



CAMBRIDGE SOUTH HOCKEY CLUB

COMMITTEE MEETING

Held on: Monday 12th November 2018, 8pm
at: The Panton Arms, Panton Street, Cambridge

MINUTES

Resolutions are shown underlined.

1. Quorum

1.1. Attendance:

John Greaves	/	Neil Sneade	/	Amalia Thomas	/	Jan Brynjolffssen	/
Hannah Kenyon	/	John Gourd	/	Jack Chalk	/	Rob Barton	/
Ellie Raffan		Harry Lewis	/	Alice Hug	/	Stuart Rimmer	
Simon Cooper		Matt Kern	/	Jason James		Howard Steed	
Robyn McLean	/	Izzy MacDonald-P		Laurie McKenzie	/	Harriet Stanley	/

1.2. The presence of a quorum was confirmed.

2. Membership subs deadline - change from end of October to end of September?

Deadline for payment of subs is currently the later of 3 matches/training sessions or end of October. As pre-season starts in September, this means that players can play up to 7 or 8 games before disappearing at the end of October without paying subs. Question was raised whether subs deadline should be moved back to end of September, as this is still nearly a month after the season starts and also covers first 3 or 4 match dates of the season, which better aligns with the '3 matches' policy.

Conclusion was number of players who exploit the current deadline to play >3 matches without subsequently paying subs is very few. Club has no cash flow issues which would require earlier subs payment, so consensus was to leave the deadline as it stands.

3. New players with previous clubs - league transfers

A reminder to check with all new players whether they have played a league match for another club this season before we field them. This is a question on our new player registration form but some don't hand this in straightaway - if they don't, ask them the question. Players who've played a league game elsewhere need to be transferred before we can play them, otherwise results can be awarded 0-5 for fielding an ineligible player. Almost got caught out with this once or twice this year.

4. Umpires - numbers and analysis

Neil and John circulated a sheet showing the breakdown of umpiring to date. Club currently has 31 registered umpires - 18 from the men's section, 9 from the ladies', 4 non-playing. Out of 90 umpiring appointments to date this season (inc. pool games on behalf of M1s), men's umpires have done 49 (54%), non-playing umpires 33 (37%) and ladies' umpires 8 (9%).

By team, L1s and L2s have each filled 1 of the 90 slots, L3s 2, L4s and M1s 4 each, M2s 10, M3s 12, M4s 20 and M5s 3. 4 of the ladies' 8 appointments have been by a single umpire. Just 6 umpires (3 playing, 3 non-playing) have filled 48 of the 90 appointments - losing any of these people would jeopardise our ability to fulfil our fixtures. We are already relying on them to umpire week in, week out, which is not fair or sustainable.

Standout is that we really need a bigger contribution to umpiring from the higher club teams especially - these are experienced players who play the game at a decent level and should be confident with the rules. No-one is ever required to umpire a game they're not comfortable with and the new L5s friendly side means we have plenty of opportunities for new higher team umpires to start off with lower level matches - umpires don't get back chat in EWL Div 5!

Currently no local umpiring courses scheduled but John Gourd will see if we can get one in Cambridge, possibly in conjunction with City/Nomads/Uni. Need to promote a culture of contributing/giving back to the club - whether umpiring, coaching, juniors, committee work etc.

5. Umpires - purchase of coaching radio unit & headset

To aid with the development and support of umpires, particularly new ones, it was suggested that we purchase a 'coaching unit' to go with the club's umpiring headsets. This is a 3rd radio unit that can connect to the paired umpire radios to allow an umpire coach or assessor to listen, or listen and talk, to the umpires. Cost is £110 from the same supplier we purchased the umpiring radios from.

The purchase of a coaching radio unit was unanimously approved. Neil will order one.

6. Adding a new Ladies' 5th XI friendly side

Continued strong growth in the ladies' section (what's their secret?!) means we are unable to accommodate all players wishing to play within the existing 4 teams. Laura says the L4 squad, with extra players now filtered down from the higher squads, could field 2

sides most weeks. Accordingly, proposal is to create an 'L5' side, in the same manner as has been done with new teams in recent seasons: a non-league team playing friendly fixtures organised from within the existing L4 squad - a 'one-squad-two-teams' approach.

Jan said that as EWL Div 5 has an odd number of teams this means there are potential opponents available. However, some weeks all our pitch slots are already filled and we also need to find umpires, so games will likely not be every week. It was agreed that creating an additional team would be a positive thing, and we will go ahead and arrange fixtures to the extent practicable, with a view to establishing the viability of an L5s side for entry in the league next season.

