



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

Committee Meeting held in Renal Admin Dept, Guys Hospital on Tuesday 9th
September 2008, 6.30pm.

Presiding: Dr G Koffman

Present: Johnny Elias,
Oliver Howlett,
Frazer Barnes,
Harry Gasper,

John Kendall,
Rauri Haddlington,
Norman Crowder.

1) Apologies for Absence

Rhys Davies	Charlotte Ashton
Oli Laird	Steve Beckett
Marcus Pemberton	Charles West
Tom Goddard	Anthony O'Rourke
Pat Gush	Mike Forsythe

2) Last Meeting's Minutes

The accuracy of some of the dates regarding UH competitions was questioned, and whilst the dates given may have been a little out, it did not detract from a superb set of minutes. The dates in question have been checked out and the main worry – that they may clash with league fixtures – has been eradicated.

3) Ground Allocations (The HOP issue)

A brief account of the current ground situation was provided. Having secured planning permission to begin work on a development to rival the small project in Stratford in engineering terms, and the other project in Wembley in terms of planning and organisation (We have been guaranteed a ground for definite at least in time for the UH cup final in 2012). KCLSU had planned to offer us the use of Berrylands and Cobham for our home fixtures. However the location of these two grounds-in Surrey – means that sadly we cannot use them for our Kent fixtures. The Griffin was also offered, however availability is subject to KCH having the first option of using it – it being their home ground. It should be noted at this point that this is not the case for Wednesday fixtures as they come under the umbrella of south East BUSC championship. Besides these small points, it was also agreed that we should try and seek to have a semi-permanent home for the coming season. We have until the 20th September so there is time to sort it.

Various options were considered listed below with for and counter arguments:

- i) Giving up the home advantage. This would not detract from our play too much; however this option would put us at the whim of the opposition side who could easily claim that it is our duty to provide a home fixture and therefore refuse to play it.
- ii) Barts and The London ground in Chislehurst. This would be an excellent option as the facilities there are good and it is easy to reach from London Bridge. However we are still awaiting first contact from the strange inhabitants of B&TL.
- iii) Steve Becket knows a man at HSBC. HSBC have good facilities and many pitches. If this can be arranged it represents our best option. Although we may have to pay for the pleasure, money was not going to be too much of a problem, as KCLSU can be squeezed to offer some compensation for leaving us in the lurch. The one query raised was that as HSBC are in our league, they may not be willing to help us, however this was agreed to be unlikely, especially given Steve's influence.
- iv) Norm knows a man at Southwark Council. Southwark council are looking for a team to make use of the former home of Southwark Tigers - Burgess Park rugby ground. There are changing facilities there and the allocation would be free of charge on the proviso that we play under the name of Guys Hospital at Burgess Park; however there are no hospitality facilities. It was agreed that we could look into the option of making a local pub our base for post match drinks and food. Problems arising are that there is only pitch so multiple home fixtures could not

- be played and it was agreed that other options should be pursued first with Burgess Park kept as a satisfactory back-up.
- v) Dulwich College have a multitude of pitches and it was suggested that this could be an option for matches if we were really stuck. Dr Koffman has an inside interest at Dulwich College so could negotiate pitch allocation. Problems arising were that it is a school, and at that a very strict school with tight restrictions on language. Some varieties of French would not be tolerated. Whilst Dulwich College was thought to be an outside option for Saturday matches, there is a definite possibility that we could pursue it as a training base, given that the current training base at the Griffin may not be available because of floodlight issues.
 - vi) Other options were Old Alleynians – too muddy, Woolwich Barracks – not really an option and some other grounds only discussed with an element of serious intention.

Following the discussions it was agreed that we should pursue HSBC as the first option with a view to ground sharing for the year. We have a fixture against them this weekend at 3pm so we shall try and arrange a meeting with their chaps for Saturday. Burgess Park would be kept as a reserve option. As above Dulwich College could be pursued regarding training, if it turns out that we need a training facility with floodlights.

