

Richard Bamford (SGHMS) suggested that UH alumni give money to sponsor the shirt they used to plan in, mirroring a scheme they have adopted in their club. Terry Gibson explained how Guys raised money for a Hospital Children's Appeal Fund, and in so doing, raised money for their tour fund. Imperial explained their club has continued sponsorship through Sieman's electronics. Tim Price (GKT) said a date needed to be established for any proposed tour and that each medical school must be contacted and given adequate notice to ensue all are free to supply players.

Richard Lloyd (Barts & London) explained that Royal Hospitals would be going to the Oktoberfest 7's in Munich at the end of September and would like to extend the invitation to a UH 7's side to join them on tour. Phil Mitchelmore (RUMS) explained how his rugby club have also attended this competition successfully for the past 5-6 years, and recommended this option.

Terry Gibson explained any tour would obviously hinge on the enthusiasm of the players, and put it to the new Captain and fixture Secretary to discuss these two options (Sri Lanka & Ireland) further at a future date, but expressed merits for a trip across the Irish Sea.

UH Cup Competition

Terry Gibson reported that this was the first time the final had been staged on a Sunday, and despite his initial worries and the poor weather on the day, had drawn one of the biggest crowds in recent years.

Jon Underwood (ICSM) explained that Imperial had an important league fixture on the same weekend, therefore having to field a weakened side for this match in order to rest key players for the UH final.

One of his colleagues suggested moving the final back to a Wednesday since all BUSA matches would have finished by then. Fred Imms suggested moving the final to the weekend of an international fixture, as most league fixtures are abandoned on this weekend. Terry Gibson praised the success of the 2nd/3rd XV UH Cup competition and recommended they continue to be played as a knockout competition with the final played on the Wednesday before the UH final.

Proposed change to rules of the Club

Tom Crisp (President, Barts & London) put forward a proposal of adopting a "round-robin" format for next year's competition, abandoning the current knockout format. The proposals would see the competition running in a similar style to the Southern Hemisphere's Super 12 competition, with the teams finishing in 1st and 2nd at the end of the group stage progressing to the final, whilst the 3rd and 4th placed teams go to the plate final. Sheets detailing the intricacies of this plan were circulated amongst those present at the meeting (see appendix a).

Terry Gibson explained that the competition was played in this format two years ago as the number of teams in the competition diminished, but for one reason and another, it was changed back to the current format. Jon Underwood (ICSM) congratulated BL on the plan and admitted it was a much fairer way to run the competition, however with 35 games already in their season, it would be logistically difficult to accommodate more fixtures. Richard Lloyd (Barts & London) suggested that any existing fixtures between medical schools (e.g. Gutteridge Cup/League) could be doubled-up with UH fixtures. Richard Bamford (SGHMS) suggested that the dates for the fixtures to be played remain flexible so other fixtures can be rearranged, but the idea was a positive step and beneficial to the future of UH rugby.

Duncan Austin (GKT) suggested fixtures could be played under floodlights on a Thursday evening. John Biddle (Medical Sickness) requested the referees are informed well in advance of the proposed dates for each fixture. Iain Wilson (GKT) acknowledged that any free weekends in the calendar are few and far between and are essential for rearranged fixtures. Tim Price (GKT) advised that GKT and ICSM need to be flexible despite their heavy burden of fixtures. The Georges' President pointed out that both Georges and Barts & London also play on a Saturday league and therefore does not present a different proposition for either, who are both willing to accommodate. James Logan (ICSM) suggested there might be a danger that all the games will not be played in time before the cup final. Terry Gibson queried moving the date of the final back if this became a problem, but acknowledged this would provide difficulties in itself. It was agreed that whatever the outcome of the proposal, the date for the final would be fixed. It was agreed that the representatives from each medical school present could speak for the general consensus within their club, and so a vote was taken:

Motion: To change the format of next year's competition to a "round-robin" format, as proposed by Barts & The London

For	Against
Barts & London Georges GKT RUMS	ICSM

Terry Gibson encouraged ICSM to accept the changes gracefully, and so the motion was carried.

