

Strathclyde League Basketball Association

**AGM Agenda: Wednesday 11th June 2014,
Rosshall Academy, Glasgow at 6:30pm.**



Honorary President: Position Vacant

Executive Committee:

Chairman: Alan Turner

Vice Chairman: Jim Thomson

Secretary: Jim Connor

Treasurer: Charles Woods

Discipline Officer: Johnnie Walker

Results Officer: Stuart Holland

Committee Member: George Williamson

Regional Officials Officer: Ian Watt

1. Welcome: by Chair and introduction to Executive Committee

- *The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all members and new clubs to the AGM.*

Name	Club	Name	Club	Name	Club
A Turner	Executive Committee	B Leishman	Dumbarton Dodgers	S Farr	Motherwell Steelmen
J Connor	Executive Committee	O Amir	Dumbarton Dodgers	K Coyle	NL Chiefs
C Woods	Executive Committee	D MacLeod	Glasgow City	J Mitchell	NL Titans
G Williamson	Executive Committee	J Sinclair	Glasgow City	PJ McFeeley	Oatlands
I Watt	Executive Committee	S Ambler	Glasgow Eagles	J McDermid	Renfrew Rocks
D Gibbons	Ayr Storm	A Watt	Glasgow Eagles	R Hutton	SL Colliers
K Brannan	Blantyre X	A Hunter	Glasgow Fever	G McNeil	SPRA
M Hughes	Blantyre X	D Miller	Glasgow Rocks Juniors	G McWilliams	Southside Originals
C Fabian	Calderglen Spartans	S Birch	Glasgow Rocks Senior	C Graham	Southside Originals
R Brown	Chemtech Legion	J Stone	Glasgow Storm	K Paterson	Stevenston Sabres
R Shiels	Chryston Cougars	D Purdie	Glasgow Storm	C Morrison	Troon Tornadoes
E Shiels	Chryston Cougars	S Docherty	Glasgow University Men	E Alexander	WCS Buddies
D Henderson	Clyde Cavaliers	C Nicol	Glasgow University Men	M Muir	WCS Buddies
J Wallace	Clyde Cavaliers	J Wiedermann	Glasgow University Women	R Gulmaya	West Glasgow Filipino BC
		S Smith	Lockerbie		

27 Clubs represented of which 22 could vote, however, 1 had to leave early and 2 arrived late on so the votes varied from 19 to 20.

2. Apologies: Johnnie Walker (Exec); Jim Thomson (Exec); Stuart Holland (Exec); Simas Baranauskas (Stirling University).

Clubs Not Present (with no apologies submitted): Cuckoo BC; Strathclyde University; St Mirren Cadets

3. Minutes of previous AGM – Copies issued by email to club contacts.

Proposal of the minutes to be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

Proposed by: Chemtech Legion ; seconded by West Glasgow Filipino BC

4. Presentation of the Annual Report, including financial report

4.1 Chairman's Report – Copies issued by email to club contacts with the agenda.

2013 report issued in error by secretary so Chairman read his report verbally and a copy is attached to the back of the minutes. There were no questions from the floor.



4.2 Financial Report – Distributed at the meeting there were no questions from the floor.

Proposal of the financial report.

Proposed by: Ayr Storm ; seconded by WSC Buddies

4.3 Discipline Report – As Johnnie Walker was not available the discipline report was read by the Chairman and a copy is below.

This year in the main, was a good one, for player and coach discipline. There were a few players involved in dismissal fouls, all of which only required the statutory 1 game bans and a couple of coaches, were warned regarding their behaviour. Only one incident caused any major concern, this started with 2 players having an altercation on court which resulted in the benches, one, en-mass, running onto court. Their motives, to run on court to give ‘haunners’ to their player, may, in real life, be admirable, but it is not acceptable on a Basketball court. We cannot condone any player who runs onto court from the bench, it is the Referee’s job to deal with what is happening on the Court, whether the players agree with it or not. It is the Coaches job to assist the Referee if required and to control their bench players. I must emphasize that this was an isolated and very rare occurrence. A couple of reports from Referees’ made comment about spectator behaviour. Home coaches and club officials should be more aware of spectator behaviour and try and curb any such negatives. So again I must thank all for a good Discipline year.

Johnnie Walker
Discipline Officer.

Ed Alexander (WSC Buddies) wanted it noted that the Buddies were unhappy with a discipline ruling for the main incident mentioned above. The Buddies felt that their appeal to the original decision was mishandled due to the fact that the Discipline Officer who was involved in the first ruling was also the person who passed information to the outside parties who were judging the appeal. The Buddies were of the opinion that the Discipline Officer ‘coloured’ the evidence and as such unfairly influenced the appeal panel and as such there was a conflict of interest when dealing with the appeal.

