



CAMBRIDGE SOUTH HOCKEY CLUB

COMMITTEE MEETING

Held on: Monday 14th November 2016, 8pm
at: The Panton Arms, Panton Street, Cambridge

MINUTES

Resolutions are shown underlined.

1. Quorum

1.1. In attendance: John Greaves, Neil Sneade, Douglas Gibson, Hannah Kenyon, Ali Edge, Meg Barne, Jack Chalk, Jim Hockley, Lou Cantwell, Sophie McComish, Dani Kilsby-Steele, Laura Edge, Liz Dunsby

Absent: Jan Brynjolffssen, Graham McCulloch, Ania Rygielska, Rob Barton, Louise Tonkin, Josh Blanchard Lewis, Stuart Rimmer, Simon Cooper, Tom Anns, Ed Boggis, Howard Steed, Lauren Brown, Colin Troll

1.2. The presence of a quorum was confirmed.

2. Sport England junior hockey funding - offer of award

Neil confirmed that the club had been offered an award by Sport England of £8,648, from an application for £9,632, towards the start-up costs of the new Junior section. The award includes various conditions on how the funds may be used and reporting obligations. If accepted, a fee equal to 10% of the award value will also be payable by the club to Living Sport for their assistance with the application. It was unanimously agreed that the club would accept the award on this basis.

3. Approval for contribution to cost of Long Road team shelters

The college's estates manager, Gary Woolley, remains interested in installing team shelters in the recessed area on the far side of the half way line. This would require a financial contribution from the club. The cost of a large (10 seat) shelter is ~£4000 inc. VAT

and installation of concrete pads beneath the astroturf to secure the shelters to is a further ~£1000 - total cost ~£9,000. It has not yet been determined what size of shelter Long Road prefer (5 and 7 seat versions are also available) and if a smaller one is chosen, the cost would be lower.

A question was raised about whether contributing towards the cost of shelters would give the club greater security at Long Road in return. It was confirmed that the club had recently signed a 3 season renewal to the previous 2 single season lease agreements, and that contributing towards team shelters would not alter this, but would further strengthen the relationship with the college and generate good will and a sense of 'moral' obligation. Douglas confirmed that the club's start of season financial balance had been £16,000 (around 50% of annual operating costs), with an initial forecast to break even this season but now revised to a potential £2,000 surplus as the club will not need to underwrite Junior start-up costs from general reserves.

It was proposed that the club offer a 50% contribution towards the total cost, up to a maximum of £5,000. It was suggested and agreed that, for funding at this level, the club would want to co-brand the shelters, with the club badge alongside the college logo as permanent markings.

A vote was taken on this proposal and it was passed with 10 in favour, 0 against and 3 abstentions

4. Pitchside kit storage

Storing kit at the pitch in the shed has been extremely popular. In particular, the majority of the club's goalkeeping kits are now being kept in there. As a result, and with the addition of junior training equipment as well, the shed has become very full and it is not possible to easily access much of the equipment. The shed has also suffered damage, mostly cosmetic, from balls being fired at it.

Neil produced a proposal for a larger and much stronger shed. The current shed is 4' x 8' with 2.6m² floor area. The new shed would be 5' x 14' with 6.3m² of storage. This would accommodate shelving for up to 12 goalkeeping kits as well as 6m of shelving for holdalls and training kit, 2.4m of stick storage rails, and wall area for rebound nets etc. The total cost including shelving and installation would be £2,480. The treasurer confirmed that the club's current reserves could cover this, although it may mean we need to rebuild reserves.

The options proposed were whether to persist with the current shed storage for the time being; to buy a second shed the same as the current one (approx. £500); or to purchase Neil's Big Shed.

A vote was taken, with 1 vote in favour of persisting with the current shed, 2 for purchasing a second shed the same as the current one, and 10 wanted Neil's Super Shed.

5. U18s at senior training

- 5.1. Ladies' training in particular has experienced a significant increase in the number of U18 players attending. The concern is that we do not know who these players are, or have confirmation that they have parental permission to attend.

We have produced a Registration and Consent Form for the new Junior section and it was proposed that we introduce a similar form for players attending senior training. A form would also be helpful for adult players in ensuring we capture information such as address, date of birth, emergency contact details etc. as we currently have no systematic process for collecting this from new players.

Sample forms for U18s and adult players were considered. It was suggested they be combined into a single form with sections for U18s and adults, as this would mean captains etc. would not need to decide which form to give a new player but could leave them to fill it in as appropriate. The form would also be made available on the web site. Neil agreed that he would produce a single senior club membership form. It was unanimously agreed that a senior club membership form be produced, to be completed by new players.

5.2. The new U18 players have also increased crowding at Ladies' training. Some are not playing for the club, as they presumably already play matches for their school, and consequently have not needed to join. Historically, the club has not had a problem with players wishing only to train but not play matches - usually the opposite - and so the trigger for joining and payment of fees has been based on games played. It was agreed that regular attendees at club training should be required to join the club and pay the appropriate playing membership fee (£40 juniors, £100 seniors).

6. Coaching issues at weekly training

To accommodate the increased numbers at Ladies' training, and to enable the Ladies' 1st XI to have dedicated training time to help their push for promotion, the Ladies' captains requested that Ladies' training be extended to 2 hours (9.30pm finish). This would cost an additional £52 per session in coaching and pitch hire costs.

It was felt that providing adequate training was essential to the development of the club, particularly as growth in numbers puts pressure on space. The men's captains confirmed that the space at men's training was adequate for current attendance levels. It was unanimously agreed that Ladies' coached training be extended to 2 hours, subject to confirmation of pitch availability with Long Road and agreement with the coaches.

Discussions were also held regarding current coaching arrangements at Ladies' training and proposed adjustments to make greater use of coaching resources within the club. It was noted that the Sport England award included funding to assist with the cost of coaching courses and development, which would cover both junior and senior coaching, and the club should be looking to promote and encourage members who wish to coach. It was agreed that Hannah would work with the Ladies' captains and those within the club wishing to coach to agree arrangements for the expanded Ladies' training.

7. Umpires

The number of active umpires in the club has reached a critical level, particularly with the addition of a 5th men's team this season. We are heavily reliant on a small number of individuals who cover the bulk of the club's umpiring commitments. On several occasions this season, we have come close to having to ask teams to self-umpire. It is critical for the sustainability of the club that more members qualify as umpires.

The ULO has requested captains target having a minimum of 5 and preferably 10 qualified umpires from their squads. There is a training course in Ely in January - people should sign up via the England Hockey web site and the club will refund the cost.

8. AOB

Neil raised the question as to whether the committee would prefer to have regularly scheduled meetings or continue the historic practice of scheduling meetings on an ad hoc basis as matters arise. It was agreed that a regular schedule could be useful, in allowing people to plan attendance and in keeping individual meeting agendas shorter. It was felt that every other month should be sufficient (a suggestion of every other week was quickly rejected!) Neil will arrange a regular schedule and notify this to the committee.

It was also briefly discussed as to whether the composition of the club committee should be reconsidered. The current system of having all officers and captains included in the committee dates from when the club was considerably smaller. As it has grown, we now have 29 committee posts! Other clubs elect club captains to represent the teams, and do not have all administrative roles as full committee posts. The advantage of a large committee is it produces a broad base for discussions with input from across the club, but it can also result in lengthy and unwieldy meetings. It was agreed this needs further consideration and would require a change in the club constitution, so the issue was adjourned for the time being.