



CAMBRIDGE SOUTH HOCKEY CLUB

COMMITTEE MEETING

Held on: Tuesday 14th December 2010, 8pm
at: The Castle Inn, Castle Street, Cambridge

MINUTES

Present: Lino Di Lorenzo (9pm), John Greaves, Tracey Hunter, Georgie Hurford, Rich Morgan, Ron Oren, James Raikes (8.30pm), Julie Sadler, Neil Sneade, George Wych

Apologies: Sanjay Agarwala, Rebecca Baker, Rob Barton, John Benedikz, Rob Garrett, Ky Ho, Vicky Lavis, Charlie Orrock, Lyn Phillips, Ellie Raffan

Observing: Graham McCulloch

Resolutions are shown underlined.

CLUB COMMITTEE

I. Appointment/confirmation of officers

I.1. Men's 2nd XI captain and vice-captain – acting captains Ron Oren and Sanjay Agarwala respectively were proposed. In accordance with section 4.1 of the Club Constitution, only the votes of the Gentlemen Officers present were counted. Ron Oren was elected as captain *pro tem* unanimously; Sanjay Agarwala was elected as vice-captain *pro tem* 4-1 (Neil Sneade voting against on the grounds that the lazy git had bailed on the meeting at the last minute "because he felt tired").

I.2. Ladies Umpires Liaison Officer – acting officer Vicky Lavis was proposed. In accordance with section 4.1 of the Club Constitution, only the votes of the Lady Officers present were counted. Vicky Lavis was appointed *pro tem* unanimously.

I.3. Ladies Fixtures Secretary – acting officer Vicky Lavis was proposed. In accordance with section 4.1 of the Club Constitution, only the votes of the Lady Officers present were counted. Vicky Lavis was appointed *pro tem* unanimously.

- 1.4. Men's 1st XI captain and vice-captain – Graham McCulloch was proposed as captain with effect from Rob Garrett's departure to the US in February. Graham was present and confirmed his willingness to accept the position. George Wych was proposed as vice-captain in view of his key organisational role in the team this season. In accordance with section 4.1 of the Club Constitution, only the votes of the Gentlemen Officers present were counted. Graham McCulloch was elected as captain *pro tem* unanimously with effect from Rob Garrett's departure. George Wych was elected as vice-captain *pro tem* unanimously.
- 1.5. Men's 4th XI vice-captain – Ky's efforts in carrying the burden of running the 4th XI single-handedly this season were noted, particularly in view of his substantial work commitments in London. The Committee recorded their appreciation of his dedication and the critical importance of finding a vice-captain to assist Ky for the sake of the continued viability of the 4th XI. Possible candidates were discussed. It was agreed that the John Greaves will approach Mike Hendry about the position in the first instance, as it was felt he possesses both the personal and organisational qualities to fill the role.

2. Finances

- 2.1. Current budget projections – See attached sheets. Both the Men's and Ladies' teams are presently anticipating a small loss of several hundred pounds for the year, possibly improving towards break-even. It was felt this was an acceptable position in light of the additional training expenditure the Club has taken on this season, although it was agreed that the Club should aim to generate a small surplus in the medium to long terms to gradually restore the balance in the Club bank accounts.
- 2.2. Cash flow – Subscriptions and match fees are all generally paid up to date. This is an excellent recovery rate and it is vital to maintain it.

3. Membership

- 3.1. Membership currently stands at 45 full members (down from 57 last season) and 16 student members (up from 10 last season) for the Men, with a further 2 full players and 2 student players who may join. Numbers overall remain broadly the same as last season but the increase in the proportion of student members has an adverse effect on finances. For the Ladies, there are 29 paid-up members, approximately the same as for last season.
- 3.2. The Men currently have no outstanding subs due. The Ladies have 2 subs outstanding but it is expected that these will be paid soon.
- 3.3. Rich Morgan noted that The Perse School's move to become co-ed has led to a significant increase in hockey players via the formation of new girls' teams. Rich also noted that some of the boys' teams' players who have played for City have been frustrated by the difficulty of accessing the senior men's teams and this may represent a recruitment opportunity for the Club. Agreed that we would be keen for Rich and Caroline Dent to steer players interested in playing league hockey towards the Club where appropriate.

The £10 subscription discount for recruiting a new member was raised. Some people were unaware of the existence of this as there has been no promotion of this in recent years. Neil will publicise the recruitment bonus to the Club membership.

4. Training arrangements

4.1. Coaching – Everyone was very satisfied with the current level and quality of coaching provision. Ellie was commended on the excellent job she is doing organising training this season. Agreed that, despite the costs, the current training arrangements were good value and would be continued for the remainder of the season.

The question of the provision of goalkeeping coaching was raised. This has been done occasionally in the past. Graham noted that feedback from the keepers hadn't been unanimously positive. Agreed that future goalkeeping coaching would require more planning and prior co-ordination with the club's keepers. It was mentioned that Lino may know of a good goalkeeping coach. Lino to be asked about goalkeeping coaches.

