

WANSTEAD & SNARESBROOK CRICKET CLUB

Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held on Monday 15th September 2008 @ 8:00pm.

Present: J. Gray (Chair), Mrs H. Mills, E. Pluck, C. Hurd, T. Hebden, L. Enoch, K. Lloyd, S. Andrews, S. Batra, J. Palmer, P. Staniford, N. Baldwin, N. Hutchings

1.0 Apologies for absence

1.1 Apologies for absence had been received from Arfan Akram and M. Pluck

2.0 Minutes of the previous Management Meeting (23rd June 2008)

2.1 The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

3.0 Secretary's Report

3.1 Lease for Nutter Lane

The new lease was due to come into effect at the end of June 2008. At this stage neither Wanstead CC nor the Bowls Club had seen the final copy of the lease. Chris Hurd would follow up on this.

3.2 ECB Grant

Trevor Hebden, Len Enoch and Martin Pluck had met to discuss this. Items considered in this meeting were:

- Relaying the nets – Graham Jelley confirmed that we would be eligible for a grant to carry to this. Trevor Hebden had contacted Notts Sports to request a quotation for the work
- Grant money (80% of the full cost) was also available for redevelopment of the main square. At this stage the club was unsure as to the benefit of renovating the square to make the track faster. This would entail considerable effort and cost. The club groundsman would be in the best position to advise on the approach to take here. A meeting would be arranged between Martin Pluck, Nigel Baldwin, Arfan Akram, a Junior Section representative and the groundsman to discuss the best way to proceed on this.

3.3 Friends of Wanstead Cricket Club

After a promising start (£800 raised so far) the subsequent response had been disappointing. It was agreed that this fund raising initiative would be highlighted once more at the Junior Dinner at the beginning of November.

3.4 Grant applications

- **Chigwell Trust** – the club had received £5,000 from this source.
- **Awards for All** – unfortunately our application had been turned down. The main reason for rejecting the club's application was that we operate a form of closed membership – all new members need to be proposed and seconded. In addition, the person who provided the reference for the application was not considered to be sufficiently independent. It was not

known at this stage whether we could reapply or appeal this decision. There is an obvious concern that the issue of closed membership may adversely impact other grant applications.

- **The Foundation for Support and Arts** – this application for expenditure on Nutter Lane was still under consideration.
- **Sportsmatch** – the club had applied for a £15,000 grant towards a £30,000 project. We had been asked to provide further information to support the application.
- **Essex CC Youth Trust** – a maximum of £1,000 was available here. We still needed to define a suitable project for this grant.
- **Jack Petchey Foundation** – the cricket club had received its annual grant. The football section had received £600 towards the cost of track suits. The fund for projects (football or cricket sections) was now closed for the year.
- **East London Community Foundation** – Graham Jelley had proposed this charity as a potential source of funding. Chris Hurd would follow up on this.

A recurring theme across all of these grants was that money is available for capital projects rather than to cover club running costs.

4.0 Development Plan

- 4.1 Len Enoch reported on the three main issues identified in the five year development report published last year.

Conduct and discipline, a matter that John Gray had addressed personally to all members, had improved considerably. There was no room for complacency, but it was comforting to know that no complaints had been reported to the Shepherd Neame League. Also, a number of clubs had supported the entry of our sixth team in the same division as our fifth side, suggesting that we had a good reputation with other clubs.

Progress on two other issues, people and finance, was less satisfactory. These were related, to some extent, for two reasons. First, the club needed to find cover for Tony Pluck and this would not be easy. Nigel Hutchings was taking over the fiduciary roles but Tony's role had covered a good deal more than this. It would also be necessary to find additional help as well as replace Nigel as Junior Fixture Secretary, itself a time consuming role. Secondly, the business model that had served the club so well over a number of years did not seem to be working and changes were necessary to address a deteriorating financial position. Len thought that a more commercial approach should be considered in a number of areas and this would necessitate additional help and new ideas. The problem was how to attract and position new volunteers within the management structure.

5.0 Treasurer's Report

5.1 Statement of Accounts

Chris Hurd provided a summary of the accounts for the period 01/10/2007 to 30/10/2008. This painted a bleak picture with income being down £10,000 on the previous year – loss of the Sportsmatch grant was the primary reason for this – whilst expenditure had increased by £15,000. A deficit of £15,000 was forecast for the year. When the overall financial position was reviewed at the end of the year priority would need to be given to cost saving. Chris would like to review the Family Membership structure as this had a significant bearing on the level of subscriptions each year. Len Enoch suggested a separate meeting to discuss this issue prior to putting a recommendation to the Management Committee. There was a further proposal to form of a Sub-Committee, chaired by Martin Pluck, to consider ways of increasing income by making more imaginative and effective use of the club facilities as well as volunteer activities and fund raising schemes that the large membership of the club could contribute towards.