The Chairman asked if the Buddies had any direct evidence of this but they did not although it was stated that there was hearsay that discussions may have taken place regarding the evidence in particular the video evidence.

The Chairman stated that the process would be examined – although the regulations do not actually state how the appeal information is transferred from the league secretary to the persons conducting the appeal.

The Buddies also stated that they believed, from a conversation with the Secretary, that a motion was being put forward to deal with a revision of the appeals process and were disappointed not to see this on the agenda. If they had known this to be the case they would have submitted one of their own.

Although not stated at the time as an answer to this a motion is not required as the procedure change does not need a change to the regulations. The issue is with the handling of information during the appeal not with the actual wording of the regulation. There is a proposed procedure being discussed and this will hopefully be in place for the start of next season.

4.4 Officials Officer Report – Ian Watt

As mentioned by the Chairman the refs we have are the refs we have. To speed up the development of the current level 1 officials and the help ease the pressure on the mens leagues were two x level 2 officials are required the mentoring programme already in place in the Junior and Cadet Leagues will be expanded to include the Womens and Mens Division 3 leagues. This should free up some level 2 officials for games in mens div 1 & 2.

Clubs signing up to the Mentor system will have officials appointed to their games – 1 level 1 official and 1 level 2 or higher mentor official. There are some mentor guidelines that the clubs must agree to and these will be spelt out at the fixtures meeting in September. If clubs wish more information then please contact Ian Watt.

It was also noted that clubs must do their best to control players, coaches and crowd members from harassing officials during the game. There are some officials who will not referee as certain clubs because of previous abuse. If clubs wish referees to continue officiating then they must help create a friendly environment or the shortage of referees will only get worse.

In answer to a query raised by Glasgow Storm regarding referees not turning up to games then the officials must be reported to Ian for investigation.

In answer to a query raised by Renfrew Rocks about finding out information on referee levels and who can do certain games it was confirmed that the SLBA handbook has all referee levels clearly stated. As to the point of certain referees stating that they cannot due games due to being a mentor referee – no one had an answer to that as being a mentor referee doesn't stop you from doing a game. It was suggested that it may just have been that the official concerned just didn't wish to do the game.

It was stated by the Secretary that all clubs should be very clear that the SLBA has no control over the appointment, availability, number of qualified, personal behaviour, reliability or any other aspect of an official's life. The SLBA cannot enforce any discipline or penalty on any floor official therefore if a club has an issue with an official they should report it directly to Ian Watt who will deal with it through the Officials Commission at basketball Scotland.

It was also mentioned that any club looking to get someone on a referee or table official course then they should contact Ian for details of the next course. It was also mentioned that if a club was running a table official course then there may be some financial help available and that they should apply to the Exec with details of their costs.

5. Motions

Changes to Constitution - Proposed by the Executive Committee.

A) A change to section 5 of the constitution detailing the make-up of the Executive Committee from *Plus two other Committee Members* to *Plus up to 6 other Committee Members*.

The introduction of the League Coordinators has meant that most of the Executive Committee are doubling up on job roles. Although on paper this is not an issue it leads to problems when dealing with any disputes or appeals as most of the committee members end up knowing about the issues so cannot act in an independent manner. The ability to increase the Executive Committee should allow for a 1 person – 1 job situation and a better spread of the workload.

This increase in committee size will also allow for the formation of an events sub-committee that will look after the organisation of the Div 2 & 3 tournament, the finals weekend and any other similar events.

Voting: For 19 – Against 0 – Abstention 0 - Motion Carried

Changes to Competition Rules & Regulations - Proposed by the Executive Committee.

A) From 2012 / 2013 AGM the following change was voted through for this season:

14.4. All Games must be played with at least one Basketball Scotland qualified Table Official. If no registration number for the table official(s) is entered on the scoresheet then a fine of £10 will be levied.

To

14.4. All Games must be played with two Basketball Scotland qualified Table Officials. If no registration numbers are entered on the scoresheet for the table officials then a fine of £10 will be levied.

Additional notes from the 2012 / 2013 minutes - This change is another step towards improving the whole game experience for all teams. A query was raised about a game being forfeit if no qualified table were used but the Chairman explain that there was no such penalty only the financial fine as we did not wish this to be something that could stop the game going ahead. It was pointed out that it would be common courtesy for the home team to inform the visiting team if there was likely to be an issue with unqualified TO's. However, if the clubs wanted a forfeit penalty it would have to be proposed and voted on at next years AGM.

