

United Hospitals Rugby Football Club Annual General Meeting

Monday 27th May 2002

18.30pm

St. George's Hospital Medical School

Presiding: Dr T Gibson

Present:

James Jackson (GKT)
Gavin Brigstocke (GKT)
Brian Hogan (RUMS)
Matthew Prime (RUMS)
Lloyd Williams (RUMS)
Phil Mitchelmore (RUMS)
Owain Crimmins (RUMS)
Will Rudge (SGHMS)
Ed Mathers (SGHMS)
Luke Jones (SGHMS)
Philip Hendy (ICSM)
James Read (ICSM)
Jonathan Underwood (ICSM)
James Saffin (ICSM)
Fred Imms (Treasurer)
David Badenoch (Hon. Secretary)
Ryan Livingstone (Royals)

Apologies: Tim Woodville-Price (GKT)
Guy Barwell (GKT)
Rory Maenair (Royals)

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The UH 7's competition was regarded as a great success and congratulations were given to St. George's Hospital for their victory. Concern was expressed about the organisational problems suffered by ICSM and in particular the last minute shift of location to Honor Oak Park that resulted in the loss of referees for the competition. Fortunately this problem was resolved and a good time was had by all. It was generally agreed that in future all medical schools provide 2 teams for the competition, it was noted by the president that the better organised teams tend to do better.

The UH cup competition took place under a slightly altered guise this season with the main cup competition preceded by a 3rd and 4th place plate playoff between RUMS and Barts and the Royal London which was won by RUMS. The final itself between GKT and ICSM

resulted in a win by ICSM. The 2nd and 3rd XV finals were played simultaneously at Cobham and resulted in a GKT win in the 2nd XV cup and an ICSM win in the 3rd XV cup. It was agreed that this format remains in place for the next year's competition. However it was suggested that the timings for the Lunch and Plate final K.O be altered to ensure more support for the plate final, this was discussed and it was agreed that the timings remain as they are, 12.30 for the plate final K.O and 13.00 for the start of the lunch. The lunch was increasingly popular and Dr Gary Symons organisation of this was praised. It was hoped that he would agree to continue in this role. It was also noted that the UH final clashed with a number of other sporting fixtures, including the UL Rugby final for both men and women. It was suggested that the fixture secretary inform UL of the dates of the UH cup final well in advance to avoid any clash in future (ULU rep; r.fawcett@ulu.lon.ac.uk) it was suggested that MEDSOC also be informed of the dates and regarding UH sport in general. The president was complementary towards the good behaviour of all the supporters present at the UH cup final. The issue of admitting the Royal Veterinary College into the UH cup was raised but with no spokesperson from the RVC present this idea was shelved.

The question of how to develop the UH side and the promotion of rugby in general at the medical schools was discussed. It was suggested that more effort be put into the development of a "freshers" side next season as well as the continuation of a strong 1st XV side. The role of the captain was thought to now include both the encouragement of rugby at a representative level and the development of a "freshers" side. The trials were generally held to be a success and it was agreed that they be held again early next season. It was suggested that the UH could be used as a vehicle to promote medical school rugby in the future, however it was noted that there are fewer rugby players joining the medical schools and that "*students come to medical school to learn now!*". The RUMS representatives reported that Wednesday afternoons were no longer free to pursue sports as they had been previously. It was suggested that UH be used to encompass more sports and that a UH sports confederation be set up to encourage sports in general at medical school. The president asked that those present become more involved in student politics within their respective medical schools. The president also noted that other sports clubs in the constituent medical schools often envies the rugby club as "*rugby players are more popular with attractive women*".

Tours to both Argentina and Ireland were proposed at the last AGM by Dimitri of ICSM, however these tours did not occur. A tour of Sri-Lanka was proposed for summer 2002, however this was likely to be expensive and an inability to secure sponsorship halted this tour. A cheaper tour to the Ukraine was proposed however it was felt it had been left too late to organise this in time for summer 2002. The option of a tour to the Ukraine remains a possibility for summer 2003.

It was recommended that a tour committee be set up to organise a summer 2003 tour. Ryan Livingstone explained the difficulty in securing sponsorship for a tour, the president who had had similar problems, backed up his views. Alternative sources of fund raising were suggested, including calling on the generosity of consultants of the constituent medical schools. However as many of the individual clubs rely on this a source of some income it was felt asking for more money may offend.

A number of fixtures had been arranged for the 2001-02 season including games against Oxford and Roslyn Park, these games were cancelled for various reasons and only 2 fixtures were played. These fixtures against Cambridge University and Blackheath resulted in a 39-7 loss and 17-14 win respectively. A future fixture against a UL select XV has yet to be

confirmed. It was felt that more fixtures were needed for the next season, although it was noted that as the UH side can only reasonably expect to play floodlit or Sunday matches this may be a problem.

