



Committee Meeting

Thursday 1st July 2004

The Hare and Hounds

Beckford Suite

Minutes

Present: Tim Graham (TG), Nick Rose (NR), Chris Gibbs (CG), Gordon Opie (GO), , Mark Blackham (MB), Allan Curnow (AC), Penny Bromley (PB), Kelly Nolan (KN), Mike Horton (MH), Alan Irons (AI), Paddy Holmes (PH), Natasha Miller (NM)

Apologies: Jackie Cole (JC), Hannah Browster (HB), Michelle Hares (MHa), Phil Edmonds (PE)

1. Introduction From Chairman

The Chairman opened the meeting at 19:00 and welcomed the new officers to the Committee.

Action

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on the 24th March '04 were accepted as a true record.

3. Matters arising

The Chairman noted that there was still the outstanding issue of the uncompleted dug outs at the Kingswood pitch. Nobody at the meeting had any news on the progress.

Regarding the injury to Jesse Jenkins, MB had supplied Jesse with the insurance details of the opposition team and the matter is now closed as far as club is concerned. The Chairman asked team Captains to remind players that they are not insured against personal injury and that they should be encouraged to take out separate individual insurance. It was noted though that coaches and umpires are covered by club insurance if working on behalf of the Club.

All

4. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer was not present and therefore there was no financial update.

5. Coaching.

a) Junior

TG gave a brief overview on the "Into schools programme" that NM and MB had been working on. NM to meet Jo Parish (Hayesfield) and Zoe Tucker (Royal High) immediately following the meeting. MB to make contact with Ralph Allen (via Dave Rushgrove), Wellsway and Monkton Combe. MB gave NM the pack that will taken to schools which includes an A3 poster, Quick Reference Guide, Overview Document along with the schedule which had now been finalised with KWD.

NM & MB

Members were reminded that under 11 juniors are still on Sunday mornings with the under 16's now being on Tuesday evenings. Some of the older juniors may be asked to stay longer on Tuesday evenings but this would be by invite only.

NM asked Captains to canvas their players for members that are willing to assist with either of the junior coaching sessions. There would also be a rota of teams that need to provide assistants for the Sunday sessions.

All Captains

NM told MB that Hugh Gay is interested in doing the level 1 coaching course. MB told the Committee that Hugh Salter, James Kellock and Natalie Retallick were already on the course in September and that the course was over subscribed.

b) Adult

Initial planning for the adult coaching, and indeed the junior coaching would take place at a barbecue at MB's house. The sessions for Men's 1st/2nd squad training would be by invite of GO and PH only. GO had agreed to continue with the coaching as long as attendance improves.

Extra coaching has been arranged for the ladies 1st/2nd XI with James Kellock and Hugh Salter working with the Ladies 1st XI under the guidance of GW who will coach the Ladies 2nd XI. Richard Westgarth is stepping down from Ladies 1st XI coaching due to work commitment but is willing to help out with any coaching where possible.

PH asked if the pitches are being fully utilised on Tuesday and Thursday to ascertain if the 1st XI could train on more evenings. Members attending these sessions said that the pitches are usually very full.

AI mentioned that there is a vast disparity in skill levels at Tuesday coaching and that this is putting off better players from attending. There was also a problem with the younger children at the sessions being unruly and difficult to handle. This was noted by MB who would discuss the matter at the coaching meeting.

TG said that this year younger players should only attend the Tuesday sessions by invite only and only if they are able to behave.

NR said that in order to make the sessions worthwhile, the attendance needs to improve and that Captains need to encourage players to attend as often as possible.

All Captains

6. Selection arrangements for next season

TG announced that at the last monthly meeting before the AGM, that it was established that a new policy would be implemented regarding selection. For the first time selection would be linked to adult coaching where it was previously inherently driven by the skill of players. A “commitment” to train would now be part of the selection process.

This did not mean that players would be forced to train every week but they would have to make a “commitment” to the club to train regularly. If they do not then they must be prepared to take a step down to a lower team. This policy would be implemented in the top 3 men’s teams and top 2 ladies teams. Players must let Captains or coaches know, with at least 24 hour notice, if they are unable to attend coaching each week.

This policy must be implemented in order to improve the standard of coaching and so that GO can make the sessions effective. It was noted that the men’s thirds had made a great effort to attend the sessions. TG thanked them.

In order to make the sessions effective Go requires 20-25 members from the men’s 1st and 2nd XI every week. The Committee must back GO, and GW wants the same for the ladies.

