

United Hospitals Rugby Football Club

AGM Minutes

6:30pm Monday 12th June 2006
Boardroom 3, Level 2 Hunter Wing, SGHMS

Present

Terry Gibson (President)	terence.gibson@kcl.ac.uk
Abdul Munshi (SGHMS)	armunshi@hotmail.com
Michael Dunne (SGHMS)	m0300401@sgul.ac.uk
Chris Sajdler (SGHMS)	m0303589@sgul.ac.uk
Fred Imms (GKT)	fnvkat@aol.com
James Morris (ICSM)	james.morris@imperial.ac.uk
James Logan (ICSM)	james.logan@ic.ac.uk
Nick Thomas (ICSM)	nicholas.r.thomas@ic.ac.uk
Rhys Davies (GKT)	rhys.davies@kcl.ac.uk
Peter Gretton (GKT)	peter.gretton@kcl.ac.uk
Stuart D'Sylva (GKT)	stuart.d'sylva@kcl.ac.uk
Iain Wilson (GKT)	iain.wilson@kcl.ac.uk
Richard Townsley (SGHMS)	richardbtownsley@yahoo.co.uk

Apologies

R. Entickna (GKT), D Sinnett (ICSM), T Hookway, J Biddle, P Parella (SGHMS), J Jackson (SGHMS), R Hone (GKT).

Minutes of last meeting held on 16th May 2005

Copies of last years minutes were circulated amongst those present and were read and approved by Terry Gibson. Terry Gibson expressed his thanks to last years secretary for the high standard to which they were written. In the absence of the secretary Michael Dunne (SGHMS) volunteered to take the minutes of this years meeting.

Matters arising

United Hospitals Challenge Cup Structure for 2006/2007 season

Terry Gibson outlined once again that in the past when 8 sides existed it was possible to have a serious draw in which the winners of the previous year were given a bye in the first round and any team could have played each other. Once the hospitals merged this was no longer a viable option due to the reduced number of teams so a round robin format was proposed and passed by UH AGM. This format was then dropped due to the difficulty of teams completing fixtures and problems due to bad weather causing fixtures to be cancelled so the knockout format was then re-adopted. This however presented difficulties in that it was felt that this made the finalists predictable and it was difficult to run with only 5 teams. It was generally felt upon discussion of this matter again that a round robin format allowed the opportunity for all schools to play each other and previously GKT, SGHMS, RUMS & BL all opted for it's re-introduction with concerns expressed by ICSM.

This matter was put forward once again for discussion by Terry Gibson who invited feedback from the hospitals represented.

Chris Sajdler (SGHMS) was first to speak saying that SGHMS as a club preferred and enjoyed the round robin format as it allowed them to play all teams. They conceded that the bigger schools had more fixture commitments throughout the year but still felt that if games could be better organised then it was still a viable option. Nick Thomas and James Logan (ICSM) expressed an opposing view stating that although the round robin format theoretically benefits the smaller schools however, the fact that they can beat a side and still not make it to the final highlights a big flaw in its design. They went on to highlight fixture difficulties with many games being called off the night before which they felt showed that there was a difficulty in fulfilling commitment from all schools with regards to UH round robin matches. They also put forward that with the possible expansion of the BUSA leagues next season this may put added strain on teams meeting fixture commitments. Rhys Davies (GKT) stated that they felt that the round robin was a good idea but shared the view of ICSM in that BUSA expansion may present problems next year if this format was maintained.

Fred Imms (GKT) suggested that one of the problems may be that the games are only played on Wednesdays which inevitably would present potential fixture clashes with other leagues. He suggested therefore, that games could possibly be played earlier for example in Nov and on Sundays to solve this problem. James Morris, James Logan & Nick Thomas (ICSM) rejected this idea stating that with their sides playing twice a week their problem wouldn't be solved by moving fixtures to the weekends. Terry Gibson expressed the view that it was difficult to take a vote on any change as two schools were missing but conceded that the round robin format had significant practical problems and was only going to get worse in the foreseeable future. He therefore, put forward to those present that a knockout structure be re-adopted along the lines of those that had been previously played.

