a credit note for pitch bookings but getting a refund from them is difficult.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More money will go into development next season; in 2018 we bought new kit for S101 and have agreed to cover expenses for coaches supporting the sessions if they attend 6 or more. • 2 people from the league took the BASU course which we supported in addition to our own league umpiring courses. <p>Vote taken to approve accounts – No questions or comments so Approved</p> <p>A point was raised after the vote which was also raised last year regarding the fee the GLSML pays to BSF; we could do much more if BSF fees weren't so high. Could committee consider renegotiating the fees with BSF and getting more clarity on how the money is spent. Jenny Fromer was in attendance from BSF and will respond. Vix explained that we do work closely with BSUK with equipment and support. Kat agreed it is an important issue to raise and Jenny will respond. Kat added that our committee needs to make sure we can access any support that is available to us. We have Liz Knight on our committee who works for BSUK. There is funding available from BSF. Kat confirmed that team fees would be unchanged this year as we are operating on a surplus.</p> <p>Vix clarified that although we may appear to have large balance carried forward, the Committee agreed that we would keep one year's running costs as a reserve.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request was made for the committee send an email explaining how the money is used • Request was made to split out the insurance to clarify that specific expense. <p>There are some accruals for 2018 because not all invoices are in so there will be a couple of changes.</p> <p>19:37 – End of Season Survey</p> <p>Elliott has posted it on the GLSML Facebook page</p> <p>Kat confirmed that the results are consistent with previous years; feedback balances itself out and we follow the majority. Most people are happy with how things are going and how the league is run.</p> <p>A couple of issues raised in the survey were highlighted to attendees:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Should we have tighter restrictions on ringers – majority were happy with the way it's running (only 26% wanted tighter controls). Committee didn't feel we had a mandate to make changes. 2. The other issue included on the survey was about teams playing 7 & 7 – 19% thought we should allow; 12% said allow them to play as many as they want. 41% said no, not allowed. Remainder said that it shouldn't be a rule but captains can agree ahead of a game. As a committee we didn't feel there was a mandate for a change to be made so no change will be made but we can revisit in future.
<p>5.</p>	<p>Technical Officer's Report</p> <p>Not presented at the AGM as the Technical Officer was not in attendance</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Update from BSF presented by Jenny Fromer – 19:26</p> <p>Affiliation fees will increase by a small amount. This is the first increase in several years and due to overall increase of costs generally. Jenny confirmed that the BSF is transparent about accounts and everything is published and available.</p> <p>BSF is responsible for everything from grassroots to GB level. Anyone is welcome to scrutinise the accounts. Jenny confirmed she is available to answer any specific questions after the meeting.</p> <p><u>Updates from BSF:</u></p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• League Heads Forum will be combined with the AGM this year rather than being held separately in November• There are 12 tiers of affiliation fees; different categories, etc. A new fee structure of 3 tiers is proposed and will be sent out to the leagues. The tiers are: Full Fee; Associate Fee; Junior Fee• Insurance is a direct cost that is passed on and no surcharge is added. This season the BSF is looking to change providers and they believe they've identified a better provider that will have wider coverage. If a team plays overseas let BSF know so that teams are covered when they travel.• NSL3 – there will be a 3rd tier to the NSL from 2020 but they want to bring this forward a year. NSL3 will be split into North and South division to reduce traveling to London for NSL3 teams• Want to extend live streaming of some events – this year London Cup and NSL 1 and 2 finals were streamed live.• More opportunities for softballers to be involved in the MLB games next June. There will be an open meeting for those interested in getting involved.• GB women fast pitch team will be trying to qualify for the 2020 Olympics, a key focus of the BSF• BSF committee is also made up of volunteers. A list of positions available has been published but received very little response; Jenny asked if teams could circulate the list to see if there is any interest. <p><u>Questions for Jenny</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Question: can Jenny send an email details about the roles as not much information was included in the BSUK news flash.○ If a team travels abroad to play do they just need to let BSF know? Jenny confirmed, <i>Yes, teams only need to send an email with travel information.</i>○ If a 'mash up' team travels abroad to play are players still covered by the insurance? Jenny confirmed, <i>Yes, the affiliate members are covered but not anyone who isn't registered to a team</i> <p>Kat thanked Jenny and everyone at BSF and acknowledged that we could send BSF information in emails directly to captains as not everyone reads the newsletters.</p> <p>BSF are developing a new website and we want to have a voice in the development as we are the biggest user</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>2019 season preparation – 19:42</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Draft calendar included in the AGM papers sent to Captains○ BSF AGM date is confirmed and it will be in Milton Keynes.○ Pre-season captains' meeting at the start of this season went well as gave Committee a chance to talk to new teams.○ Registration timings likely to remain unchanged. Fee structure will likely remain unchanged depending on what changes are being made by BSF.○ Firstball & Lastball dates may change but not likely.○ Dates will be published on the website and circulated to teams via email in due course
<p>8.</p>	<p>Election of 2019 Committee – 19:45</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We have a few volunteers for committee roles and a few members stepping down: <p>Thank you to the following Officers stepping down this season:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Elie Irwin – Social Officer○ Kim Karman – New Players Officer



