

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 14th September at 6pm

Presiding:

Dr T Gibson

Present:

Duncan Austin (secretary), David Manson Bahr, Tom Kennedy, Rhys Davies, Gillian Wilson, Antionette Martin

1 - Apologies For Absence:

Ed Sheppard, Jeremy Nettleton, Rob Hone, Ed Jefferies, Tim Wright, Peter Gretton, William Buxton

2 – Welcome to New Committee Members

Dr Gibson welcomed those members present who were serving on the committee for the first time and hoped that they would have a fruitful year together.

3 – Tony Yates RIP

The committee were saddened to learn of the death at the age of 75 of Dr Tony Yates, a former President of St Thomas' Hospital RFC and Vice-President of GKT RFC. Dr Gibson has passed on the club's condolences to his family.

4 – Paul Scanlan Bursary

Dr Gibson expressed surprise that he had not received any applications for the Paul Scanlan Bursary or the St Thomas' RFC Prize, with the deadline not far off at 1st November. He was anxious that anyone in the club who fitted the criteria, namely being in their third year, contributing to the club, academically sound and able to demonstrate real financial need, should be encouraged to apply. He also informed the committee that the Medical School were considering establishing a Rugby Bursary offered to sixth form applicants to GKT, along similar lines to the bursary already in existence at Imperial College School of Medicine. This had been approved by the outgoing Dean, Professor Gwyn Williams, and would be negotiated under the new Dean over the next year and hopefully financed by alumni donations. The committee agreed this was a very positive move that would be extremely beneficial to the club. Mr

Austin agreed to write to the GKT Gazette to promote both the current Prizes offered by the rugby club and the concept of a rugby bursary to the Gazette's wide readership.

5 – UH Cup Fixtures

Dr Gibson was concerned that many UH Cup fixtures had still not been finalised, and it would soon be too late to arrange referees. Mr Austin was able to pass on to Dr Gibson the list of UH fixtures given him by Mr Gretton, the fixture secretary.

6 - Finance & Grant

The final sum of the club's grant from KCLSU has still not been confirmed, although Dr Gibson quoted a letter he had been shown from Mr Michael Champion, the current President of KCLSU, which is to be printed in the next edition (September) of the GKT Gazette and states Mr Champion's belief that GKT RFC currently was receiving "an inadequate amount of money". The committee hoped that this will be a harbinger of a new, improved relationship with the Student Union. It was agreed that the club subscription fee would be £30 for students, and Mr Davies urged all team captains to ensure that this was paid by all regular players. In the absence of Mr Sheppard, the club treasurer, further financial discussions were postponed until the next committee meeting.

7 – Sponsorship

Mr Davies explained to the committee the current status of negotiations with Shepherd Neame Breweries, who are interested in sponsoring the club to the tune of £2000 pa. This came with the proviso that Shepherd Neame would take over the running of the bar at the Honor Oak Park and Cobham Sports Ground. Dr Gibson explained that such an arrangement was not in our gift, as the Sports Grounds are now owned by King's College London. Mr Manson-Bahr mentioned that he had a friend at Lloyds TSB Bank, who were looking to sponsor a community rugby club to host a "community rugby sevens" tournament. Dr Gibson urged the committee to continue to explore all possibilities of raising a sponsor for the club through personal contacts. Mr Manson-Bahr suggested that the club might be made a feature on the BBC Daytime Television Programme "City Hospital" in order to raise the profile of the club, and several committee members gave personal testimony to the popularity of that programme. It was also agreed that the company "Puzzlenut" should be removed from the club website, as they are no longer sponsoring the club.

8 – Freshers' Fair

The Freshers' Fair will take place on Friday 24th September in Boland House, Guy's Hospital, and it was noted that a platform for the club at the fair was conditional upon prior attendance at a training evening run by KCLSU. Mr Davies agreed to attend this evening, accompanied by Messrs Gretton and Sheppard. It was agreed as essential that the club receive a prominent location for our stall, and Mr Davies hoped to argue strongly for this at his meeting with the Union. Mr Davies said that he would contact other committee members for assistance nearer the day.

9 - Freshers' Trials

The date for the Freshers' Trials will be Wednesday 29th September at the Honor Oak Park Sports Ground. Other Freshers' events being organised included a "Fun Day" at Honor Oak Park on Saturday 30th September and a Freshers XV vs Veterans XV at Cobham on Saturday 2nd October.

10 – Fixtures

The committee were informed that Mr Gretton would be collecting the new fixture cards from the printers the very next day, ready for distribution at the various Freshers' events. The representatives of the Ladies teams explained that their fixtures would not be finalised until their committee meeting later that week, and that they would try to rearrange a fixture to avoid a clash with the "Fun Day". It was hoped that the club fixtures would be available on-line in the near future.

11 – Results

Only two games had been played to date, a friendly against Old Elthamians on 4th September, which had been lost 44 - 22, and the first 1st XV league fixture, in which they had beaten Whitstable 22 – 15.

12 – Any Other Business

Mr Davies was concerned that Mr Norman Crowther, the Manager of Honor Oak Park Sports Ground, no longer wished to allow training on a Thursday night. The committee agreed that Thursday night training was absolutely crucial to the club and must continue. Miss Martin suggested that she approach Mr Crowther about the possibility of training on a Thursday evening, in the hope that her charm and feminine guile might persuade him to reconsider. The committee agreed that just such a "softly-softly" strategy was required for the time being, and Miss Martin agreed to speak to Mr Crowther in the next few days. Feedback from players in the men's teams suggested people were very satisfied with the new-look coach, Mr David Berry: the ladies teams were planning to renegotiate their contract with their current coach before the start of their season.

13 – Next Committee Meeting

The date of the next committee meeting was set as Tuesday 19th October 2004.