

Guy's, King's College and St Thomas' Hospitals
Rugby Football Club – Est. 1843



161st Season

Committee Meeting, held in the Rheumatology Dept., Guy's
Hospital, Tuesday 26th October at 6pm

Presiding:

Mr Rhys Davies

Present:

Duncan Austin (secretary), David Manson Bahr, Jeremy Nettleton, Robert Hone,
Peter Gretton, Edward Jefferies, Rory Gleadhill, Tim Wright, Iain Wilson

1 - Apologies For Absence:

Edward Sheppard, Timothy Seng, Dr Terry Gibson, William Buxton, Antionette
Martin, Stella Artois

2 – UH Cup

Mr Gretton reported to the committee that all the UH Cup fixtures for GKT had been finalised. Some team captains queried the eligibility of non-GKT players, and it was confirmed that as in previous years players were only eligible who had worked or trained at a GKT Hospital. Mr Gretton noted that non-GKT students were also ineligible for the Wednesday sides, under the ruling of the B.U.S.A., but could still become full members of the club and play on Saturdays.

3 – Finance and Grant

Mr Davies once again stressed the importance of all players paying their subscription, and urged the captains to chase up all of their players. The committee were aghast to learn that there had been something of a mix up at KCLSU, with GKT Mens Rugby subscribers being split into two separate groups, but according to Mr Hone this had now been rectified. Mr Davies announced that he hoped to apply for some emergency funding for the club, from a fund that was open to all clubs within the union. Some members of the committee were concerned that this might reduce the size of our grant, but Mr Davies assured them that this would come from a separate fund, and gave the example of the KCL RFC, who had used this emergency funding last year. The committee agreed that if the money was “up for grabs” then it was well worth applying for it. Mr Wilson enquired as to whether any funding was available towards his laundry bill, which had been disagreeably large of late: Mr Sheppard regrettably

informed him that, given the state of the club's finances, any remuneration towards the cost of cleaning the kit would have to come from his own players. Mr Davies noted that the supply of whisky held at Honor Oak Park for match-day raffles had been exhausted, and stated that he would discuss with Dr Gibson the prospect of acquiring additional supplies.

4 – Sponsorship

Messrs Hone and Nettleton reported to the committee on their search for a sponsor for the club. The prospective deal with Shepherd Neame had “run into some hot water”: firstly, the St Thomas' Hospital Sports Ground at Cobham has been sold to Chelsea Football Club, who now own the bar at that ground. Secondly, Mr Crowther, the Grounds Manager at Honor Oak Park, has expressed reservations about the deal, fearing that it would affect the deal currently running between KCLSU and Courage, which also runs at the Griffin Sports Ground. Mr Crowther was also worried about what would happen when the proposed five year deal expired. Messrs Hone and Nettleton have done their best to reassure Mr Crowther. However, the ultimate decision regarding the deal will rest with KCLSU, who own the bar at Honor Oak Park. Mr Crowther was currently in negotiations with Shepherd Neame, and if this was satisfactory the deal would go to the Union for approval. Meanwhile, other potential sponsors that have been approached include STA travel, The Elusive Camel and Belushis, although no concrete agreement has yet been reached. Mr Jefferies noted that the Medical Protection Society had kindly agreed to sponsor the jerseys for the Freshers' Tour, but this would not affect any other deal currently under discussion.

5 - Kit

Mr Hone announced that he has order a full set of eighteen jerseys from Peveril, as the club is in desperate need of strip and cannot afford to wait until sponsorship has been finalised. He suggested that other sets could surely be made up once a sponsor had been achieved, and would certainly be used. He also aired the possibility of getting a set of tracksuits made up, and the committee agreed this was a good idea, providing sufficient player interest could be generated.

6 – Website

The committee agreed that the website was well overdue an update, and several committee members complained the contact details for the committee had not yet been updated from last year. Whilst the committee were all very grateful for the work done by Mr Joel Newman, they agreed that it was unreasonable to expect him to continue running the website during his PRHO year, and so it was decided that the club should seek out a technical “wizard” to take over this role. Several members of the committee noted that they knew people that could perform such as role, and agreed to approach their contacts regarding this. Failing this, it was suggested that the club should advertise.

