



## **CAMBRIDGE SOUTH HOCKEY CLUB**

### **COMMITTEE MEETING**

Held on: Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017, 8pm  
at: The Panton Arms, Panton Street, Cambridge

### **MINUTES**

Resolutions are shown underlined.

#### **I. Quorum**

I.1. Attendance:

John Greaves	/	Neil Sneade	/	Douglas Gibson	/	Jan Brynjolfssen	
Hannah Kenyon	/	Graham McCull.	/	Ania Rygielska	/	Rob Barton	
Louise Tonkin	/	Alasdair Edge	/	Meg Barne	/	Josh Bl. Lewis	
Jack Chalk	/	Jim Hockley		Stuart Rimmer		Simon Cooper	
Tom Anns		Ed Boggis		Howard Steed		Lou Cantwell	/
Sophie McCom.	/	Dani K-S	/	Lauren Brown	/	Laura Edge	/
Liz Dunsby	/	Colin Troll					

I.2. The presence of a quorum was confirmed.

#### **2. Subscription rate for U18s in work**

It was unclear whether the concession sub and match fee rates applied to U18s who are in work. It was discussed and agreed that the concession rates apply to all U18s, whether in work or not, as well as to all unwaged of any age. Web site and other publications will be clarified as necessary to reflect this.

#### **3. Training pre-pitch warm-up session**

A suggestion had been made to extend men's training to include time for a warm-up. It was agreed that it was not necessary to pay pitch hire costs for a warm-up, which can/

should be done outside the pitch. Warming up off the pitch would also allow the warm-up to be done while the previous booking is finishing, so we are ready to start training at the start of our booking.

It was agreed that, to encourage people to arrive in time to warm-up and avoid wasting pitch time, Men's training start time should be officially moved back to 7.15pm. Web site and calendar to be updated accordingly. Jim will lead the warm-up.

#### **4. Development tournament**

Laura is keen to organise a Ladies' development level 1 day tournament in the summer. She has been in touch with Cambridge City, Cambridge Nomads and St Ives, who have all indicated interest. The committee agreed that this was a good idea and Laura will look to organise a tournament, the costs to be covered from entry fees.

#### **5. Reform of the club committee**

The club committee presently consists of all officers, captains and vice-captains. As the club has grown in recent years, this has led to the size of the committee increasing significantly to ~30 posts. Neil raised the question of whether the current structure was fit for purpose, or had become too large for effective decision making. Cambridge South is unusual in having so many committee positions, reflecting its (fairly recent) history as a much smaller club. For example, most clubs do not include all team captains on the committee but select men's and ladies' club captains to represent the viewpoint of the teams.

The positive side to a large committee is involvement from all areas of the club and a good range of views. The downside is the potential for meetings and decision making to become unwieldy if ~30 voices are trying to be heard. It was pointed out that, in practice, only around half the committee attend any given meeting. The consensus was that the present structure was still effective and the benefits outweighed the drawbacks. It was agreed that the structure of the committee should remain unchanged for the time being.

#### **6. Updates to the club constitution**

The present club constitution dates, with minor amendments, to the 2009 merger of the men's and ladies' clubs. At that time, the size of the men's and ladies' sections was much more disparate, with the men's section having 4 teams and the ladies' section having only just added a 2<sup>nd</sup>. Partly as a consequence, the constitution was written with many checks and safeguards requiring minimum numbers of men and ladies at general and committee meetings, establishing separate men's and ladies' playing committees to manage the business of the respective sides of the club, and reserving certain matters for decision by male or female members only.

In practice, many of these procedures have not proved necessary. Numbers in the club have become more equal, with female members now about 75% of the number of male members, and the club has developed a culture of consensual decision making that takes into account the interests of all sections of the club.

The constitution also does not reflect the formation of the junior section - e.g. it states that membership is only open to those eligible to play in the East League (minimum age

13). An update of the constitution is therefore required, and as part of this it was proposed that it be simplified to remove the male and female distinctions and unify decision making.

It was agreed that the club constitution should be updated and simplified as outlined above. Neil, Lou C, Laura and John were appointed as a working group to produce a draft constitution for consideration by the committee, ahead of recommendation to the club at a general meeting.

## **7. AOB**

Umpires - Ania reminded the committee that we are still short of qualified umpires, and this is one of the major constraints on further expansion of the club. She has received only 1 expression of interest in the latest umpiring course. We need to consider how to engage more people to do the course - no point in arm-twisting, as people won't follow through and umpire, but we need to encourage and promote it. All captains to continue to do this with their teams.