



CAMBRIDGE SOUTH HOCKEY CLUB

COMMITTEE MEETING

Held on: Monday 28th June 2021, 8pm
at: Video call

MINUTES

Resolutions are shown underlined.

1. Quorum

1.1. Attendance:

John Greaves	/	Neil Sneade	/	Mike Gillingham	/	Jan Brynjolffsen	/
Andi Caddy	/	Jackie Hodgkinson	/	Kendra Seed	/	Rob Barton	/
Ellie Raffan	/	Laura Edge		Sam Highfield	/	James Menzies	/
Connor Grant		James Hayes		James Hartley		Andy Thomas	/
Kim Cooil		Dani Arnold	/	Lucy Bedford	/	Emily Stevenson	/
Nicole Mills	/	Louise Walker	/	Daniel Loy		Harry Lewis	
Nichola Fennell							

1.2. The presence of a quorum was confirmed.

2. Financial summary and 2021/22 fees and subs recommendations for AGM

MG presented a summary of the club's finances. We are in a strong position, with reduced fee collection during Covid more than offset by reduced outgoings. Club currently holds over £50,000 in its accounts, including a £9,000 surplus from 2020/21.

The plan to increase training pitch space for next season, along with a request from M1s & M2s that they each have their own coach, as the L1 & L2s do, as well as adding a support coach for L3s & L4s training, will add significant costs. The club also wants to move away from relying on Pay & Play receipts to help pay for ordinary running costs and instead

have these covered by fee and subs income, with P&P surpluses used for exceptional items and special projects (e.g. pitch shelters).

On this basis, and comparing with clubs that offer a similar level of provision, MG proposed the club aim to move towards subs of £180 / £90 over three seasons, with three proposals for how this could be staged depending on how much of the £9k surplus we want to deploy to cushion the change. After discussion the third option emerged as preferred, with subs only increasing to £130 / £65 for next year and match fees unchanged. This will be recommended by the Committee to the AGM for a vote.

3. Midweek training and Pay & Play

3.1. Norwich City FC Academy and ARU are vacating their Monday & Tuesday evening pitch bookings respectively for next season, and the club has secured additional pitch slots from Long Road. This will allow us to provide M3/4, L3/4 and L5/6 each with a full pitch for training rather than a half pitch, as well as an additional hour of Juniors' evening training. M5/6 will remain on a half pitch for the time being based on attendance levels but this can be reviewed if numbers increase. Committee also heard that additional coaching has been requested by M1/2s and L3/4s (see above), and supported this.

3.2. Long Road has been booked for 26 weeks - starting w/c 30th August with 2 weeks of pre-season training, then the 22 week league season plus the 2 slip weeks in October and February. During lockdown the Committee had discussed whether to start pre-season earlier to make up for rustiness after a long break, but in fact we managed to run a very good post-season programme after hockey resumed.

1st & 2nd teams were still keen to start pre-season earlier, as this is common in the higher leagues. Proposal was that we will look for higher team fixtures for two additional weekends in August (i.e. up to 4 friendly weekends before the league starts rather than 2), and we will provide pitch slots for self-coached training for M1/2s and L1/2s on Wednesday 18th and 25th August with P&P continuing in its Tuesday and Thursday evening slots up until the end of August as planned, when training restarts.

3.3. Pay & Play will move to Fridays for next season, as training slots will occupy Monday to Thursday nights. Will run 2 hours back to back, and view was that current arrangement of higher and lower half pitch games followed by a full pitch all-abilities game should be continued even though it means slightly lower player capacity. View was also that Spond booking system with cap on numbers (20 per half pitch game, 30 per full pitch) should continue after Covid restrictions end as it avoids overcrowding which reduces the quality of the sessions.

4. Teams for 2021/22

4.1. 6 men's and 6 ladies' league teams have been entered for 2021/22. The league divisions for the re-sized East Leagues have been published and South's teams are largely where we expected them to be. In the EML the lower 2 divisions, which had been split geographically to reduce travel for teams, have been recombined as the furthest Lincs clubs are no longer in the East region, and M6s will play in Div 5NW, a division above the lowest 6NW.

The England Hockey knock-out championships have been reformatted, each with a cup and plate competition. SH confirmed the MIs were interested in entering. Will enquire with LIs whether they also wish to enter. Confirmed that we did not plan to enter the Mixed championship as we have found it better to arrange local mixed friendlies. Also no plan to enter the Men's Masters championship although the Ladies' Masters team are interested in entering their championship.

4.2. Juniors' team entry will be discussed in the separate Juniors' Committee meeting.

5. Second pitch - status of St Mary's and options with Stephen Perse or others

JG explained we have registered interest with St Mary's for use of their new pitch on Saturdays but they are still to start accepting bookings. Will update as we hear anything, but it's the obvious preferred option given its proximity to Long Road. Stephen Perse has asked whether we plan to re-book with them for next season and we have responded that we are waiting to confirm our plans but, given Uni, City & Nomads are all settled at Wilberforce Road, it seems likely that we will be able to get a slot if we need it.

6. 2021/22 committee - unfilled positions and suggestions for candidates.

Positions which do not currently have any confirmed candidates for next season include:

- M4 captain - there may be a couple of interested candidates in the current squad.
- Training Coordinator - RB said Jenny Taylor was keen to develop goalkeeper training and may be persuadable to take on responsibility for organising training more broadly.
- Welfare Officer - No current candidate identified but this is an important - and necessary! - role.

7. Date of AGM

With the delayed end to the season and the need to appoint officers and set fees ready for next season, agreed we should do this ASAP. Given required two weeks' notice, proposal was to get notice out in time to hold AGM on Monday 19th July - freedom day!

8. AOB

8.1. CLUB CAPTAINS. Following on from discussion at previous Committee meeting the suggestion to propose creation of Men's and Ladies' Club Captains at the AGM, to replace individual team captains' on the Committee, was considered. View was proposed that there be 'Higher' and 'Lower' Men's and Ladies' club captains, to separately represent the interests of different sections of the club. Against this was countered the view that if part of the role of club captains is to mediate between and reconcile the different teams, whose role would it be to mediate between and reconcile the higher and lower captains? Is that just kicking the job of balancing and representing the interests of all the teams and players further down the road? And can someone who only represents half the teams be said to be a true Club Captain, or just a Higher / Lower Teams' Captain?

Overall view, supported by the captains present, was that there should be single Men's and Ladies' Club Captains. Their role, as articulated by Neil, is to mediate between and help reconcile and balance the interests of the different Men's and Ladies' teams and of players

across the teams; to represent the teams' and captains' views and concerns to the Committee, and the Committee's views and decisions to the captains; and to act as an independent source of advice or opinion for captains as well as for individual players, who can approach them as a neutral figure with any issues or concerns they may have (all club members should also be able to approach any Committee member).

The ideal candidates would be experienced club members, possibly former captains (not current captains!) who understand the issues and concerns of captaincy as well as those of players, who may have played for several different teams in their club career to have a range of perspectives, and know - and are known by - members across the club.