Captains Report: see attached report.

Dinner/AGM: It was decided that it is the turn of GKT to organise and host both the UH dinner and AGM this year. The dates decided for these events were:

UH Dinner- Friday 8th November 2002

UH AGM- Monday 19th May 2003

Treasurer's Report: (see attached account sheet)

The treasurer reported that no injury insurance had been paid last year. This insurance is usually obtained through Marsh Insurance on a per game basis. The treasurer drew attention to the reimbursement of out of pocket expenses incurred by Dr G Symons. It was also noted that over £1000 profit was made on the day of the UH final, he wished to thank Dr T Gibson and Dr G Symons for their help and support as well as that of the Medical Sickness Society who organised the referees for the final. The treasurer also noted that ICSM have outstanding subscriptions owing and that these should be paid ASAP. ICSM cited problems with their student union in securing the money to pay their subscriptions but assured the treasurer it would be paid in due course. St. George's Hospital were refunded money from overpaid subscriptions.

UH Sevens Competition: The date for the 7's competition was set as *Sunday 6th October 2002*. The venue is to be the RUMS Shenley ground. (Shenley Sports Ground, Bell Lane, London Colney, Jct 22 of M25). Kick off to be 12.00 with the final to be played around 16.00. Referees to be organised through John Biddle, although Barts and the Royal London offered Tom Davis as a referee for the day.

UH Cup Competition: There was much debate as to the format of the competition, particularly by RUMS who felt that at the moment there were "*2 Manchester United's and 3 Rochdale sides*". It was felt that this disparity may be due to the number of qualified players the GKT and ICSM were able to field during the competition. Reference was made to the UH rules, which state that all qualified players must have played at least 4 games during the season in order to be eligible for the competition. The president explained that the phenomenon of qualified players participating in the cup was not a new one, as he himself had only stopped playing in the competition aged 40. Barts and the Royal London blamed the decline of their Saturday rugby team on their ability to retain qualified players. It was suggested that qualified players may be keeping students out and that this may have an affect on the standards of players in the UH team. A proposal was made by RUMs that the competition should be confined to students. An alternative suggestion was also made to cap the number of qualified players each team should be allowed to field in the cup competition. The president pointed out that at least 2 weeks notice is required in writing and a two thirds majority is required to amend any rules and that this would have to wait until next years AGM.

The draw for the UH cup competition is as follows:

1st XV competition:

1st Round: 12th February 2003- Barts and the Royal London (home) vs St. George's

2nd Round: 26th February 2003- RUMS (home) vs GKT
Round 1 winner (home) vs ICSM

Cup Final: 12th March 2003- (winner of RUMS vs GKT) vs (winner of Round 1 winner vs ICSM)

Plate Final: 12th March 2003- (loser of RUMS vs GKT) vs (loser of Round 1 winner vs ICSM)

N.B both finals will take place at Old Deer Park

2nd XV competition:

1st Round: 5th February 2003- Barts and the Royal London (home) vs St. George's

2nd Round: 19th February 2003- RUMS (home) vs GKT
Round 1 winner (home) vs ICSM

Cup Final: 5th March 2003- (winner of RUMS vs GKT) vs (winner of Round 1 winner vs ICSM)

N.B the cup final will take place at Cobham on the St Georges pitch with use of GKT facilities if only one pitch available, although the exact venue will be confirmed nearer the time.

3rd XV competition:

1st Round: 29th January 2003- Barts and the Royal London (home) vs St. George's

2nd Round: 12th February 2003- RUMS (home) vs GKT
Round 1 winner (home) vs ICSM

Cup Final: 5th March 2003- (winner of RUMS vs GKT) vs (winner of Round 1 winner vs ICSM)

Dr Gibson stated that he would confirm the availability of the London Welsh ground for the finals and urged the clubs to ensure availability of pitches as soon as possible for the sevens and cup competition rounds.

Election of Officers:

The following positions were elected:

President- Dr T Gibson

Secretary- Dr D Badenoch

Treasurer- Dr F Imms

Captain- Will Rudge (St. George's)

Fixtures Secretary- Jamie Jackson (GKT)

Vice Captain- John Underwood (ICSM)

The tour committee was agreed to comprise of Will Rudge, John Underwood and the captains of all the medical schools or their representatives.

Any Other Business: It was suggested that in order to increase the profile of UH rugby and medical school rugby in general that strong rugby schools (particularly those involved in the Daily Mail Cup) be invited to the UH cup final.

The date of the next UH AGM - Monday 19th May 2003