

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 15th February 2005

Presiding:

Dr Terry Gibson

Present:

Duncan Austin, Rhys Davies, Peter Gretton, Iain Wilson, Jeremy Nettleton, , Tom Kennedy,
Edward Sheppard, Tim Wright

1 - Apologies for Absence:

David Manson-Bahr, Robert W A Hone, Gillian Wilson, Antionette Martin, Edward Jefferies

2 – Confirmation of Minutes of Last Meeting

These were agreed to be an accurate account of the last meeting. Those present thanked Mr Wilson for his excellent minute taking at the previous meeting. Dr Gibson noted the favourable comments regarding Miss Radcliffe, the new coach, and asked that in future she be invited to attend committee meetings. Mr Austin agreed to pass this on to her.

3 – Website

Mr Wright told the committee that this issue had still not been resolved. Dr Gibson reported that Dr Joel Newman had taken umbrage at the suggestion at previous meetings that he was being uncooperative over the website, and Dr Gibson stated that he felt that Dr Newman, who has spent a great deal of time on the website in the past, clearly felt that this was his territory and as there had been no real problems with the running of the site that Dr Newman should continue to run the website as before.

4 – UH Challenge Cup

Dr Gibson reported to the committee the arrangements for this year's Cup Final which will take place as in previous years at Old Deer Park, Richmond on 20th March. The afternoon will start with the UH Plate at 12 noon, followed by a dinner at 1:30pm and the Final at 3pm. Tickets for the dinner are priced at £55, including the cost of admission to the ground, and Dr Gibson encouraged everyone not competing that afternoon to take part in this enjoyable dinner, at which Mr Mick Collins, author, sports journalist and follower of Guy's Hospital Rugby, will be a guest speaker.

Dr Gibson also noted with some chagrin that much money was still owing for the UHRFC Christmas Dinner, both for unpaid meals and for considerable damages. Mr Davies noted that everyone from GHRFC who had attended had paid for their meal, and since the damages were neither the fault of members of this club nor likely to be admitted to by the (unstated) perpetrators, there was little that the committee could do in this situation. Mr Davies agreed to raise the matter with the captain of Saint George's Hospital RFC when they meet later in the week.

5 – Finance and Grant

Mr Sheppard revealed that the club now had less than £1 Stirling in its account, and that any further expenses would have to be met either by the Supporters Club or by the players themselves. He reported that he had applied for a £6000 grant from KCLSU after the financial difficulties experienced this year, although he anticipated that the full amount was unlikely to be granted. Dr Gibson was able to give the committee encouraging news of a fund within King's College London which it is hoped will cover the expenses currently met by the Supporters Club. This was dependent on finding an in-house KCL account to which the money could be transferred, and it was believed that Professor Challacombe held such an account.

Mr Davies revealed that the club had been sent an invoice for a coach hired for the fixture against Cranbook in October, and Dr Gibson agreed that the Supporters Club would cover this expenditure.

6 – Sponsorship

Dr Gibson was pleased to announce that the sponsorship deal being negotiated with Colgate was making good progress. If successfully completed this will provide the club with approximately £2,500 to purchase four complete sets of jerseys. Dr Gibson proposed that three sets in the standard blue and gold hoops should be allocated to the three men's XV and a fourth set be made up in plain blue, the club's traditional "away" strip, and stored for those occasions when the opposition strip clashed with our own. Mr Davies pointed out that a set of jerseys had already been ordered, and Dr Gibson suggested that this be used by the 1st XV and that one of the Colgate sets be kept "under lock and key" at the Rheumatology Department. It was hoped that all the new jerseys should be ready in time for the UH Cup Final, should the club be competing on this day. Dr Gibson stressed that the club cannot afford to replace any more jerseys, and that any and all jerseys worn in the UH Cup competition must be returned afterwards: the practice in past years of players retaining their jerseys was unacceptable and costs the club far too much money. Mr Davies suggested that if the new jerseys were numbered it would be easier for captains to keep account of them, and the committee agreed that this would be a good idea, providing this could be afforded. Dr Gibson noted that Colgate were keen to stage and official handover of the jerseys, complete with photographer, and proposed that the Museum of Rugby at Twickenham would be an appropriate venue for such an historic club. Dr Gibson observed that he would be at Twickenham for the match between England and Italy on 12th March, and suggested this as an ideal date. The committee will await the estimate from the shirt manufacturers before agreeing on a date.