- Kakie – Secretary
- Vix – Treasurer – has been on the committee for several years in different roles
- Chris – Majors Officer – who has been on the committee for a few years and was very helpful
- Liam – Development officer – will be more focused on training delivery S101
- Development Officer Role – we would like to split out the role so that officer is overseeing the training and session rather than take part in them but they can if they want. We want an officer who will do more of a strategic role – lead and enable – work with Treasurer for budget, etc.
- None of the roles have been challenged; only one person standing for each role. All agreed to confirm new volunteers without a vote.

New volunteers gave a few words about themselves

- Darlin – Minors Officer
- Donna – New Players Officer
- Chris – Treasurer – Gave overview of finance experience – accountant by profession.
- Paul – Development Officer - 2 year coaching degree, play for Mob / Mafia
- Lukas – Secretary – Why is he volunteering and summary of his experience as a player, coach, BASU qualified, nationally / internationally, etc.
- No volunteers for social officer but we can cover this between us. New committee confirmed.

BREAK for FOOD at 19:55

Meeting resumed at 20:13

A call-out was made to confirm any attendees from Odd Sox or Brew Jays as no one had signed in for either of those teams. It was confirmed that there were no attendees from either team.

Kat confirmed that she would like to step down this season but is happy to stay on as long as needed and mentor a new Director. She can step down during the season if there are no objections

9. Proposed amendments to the Constitution and Standing Orders & Regulations – 20:16

- Proposed changes circulated in summary form ahead of the AGM
- SOs & Regs can be changed by the Committee but Constitution must be at AGM

Constitution:

- Does not state that if a team does not send a representative to the AGM there will be a points deductions so we are adding this. No objections; motion carried

3 changes proposed:

1. Currently: official start time for games is 6:45. Proposal is to change it to 7 pm and continue to allow starts up to 7:15 pm. Wording clarified around what happens if an umpire doesn't turn up on time.
 - No objections
 - Question raised: what happens at the end of the season when there are light issues. Kat explained that we clarified definition of a 'full game' to handle games that are late in the season. We can add wording that games should be started as soon as teams are ready.
 - Question raised: what is the latest time a team can forfeit? Kat confirmed: 5 pm. She also confirmed that 7 o'clock is game start and 15 minutes is the grace period. A team can start a game with 4&4 and add players who arrive late.
 - There was a suggestion to make the minimum number of players to play a game 5&5. A discussion of various scenarios followed this. The Consensus is that teams should be given an opportunity to field a full team as it could be a key position that is missing. The 15 minutes



grace period should be used to get the full 5&5 and teams shouldn't be forced to field 4&4 before 7:15.