7. Family discounts for senior & junior club memberships

Currently multiple members of the same family (where at least 1 is U18, i.e. excluding adult couples only) receive a 25% discount off their collective subs. This doesn't apply to junior subs, which are £100 per child regardless of number or whether parents play for the senior club, and parents with a child in juniors receive no discount off their senior subs either. Was discussed whether a discount should be applied across both junior and senior memberships.

Junior fees were deliberately set as not having a multi-child discount, as most families have only 1 child attending juniors, and we didn't want to raise their fees to offset discounts for families with multiple children, so we instead applied an intermediate flat fee regardless of number of children.

Agreed though that we could consider applying a discount to senior subs for those with children in juniors, e.g. a parent with a child in juniors would still pay the standard £100 rate for juniors but get a 25% discount off their senior subs. Changes to subs will have to be made at the AGM and will apply from next season, but will consider whether to recommend this change.

8. Membership subs for Vets-only players

Nev Warren has revived the old Men's Vets team (not literally: they haven't all died. Well, not to our knowledge). Currently it's drawn from existing club members who play in the regular league teams, but it could add players who aren't existing members. Specifically, Rob Garrett has expressed an interest in playing (many a good tune played on an old fiddle)... Also, there is an O35 ladies' vets category, and some junior mums have expressed interest in playing hockey, so a ladies' vets side is also a potential future option.

Question was raised that in order to be included within our insurance, players need to be club members. What subs (if any) should we charge for a Vets-only player? As there isn't Vets team training, agreed £110 full fee was not appropriate. To reflect share of club overheads such as insurance, EH registration, keeping kit, balls, etc. it was agreed that subs should be set at £20 for players playing solely for a Vets side.

9. Second equipment shed (junior kit)

When we bought it, it seemed enormous, but now the super-shed is already looking full. Continued growth in teams and numbers, at both senior and juniors, together with the ability of keeping kits to seemingly breed inside the shed, means that we're back to stacking

equipment on the floor and climbing over things to get to other things. In other words, we need another shed.

Neil proposes buying another shed like the current one, which has proved robust enough to stand up to hockey balls and hockey players. This would be used to keep junior equipment, which would stop the mixing up of senior and junior kit (we have already had one junior keeping helmet go AWOL, and the sight of JJ squeezing himself into a junior training bib / crop-top is one that doesn't need to be repeated) and free up space in the current shed for senior kit. A shed $\frac{3}{4}$ the size of the current one is ~£2100 inc. all shelving and one the same size is an extra £385. Agreed that we should purchase another shed and it makes sense to order the larger one - will wait to see if we can get it in the January sales!

10.AOB

- 10.1. MATCH PUNCTUALITY. Robyn raised a point about games consistently starting late, even early fixtures when there is no reason to, leading to later teams being delayed or having inadequate warm-up time. Apparently we have something of a reputation in the league for slack timekeeping... It was agreed it was unfair on teams not to have a proper warm-up, and the expectation should be that matches will start on time. This message will be passed on to captains and umpires, and teams should expect and be ready to start on time unless there are exceptional circumstances.
- 10.2. NEW KIT. Alice raised a question about changing our away strip when the new Adidas kit is ordered. Suggestion was white instead of yellow. Robyn raised the idea of sky blue. Neil scuppered further discussion by stating that 50 pairs of custom yellow socks had already been ordered, and also we wanted to continue to be able to use the existing yellow TK shirts as extras, so yellow was a done deal. Re home kit, as the new Adidas kit will be worn alongside the existing TK kit the new shirts will be matched as closely as possible to the current TK shirts, i.e. purple with navy panels and blue trim. This is not a change of kit design, just a change of kit supplier.
- 10.3. EXTRA PITCH SLOTS. St Mary's School have permission to build a new hockey pitch on their sports field on the opposite side of the railway line. Apparently it is intended that Nomads will be based here, but Rob Barton asked whether, with our growth in teams meaning we might sometimes need 6 home slots on a Saturday, we could try and sneak in and get some there. Agreed there's no harm in trying but we need them to build it first!
- 10.4. LABELLING GK KITS. As there are up to 8 or 9 senior kits in the shed, Jan asked if we could label them men's and ladies' to avoid confusion and make it quicker to find things. Good idea - someone buy a sharpie (and make sure we label the right ones).