



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

Committee Meeting held in Renal Admin Dept, Guys Hospital on Monday 3rd
November 2008, 6.30pm.

Presiding: Mr G Koffman

Present: Johnny Elias, Pat Gush,
Oliver Howlett, , Frazer Barnes
Harry Gasper, Thomas Goddard,
Marcus Pemberton Charles West,
John Kendall, Rauri Haddlington,

1) Apologies for Absence

Rhys Davies, Steve Beckett,
Oliver Laird, Mr Terry Gibson,
Charlotte Ashton

2) Disculpas por la Ausencia

Anthony O'Rourke

3) Last Meeting's Minutes

It was agreed that the minutes from the last meeting would be sent prior to the meeting in order that copies can be produced and the minutes properly discussed. The only issues arising concerned the third team, which was discussed as an agenda item and the shorts and socks.

The shorts and socks have been ordered and paid for by Rauri Haddlington (What a good egg!). This means they will be delivered in time for our last match of this term (Dec 19th). Rauri will need to be reimbursed with the cheque sent by the sponsor to the supporters club.

4) Treasurers Report

Good News! We have been granted £25 for publicity and an additional £25 for UH publicity. We also have £200 for match balls, £600 for kit and the portly sum of £2800 for travel outside the M25. The subs account currently has £1000 in it so there are people who still need chasing, but we have made a good start to the collection of subs.

The kit money has a condition-KCLSU have started using Samurai as their main kit supplier and therefore get discounts. Therefore the money provided by KCLSU has to be spent on Samurai goods. We currently have playing shirts and shorts and socks aplenty, and indeed tracksuits and under armour. After much debate it was decided that we could order some kind of casual wear/warm-up kit, which was eventually agreed to be hoodies and warm up shirts. Rauri and Charlie have been set the task of organising the designs and we shall have a vote next week.

On a parting note it was confirmed again that KCLSU are indeed paying for our ground sharing arrangements this year. The £50 for food at Old Colf's is perhaps a little steep, but given that we are not footing the bill, we shall continue to get food.

5) Footscray for Matches

Once again congratulations to the fixture secretary who is organising pitches for the club on a week by week basis and doing sterling work. The arrangement with Beccehamians and Colfs is working well, Colfs remains the first option, but Beccs is perfectly adequate. It was brought to attention that some matches cannot be played at either due to clashes, however Footscray have come to the rescue, offering their pitches for those matches.

Scanlan this year may be able to be played at HOP...but there would be no clubhouse. A better idea was suggested. The Honorary Artillery Company has a ground in Moorgate that may be available for us to use for this match. The day would then take the format of a double header (something we can all appreciate) meaning both matches enjoy a good level of support. It also nicely compliments the location of the ball and comes at a reasonable cost of £250 which could be footed in part by the Vets. All agreed that a double header was too good an opportunity to miss and Pat Gush is in charge of organising this.

Importantly the UH matches this year were discussed. It is fair to say that the UH competition has not been too well organised this year. Due to clashes with the league and Macadam cup the dates have been moved. The definitive dates for the UH finals will be:

2nd and 3rd finals: 21st March 2008

1st final: 22nd March 2008

On a parting note it was mentioned that as home team it is our responsibility to provide alternative kits in the case of any kit clashes. Johnny has this kit so it is a matter of us being diligent and realising in advance if it is required.

6) Results.

Results so far:

Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost or W/O
1 st Team	6	4	0	2
2 nd Team	6	1	0	5
3 rd Team	4	1	0	3
Vets	5	3	1	1
Women	2	2	0	0
Student 1 st	3	3	0	0
Student 2 nd	3	1	0	2

The First team currently sit in 3rd Place in Kent 2 and have the best points for the league. Losses against New Ash Green and HSBC are blights on a good season so far.

The second team have struggled with commitment this year and have yet to win a competitive match. However other clubs in the league are currently struggling and with a walkover to their name, the second team sit 3rd from bottom.

The third team have yet to field a full team for a game although they have had a walkover given to them. However they are bottom of their league currently and large question marks remain over the ability of the club to field 3 teams.

The Vets have enjoyed a strong start in their league, losing only to Old Paulines, who have been rather unsportingly have decided that they will be trying to win the league this year. Numbers have been fairly strong, although the Vets have received an informal warning that the cut-off age is strictly speaking 35 years and even some of our committee's receding hair lines will not qualify them to play for the Vets. This is a sporting and indeed a health and safety issue-the league obviously doubting the endurance of some of the older generation's internal organs in tackle situations.

The girls have enjoyed an excellent start to their ULU campaign, winning both of their opening games with margins of 50 points.

The Wednesday 1's remain unbeaten at the time of writing, having recorded some good wins in a strong league. Focus must be kept in order that this success continues.

The Wednesday 2's have had some tough games, however remain competitive in a good league. They have one win to their name and currently lie mid-table.

