

Guy's King's College & St Thomas' Hospitals Rugby Football Club - Est. 1843

161st Season



Committee Meeting held in Rheumatology Dept.,
Guy's Hospital on Tuesday 23rd November 2004

Presiding:

Dr Terry Gibson

Present:

Duncan Austin, Rhys Davies, Peter Gretton, Dave Berry, Antionette Martin, Iain Wilson, Jeremy Nettleton, Edward Jefferies, Tom Kennedy, Rory Gleadhill, Edward Sheppard

1 - Apologies for Absence:

David Manson-Bahr, Robert W A Hone, Gillian Wilson

2 - Finance & Grant:

Mr Sheppard, the Treasurer, brought the assembly up to date with the club's financial situation. The club's grant from KCLSU this year stands at £3925, a slight decrease on last year's figure. In addition 41 members had paid their subscription, adding a further £942 to the club's coffers, which Mr Sheppard felt would be enough to cover the hire of coaches, where necessary, for the club's remaining fixtures. An outstanding invoice for new kit, ordered last season, has been received, which should be met by the Union. Dr Gibson noted that, as far as he was aware, the London Society of Referees' fee had not yet been paid, and Mr Sheppard assured him that this would be paid from the grant account.

No further details were available with reference to the proposed sponsorship deal with Shepherd Neame, which is still under negotiation. However, Mr Wilson was able to encourage the committee with the prospect of kit sponsorship from Colgate. Professor Nairn Wilson, Dean of the Dental Institute, is an avid follower of the club but was shocked to see the condition of the kit at a recent home game. He has offered to pursue some of his contacts at Colgate on behalf of the club and hopes to be able to raise £2500 for a one-off kit sponsorship. Further sponsorship to the club, to the tune of £200, has been offered by Mr Togay Koc, a regular player for the 3rd XV, who has set up a promotions company. Dr Gibson was glad that members of the club were showing such initiative in raising funds, and suggested that further sums could be garnered by chasing up monies possibly owed to the club by Mr Frank McEwan for advertisements on the club's fixture posters. Mr Nettleton offered to speak to Mr McEwan about this.

Dr Gibson was pleased to report to the committee that good progress was being made towards the establishment of a rugby bursary. He has had encouraging discussions with a representative of the alumni association who believed that the funds were there to support the bursary, and expects that the scheme should be ready for the 2006 GKT intake. The two current bursaries, the Scanlan Bursary and the St Thomas' RFC Bursary, should be awarded in the new year.

3 – Website

Dr Joel Newman is apparently reluctant to hand over control of the website to a new officer, but since no new website designer has yet been found the situation remains unchanged for the present.

4 – Coaching

The subject of Thursday evening training once again was passed before the committee, with the news that attendance has been very poor over the preceding weeks. This was agreed to be a sad state of affairs, since Mr Crowther has repeatedly voiced his reluctance to open up the club house for these sessions. All the captains present agreed to stress to their sides the immense importance of twice-weekly training sessions, and it was hoped that the new year would see a re-awakening of enthusiasm for rugby, rather as the warm vernal sunshine calls forth from sullen earth the burgeoning blades of springtide. Those committee members who felt their own attendance had been slipping expecting to be able to re-commit to regular training in the less activity-crowded second term.

Mr Davies explained to the committee that the coach, Elaine, is due to attend a coaching course and was hoping that the club would cover her expenses. Dr Gibson suggested that the club should pay for her expenses up front, rather than reimburse her on a pay per session basis.

5 - Sale of St Thomas' Hospital Sports Ground, Cobham

Very little concrete information about the sale can be gleaned through the dim mists of the Student Union's somewhat equivocal communiqués, but Mr Nettleton is convinced that the sale has already gone ahead and has already written a letter to the GKT Gazette protesting in the strongest terms at the loss of the ground. The committee await events, and fully expect to be the last to be both informed and consulted regarding the future of the ground.

6 - UH Dinner

A revised date for the dinner has been set as Saturday 4th December in the Macmillan Hall, Senate House. The cost of the dinner has been set at £30 per head.

7 - Christmas Dinner

The current plan for the dinner is for it to be held at the Crown on Blackfriars Road on Saturday 18th December, with a provisional price-tag of £17. The possibility of combining the dinner with the Ladies' dinner was raised, and will be explored by Mr Gleadhill.

8 - Match Results

1st XV P 8 W 5 D 1 L 2

2nd XV P 8 W 2 L 6

3rd XV – Cpt not present

4th/Vets P 6 L 6

Students:

1st XV P 6 W2 L4

2nd XV P 4 W3 L1

9 - Any Other Business

Mr Davies suggested that the club purchase a well-stocked physiotherapy kit, containing tape, bandages, supports and re-useable ice-packs et c. This would cost £175 and should easily last out the current season. The committee agreed that this would be a sound investment, provided that the contents of the pack were well looked after. Mr Sheppard said he would decide whether there were sufficient funds for such an outlay.

Mr Jefferies gave a brief précis of the Freshers' Tour to Nottingham from the previous weekend. The tour had been a mixed success, with the team losing heavily to a well-drilled Nottingham Medics RFC side, in addition to the logistical headache faced of trying to keep thirty medical students sober enough to play rugby. However, all the returning tourists said that they had thoroughly enjoyed the trip, and so Mr Jefferies heralded the weekend as a success.

Mr Wilson noted that there was a GKT Wanderers' Tour scheduled for 5th February, and hoped that as many players as possible would make themselves available for what promises to be a scintillating weekend of rugby.

Mr Berry was delighted to recount to the committee that the club received considerable positive publicity in a new book, entitled "Chasing the Chariot" by Mr Mick Collins. The book is available from all good bookshops, priced £15.99. The book discusses the state of English rugby football since the national side won the World Cup in 2003, and features a whole chapter dedicated to Guy's, allegedly as the antithesis of Sir Clive Woodward's set-up! Mr Collins had consulted Mr Berry repeatedly in his preparation of the book, and Mr Berry feels that the book paints a very sympathetic portrait of the club and its battle with KCLSU. Mr Berry urged all the assembled members to read the book and hoped that Mr Collins' opus would raise the profile of the club. Mr Sheppard asked for it to be minuted that he was next in line to read Mr Berry's copy of the book.

Next Committee Meeting

The date of the next committee meeting was set as **Tuesday 18th February, 2005.**