Voting from 2013: For 19 – Against 2 – Abstention 4 - Motion Carried



B) Changes to wording in section 2. Competition Entry –

2.5. All competition entry forms for the next season must be received by the League Secretary by 31 May.

To

2.5. All competition entry forms for the next season must be received by the League Secretary by the AGM.

2.10. Any Club wishing to re-enter a team that withdrew during the previous season must lodge a separate surety fee for that team.

To

2.10. Any Club wishing to enter a new team or re-enter a team that withdrew during the previous season must lodge a separate surety fee for that team.

Voting: For 19 – Against 0 – Abstention 0 - Motion Carried

C) Changes to wording in section 5. Competition Fixtures –

5.7. All senior games must be completed by 30th April each year (except 2014 when it will be Sunday 6th April 2014) and Junior & Cadet games by 31st March each year.

To

5.7. All League games must be completed by 31st March each year.

Voting: For 9 – Against 10 – Abstention 0 - Motion Denied

D) Changes to wording in section 14. Officials –

14.2. Any Level 1 official must have a level 2 or 3 appointed as co-official and Level 1 officials cannot be appointed to any Senior Men's games.

To

14.2. Any Level 1 official must have a level 2 or 3 appointed as co-official and Level 1 officials cannot be appointed to any Senior Men's games. The exception being any level 1 official on a level 2 upgrade course who may be appointed to a senior men's game via the officials mentor group.

This change should help increase the number of officials who are available to cover senior mens games. More information on this upgrade course and how the Officials Mentor Group operates will be given during the AGM.

Voting: For 20 – Against 0 – Abstention 0 - Motion Carried

E) Changes to the amount paid to floor officials from -

14.5. The following match fees shall apply: -

	Senior Men	Senior Women	Junior	Cadet
Floor Officials	£16	£16	£14	£12

To

14.5. The following match fees shall apply: -

	Senior Men	Senior Women	Junior	Cadet
Floor Officials	£18	£16	£14	£14

This change follows the differentiation that Basketball Scotland has between senior men and womens games and equalises the junior and cadet leagues, again, as per Basketball Scotland regulations.

Voting: For 20 – Against 0 – Abstention 0 - Motion Carried



6. Election of Executive Committee Members

6.1 As there have been no nominations prior to the AGM, the Chairman proposes that unless there is an objection from the floor the current Chairman, Treasurer & Secretary are returned.
Voting: For 20 – Against 0 – Abstention 0 - Motion Carried

6.2 The Chairman proposes that unless there is an objection from the floor the current ordinary Committee members are returned.

Voting: For 20 – Against 0 – Abstention 0 - Motion Carried

6.3 Proposals from the floor for ordinary committee members

No proposals had been received before the AGM. So The Chairman proposed that Ian Watt be elevated from a non-voting member of the Executive to a full voting ordinary committee member.

Voting: For 20 – Against 0 – Abstention 0 - Motion Carried

The Chairman then asked for proposals from the floor.

Linda Gillies from Renfrew Rocks was proposed with no objections.

Voting: For 20 – Against 0 – Abstention 0 - Motion Carried

The Chairman welcomed Linda to the committee.

7. New Clubs – Any new clubs wishing to join the SLBA for the 2014 / 2015 season will give a brief introduction to the members including home court details.

Lockerbie – Applying for mens division 3 and due to location will be flexible on home games and try to play games on the weekend. They reckon that they can manage to get to most Glasgow area venues by 7.30pm during the week for their away games. Given their flexibility and eagerness to play the Chairman would encourage all teams to support their application.

Motherwell Steelmen – Mens division 3 – playing out of Braidsurst High School on a Monday night. The team comprises of a number of enthusiastic players who are keen to develop basketball in the Motherwell area.

North Lanarkshire Titans – Mens division 3 – playing out of St Andrews Sports Complex in Coatbridge on a Tuesday and Wednesday night. The club has been around for 4 years developing teams at different age levels and hopes to expand over the coming years.

South-Side Originals – Mens division 3 & Junior men – playing out of Castlemilk High School in Glasgow like the Titans are keen to develop across the age ranges over the next few years.

8. Other business -

Honorarium – Proposed by Ayr Storm, 2nd by Glasgow Fever

An Honorarium of £600 for committee with the Chairman distributing the amount as he sees fit.

Voting: For 20 – Against 0 – Abstention 0 - Motion Carried

League Structure for 2014/15 - The league structure will be announced towards the end of August approximately 14 days before the Fixtures meeting on Tuesday 9th September.

Free League Entry to Junior & Cadet Teams - We have once again received funding from Basketball Scotland to subsidise the Junior & Cadet Leagues for the 2014/15 season. Each team entering the leagues will pay an entry fee of £50 which will be returned to the team upon completion of all league and cup fixtures. Teams that do not complete all fixtures will forfeit the entry fee.