Mr Nettleton noted that the producer of the club's fixture posters, Mr Frank McEwan, was not replying to his letters regarding funds generated therein, and as Mr Nettleton was furnished with Mr McEwan's 'phone number at the meeting he agreed to try and contact him orally.

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

Whilst official news of the sale had still not been forthcoming, Dr Gibson was able to share with the committee the price of £1.3million that he had been quoted. The assembled members were aghast that the ground had gone for so little, and suspected that this would be the source of much contention in the relationship between Sports Clubs and the College for a long time to come. It is expected that the deal agreed with Chelsea FC will allow the club access to 1 pitch at the ground for five years between the months of October and March. Changing, catering and bar facilities are

apparently to be retained. Fixtures for the 4th/Veterans XV this April are to be relocated, with the possibility of playing at the KCL RFC ground at Berrylands. Members of the committee felt that their preference, where Honor Oak Park and Cobham were unavailable, would be to play at the old King's College Hospital RFC ground at the Griffin, Dulwich, as they felt that it was important to maintain as much distinction as possible between GKT RFC and the College teams.

8 - Match Results since last meeting

1st XV P 3 W 2 L 1 – now 4th in their league

2nd XV P 2 W 1 L 2

3rd XV – Cpt not present

4th/Vets P2 W1 L1

Students: final league statistics

1st XV P 10 W4 L6 – finished 3rd from bottom, relegated avoided at the expense of KCL RFC.

2nd XV P 10 W7 L3 – finished 2nd in their league.

Ladies – no representative present

Mr Davies was pleased to inform the committee that the 1st XV were through to the 2nd round of the Kent Vase and he felt that they had a strong chance of winning the competition.

9 - Any Other Business

Dr Gibson encouraged as many players as possible to participate in the United Hospitals RFC tour to Belfast & Dublin, on 17th April. Some members expressed grave concern about returning to Belfast so soon after the rather frenetic 2nd XV tour in February 2004, but Mr Davies hoped that club would still be represented. Mr Kennedy revealed that the Royal Society of Medicine Rugby Sevens tournament on 13th April would now be held at Honor Oak Park, as the proposed venue of Cardiff Arms Park was unavailable. It was hoped that this would mean the club would be able to enter three sides, and that all would be able to enjoy a delightful evening's hospitality at the Royal Society of Medicine that evening. Mr Austin asked for a ticket for the dinner to be reserved in his name. Dr Gibson informed the committee that Mr Gleadhill had been in contact with him concerning the May Ball, actually due to be held on 30th April, and that all due preparations were being made.

Mr Gretton expressed some concern over the possibility of a fixture clash with the ladies XV now that the men's sides were playing their Wednesday fixtures at Honor Oak Park. Mr Gretton felt that it was more appropriate for the men's XV to play on the larger, wider pitch by the stand, and Dr Gibson pointed out that this has always been the traditional 1st XV pitch. However, Mr Gretton recounted that he had had quite a heated conversation with Miss Martin over this issue, who considers the issue non-negotiable and regards this pitch as akin to their Thermopylae. The committee urged Mr Gretton to be as sensitive as possible on this issue, but were adamant that on those occasions when more than one side was playing at Honor Oak Park then the senior side should take priority.

On a lighter note, Mr Gretton announced that he had been approached by BPP Law School RFC and Trinity Hall College Old Boys RFC over the prospect of arranging friendly fixtures after the close of the season.

Mr Wilson enquired to the eligibility for the UH Cup of players from other institutions who were intercalating a BSc at GKT. Dr Gibson suggested that he raise the matter at the UH AGM later this year, but as far as he was aware only medical and dental students were eligible.

Next Committee Meeting

The date of the next committee meeting was set as **Tuesday 8th March, 2005.**