



Guy's King's College & St Thomas' Hospitals

Rugby Football Club - Est. 1843

Committee Meeting Renal Admin Dept, Guy's Hospital Monday 1st June 2009, 6.00pm

Presiding:

Mr G Koffman

Present:

Mr. Duncan Steele
Miss. Steph (GKT Women's Fixture Sec.)
Mr. Toby Welch
Mr. Fergus Devonport
Mr. Sean Rayappu
Mr. Rauri Hadlington
Mr. Alex Smith
Mr. Charlie West
Mr. Alex Underwood
Mr. Harry Gasper (albeit briefly)

1. Apologies

Dr. Terry Gibson
Mr. Freddie Hartley
Miss. Sinead (Capt. GKT Women's Rugby)
Mr. John Kendall
Mr. Marcus Pemberton
Murse. Jonny Elias

2. Minutes dated Monday 20th April 2009

The minutes were signed off by a grateful Mr. Geoff Koffman who remarked on the sterling work of Mr. Harry Gasper over the past season, particularly with regard to the organisation and execution of the AGM. Hear, hear.

3. Matters Arising

Bromley and Beccehamians

Mr. Koffman offered to write to both clubs to thank them for allowing us to share their grounds last season. He will also be presenting a GHRFC plaque to both clubs in the near future. Mr. Fergus Devonport selflessly put himself forward to source these plaques.

1st XV Promotion

Has been confirmed. Sheppy here we come. Let rejoicing be unrestrained.

4. Treasurer's report

On time, alert and in the right place, the outgoing Treasurer provided the committee with a verbal report on the club's finances. Most of KCL's grant money has been spent on kit, training tops and hoodies. There will be 20 new 1st XV shirts available at the beginning of the new season and (much to Mssrs. Hadlington and Devonport's obvious delight) plenty of opportunities to pose in "stash" over the summer.

Gabriel Kit Sponsorship

Mssrs. Koffman and Hadlington reported that Gabriel were delighted with last seasons sponsorship deal and would like to repeat the exercise. Mr. Koffman thanked Mr. Hadlington of behalf of the club for solid work with regards to kit and sponsorship. It was agreed that someone on the new committee should officially shoulder the kit/sponsorship brief. Step forward Mr. Fergus Devonport: Treasurer, Kit Secretary, Sponsorship Secretary, Hero. Mr. Duncan Steele, weary of Mr. Devonport's political maneuvering, offered to be Deputy Kit and Sponsorship Secretary, just to keep an eye on things. This was met with universal approval. Mr Hadlington will introduce Gabriel to Mr. Devonport to maintain the Clubs relationship with our generous sponsor. Long may it continue.

KCLSU Grant

Mr. West commented that there is an as yet unknown amount of money left in the clubs coffers that needs to be spent before KCLSU ask for it back. The suggestions for its use were as follows:

- Suitable match and training balls
- Subsidised pre season meet up/training/mini tour
- Gym memberships

How many of these proposals are affordable is not yet clear. However, it was felt by all present that some sort of pre-season activity should be a priority to avoid any HSBC-esque slip-ups (insert your own recession gag here) at the beginning of next season.

Subs/Freshers' Fair

It was agreed by all that we should again attempt to solicit prompt payment from all club members. It was also noted that many other societies will ask freshers for a sign up fee at freshers' fairs and that the club should explore this option. It was thought that some GHRFC freshers' training tops/t-shirts could be ordered in time for the freshers' fair and that freshers could pay subs, be informed of the trails and receive their first piece of GHRFC stash for a reasonable sum when they still have money in their pockets and are looking to spend it. More on Fresher recruitment (and, more importantly, retention) later.

5. Scanlan Cup/Ball date 2010

As per Dr. Gibson's suggestion, the Scanlan Cup will be played on Saturday 24th April with the Ball (in whatever form it takes) the same evening. The AGM will take place on Friday 23rd April. Venue and time TBC. It was asked that next season all new players at the club are informed of the importance of the Scanlan Cup in the Guy's calendar.

6. Club Playing ambitions 2010

No beating around the bush here:

- Retain 1st XV and 2nd XV UH Cup. Regain 3rd XV UH Cup.
- Push for promotion with both 1st XV and 2nd XV in the Kent Leagues.
- Push for promotion in both Student 1st XV and Student 2nd XV.

3rd XV 2009/2010

It was felt that with a strong fresher intake (with as few drop outs as possible over the course of the season) the 2nd XV could be shored up and a 3rd XV could well exist next year in a friendly or casual league capacity. Mr Sean Rayappu (3rd XV Skipper) was asked to monitor the fresher situation closely as well as liaising with the Fixture Sec to identify weekends that either the 1st XV or 2nd XV are not playing in order to organise some matches or possibly enter back into the league system. However, it was also noted that a fully supported 2nd XV side should push for promotion and that a strong 2nd XV playing a higher standard of rugby can only help the 1st XV and allow a freer flow of players between the 1st and 2nd XV (in both directions) and more competition for places. The 3rd XV will not be allowed to perish and should provide an enjoyable rugby home for one and all. More importantly, the Secretary needs to get a start (or at least a spot on the bench) from somewhere.