There was also the announcement for a womens cadet league with 3 teams signed up so far. If there are any other interested teams they should contact the league secretary.



Season Opening Tournaments - proposed dates for this will be Saturday 13th & Sunday 14th September. Dates and entry forms will be confirmed at a later stage.

Dates have been confirmed and entries should be returned to the league secretary as soon as possible and no later than Friday 4th July & entry fees can be submitted with the entry or paid at the fixtures meeting.

9. Important Dates for the start of the 2014 / 2015 Season: -

League fixtures meeting - Tuesday 9th September, Rosshall Academy, 6.15pm for 6.30pm start

Men's Div. 2 & 3 Opening Tournament – Saturday 13th & Sunday 14th September at Lagoon, Paisley.
Dates now confirmed.

Cup Finals Weekend – Saturday 25th & Sunday 26th April 2015. Dates now confirmed.

10. Close of Meeting



Once again the season appears to have been a successful one with all leagues and cups culminating in an enjoyable Cup Finals weekend so congratulations to all league and cup winners.

An increase in teams playing in the leagues was a great development sign at the start of the season but this came with its own problems with referee availability and the leagues that split half way through the season for men div 3 and cadet men.

The pre-season division 2/3 tournament - has become a regular feature now and is a great way to get clubs prepared both on and off the court for the season ahead. This positive initiative will continue and be developed further.

The Cup Finals - which were not originally as planned due to an administrative error but after some quick negotiating we managed to get a 2 venue version which worked out just fine. Both days were reasonably well supported in spectator terms and most games proved very exciting with close results and overtime games all adding to the excitement.

Discipline - Following a number of years where there were few discipline issues this season saw a slight rise in Incidents reported to the SLBA regarding individual player behaviour or crowd behaviour at games. These were all settled swiftly but avoidance is always a better strategy. With this in mind I would ask all clubs to bear in mind the following:

- **The referees we have - are the referees we have!**
- **Shouting advice from the sidelines consistently throughout a whole game trying to influence a call rarely proves productive.**
- **Be aware of the rules especially regarding the code of conduct –**
 - ***Spectators 2.6.5: Do not use harassment in any form against officials***
 - ***Coaches 2.3.14: Accept and respect the role of officials***

We do not take any form of satisfaction when forced to make a decision following a reported incident and never do so lightly. We always stay within the guidelines and rarely act on hearsay evidence. So think carefully before you appeal a decision and know the appeal rules or it may cost you. Here is a piece of strong advice:

- **If you have no new evidence or have no evidence regarding a breakage in procedural rules then save your appeal money.**

Refereeing Appointments to Senior Men's games - Many clubs have had specific difficulties getting level 2 officials especially in the later stages of the leagues. This rule was put in place to maintain standards and to ensure the right referees were calling the games at senior levels and avoid the games deteriorating to an unacceptable level of physicality and poor sportsmanship. This has proven to be too difficult for some clubs toward the end of the season in particular. To avoid this in season 2014-15 we will introduce a mentor scheme for Division 3 Men and Senior Women. Clubs will the choice to opt into this programme or continue to appoint their own officials. For the clubs that opt in floor officials will be appointed to games with a level 2 - or higher – mentor referee working with a level 1 official who is on a level 2 upgrade course. This has proven to be successful with Junior and cadet leagues last season and should help increase level 2 availability for teams in Division 1 and 2 who will still require 2 x level 2 officials. More details will be available at the fixtures meeting in September. The SLBA will continue to strive to get more officials qualified to a higher standard but this is governed by Basketball Scotland. All clubs who have, or know, any level 1 officials should try to persuade them to sign up for the level 2 upgrade course – details will be out to the clubs over the summer. If you need more information please contact the SLBA for advice in this area.



Future Possibilities - Clubs should be actively seeking volunteer referees from their own club ranks so when problems occur appointing list officials you will at least have a club back up person to avoid cancellation at short notice.

Split Leagues Division 3 men & Cadet men - This proved difficult when some clubs dropped out of the leagues and then getting referees after the February deadline. The cadet men league finished in a tie that was unable to be played before the school exams kicked in. It is unlikely we will adopt this approach in the future unless the clubs specifically ask where upon we will timetable dates in the calendar for the cross-over games at the fixtures meeting.

Overall - Even with the number of difficulties, the playing standards across the leagues and age groups remained high. As did the high standards of respect, sportsmanship, sound organisation, quality of coaching and officiating throughout our leagues and Cups so "**Well done to all!**"

Here's to another great season in 2014 / 2015!

*Allan Turner
Chairman
SLBA*