

**United Hospitals Rugby Football Club**  
**AGM Minutes**  
**19<sup>th</sup> May 2003**  
**Piano Room, Boland House, Guys Hospital.**

**Present**

Terry Gibson (President)  
David Babenock (Secretary)  
Fred Imms (Treasurer)  
John Biddle (Medical Sickness)  
Will Rudge (Captain)  
Lloyd Williams (RUMS)  
Matthew Prune (RUMS)  
Brian Hogan (RUMS)  
Philip Mitchelmore (RUMS)  
Richard Bumford (SGHMS)  
John Smales (SGHMS)  
Edward Mathers (SGHMS)  
Peter O'Neill (ICSM)  
Peter Russell (ICSM)  
Andrew Brown (ICSM)  
Jim Watchorn (ICSM)  
James Logan (ICSM)  
James Jackson (GKT)  
Sam Rigg (GKT)  
Gavin Brigstocke (GKT)  
Tim Price (GKT)  
Luke Brunton (GKT)  
Sam Cartwright (Barts and London)  
Richard Lloyd (Barts and London)

**Apologies**

Luke Jones (SGHMS), Rory McNair (Barts and London)

**Minutes of meeting held on May 27<sup>th</sup> 2002**

Those present read, approved and signed the minutes of last years meeting. Terry Gibson commended James Jackson who took last year's minutes.

**Matters Arising**

UH Sevens 2002

Terry Gibson reported that once again this years UH sevens competition was a great success. The competition was hosted and won by RUMS. Fred Imms is still awaiting a bill for food from RUMS. Unfortunately, James Singleton (RUMS) sustained an upper tibial fracture and is due a third operation soon. UHRFC wish him the swiftest of recoveries.

Matches 2002/3

Will Rudge reported that UH fulfilled two of their five scheduled fixtures. Two of the games were cancelled by UH and the third by Nottingham University. Of the two games played, UH comprehensively beat Exeter University Freshers 62-0 and lost in a closely fought game to Oxford University U.21's 39-14. Terry Gibson focused on his disappointment that only two games were played and Jamie Jackson (GKT) reported that he had much difficulty in organising opposition and referees for Sunday fixtures. Lloyd Williams (RUMS) suggested that to overcome this difficulty UH could play each of the individual medical schools in pre-season friendlies.

Touring Opportunities

Will Rudge reported that he organised a tour to Sri Lanka, however interest in the tour diminished as the season progressed and unfortunately the tour was cancelled. This lack of interest was compounded by the fact that due to lack of sponsorship the costs remained around £900 per player. Terry Gibson felt that a major foreign tour is unrealistic and that subsequent Tour Committees should look at options within Europe. Fred Imms mentioned that in the past UMDS had a series of tours to the University of

Lille and this would be a potential venue. A representative from RUMS felt that for future tours to be successful the UH captain should form a committee of the captains of individual medical schools and the responsibility shared.

#### **Date and Venue UH Cup/Plate Final**

Terry Gibson proposed that due to frequent clashes with BUSA and Gutteridge Cup fixtures the UH Cup Final should be moved to a Sunday. He has discussed this with London Welsh RFC, who are happy with this arrangement and proposed Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March as a possible date. Tim Price (GKT) supported this decision and mentioned that cancelling BUSA games results in hefty fines and relegation, however voiced concern that less students would come and support a Sunday game. Terry Gibson pointed out that a Sunday fixture would be more popular amongst staff and students who play sport. Dr Gibson explained to those present the difficulty of dealing with ULU as regards to Gutteridge Cup clashes and felt that a Sunday fixture would completely eliminate the chance of this. Those present felt that for the forthcoming year the final should be played on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March and Terry Gibson will go ahead and confirm this with London Welsh RFC.

