



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

Committee Meeting
Renal Admin Dept, Guy's Hospital
Tuesday 5th November 2009, 6.00pm
MINUTES

Presiding:

Mr Geoff Koffman

Present:

Mr. Charles West
Mr. Fergus Devenport
Mr. Charles West
Mr. Alex Smith
Mr. Alex Underwood
Mr. Kanish Amin
Mr. Toby Welch
Mr. Sean Rayappu
Mr. Edward Hardman

1.) Apologies

Mr Duncan Steele

2.) Minutes dated 01/10/09

Minutes were approved. A heartfelt thanks to Mr. West from yours truly for subbing in.

3.) Matters Arising

1st XV Kit

Kit will be delivered before the next committee meeting (hopefully along with these minutes...) and is, according to Mr. Devenport, top of the range – i.e. tight. Very tight. 2nd XV kit will be shored up by whatever remains of last year's 1st XV kit.

Bromley and Beccehamians

GHRFC shields have now been passed on to both clubs as a thank you for fostering us last season.

4.) October Results

Another tough month for the club with Saturday numbers a real concern (more of which later). Results and match reports available on the website, as always.

5.) Clubhouse

There is unlikely to be a clubhouse in the foreseeable future for the simple reason that KCLSU have not got any money to build one. This is obviously far from ideal and not quite in keeping with the expectations that club had for the redevelopment of our ground. However, as Mr. Koffman rightly pointed out, there is no reason we should not take the initiative and attempt to raise money to start the process and that if such steps are taken, we would have more of a say in the eventual property. So, ideas on a postcard at next committee meeting.

6.) KCLSU

KCLSU are seeking to charge GHRFC for the use of pitches at the weekend next season. It was noted that this isn't necessarily the end of the world, but that this may be a form of backlash caused by our unwillingness to merge with KCL's rugby team over the summer. Mr. Koffman is meeting with K**g's shortly and will be armed with the suggestions we made as a club over the summer to grow rugby at KCL by maintaining separate medical and non-medical sides. It was also suggested that we should remind the College that K**g's players are more than welcome to join our Saturday sides and that this could only help up standards (and numbers) across the board.

7.) Training

Training numbers for 2nd XV and Freshers have been rather good compared to recent years but there is apparently a lack of 1st XV players attending. Our President made the point that without consistent training, results will not improve and the age old conundrum of applying the “If you don't train, you don't play” rule was discussed. Captains were instructed to continue encouraging attendance and for training numbers to be monitored carefully over this month alongside results to assess whether applying this would be self-destructive or necessary, especially seeing as it is impossible for a number of 1st XV players to train.

Mr. Steve “lads, boys, lads” Beckett has announced that he will be retiring at the end of this season. Sad news. It was mentioned that all efforts should be made to provide him with the numbers he needs at the weekends to avoid him having to pull on his boots for 80 minutes as this is unacceptable. The club must also begin the hunt for a new coach (see agenda for next committee meeting).

8.) Fixtures/Players

The Saturday 2nd XV have had two cancelled fixtures in October. One was due to an early kick-off time another club could not meet and one due to lack of numbers on our part. Both clubs have requested a re-arranged fixture with our esteemed Fixture Sec, who will also inform the league. The Fixture Sec. will also seek confirmation in writing from the league that the club can continue to arrange early kick-offs to accommodate both 1st and 2nd XV at HOP on Saturdays. If not, requests can be made to HOP management to provide two pitches when both sides are at home.

Player numbers, as always, were discussed and to avoid repeating every set of minutes for the last 7 seasons, the following was agreed:

People can ignore emails/text messages/message board. It is a lot harder to ignore a phonecall. Thus players should be rung at the beginning of the week by Captains for Saturday games. Captains should also be communicating with each other and should not be afraid to ask for help with the ring round.

The player database, such as it is, was circulated and at this point your Hon. Sec. must apologise for being slightly worse than hopeless in updating this due to unforeseen work commitments. The responsibility for updating the player database to be handed to someone other than Charlie West, who is at the moment a one man GKT machine (See “dancing boys” at the Christmas Show for proof, apparently).

10.) AOB

Freshers

Fresher numbers have been strong at training but still many missing after Freshers' Trials. Mr. Hardman and Mr. Rayappu agreed to pressure AWOL freshers into making more appearances for the club and will report back on progress. The possibility of organising an inter year 7's tournament was raised if a suitable weekend/Wednesday can be found after fixture rearrangements.

Ball

The summer ball is fast approaching and a discussion about venue is tabled for the next meeting where Mr. Smith will also present a few ideas of his own.

RFU

Your Secretary is pleased to report that his subs cheque to the RFU has indeed cleared. We are not outlaws quite yet...

11.) Next Meeting

Due to the Christmas Show, the next meeting will be held in the Renal Dept. at Guy's on Tuesday 8th December at 6.30pm.