



EAST REGIONAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Committee Meeting

Wednesday 14th October 2020

Meeting Start 7:30pm

Online meeting via GoToMeeting

Minutes

Attendees:

Dave Parry	(DP)	East RMC Chair
Pete Charlwood	(PC)	Cambridgeshire / East RMC Vice-Chair
Terry Reaves	(TR)	Cambridgeshire / East RMC Treasurer
James Long	(JL)	Norfolk / East RMC Secretary
Claire Harper	(CH)	East Women & Girls Officer
Graham Hiscock	(GH)	Hertfordshire
Angela Griffin	(AG)	Hertfordshire
Terry Fryer	(TF)	Herts Premier League Chair
Mark Westgate	(MW)	Norfolk
Liam McDougall	(LM)	Essex Rebels

1. Apologies:

Matt Harber	(MH)	Cambridgeshire / East RTM
Andy Smith	(AS)	Essex
Enrique Alonso	(EA)	Bedfordshire

2. Previous Minutes

- The minutes of the last meeting, held on July 6th 2020, were agreed as an accurate record.

3. Updates from RMC Officers / Committee Matters

- **DP** advised the list of action points from previous meetings would not be reviewed tonight due to already having a full agenda.
- Three clubs in the region were successful in applying to the BE Inequalities Fund. **DP** noted the relatively low number of applications from East clubs.
- **DP** reiterated that current RTP guidelines dictate no adult basketball can take place outside of NBL Division 1 Men & Women, albeit junior basketball (NBL up to age 17) is exempt and can take place. Basketball in educational settings (AoC, ABL, EABL/WEABL, BUCS) is also exempt. At this stage BE are seeking clarification on the impact to basketball in areas under the new local COVID alert levels recently announced by the government.
 - **AG** noted a Government Petition had been created to allow players who turn 18 during the season to continue to be exempt from COVID restrictions. The petition is currently under government review and can be found [HERE](#).
- BE have teamed with Proactive to provide clubs with low-cost access to a digital COVID-19 Symptom Checker mobile app to manage self-assessments. Sign-up costs are a one-off payment of £2.00 per club. Further information can be found [HERE](#).
- BE's improved safeguarding standards have been recognised by the Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU), with the NGBs rating increasing to four out of five (with some areas scoring five out of five).
- **DP** advised BE is supporting Black Lives Matter and will be encouraging players to take a knee before games this season.
- **TR** confirmed the balance in the East bank account remains unchanged at £3,288.00.
- **PC / JL** – no news to report.

4. RMC Vacancies

- **DP** welcomed Claire Harper who successfully applied for the vacancy of East Region Women & Girls Officer, noting Claire is already an All Girls Ambassador in the region.
- **DP** noted that there are several vacancies still to fill, including;
 - Welfare Officer
 - Regional Registrar
 - Schools Officer
 - Officials Support Officer
 - Communications & Webmaster
 - League & Competition Support Officer
 - Volunteers & Clubs Officer
 - Coaching Officer
- Role profiles for these positions can be found at <http://eastrmc.co.uk/vacancies>
Applications can be submitted here: <http://eastrmc.co.uk/apply>

- **AG** voiced disappointment in the length of time taken to produce minutes following the AGM and demanded future minutes to be completed and circulated within 72 hours. **DP** noted that whilst ideally minutes would be produced more quickly, the RMC would have to work with the volunteers and resources available to it unless additional volunteers came forward.
- **DP** requested counties to continue to advertise the East vacancies to their members.

5. BE Development Fund

- **DP** recapped that Sam Lewis (BE) had presented a paper at the East AGM regarding a change to the mechanism by which funds are redistributed to area associations. Under the changes area associations would apply to their region for funding based on the development activities they will be undertaking, with the region reviewing applications and in turn applying to BE and distributing funds accordingly. For full details please refer to the report [HERE](#).
- A heated discussion took place. The key points are summarised below;
 - **MW** asked why **DP** had voted for the changes despite county chairs being against the proposals.
 - **DP** noted that the issue had not been discussed at East RMC meetings since his appointment and he was unaware of existing sentiment at a county level. BE had advised regional chairs that the region should be the vehicle for development, and the change would enable regions to fulfil this role. Regional chairs had initially recommended delaying the funding change, however the BE board had requested to push ahead and regional chairs were asked to reconsider.
 - **TF** stated it was unacceptable for funding to be taken away from grassroots development of the sport.
 - **DP** advised funding was not being stopped, merely the mechanism for accessing funding was changing. The region would continue to fund existing activities delivered by county associations that align with the BE development objectives.
 - **TF** asked why additional layers of bureaucracy were necessary if county associations like HBA are already delivering qualifying activities.
 - **DP** advised that as a high-performing and proactive association delivering many activities, HBA (Herts Basketball Association) is atypical of county associations across the country. Other counties are in different positions and the change will encourage development opportunities in these areas, whilst also ensuring funding continues in areas such as Herts where activities already align with the BE development objectives.
 - **AG** noted BE members in Herts expect their membership fees to be used for development in their county and queried why HBA should be penalised for other county associations being less organised.

