



Committee Meeting Monday 1st December 2003 Kingswood School Upper Pavilion

Minutes

Present: Tim Graham(TG), Allan Curnow(AC), Stuart Hares(SH), Yeng Ping-Ng(YPN), Natasha Miller (NM), Shelley Pike(SP), Simon Sparkes(SS), Gordon Opie(GO), Mark Blackham(MB), Chris Gibbs (CG), Dudley Bartlett(DB), Michelle Hares (MHa), Jackie Cole (JC), Glen Wright(GW).

Apologies: Phil Edmonds (PE), Melanie Carosi (MC), Tim Sparkes (TS), Penny Bromley(PB), Kelly Nolan (KN), Mike Horton (MHo), Andy Higgs(AH).

1. Introduction From Chairman

The Chairman opened the meeting at 19:15.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd November 2003 were accepted as a true record.

3. Matters arising

KWD are to install build dugouts at the lower astro pitch. GO advised that City of Bath HC should not contribute anything towards this project as they are about to be built and that we would be best placed to invest in other areas.

There would now not be a lockable box provided by KWD. The container would now be properly divided into two areas and nominated personnel would be given keys. Time of completion of works is unknown.

NM informed the group that car wash in aid of Children In Need did not take place.

MB has donated leg guards, kickers and kitbag to the club for use by Andy Rogers and the ladies 3rd XI keeper. In addition to this donated kit, a helmet and shoulder/arm guards would be sourced from John Moore Sports, paid for by the club. All items will remain the property of the club. AH has ordered new balls, which have been pre-printed with the club name.

4. Team Reports.

a) Usual update

Ladies 1st XI – SP spoke about a mixed season but highlighted the fact that her team were unbeaten at home so far this season.

Ladies 2nd XI – JC. Her team is doing well and continue to keep winning.

Ladies 3rd XI – The team are enjoying their hockey but are being hampered by inconsistent availability. However, they managed to win last week and hope to continue improving.

Men's 1st XI – SS said that the team is improving and despite not winning a single match this season are still in touch with the teams above who are also struggling. The first four matches of the second half of the season are all against the teams immediately above and are crucial. GO told the committee that he was pleased with the spirit of the team which has remained high despite the poor results. Last weeks performance was the best performance so far.

Men's 2nd XI – DB told the committee that the 2nd XI performances were good in parts but were sometimes affected by players being selected to support other teams. The team remain in about 4th position.

Men's 3rd XI – SHa. The team are bottom of the league but improving. The team's Achilles' heel is defending set pieces.

Men's 4th XI – CG was pleased with his team's progress over the last month and had won the last two matches including an 8-2 victory at the weekend. The team have moved from bottom of the league to 5th in two weeks.

Action

Men's 5th XI – SS spoke on behalf of TS. The team was suffering from last minute drop outs but recent new members have bolstered the team and performances are getting better. TS requested that all Captains are given a schedule of matches for the rest of the season so that he can plan more effectively. TG suggested that this schedule be given to all Captains by MC. Mixed – JPN has a strong squad in depth and results were good.

b) Selection

(i) New Members

Some members present were concerned that new members joining the club could upset existing players if they are automatically selected in one of the upper teams. TG suggested that players be selected for an appropriate team with Captains and Coaches communicating the performance to each other to ensure that the player is selected for the correct team. Players should always be selected on merit regardless of the feelings and friendships of players that are displaced if the club is to move forward.

JC asked that any new ladies players be directed to the general training sessions rather than the ladies 1st/2nd XI training.

(ii) Juniors

NM had been approached by some parents asking why their children were not being selected for matches with the senior teams. Only over 12's are actually allowed to play in the league. There could be a case for setting up a ladies 4th team that plays friendly fixtures only.

It was noted that some U13's were now training on Tuesday evenings with the seniors without invite. They were also occasionally being disruptive and unruly.

MHa and NM to liaise to discuss who should be selected for matches and for training with the seniors.

GO said that the juniors must train and not mess about if selected for senior training and that they should be informed such. He also said that the prospective ladies 4th's could possibly play informal fixtures against KWD girls.

MHa &
NM

5. Discipline.

Nothing to report.

6. Finance.

Mha informed that the new scheme was working well. Only the men's 5th XI have any great number of members that have not paid or committed to pay the annual subscription. It had been noted that casual players fees had not been collected. These players should only be selected for a maximum of 5 matches before they are eligible for the full or reduced annual fee.

MB asked that NM give him a complete list of juniors and their membership forms.

NM &
MB

7. Coaching.

a) Adult

GO informed the committee that Wednesday sessions had improved since inviting the 3rd XI. Only the men's 2nd XI were consistently missing the sessions, in particular three players. It was decided that the team be given until Jan 04 to rectify the situation by attending selected sessions once or twice per month, and that TG would speak to PE to try and rectify the poor attendance.