#### **Proposed change to Rules of Club**

RUMS proposed a change to rules 5 c, d and e to eliminate all qualified players except PRHOs and a clarification of rule 5a, which states that 'paramedicals' are eligible to play. RUMS felt that the term 'paramedical' is loose and open to variable interpretations. A representative from RUMS stated that the main competition has been dominated by ICSM and GKT for several years, with ICSM winning 5 of the last 6 finals. He felt that through the removal of qualified players the competition would be reignited and genuinely competitive once again. Tim Price (GKT) stated that the removal of qualified players would significantly decrease the standard and the competition would become like all other student only competitions we play. As a result London Welsh RFC and the national press would lose interest. James Logan (ICSM) mentioned that ICSM fielded only 2 non-students in their semi-final and it was only at the final that these players were brought in. He felt the presence of qualified players brings much of the magic to a cup and separates our competition from all others. James Jackson (GKT) felt that rather remove the top players from GKT and ICSM, the other clubs should alter their infrastructure in a bid to catch-up. Sam Cartwright (Barts and London) stated that his club have decided to enter the national league system, in an effort to attract qualified players to keep playing and give themelves a chance to compete in the cup competition. Those around the table decided that there was insufficient support for the motion to warrant a vote. With respect to the terming of the 'paramedical-rule' Terry Gibson stated that involving these players enhances the competition and felt that all individuals involved with the medical schools should have a chance to experience UH Cup rugby. Will Rudge stated that at SGHMS all biomedical, dental and physio students were encouraged to play and since they are the smallest others should fall into line with them, as the removal of these students would be to their detriment. Once again, those around the table felt there was insufficient support for the motion to warrant a vote. A representative from ICSM felt that to remove ICSM vs. GKT finals seeding could be removed from the draw. The general consensus from around the table was that the removal of seeding from the competition could ruin both the Cup and Plate finals and this proposal was dismissed.

#### **Captain's Report**

See attached Report.

#### **Secretary's Report**

David Badenock (Barts and London) reported a successful administrative year. On behalf of all present, he thanked Terry Gibson for his continued hard work for the club.

#### **Treasurers Report**

See attached accounts.

Fred Imms reported that for the 2002 financial year the club made £3. The attached accounts are a year old, and our current balance is £3500 credit. Subscription fees from all clubs except RUMS were received in the 2003 season, but due to an outstanding bill with RUMS for the sevens this shall be forgotten. Fred Imms still awaits a bill for food from ICSM at the minor cup finals, this will not be chased. This year the club was only insured for one of its two matches as Fred Imms was unaware a second match was played. Insurance can be purchased at £35 per game or £250 per season and it has been decided that with the club playing so few fixtures insurance should only be purchased as needed. The 1<sup>st</sup> XV UH is still not insured despite the cup recently being valued at £15 000. The cup currently

is held in the vaults of a jewellers on Pread Street near St Mary's Hospital. Those present felt it a great shame that such a historic cup was not on show and that the original should be offered to the RFU museum at Twickenham and a replica made. Fred Imms will look into the cost of a replica being made and Terry Gibson will approach the RFU to see if they are interested for having the cup on semi-permanent display.

#### **Appointment of Officers**

The results of the election of officers for the 2003/4 season were as follows:

President: Terry Gibson

Vice President: Lloyd Williams

Secretary: David Badenock

Treasurer: Fred Imms

Club Captain: Tim Price

Vice Captain: Ed Mathers

Fixture Secretary: Richard Lloyd

#### **Draw for UH Cup and Plate Competitions**

1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Team Competitions will all follow the same draw. It was decided that RUMS as winners of the Symons plate should receive a bye to the semi-finals and play the losing finalists. This should be the format of the draw for the years to come. As a result of this ruling the draw is identical to last years but venues altered.

##### 1<sup>st</sup> XV

1<sup>st</sup> Round Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February - SGHMS (Home) vs. Barts and London

Semi Finals Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March – ICSM (Home) vs. Winner of Round 1  
GKT (Home) vs. RUMS

Final Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March – London Welsh RFC

##### 2<sup>nd</sup> XV

1<sup>st</sup> Round Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February - SGHMS (Home) vs. Barts and London

Semi Finals Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February – ICSM (Home) vs. Winner of Round 1  
GKT (Home) vs. RUMS

Final Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March – SGHMS Grounds, Cobham.

##### 3<sup>rd</sup> XV

1<sup>st</sup> Round Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February - SGHMS (Home) vs. Barts and London

Semi Finals Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February – ICSM (Home ) vs. Winner of Round 1  
GKT (Home) vs. RUMS

Final Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March – SGHMS Grounds, Cobham.

#### **Venue and Date of UH Sevens**

Next years UH sevens competition will be held at ICSM's ground at Teddington and will take place on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2003.

#### **Club Dinner**

Terry Gibson thanked Tim Price (GKT) for his work in organising last years UN Dinner. The food, wine, speeches and singing received general approval. Unfortunately we were not given our deposit back. Next years dinner shall be organised by Barts and London and will be held on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2003.

#### **Date and Venue of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2004 at Barts and London.