7 – Coaching

The committee were pleased to learn that the club had been approached by a coach who was interested in running training at GKT. Elaine, the young lady in question is a Level 1 qualified coach and currently a student at GKT. Mr Davies noted that she had already taken one training session at Honor Oak Park and which was most satisfactory. He hoped that everyone at the club would make an effort to make her feel

welcome, and Mr Hone announced that he was hoping to liaise with her in the near future to that effect. Upon these news, a veritable shower of names of potential coaches suddenly burst forth upon the assembled members, as the committee learnt that the coach of Imperial College RFC, Mr Keith Green, had offered to try and find a coach for the club, whilst Mr Nettleton observed that he had a friend who was a qualified Level 2 rugby coach. It was hoped by the committee that the fresh input of a new coach would take the boys currently playing for the club and turn them into men.

8 – St Thomas’ Hospital Sports Ground, Cobham

Mr Nettleton informed the committee that the latest position on the beleaguered ground was that Mr Roman Abramovich had secured the right to buy the ground from the Trustees of St Thomas’ Hospital, meaning that sale was all but inevitable. It was expected that KCLSU would confirm the sale of the ground over the coming weeks. The expected terms of the sale would allow GKT RFC access to the ground for a further five years: however, KCLSU have expressed their desire to use the proceeds from the sale to develop the facilities at Honor Oak Park rather than to purchase a replacement ground. These would result in a major reduction in the number of playing fields available to GKT clubs, and would cause serious problems for the Club which is currently fielding three sides on a Wednesday and five sides of a weekend. It was felt by the committee that the two pitches currently at Honor Oak Park would be inadequate for such a heavy schedule, and consequently the loss of Cobham could be potentially disastrous for the club. The committee were particularly frustrated that KCLSU still refuses to recognise GKT RFC as a constituent club of the Union, and it was feared that our needs would therefore be a secondary consideration if and when the redevelopment of Honor Oak takes place. The committee agreed that it was high time that KCLSU were forced to recognise GKT RFC as a student activity or to put up evidence to the contrary. Mr Nettleton volunteered to peruse the documentation regarding the merger between UMDS and KCL and find out at what point KCLSU considers the club to have been deratified. Messrs Davies, Hone and Austin agreed to assist him in this, and Mr Manson Bahr suggested that he could ask his brother to cast a legal eye over the papers. It was agreed that this matter was of the utmost importance for the club, and that it was vital to push for this recognition whilst a supportive ear holds the Presidency of the Union. In the meantime, Mr Davies stressed that all non-student players must gain Associate Membership of the Union, as this was currently weakening our position significantly.

9 – Tour

Mr Gretton proposed to the committee the possibility of a rugby tour to one of our European neighbours for Summer 2005. The committee were excited at the prospect, although the fourth years present expressed their disappointment that the tour would clash with their elective. United Hospitals RFC are planning to tour Ireland in April, and it was hoped that as many members of the club as possible would be available for this.

10 – United Hospitals Dinner

The date of the United Hospitals RFC Dinner was given as 13th November: however, no member of the committee had yet received any details regarding this. It was felt that since the dinner was being organised by RUMS RFC, there was little that GKT RFC could do to expedite this. Details would be circulated to the club as soon as they were received.

11 – GKT RFC Christmas Dinner

Mr Gleadhill announced that he had not yet confirmed a venue for this festive treat, having received flat rejections from the Market Porter, the Slug and Lettuce and sundry other establishments. However, a provisional date was made of 18th December.

12 – Results

1 st XV	3W 1D 1L – 4 th in the league
2 nd XV	1W 0D 4L – 4 th from bottom
“Mighty” 3 rd XV	TBC
4 th /Veterans XV	0W 0D 3L
Student 1 st XV	0W 0D 2L
Student 2 nd XV	1W 0D 1L

13 – Next Committee Meeting

The date of the next committee meeting was set as Tuesday 23rd November 2004.