TG

b) Junior

TG informed the committee of the sad news that Nigel Butt had resigned from his post as U14 Junior Coach and indeed had left the club altogether. Nigel had cited a lack of support from the committee for his main reason for leaving, which was baffling since Nigel had not actually asked for any support nor given any indication of his impending desire to leave.

TG said that he had spoken to Pat Ost and he also did not know why Nigel had left the club in such a predicament. Pat had handed over the junior coaching after 15 years and felt that he had handed over to someone that could be trusted and would continue his good work. He was astonished at Nigel's actions. TG asked the committee to consider a reimbursement to Nigel for his annual subscription. After much discussion GO suggested that the club deserved a proper explanation from Nigel and would make a decision on any reimbursement after receiving such an explanation. Until such a time it would be difficult for the committee to make any decision.

TG asked AC if it was possible if he could have a chat with Nigel and try to find the root cause for Nigel's decision.

AC

Replacing Nigel at short notice would be extremely difficult. In the short term NM requested that a rota of players be drawn up to help with the coaching. This should not be restricted to members of the

men's 1st and 2nd XI teams. In the long term a replacement should be found therefore, Captains should ask their players and an advert should be placed in the club newsletter.

GW said that there were a great number of experienced players in the lower teams that could help out. It is thought that Sunday mornings could be a problem and that the club should consider moving the sessions to another day and possibly shorter sessions. AH is available for assisting at the sessions on an occasional basis.

DB suggested that the person taking over might not necessarily be a coach but perhaps more of a coordinator.

NM said that in the meantime we need to get through to January and we need to know what pitch bookings have been made so that we can arrange for personnel to coach the sessions until then. MB will try to find out the pitch bookings for the rest of the season from KWD.

SS spoke on behalf of TS who believes that the club relies on the same few people to do the most work within the club and that using only the 1st/2nd XI players at junior coaching made the club appear elitist. This Sunday GO would assist NM in finding support.

Over the next few weeks MB, NM and GW would work together to try and resolve these issues.

MB

8. Umpires.

MHo has now taken over as umpire coordinator with TG and GW covering for MHo whilst he moves home over the next two weeks. From Jan, MHo would have a drive to actively recruit new umpires. CG informed that he requires to take the theory exam and be watched in order to achieve level 1 status.

Patrick Holmes and Hugh Salter had told MB that they would both like to go on the level 1 course.

MB, GW
& NM

9. Upper Fields Pavilion.

GO had been to a meeting with Jane Vines of KWD and had told her of his concern about the cleaning of the pavilion. Jane would investigate and hopefully increase the number of times the pavilion is cleaned, especially in the inclement weather.

Andy had resigned as steward and would be replaced by John Darcy who was known and liked by the club members already.

10. Social Events.

KN had requested that Captains speak to their players as soon as possible to determine numbers for the Christmas Party. Members need to commit and let KN know their meal preference this week before Sunday. KN believes that the planned casino night might not be such a good idea considering the low turn out at the last race night. KN would like all members to suggest an alternative theme.

MB was asked by TG and GO to communicate with Jane Vines and ask her to consider removing one of the tables and benches which could be replaced by comfortable sofas. The club would contribute to such seating.

MB

11. Any Other Business.

- a) Captain's team sheets.

MB had noticed that the Captains were no longer using the blue book to record players availability. This had caused at least two occasions of the 1st XI selecting a player that was unavailable to play. Captains were advised that they should record the availability of players for the next two weeks in the record book and return the sheets to MHa at selection.

- b) Health and Safety & Accident Reports

Two recent serious injuries to players had occurred but no accident reports had been returned to the Secretary. These were delivered by SS and Captains were informed of the importance of these forms in conjunction with the Club's Health and Safety policy.

- c) New Years Day Presidents Match

The members were asked who would be available with the resulting show of hands to reflect a probable 6 players available. Twenty players or so are required. DB should organise the match with TG and MC ensuring that the pitch is booked.

- d) Indoor League

Men's and ladies teams had again been entered and fixtures start on 4th and 11th January 04.

TG requested all members give news items to DB for the Christmas newsletter.

GO mentioned that no match reports had been appearing in the Chronicle for the men's 1st XI. Regardless of the results it looks bad that the 1st XI report does not appear in the paper. SS would redress this in the coming weeks.

SS

GW asked if the team first aid kits contain instant freeze packs. MB informed that they did not and that he would liaise with GW and CG to identify some and then purchase some. MB also informed the committee that he would purchase a club first aid kit for use at coaching once the container had been divided effectively.

MB

JC highlighted a recent problem with the KES bookings. The bursar had told MHa that the toilets would be opened between 9am and 3pm. On one occasion the toilets were closed and when they asked to have them opened they had been treated badly by a rude man. MB was asked to write a letter to KES to try to ensure that this does not happen again.

NM has noticed that two goalkeepers sticks, balls and a goalkeeper's smock had gone missing. TG asked NM to e-mail GO with a list of missing items.

Finally TG thanked NM and GW for attending the meeting and closed the meeting at 20.30.

MB

NM

12. Date of next meeting:

5th January 04.