NR/AI both feel that the same message must go out to all members of the club but a serious commitment must be made by the top teams.

AI also mentioned that all coaches need to be consistent in the game plan that they are coaching across all of the teams.

MB

NR advised the Committee that we can not make coaching compulsory but he wants to nurture the players for the future through encouraging players to attend coaching.

The Committee also agreed that players on Saturday should be at least 14 years old unless exceptionally mature and they must be capable of holding their own. This should be done whilst still trying to push more juniors into senior teams.

NM asked that Captains should call her if they are short and she would recommend junior players that she feels are ready for adult matches.

All Captains

AI said that coaches could also see older juniors on Tuesday evenings and asses their skills.

TG said that selection could possibly use a whiteboard with magnetic name plates. Available and eligible players’ name plates would be put on the board for selection on Monday evenings.

CG said that in the past selection seemed like an empty exercise. Quite often Captains were not able to make it and the remaining members of the selection committee were therefore guessing at selection. No information on availability was readily available.

MB reminded Captains that they should be following their “ToR” by bringing the availability return slip to selection.

All Captains

TG hoped that there would be more structure to selection through using the board and return slips.

TG also reminded all Captains that they need to appoint a Vice-Captain. After the first few friendlies of the season the Captain should report who will be his/her Vice-Captain.

All Captains

PH said that all Captains must come to coaching to see who is able to play at a higher level.

MB told the Committee that all selection meetings would now be held at the Hare and Hounds in the Beckford Suite.

7. Fixtures.

TG announced that all of the men’s fixtures had been allocated and presented to the Committee with the exception of one fixture for the men’s 4th XI. TG asked AI if he knew of any local teams that might wish to play a friendly. Buccaneers may have a team that can play as they now have 8 teams plus a veterans’ team.

AI

KN said that all the ladies fixtures are complete but did not have a copy available for the meeting. She would send them to TG.

KN

MB informed the Committee that the 1st XI squad was going on a pre-season warm up tour to Sevenoaks. The trip would be self funding. The 1sts would also like to book a pitch for two other warm up sessions before this trip and asked if the Club would support this. TG agreed that the club can support these extra sessions.

NM asked if it was possible to book the KWD sports hall for indoor training once the fitness sessions had finished. TG asked her to speak to GO as he would have more information.

NM

Fitness starts at KWD upper on Monday 9th August at 7pm. PH to double check with GO as it may be possible to start in the last week of July.

PH

HB and Yeng Ping-NG are to attend the mixed meeting next week and should report back with their fixtures. TG reminded all present that there is a £3 match fee for mixed hockey.

HB

8. Summer League Reports.

MB told the Chairman that the Cobwebs were going well losing one match, drawing one match and winning five. Prospective new players for the men's 1st and 2nd XI squads had been given the opportunity to play and had gelled well.

TG told everyone that he had seen the Rascals destroy Shepton Mallet and they seemed to be looking good.

NR said that the Banzais were also going well over recent weeks with one win and two draws.

The ladies 1st team had only played one match to date but the ladies 2nds had recently beaten both Buccaneers and Marlborough.

9. Unfilled Officers Positions.

TG told the Committee that nobody had approached him to fill the social secretary and umpire coordinator positions. Captains were asked to once again canvas their players.

All Captains

Some players had done the umpire course but had still to complete the exam and the three practice matches. This included Richard Westgarth and CG. Both are encouraged to contact Shaun Carter. PH needs to be watched and then assessed.

PH, CG &
RW

MB had been to a meeting with the chairman of Bath Buccaneers and told the Chairman that in the near future there could be the opportunity for both clubs to share a pool of umpires with one umpire coordinator for both clubs.

10. AOB

NR announced that DB had been in touch with him regarding an advertisement for Juice in the Club Handbook. This would depend on the cost. DB should contact NR again with the cost of the advertisement.

DB

CG asked MB if there were any set benefits that the Club could offer a prospective sponsor for away/Summer League shirts. MB will provide CG with the framework document that was used for Manhattan and Hare and Hounds.

MB

MB and DB are working closely together on the handbook and will provide all the relevant information for Melanie Blackham at Concept Publishing in time for the first clubday.

The opening clubday this year will be 4th September but the time had not been organised as KWD had not finalised their own fixtures.

16. Date and place of next meeting

The next meeting will be on 6th September, 7pm at the Hare and Hounds Beckford Suite.

The meeting was closed at 20.10.