4.2. Attendance – Note from Ellie: The turnout has been good with a minimum of 10 per coach at every session, and often many more. This has mostly been achieved by other teams joining the 3/4s. Although the turnout from those teams is lower than the other squads, there are a core of around 12 M3/4 who provide 6-10 attendees at the vast majority of sessions.

5. Pay-and-play hockey

5.1. Income this season is presently slightly below the cost of pitch hire. Early season attendance produced a profit but, with the return of Thursday training and the deterioration of the weather, recent sessions have been losing money; a trend we obviously don't want to continue. It was felt that having pay-and-play the day before training was not ideal, as it tended to make it an "either/or" choice, and a reversion to Tuesdays would be preferable. Also suggested that the Abbey was not a favoured venue, as the parking and location could be perceived as insecure or vulnerable. Suggested plans for pay-and-play were, in order of preference:

- Alternative outdoor pitch, preferably on a Tuesday. Lino stated that there was no availability at The Leys. George will make enquiries with Wilberforce Road [N.B. update – there is no availability there either].

- Switch to indoor hockey, again on Tuesdays. This may be preferable given the recent weather. Options were The Netherhall School (Neil mentioned that ARM had previously run an indoor hockey session here) or the Perse School. Neil to enquire about availability and cost with The Netherhall School. Rich Morgan to do the same at The Perse.

- Reduce current booking at the Abbey from full pitch to a half pitch over the winter period. James Raikes to enquire about this if options above aren't possible.

6. Playing and training kit update

6.1. This was noted and approved.

6.2. Agreed that using Hobbs, as a local supplier, for kit would be preferable if costs were competitive. In addition to the standard 10% discount Hobbs have offered for Club members it was suggested we ask about a greater discount for larger purchases, e.g. 15% for transactions over £100. Neil will ask Hobbs about this.

7. Membership card

7.1. It was felt that a card would be a good idea. At a cost of 12p each, it was agreed they would be paid for out of general Club funds and distributed to all members as a membership card, rather than made available for purchase as a discount card. Neil's mock-up was approved and he will produce and distribute the cards.

8. Chairman's Christmas Challenge Match

8.1. Was considered a good idea, subject to there being sufficient interest to raise teams. Catz astro was suggested as the most likely available venue. Preferred date was Monday 27th December: John Greaves will email the club to gauge interest. Lino will enquire with Catz about pitch availability. [N.B. – due to family commitments, John will now be unavailable for the match. A postponement to post-season has been suggested.]

9. Umpiring

9.1. This was noted and approved.

10. Online team organisation

10.1. There was some interest in trialling the use of Teamer. In particular, the ability to notify people of match details via automated text messages and collect responses without requiring people to visit a web site was felt to be potentially useful. Neil will set up the Club teams on Teamer, which may then be used at the discretion of each captain.

11. Any other business

11.1. New pitch – It had been observed that St John's College are building what looks like a new astro pitch at their sports ground on Queen's Road. It was agreed that the Club should make enquiries about the potential availability of this pitch early, to try and secure first choice on booking slots. John said he would speak to Colin Hulett about this pitch [N.B. the author has subsequently recalled that Colin works at King's College School, not St John's College School, so there's probably not a lot of point asking him about it!]

11.2. Pitches – Lino reported that there had been significant problems with pitch booking congestion this season. He has asked the Perse about pitch availability but, due to increase in usage by the school, they're not letting the pitch. Rich said he would check the situation regarding hire of the Perse pitch. The Perse Girls pitch is also unavailable due to bookings for county games. With fixture cancellations due to weather, we will have to resort to some Sunday games.

11.3. Training – Ellie has been informed that training should recommence on 6th January, ahead of the first games on 8th January.

MEN'S PLAYING COMMITTEE

I. Player availability and numbers

1.1. The 1st XI are happy with their current squad but will need an additional midfielder when Rob Garrett leaves. Graham will notify Ron of what players he is potentially interested in and Ron will approach them in the first instance about moving up.

The 3rd XI presently only have 12 fit and available players in their squad, which is insufficient to field a team every week. John Benedikz has suggested Richard Marley, Richard Yardley and Nish Patel as his choices to add to the 3rd XI squad. Ron agreed he would be willing to sacrifice 1 or 2 players from his squad to the 3rd XI, in view of their shortage of players. Agreed that John B will discuss with Ron and Ky regarding movement of players. The 4th XI will not suffer a net loss of players. All potential movers will be approached by their current captains in the first instance.

2. Indoor hockey

2.1. The Perse's present plans regarding indoor hockey aren't settled but Rich and Glenn are discussing new arrangements. Rich will keep the Club informed. Noted that if pay-and-play does move indoor for the winter, this may have the positive effect of encouraging interest in the indoor team.