

1. Chairman's Report

The Chairman:

welcomed most of the 18 clubs to the meeting which was held in a Zoom environment. The main objective, after 18 months of non-playing and the cancellation of the 2020 season due to Covid, was to review future prospects for 2021.

highlighted the record-breaking attendance of 170 at the twentieth anniversary presentation night held in November 2019 at Pontypool Leisure Centre.

reported a charitable donation of £415.20 to Parkinson's UK raised at the same event, a record for the BIG League.

2. Minutes of last meeting held at Greenlawn on 19 March 2019

The minutes were read and accepted.

3. League Structure

The Secretary reported that 33 teams had confirmed their participation for the 2021 season, a fall of a net 11 compared to 2019. This results from 14 teams withdrawing - Rising Sun(3), Talywain(2), Crown Varteg(2) and one team from each of the following - Little Crown, Star, Isca Silures, Machen Bouligans, Clytha Wrythas, Ponthir House and ROF Cannons. New teams amounted to 3 - Ponthir Sports and Community Club (A and B) and reinstatement of Red Lion.

League Options

The meeting discussed 2 options for the league structure, based on 33 teams.

Option 1 involved 3 equal divisions of 11 teams spread over 22 weeks with start date of 12 April, with common finish on all divisions of 6 September.

Option 2: 4 divisions - 9 teams in division 1 and 8 teams in divisions 2 to 4 - to be run over 18 weeks from 10 May to 6 September for division 1 and 14 weeks from 7 June to 6 September for divisions 2 to 4.

It was unanimously agreed that option 2 was the lowest risk. It was acknowledged that later season start dates would help the planning phase, and allow more time to benefit from any reduced Covid restrictions and opening of boules venues. Clubs with no lighting facilities may want to consider early starts to counter darker evenings at the end of the season.

Teams are as follows:

Division 1

Caerleon A
Wheatsheaf Eagles
Caerleon Blues
ROF Nomads
Machen Mountaineers
Pilcs
Wheatsheaf Falcons
Twyn Y Ffrwd Fighters
Monmouth PC

Twyn and Monmouth were promoted and Caerleon Greens relegated.

Division 2

Caerleon Greens
Caerleon Cohort
Aber Reds
Clytha A
Halfway Allstars
Greenlawn A
Wheatsheaf Harriers
Upper Cock

Greenlawn A, Wheatsheaf Harriers and Upper Cock were promoted.

Division 3

Greenlawn C
Greenlawn B
ROF Exiles
Twyn A
Aber Golds
Aber Blues
Clytha B
Caerleon Centurions

Greenlawn C and Greenlawn B were promoted.

Division 4

Greyhound
Ponthir Sports and Community Club - A and B
White Hart Stags
Ponthir Sharks
Red Lion
Halfway Allstars Others
Rising Sun Sleepers

Matches to be played on scheduled dates as set by the published fixture list and in accordance with the rules of engagement. Where teams have occasional difficulty in meeting the full schedule, teams should aim to play any rescheduled games within 2 weeks.

The meeting discussed the need to have plans in place ahead of a resumption of playing activity, consistent with WPA regulations. It was acknowledged that there was a need to maintain health and safety guidelines for players and non-players, ensuring adequate social distancing arrangements, venue risk management.

Where there is limited playing space, clubs may want to play matches on a multi-night basis, i.e., over 2 nights in the same week.

4. Rules of Engagement/Constitution

The Secretary confirmed that no changes had been requested. The BIG rules were lodged on the web site.

5. Financial Statement

The Secretary summarised the financial position which indicated a reasonable credit balance of £600 - compared to £744 recorded at the previous AGM in 2018. The presentation night in nov 2019 had a deficit of £138 which was based on a reasonable estimate at the time.

A copy of the statement is available on request. It is not lodged on the BIG website for confidentiality reasons.

In light of the current uncertainty surrounding the pandemic, the Committee agreed to defer subscriptions - normally £20 - for 2021. This was dependent on limiting the level of expenditure and would be reviewed later in the year.

[The HSBC account is classed as a business account and in 2020 was subject to a bank Safeguard fraud and security review. The review was completed successfully]

6. Web Management

Little activity in the last year. Covid notices attached, with links to WPA.

7. Election of Officers

Chairman and Secretary/Treasurer were re-elected for 2021.

8. AOB

There was no other business.

Secretary

Boules in Gwent League