Date and venue UH Cup/Plate Final

<u>Finals</u>	1 st XV Cup Final	Sun 20 th March 2005	Old Deer Park (London Welsh)
	2 nd XV Cup Final	Wed 16 th March 2005	Cobham (SGHMS)
	3 rd XV Cup Final	Wed 16 th March 2005	Cobham (SGHMS)

2nd XV competition

Tom Crisp (Barts & London) proposed that the winners of last year's competition are seeded, with the other teams going into a draw. This was agreed and thus the draw is:

1 st round	Wed 16 th Feb	BL	vs.	Georges
Semi Finals	Wed 2 nd Mar	GKT	vs.	(winners of above)
		ICSM	vs.	RUMS
Final	Wed 16 th Mar	_____	vs.	_____ (Cobham)

3rd XV competition

Since ICSM and GKT are the only schools regularly fielding a 3rd XV it was agreed that there would be a straight final held between these two clubs.

Final	Wed 16 th Mar	GKT	vs.	ICSM (Cobham)
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Captain's Report

Tim Price reported on a disappointing season consisting of only one representative fixture against Cambridge LX/Blue XV. An early 'trial' match was held against GKT, where GKT triumphed. The fixture against Cambridge was held on 20th Nov 2003 at Grange Road, under floodlights (7:30pm kick-off). Cambridge used this as one of their final run outs before the Varsity match at Twickenham, and so their side featured a number of Blues, who were to go on and play in the Varsity match. Considering this, UH gave a good account of themselves losing 34-7, with a converted try coming from Richard Lloyd in the first half.

Richard Lloyd (Fixture Secretary) added that other fixtures had to be called off at late notice including a floodlit match against Blackheath U21s. Matches against other teams of similar repute could not be accommodated because of late requests, however they promised us a fixture next season (e.g. Oxford, London Scottish, Saracens, Henley). Tim also commented on a lack of interest and availability by some medical schools in representing UH. It is hoped that the new format for next year's competition will generate more interest in UH Rugby in general. Tim suggested that the winners of the UH Cup should play a UH side at some point early in the season as a trial game, and this should be established as an annual fixture.

Treasurer's Report

Fred Imms apologised that he did not have up-to-date records for the Club accounts, but circulated copies of the previous year's account details. He went on to explain that there are three main sources of income for the Club; -

- Annual subscriptions
- Gate receipts at the UH Cup Final
- Revenue generated from the luncheon before the UH Cup Final

Fred also stated that although he had recently received subscriptions from Georges, Imperial and RUMS were still outstanding and requested they be paid as soon as possible. Also outstanding were 20 unpaid places from the Annual Dinner. This approximates to a £700 loss on the dinner, and although some degree of loss can be expected, this amount is unacceptable and this situation needs to be remedied as soon as possible. To this end, Fred suggested that tickets be printed in advance of next year's dinner.

Appointment of Officers

President:	Terry Gibson
Secretary:	David Badenoch
Treasurer:	Fred Imms
Club Captain:	Richard Townsley (Georges)
Vice Captain:	James Logan (ICSM)
Fixt. Secretary:	Richard Lloyd (Barts & London)

UH Sevens 2005

Terry Gibson opened it to the floor as to who would like to host the competition next season. ICSM were quite happy to host the competition again next year at their ground in Teddington. GKT and Barts & London were also happy to be hosts. However, it was decided that GKT would host the event since their ground at Honor Oak Park was slightly more convenient to get to. This event will be played on Sunday 10th Oct.

Club Dinner

Barts & London were thanked for organising this year's dinner. By the process of rotation, it is RUMS turn to organise and host the UH Annual Dinner next year. The date for this is set for Saturday 13th Nov 2005.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 16th May 2005 at RUMS. Venue to follow.

Terry Gibson thanked Barts & London for organising the AGM at such a grand and splendid venue, befitting of the United Hospitals Rugby Club. Those present retired to a local hostelry for refreshments following the meeting.