After saying this however, Fred Imms (GKT) proposed an alternative structure. He proposed that the winners of the previous years challenge cup automatically secured a place in the final and that the remaining schools played for the opportunity to 'challenge' the holders. Concerns for this idea were expressed by both the representatives of GKT and SGHMS as they felt that this would decrease the opportunity to play other schools, decrease the opportunities for the UH captain to see potential representative players play and it would only essentially solve one team's problems. The representatives from ICSM were in favour of Fred Imms' proposal as they said it would enable them to still be committed to UH which was a big priority for them.

After this discussion Terry Gibson suggested that his proposal as follows would be adopted for the 2006/2007 UH challenge cup competition:

- Rd 1. Losers of Symond's plate vs. 5th place team
- SF. 1 Winner of Symond's plate vs. Losers of Challenge Cup
- SF. 2 Winner of Rd. 1 match vs. Winners of Challenge Cup
- CC Final Winner of SF.1 vs. Winner of SF. 2
- Plate Final Loser of SF. 1 vs. Loser of SF. 2

This idea was accepted by the schools present and Terry Gibson stated that he would write to the absentee schools to inform them of the decision that had been made.

Annual Dinner

Terry Gibson began the discussion by asking what the loss as a result of damages from last years dinner was. Fred Imms (GKT) kindly obliged by stating that the expected loss was £400 but this may rise to £500. He went on to say that this pattern of loss as a result of indiscipline had continued from the meal held at the Hop centre by GKT, the meal held at Senate House by ICSM right up to last years meal at Wimbledon Dog track hosted by SGHMS. He continued by stating that the finances of UH RFC were no longer in a fit state and that the loss of £2000 in damages from the dinner at Senate house had crippled the clubs accounts. Fred Imms (GKT) then proposed that the annual dinner did not take place this year as it was impossible to identify the culprits of the unruly behaviour and how would we be able to legislate against this happening again.

Terry Gibson highlighted that the fate of the dinner was discussed last year and he too thought that, sad though it is, due to the financial burden it has on the club it should no longer continue. The views of the represented hospitals was then asked for on the matter.

An early idea of holding a barbeque after the sevens competition was rejected as it was pointed out by Terry Gibson that it was likely that this would be poorly attended due to the fact that most players leave straight after the competition has ended. Chris Sajdler and Richard Townsley (SGHMS) stated that they felt many students found the dinners enjoyable as it provided an opportunity for all the schools to get together and socialise. They proposed that the difficulties experienced could be solved by getting individual students to sign a form stating that they are responsible for damages or by possibly getting individual schools to pay for damages rather than UH RFC. The GKT representatives supported this idea however concerns were expressed by both Fred Imms (GKT) and Terry Gibson. Fred Imms (GKT) pointed out that public money (as most of student funding for sport is) is accountable and would colleges agree to pay for damages incurred as a result of hosting a meal. Abs Munshi (SGHMS) supported this concern stating that smaller schools such as SGHMS couldn't afford and would not be given money to cover such a thing happening. Terry Gibson stated that he felt that this idea would still represent a waste of money that could be used by schools more effectively and proposed two ways in which he felt the dinners could be run effectively to decrease the incidence of poor behaviour. He felt that the dinners could be either policed by someone going round and preventing damage from occurring or better still, more effort was made to increase the number of consultants that attended to help to create a more 'civilised atmosphere'. He supported these points by highlighting a previous meal held at Drury's hotel which had a good consultant attendance that incurred no damages to the club.

Rhys Davies (GKT) supported this idea and felt that it may be a way to keep the dinner but stop the damage that occurs from happening. Abs Munshi (SGHMS) proposed that bouncers or security were provided but Terry Gibson put forward that it should be down to the organising school to provide whatever was appropriate to the venue in which the dinner was being held.

A vote was taken and the majority ruled in favour of an annual dinner being provided for the 2006/2007 season.

ICSM were asked to host the dinner as it was felt that they could attract the greatest number of consultants but other schools were encouraged to try and increase the amount of interest within their own schools. It was agreed that the dinner would be

held on either a Wednesday or Thursday in November selected from the following dates: 1st/2nd November 2006 or 8th/9th November 2006.

Finally, it was generally accepted that a charge would be applied to the tickets for the dinner that would cover the cost of any damages incurred.