The situation the club has been placed in is unacceptable and various letters of complaint about the professionalism and attitude of KCLSU are being conceived. However we cannot let this alter our season. If Macadam cup clashes-we will put a team out. If a league fixture comes after the holidays have started-we will put a team out. If league fixtures come before UH – we will put a team out. Ground allocations – DONE!!

4) Recruitment

The posters were warmly received and it was widely believed that they carry a true representation of life at Guys and will attract the kind of people we want at Guys. It is now our responsibility to get these posters up!! Oliver and I will undertake to plaster NHH and Guys Campus with posters on Thursday and Friday; we have to get this done correctly. Remember to get the posters stamped-before you photocopy them and Rauri has the knowledge to photocopy them for free so arrange to meet him to photocopy them.

The Fair's are next Thursday and Friday 10-4 in the car park behind Waterloo Campus. We have to tell KCLSU who we are having on our stall by this Friday so if you are in to help man it, and basically if you

have any time on those days-you're in, then let Johnny know asap! We need people in kit, a mixture of some in Guys rugby tops, some in number 1's.

Trials also have to be organised smoothly and show us for the professional and focused unit that we are. We need to encourage everyone to get down as it will be a good day.

5) UH 7's

The UH sevens tournament is in October and it's on – our aim is to win. Mike is on it.

6) Any Other Business

The quality of the agenda revealed...there was a lot of other business.

- a) ELV's. We need to have a session with a ref to cover them and also get an e-mail out to everyone to make it clear what they are. They represent an opportunity for us to take advantage of extra space, but also a potential banana skin which we must do all we can to avoid.
- b) Xmas Dinner. This to take place at the Borough High Street branch of Belushi's on Dec 20th, which as tradition dictates is the date of our last fixture.
- c) Summer Ball. Has been arranged to take place at the Chancery Court Hotel on April 25th. Tickets are £95. We need to get people interested and buying tickets asap. It promises to be a wonderful occasion.
- d) Kit. We have a sponsor for shorts and socks. Rauri has been the go ahead to order a set of shorts and socks to go with the first team kit. This will go alongside the current available shorts and socks from the supporters club stock.

- e) Guys Memorabilia at HOP. A working party will effect the removal of the memorabilia and the training equipment from HOP for storage elsewhere this weekend.
- f) Rugby road show. The RFU is organising a road show to promote a new national competition at local club level. Whilst we will not attend the road show as the nearest one is in Dorking, a letter will be sent confirming our support for such a competition.
- g) RFU Grand Draw. A yearly draw undertaken by the RFU enables clubs to sell tickets and to keep some of the profits. Orders have been put in for 200 tickets that we can sell, for £1 each. Prizes are lucrative – the draw is in November so the official prize list will be confirmed then.
- h) UH games. We have three confirmed UH fixtures for this coming year already. Opponents are RAF U23's, Oxford U21's and Cambridge U21's.
- i) The committee has been asked to send an e-mail to Geoff (geoff.koffman@gstt.nhs.uk) saying their name, who they play for and what they do. This will help Geoff familiarise himself with the roles of the committee in the club set-up.
- j) Finally, the website. Those concerned have been told to get their various bits done asap for the website. This includes; presidents welcome – a written welcome and a photo, captain's welcomes – same as presidents welcome, and the player profiles. The player profiles can be arranged in order of alumni and present players. However we must undertake to sort through the players. I'm on it. All completed contributions should be e-mailed to joel@webmastergeneral.org any pictures of recent events or matches also to be sent to this address.

7) Date of next meeting.

The next meeting will take place on Monday October 6th at 6.30pm in the Renal Admin Dept, Borough Wing, Guys Hospital. Note that this is a Monday due to training now being on Tuesdays. Following meetings will be on the first Monday of each month, same time, same place.

This concludes the minutes. Thank you gentleman spoofers, thank you, and goodnight.