- Kat clarified that there needs to be a cut-off at some stage or we won't be able to finish a game. Rules were tightened so a full hour of play is considered a full game.
- Concern as an umpire – if captains don't agree? There needs to be clarity for umpires so they can draw a line based on a rule. Kat agreed that as it stands there is some ambiguity.
- Start time will change to 7 pm and continue to encourage teams to start as early as possible.
Passed by show of hands vote.
- Question – what if you start with 4&4 and then your players show up?
Reply was, Yes they can be added to reach 5&5 or 6&6 but the auto-out rule needs to be clarified as international rules don't allow you to play with 8 or 9 – **Simba to clarify**
- Question – do you expect an umpire to start the game as soon after 7:15 as possible or do you expect they wait until enough players show up.
- If a team forfeits on the night, should they be required to pay the umpires in full as opposed to splitting costs with the other team – **Yes - Motion carried by show of hands vote**

SOs and Regs:

2. Rostering issues

Proposing one change – Add a clause to say that if you are using any ringers they must bat at the end of the batting order

- Comments: they can't play key positions.
Kat confirmed this was not considered by the committee. It is difficult for teams if they can't use ringers in key positions because most of the times it is a pitcher that is needed.
- Comment – this decision affects lower divisions more than higher. Can we specify positions that can be filled with a ringer like pitcher.
Kat explained that teams were given various options given and the biggest support was for no change. Committee discussed restricting number of ringers e.g. max of 3 ringers per game. There was a fairness vs participation issue and majority agreed we would rather play a game than not.
- Question – how would all of this be controlled?
You can query a player with the committee if you think the ringer is not eligible. But we mainly rely on teams to be honest and stick to the rules. As a volunteer committee we do not want to be checking rosters and making teams complete team sheets for each game.
- **Question: If your ringers are there but your regular team is short, what do you do with batting order? Do you place your regular players at the bottom or do you switch your batting order around? For Simba to respond to**

Vote by show of hands: Minors teams only: who supports tighter restrictions on use of ringers? Less than half supported.

Vote by show of hands: All teams – how many would like tighter restrictions? **Minority of teams favoured this. Original motion above carried.**

- #### 3. Umpiring fees – proposal to increase from £15 to £20. BASU umpires receive £20 so proposal to increase this to £25. **Vote by show of hands – No objections – motion carried**

10.

20:40 Other items for discussion – raised by Committee – 20:52

- Team numbers



	<p>Question in the survey re teams playing 7&7; feedback did not support a change to the rules. There's nothing in the rules about it captains have made informal agreements and Umpires have not been instructed to override these. League has not overruled these either. Committee is not proposing any changes. Attendees were asked if anyone wanted to propose a change? The consensus was, No. Everyone happy with the way it is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grounds Grounds Working Group to look for new grounds and improve existing grounds. This initiative didn't take off as there wasn't much uptake from members. A lot of feedback received on poor state of grounds; Committee will do what it can to help with information on availability of grounds but sourcing grounds and upkeep is not within the committee's remit. We will support teams to deal with issues but teams need to work together on this.
11.	<p>Items for discussion – raised by Members – 20:55</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Condition of fields: Raised by Trevor Johnston, Golden Sombreros<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trevor – suggested keeping a bucket of dirt to fill in holes which are a safety issue. How does insurance cover injuries due to pitch conditions? Kat explained the options for making a claim. Our insurance protects us as teams, league, individuals even if we are at fault (civil liability insurance). It's the home team's responsibility to find suitable grounds. Example of Finsbury Park was raised. Trevor also mentioned the batter's boxes. Comment – you may not be able to fill in holes in public property. Volunteer to contact owners of grounds to discuss pitch conditions and repairs: Emily Nash Comment that a cricket roller would solve the problems. Roll the pitch once at the start of the season.2. Should we add a rule regarding abandoning a game due to poor condition of grounds? Kat asked how many umpires have done this and no one responded.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Question raised: would the committee make a decision to 'ban' certain grounds due to poor conditions. Committee has generally stayed out of this issue but has warned teams away from certain grounds (e.g. Clapham)• Comment – one player was injured on a pitch; gave suggestion for cones to mark dangers. Kat doesn't think umpires are doing walk arounds before a match and should be reminded to do this.• Question: Where is the liability for who decides whether a game takes place or no? what if one team wants to play and another doesn't? Kat confirmed that it was the umpire's decision.• New committee member needs to take over Wandsworth Common relationship after Chris steps down.
	<p>AGM CLOSED at 21:12</p>