Captains Report

Unfortunately J. Palmer (UH Captain) was not in attendance at the meeting so was unable to deliver a report for the season.

Treasurers Report

Fred Imms (GKT) tabled the accounts of the club up until April 2005. He stated that a big annual loss of £2000 was shown as a result of the Senate House dinner. He also went on to highlight 2 further reasons as to why the clubs finances have been dropping over the last few years. Firstly, as was previously mentioned the continued loss as a result of damages incurred at the annual dinner has had a huge impact on finances. Secondly, he stated that the challenge cup final day could no longer be run at a profit. Normally in the past UH RFC received from London Welsh RFC several hundred pounds from gate takings after deductions for pitch hire and stewarding staff. This year however, regrettably that gate takings covered the cost of pitches and stewarding only affording no profit to UH RFC. Concerns were also raised by Fred Imms (GKT) that the cost of the lunch had also proved to be excessive this year although it was felt that the club may have been overcharged for wine. He also felt that a lack of support from senior members of schools may have contributed to this year's loss as numbers for the normally successful lunches were well down this year. In terms of potentially cutting costs of the day Fred Imms (GKT) suggested that the tea provided could be scaled down whilst still providing the customary barrels of beer and post match tea for the players. He felt that holding the finals on a Sunday should be re-examined as to their suitability in providing the maximum amount of support for the teams participating and the maximum income for the club.

Subs this year had been received from all schools with the exception of ICSM which was welcomed by Terry Gibson. ICSM stated that they often had difficulty in freeing up money to pay but would sort the matter out promptly. The amount of £300 for the larger schools and £150 for SGHMS was agreed to be kept.

In summary:	Current Assets	£5, 598
	Current Liabilities	£2, 003

All were in full agreement with the financial report and it was accepted.

United Hospitals RFC Sevens Competition

Terry Gibson began by congratulating Barts & The London RFC for organising an excellent competition last year and said that it was excellent that 10 teams played on the day.

Terry Gibson asked if ICSM would like to host the event and on behalf of them James Morris (ICSM) accepted the invitation.

The competition is to be held on Sunday 8th October 2006 at Teddington. The reserve venue is to be either of GKT's grounds.

Fixtures and Tour

It was highlighted by Terry Gibson that attempts to undertake a tour over previous years had proved unsuccessful. He also commented on the low number of representative fixtures that were played last year by the club and commented that he felt the difficulty lies in the type of fixture we opt for. Terry Gibson went on to say that there had been talk of putting out a 1st XV and 2nd XV and that playing should be about involvement rather than just concentrating on putting our best players out as these players were often unavailable and this coupled with our choice of opposition led to many fixtures being cancelled. He proposed that a more extensive fixture list of a few challenging games such as those against Oxford Greyhounds should be played but a core of games aimed at the level of talent that was available should be made available in order to ensure a team could be put out. This idea was seconded by Peter Gretton (GKT) and it was agreed that next years fixture secretary should look into it.

Election of Officers

President	Terry Gibson (GKT)
Vice President	William Rudge (SGHMS)
Secretary	Duncan Austin (GKT)
Treasurer	Fred Imms (GKT)
Club Captain	Rhys Davies (GKT)
Vice Captain	Andy Lockyer (SGHMS)
Fixture Secretary	Peter Gretton (GKT)

AOB

One item of business was raised by Terry Gibson. He had received a request from Chris Jordan of the Royal Veterinary College asking if they could join UH RFC. It was voiced at the table by Iain Wilson (GKT) that their inclusion may solve the problem of only having 5 teams in the cup competition. Abs Munshi (SGHMS) also stated that the Royal Vets already competed in BUMPS and UH Hockey competitions but was unsure if their inclusion was to make up numbers. He did comment on them being very active socially at these events however. Terry Gibson stated that previous discussion had already examined expansion of UH but no firm decision had been reached. The decision was made to invite the Royal Veterinary College as guests to the UH Sevens competition on Sunday 8th October 2006 at Teddington. Terry Gibson is to write to them on behalf of the club expressing our invitation.

NEXT AGM TO BE HELD AT CHARING CROSS ON 15TH MAY 2007 AT 6:30PM.

Terry Gibson closed the meeting by thanking all those present for attending and they then retired to the St. George's Union Bar for a pint.