- **MW** noted that Norfolk uses the income from the 40% rebate to fund the Norfolk Youth Basketball League, a CVL for junior players aged 9-18 that costs circa £1,800.00 per annum.
 - **DP** noted this is exactly the type of activity that the region would want to continue funding.
- **MW** noted Norfolk's funding from BE (via the 40% rebate) had reduced by £500 in the previous year as several clubs had progressed to National League competition and the players were therefore not eligible for the rebate.
 - **DP** agreed the previous funding mechanism penalised county associations for developing clubs and players to national competition.
- **AG** advised the Inter County Tournaments (ICTs) have historically been the primary source of funding for the RMC through entry fees, additional events such as Table Official courses, and as a vehicle for new players to register as BE members thus bringing funding into the county via the rebate. **AG** stated if the region no longer runs ICTs this funding will stop and queried what the region will do instead.
 - **DP** stated the primary objective of the RMC is to develop and deliver an action plan to develop grassroots basketball across the region (refer to Section 6 later in these minutes).
 - **DP** noted that if members of the region are already satisfied with its progress in all areas of development then the RMC can choose to continue delivering as it has done in the past, however in order to continue to develop the RMC must consider where improvements can be made with the resources available to it.
 - **GH** stressed the importance of funding going to the right areas to promote grassroots development through school / community sessions / clubs, noting that the opportunity to represent your county is a big achievement for many junior players.
 - **TR** noted that the RMC had not committed to cancel ICTs, merely to evaluate their role and whether the RMC could continue to deliver them either alongside or as part of the regional development objectives.
 - **AG** stated that county associations should not take on the responsibility to run ICTs and HBA would not do so if asked. However, if ICTs do not take place HBA will organise its own tournament. **GH** suggested it may be possible to review this if the burden could be shared with other counties.
 - **PC** stated the ICTs had been very positive for the region and given many players and coaches their first opportunity in the sport, noting however that the tournament had encountered an identity problem after its removal from the BE talent pathway following the introduction of the Aspire Programme. **PC** suggested the proposals for the cancelled 2020 ICTs – which would have seen U10/12/14/16 age

groups aligned with the following year's Aspire programme – could have worked and should be revisited.

- **MW** highlighted the large number of new and existing players trialling in Norfolk for the last ICTs and could not understand how the competition would not fit with grassroots development.
- **DP** noted the RMC is not against ICTs. However, the event takes a large amount of volunteer time and effort to organise, and with a shortage of volunteers the RMC must balance the benefits of delivering ICTs against other development work that could be undertaken. If more volunteers come forward it may be that the RMC has sufficient resources to deliver development and ICTs.
- **AG** suggested members of the basketball community were reluctant to volunteer for East RMC roles without the draw of ICTs, also noting the additional workload for RMC members due to the administration of the Development Fund.
- **AG** queried the costs reported at the AGM for delivering the Youth Basketball Development Programme online seminar series (circa £750), noting that funding had been previously agreed by the RMC for a live clinic and expressing incredulity that costs would not be reduced for online delivery. **DP** noted that speakers were still required to prepare and deliver presentations and set their fees accordingly. An impassioned discussion followed this point.

6. Development of East Region Action Plan

- **DP** presented an overview of the areas in the East Region Action Plan;
 1. Audit of Regional Activities
 2. Schools Basketball
 3. Officials Workforce Development
 4. Coaching Workforce Development
 5. Women & Girls
 6. Regional Talent Plan
 7. Communications Plan
- The first objective is to undertake a regional audit and SWOT analysis to understand what activities are happening in the region and identify the relative strengths/weaknesses/opportunities/threats.
- **CH** has been appointed as the Women & Girls Officer and will work with the RMC to produce a plan to; work with All Girls Ambassadors in the region; encourage more women and girls to play; and work with clubs in the region to make them more 'female friendly'.
 - **DP** reiterated there is no template from BE for these roles or the activities the officers will undertake. Each officer will work with **DP** and the RMC to develop an action plan.

- **CH** suggested county associations look to appoint a Women & Girls Officer who can work alongside **CH** at a county-level and feedback information.
- **DP** suggested the purpose of the communications plan is to raise the profile of the RMC and increase awareness of its purpose to members of the basketball community.
 - **AG** reiterated the RMC does not have permission to use her photos on social media.

7. Update from County Associations

- This item was omitted due to time constraints.

8. AOB:

- **AG** provided an update on activities in Herts;
 - HBA are working with Stevenage Borough Council on a project to redevelop an outdoor court. £13K funding is available from Stevenage Borough Council for the project. The completed facility will be used for 3x3, 5v5 and wheelchair basketball activities.
 - Coach Ken Corbin from Hemel is working with Dacorum Borough Council on a project to improve outdoor basketball courts.
 - Over the summer Stevenage Borough Council replaced nets across all outdoor courts in the borough via BE's Project Swish.
 - BE have contacted **AG** regarding the Lives Not Knives campaign and are looking to undertake a similar project elsewhere in the country.
 - Herts Constabulary are running an online Lives Not Knives event on Tuesday 20th October from 6-7pm. The event is an opportunity to listen live to a variety of speakers with experience of knife crime and gang affiliation. The event can be seen on Instagram @entercareermode.

9. Next Meeting:

- The next meeting will be held at 7:30pm on Wednesday 9th December via online meeting.

Meeting Close

DP thanked those present for attending the meeting.

The meeting closed at 21:15

Name: _____

Signed: _____

Date: ____/____/2020