UH Sevens:

A disappointing showing from the club meant that 2 teams of 7 were all we could field, however those men did well, and only lost to the eventual winners - a resurgent Bart's team – and RUMS in a match that was more of a formality after a hard day than a serious occasion. The new format of having 2 groups of six was heavily criticised as the tournament ran over schedule and was a gruelling day out. However it was good to see the Royal Vets competing in the competition again.

A general note regarding the current commitment crisis in the club:

We need to rip out the culture of skiving that has developed. As a club we are currently struggling to put teams out. Basically everything we discuss in meetings about extra equipment, activities etc is pointless if we are failing in our primary role as a club-namely to play rugby.

To combat this problem captains have been asked to pile pressure on players, and also it has been suggested that a letter or e-mail informing players of the free days that do exist in our season should be compiled.

7) Third Team Progress Report

So we return to the third team issue having decided at the last meeting to review their progress at this meeting. Since then they have played one fixture, albeit with 13 men, received a walkover and cancelled one. Furthermore, when the third team do get a team out, it is at the expense of the higher teams squads, meaning the seconds and firsts play with no subs. The options are this; we continue as we currently have been and we either get thrown out of the league or we quit the league and keep the third team as an invitational side, playing friendly matches every so often.

A vote was taken as to whether the 3rd team should be abandoned for the season, for which the result was evenly balanced. However, given that the reason for the match being cancelled last week was due to the captain taking an excursion to Spain, and given that only the third team has a game this weekend, the decision was taken to see what the commitment is like this weekend and then take a decision. The disadvantages

abolishing the three's would present are; that having a third team allows us a greater allocation of international tickets, that there are players who prefer to play at the lower standard of the three's, and that abolishing the three's may be ignoring the issue-which is that players in the club are lacking commitment, not that we have a shortage of players.

The advantages are that the we are obviously struggling for players and getting rid of the three's will allow us to shore up the other teams, perhaps even having two squads on a Saturday and that the three's problem is harming our already damaged reputation in Kent RFU and dealing with it will hopefully alleviate this damage.

8) Rugby Ball

THE RUGBY BALL IS HAPPENING!! Currently the current players and students in the club are not well represented at the ball. There are 11 tables out of 15 paid and whilst that number can be extended-it won't be until there are 15 tables paid for with people wanting more. The message to take from this is that the students amongst us have to think beyond a week, even beyond a month, and get organised.

The committee believe that we will have 2 tables of girls and 4 tables of boys interested in going to the ball. But to help us encourage them and others to buy their tickets Pat Gush painted a picture of why this ball will be worth paying for.

He referred to previous balls in his statement as "like an expensive HOP" with people "drinking ridiculously." And he has a point-references in the meeting to Charles West's shenanigans prove this. This ball is going to actually be an occasion to remember-it is after all the 165th anniversary of the club amongst other milestones, and hopefully it will set the tone for future balls. But it will be pointless if there are none of us there.

Action must be taken and it was decided that we should aim to have 3-5 tables paid up by Christmas. Indeed, our esteemed president has offered places on his table should people need it-if they have a particular struggle with raising the £50 deposit. The girls also reckon they can get 2

tables sorted. If we can get this done, Pat can concentrate on making the fine details of the ball fantastic.

It is up to us to make sure we get people paid up and keen. Dates are also allowed-indeed encouraged!

9) AOB

Match Reports:

Vets: well done, regular match reports have been noted and enjoyed.

First team: errr....yeh.

Captains you need to get these reports written and sent off to the gazette and the London Student (via Ed Hardman ed.hardman@kcl.ac.uk). After all “old boys of guys don’t want to read about modern medicine-they want to know about rugby!”

Norm:

His gift was well received and he had a good send off, if a little sparsely attended. It was acknowledged that a proper send-off perhaps on a match day where all the boys were there would be appropriate. After a small debate it was agreed that Norm would be an excellent candidate for President’s Guest at the ball, and he has since been informed of his invitation!

Physio:

Apparently physio soc are keen to get their hands on a few rugby boys, and this idea was warmly received by the committee. Charlie West is to use his contacts and get them down for “massage and stuff.” Only females need apply.

Disappearing Money:

£650 raised by Marcus Pemberton for summer tour mysteriously disappeared into the bank account of a certain Iain Wilson. Marcus has raised the issue as he would like to see this money used for the club. Formal action was suggested, but the matter can be solved without need for this.

Grand Draw:

1000 tickets for this draw have been ordered. I shall be handing them out to everyone, lets get these sold because we keep 90% of the profits. The grand draw is a raffle organised by the RFU on a yearly basis. Prizes range for £10,000 to 76 pints of Greene King ale. Tickets cost £1 and as I mentioned 90% can be kept by us. I shall arrange the distribution and will put together an information package on how it will work.

Website:

We must get this updated; it is hideously out of date at the moment. JK and I will prepare a sheet of questions to be filled in by each player regarding updating the player profiles. Geoff is to write the new presidents welcome and JK the Wednesdays Captain's welcome. Also we need to encourage players to use the message board!

10) Date of next meeting.

The next meeting will take place on Monday December 1st at 6.30pm in the Renal Admin Dept, Borough Wing, Guys Hospital.