7. Pre – Season Training

It was agreed by all that an early start to training this year is a must. Mr. Steele and Fixture Secretary Mr. Alex Underwood will be in communication regarding the first fixture of the year and Mr. Steele will be in close contact (verging on the nuzzling) with Mr. Steve “lads, boys, lads; boys, lads, boys” Beckett.

Pre Season Tour

As mentioned above, a “2-day-1-night-week-end-pre-season-tour” was seen by all to be an

excellent idea, fixtures and absence permitting. Mr. Steele mooted a tour to Bath and a game against the Bath University 1st XV (Mr. Steele: "They were pretty crap when I saw them play Loughborough". Hmmm...) Mr. Steele promised to discuss this with Mr. Beckett at the nearest convenience. The possibility of a Sandhurst Tour was raised and greeted with much enthusiasm, but with the caveat that UH intend to tour there next season as well. Mr. Koffman was eager to point out that wherever the tour takes place, it should not "just be a piss up". This should not be a problem as Mr. (soon to be, God help us, Dr.) Goddard will be safely marooned in a Jersey hospital by then.

8. Website

Mr. Gasper has requested that guysrugby.com be updated with relevant committee members details and captains' and president's welcome notes. It was brought to the committee's attention that these details must also be submitted to the RFU website.

It was agreed by all present that communication within the club needs considerable improvement. As such, respective captains will formulate a contact list of personal and university/work email addresses of all active players which can be used for weekly updates. The club's facebook presence must also be justified with frequent announcements of teams as well as match reports, etc. All club members should be encouraged to register on the message board, too, as it can be a valuable tool.

9. UHRFC Representation

Mr. Alex "far to keen on his own nick-name" Underwood was asked to liaise as soon as possible with the UHRFC committee to ensure that UH games do not clash with GHRFC 1st XV commitments. It was agreed that UH representation is key to a thriving medical school rugby community and should be encouraged. It's not a bad way to keep an eye on the competition in the UH Cup, either.

It was also noted that Dr. Terry Gibson had given one years notice on his presidency of UHRFC and that potential Guy's candidates should be lined up to challenge for this prestigious position.

10. Fresher Recruitment 2010

As well as the previously noted scheme to gather "subs for stash" at freshers' fairs, a number of other ideas were tabled, notably:

- Presence at 1st year lectures
- Using our contacts at MedSoc for publicity
- Utilising the Griffin as a venue for freshers' trails
- Attempting not to scare away too many new recruits.

Freshers' trials will always be messy, but it was universally agreed that a more pleasant evening should be hosted for the freshers in order to give them some reason to turn out for the club on rainy Saturdays where otherwise a lie in and a pleasant session of self abuse would seem more palatable.

11. AOB

Fixture Cards

Mr. Underwood to discuss protocol for fixture cards with Mr. Oliver Howlett as soon as possible and a confirmed fixture list to be posted online, in print and circulated amongst the Associated Press.

KCLRFC

There will be no merger with the King's College side as of yet, reported Mr. Koffman. A “high level old farts meeting” (his words, Your Honour) thought that discussion of a merger would not go any further at present, as there was no enthusiasm on either side of the divide. It should be noted that in order to maintain this state of affairs we must continue to challenge for silverware and promotion on all fronts and, should K***'s ever turn up to a Macadam Cup, put a humiliatingly large amount of points on the bastards.

Training

Mr. Steele proposed that an occasional kicking coach could benefit the club hugely and he will investigate this avenue over the summer. Your Secretary offered his services but, for some reason, was ignored. It was also agreed that a more appropriate training ground must be found forthwith, which leads us on nicely to...

Honor Oak Park

Mr. West was heard to mutter that he would be willing to take a trip to Fortress HOP to inspect progress and assess what additional facilities will need to be brought in to host our University and Kent rivals and to train on Mondays. Mr. Koffman also pointed out that a deal may be struck with a local public house to provide food and shelter after games. It was agreed that no action can be taken until we receive a fully illustrated report from Mr. West.

Away Games Travel

It was felt that the club should continue to book coaches on a case by case basis. If it is a quicker journey by train, public transport should be used. It was agreed that Captains should endeavor not to agree a meeting time and place for away games, but to specify which train the team are expected to catch. Your Secretary will peruse all group travel deals available with the delightful South Eastern Train Company and report back with some options for advance ticket purchase to keep travel costs down and avoid the queues at that bloody ticket office.

12. Next Meeting

Monday 31st August 2009 (Guy's Hospital Renal Dept. 6pm), depending on Mr. Devonport's social calender.

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