

WORLD DEAF RUGBY

Meeting Minutes

23 & 24 March, 2016

Opening

The inaugural meeting of WORLD DEAF RUGBY was called to order on 23 & 24 March 2016 at the Novotel Hotel, Ellerslie Auckland New Zealand.

Attendees: (Australia) Graham Leonard, Nicholas Marlor (England) Tony Stoyles (Hong Kong) Brandon Huang (New Zealand) Lyneen Allen, Tony Kuklinski (Wales) Gwynne Griffiths

Apologies: 23 March Brandon Huang

Facilitator: Lyneen Allen .

Meeting opened at 9.07am.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed.

Approval of Minutes

Approved on distribution.

Open Issues - discussion

- This meeting largely revolved around the formation of a new entity World Deaf Rugby, having this name approved by World Rugby, and having World Deaf Rugby affiliated to World Rugby.
- World Deaf Rugby (WDR) shall be a non-profit organisation, and all people involved with WDR to do so as volunteers with no financial gain from their association with WDR. At this stage there is no need to make provision for finances, but this matter will be reviewed at a later date.
- Playing qualification is that level of hearing loss is 25db average over both ears, and this must be supported by a signed audiology report that is available at all matches for inspection. Having a hearing loss of 40db average over both ears was discussed, but general feeling was that if this was introduced the number of available players would decrease significantly.
- To be qualified to play for a country, a player must have been born in that country, or have served a three year residency. Once a player has played for one country he/she is unable to represent another nation in a Deaf International Rugby Match.

- Each nation accepted as a member of WDR is entitled to send 2 delegates to any meeting, but in all circumstances is entitled to only 1 (one) vote. This includes members of the Executive Committee 1 vote 1 country.
- Executive Committee elected on 23rd March by vote of attendees present at that meeting. This Executive Committee is Chairman (England) Tony Stoyles, Vice Chairman (Australia) Nicholas Marlor, Secretary (England) Lyndon James
- Follow World Rugby Objectives
- Should Translation Differences occur the English (sign language) translation takes precedence.
- Possible Northern Hemisphere v Southern Hemisphere Deaf Rugby game to be played at regular intervals.
- Look at making application for Rugby 7's to be included as a sport at Deaflympics, which compete at 55db. It was mentioned that in order to compete a sport needed to stage a World Championship. Also, as in Basketball it may be necessary to negotiate a spread of db level in the squad.
- The draft WDR Strategic Document 2016-2020 was presented to the Conference and covered Governance, Performance and Community. In particular the objects of World Rugby were included within the WDR objects in the Strategic Document. These documents to be reviewed by all attending Nations at the Conference by the end of the 3rd week of April 2016.
- Draft Constitution was presented to the Conference.
- Kevin Pivac gave a presentation of the now defunct International Deaf Rugby Organisation (IDRO).
- Following his presentation it was felt by the Chair, Vice Chair and Chair of Wales DRU that Kevin Pivac had not understood his involvement with Deaf Rugby had ceased at this time. He was invited to meet with the Chair, Vice Chair and Chair of WDRU, who is organising the World Deaf Rugby Championships and this was made very clear to him. Kevin Pivac enquired if he had any part to play within the new WDR and it was explained to him that as he was not a representative of a Deaf Union he had no part to play. The Chair again thanked him for his contribution to Deaf Rugby. Kevin Pivac accepted the situation and wished WDR well.
- Gwynne Griffiths gave a presentation of the format of the World Deaf Rugby Championships set down for August 2017 at Cardiff Wales, including 15's, 7's; accommodation and transport. New Zealand stated they may not be able to attend due to lack of finances after touring Argentina in 2016.
- Discussion of a logo for WDR.

- National Unions to be approached that when players register to play for hearing clubs, a line to be introduced to that registration asking, do you have a hearing disability of average 25db over both ears.
- All communication initially to take place by email.
- No annual subscription initially.
- To act as co-ordinating and controlling body of our members.

Action ITEMS:

- The draft Constitution, 5 year (2016-2020 plan), and World Deaf Rugby Championship plan to be reviewed by all attendees and any appropriate comments made, the final documents be submitted to WDR Executive Committee to be presented to World Rugby by the end of April 2016.
- Because of their links to World Rugby, all approaches at this time to World Rugby on behalf of WDR to be made by England and Wales.
- The next physical meeting of the World Deaf Rugby Officials to be held in Cardiff prior to the commencement of the World Deaf Rugby Championships in 2017.
- Creation of World Deaf Rugby Facebook page by Nicholas Marlor (Australia) as opposed to a web page.
- Executive Committee to look at Twitter and other social media.
- Executive Committee to establish sub-committees where and when they see the need.
- Executive Committee in charge of contacting all Rugby Unions to announce our existence.
- Executive Committee to produce a mission statement.
- With the Governance Section time line the target was to get feedback on both the Constitution and Strategic Document by the end of the third week of April 2016 from all National Unions at this meeting and this concurred with the chair.

Agenda for Next Meeting

We will discuss the Action Items and forward a revised agenda closer to the next meeting.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 3.30pm by Lyneen Allen. The next general meeting will be at Cardiff in 2017.

Minutes submitted by: Graham Leonard