



DURHAM COUNTY BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunderland University

MONDAY 15th JULY, 2024 AT 7.00 P.M.

In attendance –

John Harding (Chairman/Secretary/East Durham), Matt Connolly (Fixtures Secretary/East Durham), Paul Moreels (Treasurer), David Wylie(Jnr Development/East Durham), Dan Bell (Registrations/East Durham), Jeanette Murray (Ladies Rep) Richard Medd, Peter Gull, Sam Butterworth(Stockton Shadows), Adam Waller, Mike Loughran, Alessandro Turring (Smog Warriors), Steve Butler (Tees Valley Mohawks), Harry Wood, Simon Wood (Biddick Titans), Sean Percival (Sunderland University), Arnel Clemente, Mark Tyers (Lambton Legion), Travis Stubley (Hartlepool Huskies), Bryony Vaughn, Emma Marshall (Newcastle Griffins), Donna Cuthbertson (Richmond Vikings), Tom Robinson, Carl Comer (East Cleveland), Sergei Bolev (Teesside Lions), Leo Cassidy (Darlington Storm) Mark Burrows, Paul Herring, Louise Wylie

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

John opened the meeting by thanking the rest of the committee for their efforts running the league and commented on the success of the CVL and other initiative like providing match balls to all the clubs.

2. Apologies for absence

None received.

Club not in attendance – Hartlepool Heat

Please remember that clubs not in attendance will be fined £30 as per the league rules.

3. Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting

Published on the website and agreed

4. Matters arising

None

5. Chairman's Report

See opening comments

6. League Secretary's Report

See opening comments

7. Treasurer's Report

Paul Moreels distributed hard copies of the accounts to all present and informed everyone there were also copies published on the website. There were no queries.

8. Executive Officer's Reports

Fixtures Secretary Matt Connolly reported –

Games scheduled 344 (last season 252)

Games played 327 (last season 22)

Games un-played 33 16 Sunderland Ladies dropping out of league. 17 forfeits by other (Last season was 29 total/12 due to Richmond B withdrawal)

96% games played versus 91% last season

Matt mentioned that although forfeits were down there had been over 80 postponed fixtures since October and that more effort is required from all clubs to honour and complete fixtures as scheduled.

Jnr Development Secretary David Wylie gave an update on the success of the CVL that was agreed by all that took part

Registrations Secretary Dan Bell reported –

Shaky start due to IT failures because of BE updating their infrastructure delaying players purchasing licenses and team organising squads.

Fantastic active playing numbers achieved across the league,

- 113 Ladies
- 290 Men
- 115 Under 12's
- 88 Under 14's
- 88 Under 16s
- Plus 8s / 10's CVL and 3 Recreational side playing friendly developmental basketball.

Small number of transfers across the season which were smoothly facilitated – Thanks to the clubs for marketing this happen.

Issues Identified for resolution through rule or process improvements,

- Poor completion of score sheets resulting in an inability to check registration information, creating delays in completion of match results / stats and additional club contact to resolve queries.
- Teams not updating BE's online squad information, resulting in players being unknown to the league and further clarification needing to be sought, which may also affect future centra league funding.

Key notes ahead of 24.25

- New BE portal awaiting release, no confirmed date yet however there will be offers available for early sign up of players.
- All teams must allocate all active players to the correct squad on the BE portal and this must match the information provided to the league, this is for all age groups junior and senior.
- Updated 24/25 registration forms will be made available as soon as possible and timely submission will help season organisation and resolution of any queries at the earliest opportunities.

9. Election of Committee and Officials

Applications in writing for Pre AGM

No new applications were received and the existing committee was voted in.

In addition Louise Wylie was voted in as Safeguarding Officer

Paul Herring as Officials Secretary

Richard Medd is considering taking up the post of Media/Communications secretary

10. Divisional Cup

The positives and negatives of the reformatted cup were discussed.

Concerns relating to player availability and court availability were raised from the ladies division.

Alternative formats were discussed to try and alleviate these concerns including -

- Reverting back to the traditional cup
- Seeding based on last season and ran at the end of the season
- Seeding based on last season and ran throughout the season and including a plate competition.

For the ladies division it was agreed that the cup would be seeded based on last year and ran throughout the season plus a plate competition.

Men's - It was agreed the new format was a success with players enjoying the competitive nature of impact on the end of season league games and additional games.

Decision was to continue this format of the men's cup.

Steve Butler - Requested the league consider trophies and medals for plate games. John Harding agreed.

Placing Games - After discussion of this it was agreed there was no need to consider this.

Rule Changes (see Agenda for full details)

Rule 7 - Approved

Rule 7B - Approved

Rule 8 - Approved

Rule 14A - After discussion of the reasons for games being moved, including player availability and court availability and how this interplays with league rules which were already in place. A proposal was made that a fine should only be put in place where no agreement for new dates was made within 2 weeks of a postponed fixture.

This was agreed - League committee to work on new wording of the rule.

Rule 15 Everyone agreed that this was a required rule to maintain fairness however a proposal was made to adjust the wording to 4 games rather than 2 and 1 which was proposed. This was approved with an updated wording

Rule 23a Agreed with a note where the new wording should be - club rather than team - and that the league would look to support new clubs in achieving the standard requirements as quickly as possible.

Discussion also took place around generating more officials and coaches and the league is looking to support teams with this and clubs were asked to make the required nominations as part of their officials return.

Rule 24 General discussion was undertaken around the reasoning for the change and improving standards which everyone was in favour of, some clubs currently only have level 1 TO's and some clubs only use 1 TO but these are either very experienced level 2 or levels 3 and are able to undertake games on their own.

Rule change approved to 1 BE level 2 TO as a minimum however ideally it should be 2.

Other General Changes - All Supported

11. League Structure and format for 2024/2025

Matt explained the situation and proposed options including a new option suggested by Darlington Storm.

Feedback in advance of the meeting was that option 2 was more popular.

Committee flagged the risk of drop outs and how this could effect a 3 division structure, concerns were also raised from the room around a 3 division structure and the potential limiting of number of games which could create cost problems for clubs.

However availability of courts with larger league structure was also flagged as a concern.

Agreed Darlo proposition had merit but it brought about complexities with scheduling and cup formats and was discounted.

Consideration was given to a 3 division format but playing everyone 3 times to increase games. Generally this was not liked.

Consideration of teams moving into D1 for a 2 division format was discussed, Concerns raised by Heat as next club officially in D2 who could move up following relegations for D1 alongside the 3rd place side in D2

Consideration was also given to Sunderland Uni and East Durham B staying in D1 general consensus was that a further side would be required to balance the numbers, Steve Butler nominated Mohawks B to enter D1 rather than play in D2.

Agreement was made for a 2 division men's format consisting of a provisional 11 teams in each with Sunderland Uni and East Durham B remaining in D1 and Mohawks B entering D1.

12. Appointment of Referees to fixtures

Will remain the same format as last season with the home team responsible for providing referees.

13. Declaration of players owing money

There were no declarations

14. Any Other Business

Jeanette Murray proposed the removal of player registration fees to the league. The committee felt it was not sustainable to operate on that basis and league fund would be better used for supporting the creation of more match officials, more CVL basketball and girls only activities.

15. Date of Handbook Meeting

Wednesday September 4th 2024 Sunderland University