5.2 Banking arrangements

There was nothing further to report on this.

6.0 Bars

- 6.1 Takings had been variable throughout the season and were very much at the mercy of the weather. August had been slightly down despite the two cricket weeks, both of which had been generally well attended
- 6.2 A skeleton service continues to be provided for matches at Nutter Lane at the weekend as takings do not justify keeping the bar open for the whole of the games..
- 6.3 There are a lot of functions coming up now that the season is drawing to a close – all Saturday's bar one are booked up until Christmas. There is a New Year's Eve Family Disco scheduled once again this year.

7.0 Grounds

7.1 Grounds report

Both grounds have improved greatly this year with both pitches playing well in spite of the weather. The main concern at this point relates to the level of service being provided by Jordans. It was agreed that a formal Service Level Agreement (SLA) should be put together so that the club could measure what the groundsman was delivering. Nigel Baldwin would go through the contract with Tony Pluck to clarify the original terms and conditions. Following this Nigel would meet with Martin Pluck and Chris Hurd to propose an SLA that could be presented to Jordans.

Len Enoch expressed appreciation, on behalf of the Management Committee, for all Nigel Baldwin's hard work and dedication.

7.2 Expenditure

There were no major items of expenditure to report. However, it was agreed that the club needed a breakdown of Jordans' expenditure so that it could understand the exact nature of the costs incurred.

8.0 Social

- 8.1 Both cricket weeks were very successful. £400 profit had been made on the three barbecues that had taken place during the season. Formal documentation of costs and income was necessary to confirm the exact figures.
- 8.2 Joe Palmer Junior and Steve Ramdial had done an exceptional job with respect to their contribution to social events during the last 18 months
- 8.3 Joe Palmer has recruited more members onto the Social Committee to help invigorate social activities
- 8.4 Len Enoch praised the young coaches' contribution to the running of the matches and their enthusiastic involvement in social events during the Junior Cricket week.
- 8.2 An Under 25s vs Over 25s football match had been arranged at Nutter Lane for 16th November.

9.0 Cricket

9.1 End of Season report

In the absence of the Cricket Secretary, Trevor Hebden summarised what had been a very successful season:

- 1st XI – champions by 42 points having lost only one game. This was an outstanding achievement, especially in the light of the relatively young age of the side.
- 2nd XI – 5th, having been in the running to win the league until the penultimate game
- 3rd XI – finished 3rd after another good season.
- 4th XI – runners up in a nail biting finish to the season. They have been promoted to the 3rd XI Division One.
- 5th XI – champions, runaway winners of the 4th XI Central Division. Due to confusion caused by the 4th XI league structure the League Management Committee would make a decision on promotion before the start of next season
- 6th XI – a promising start to their first season in the league (4th XI Central Division)

9.2 Junior Section

Overall this was an excellent year for the junior section in terms of competition cricket:

- Matchplay – reached the ¼ finals
- U15s – Peters Cup winners and reached Regional Finals of the National U15 Competition (last 16 in the country)
- U13s – David Bradford winners and reached Regional Finals of the National U13s Competition (last 32 in the country)
Len Stentiford winners
Nasser Hussain Trophy winners

Congratulations were forthcoming to Rehan Hassan who was selected to attend the Trevor Jenner Cricket School for spin bowlers. He was the youngest person in the country to achieve this honour.

9.3 Ladies

After a slow start the Ladies team eventually finished 4th in their league, which was an excellent performance. The U13 Girls won the Essex Lady Taverners competition and were successful in the Regional Finals. The National Finals were rained off twice and have been rearranged for the start of the 2009 season. This was an outstanding achievement considering the fact that the many of the teams they played against were effectively county representative sides.

10.0 Football

- 10.1 The football section was accepted into the Jack Petchey Bronze Scheme and has already received funding towards track suits. Membership of this scheme will continue to be publicised throughout the season.
- 10.2 The U18 team was now playing in the competitive Eastern Junior Alliance League and had managed to win their first game.
- 10.3 A vets' side was now playing on alternative Saturdays. This is a good source of additional revenue for the club.
- 10.4 An U10 Girls squad, comprising 24 players, had been formed. They would be playing in local league and friendly games. Fords are sponsoring the kit to the tune of £200.
- 10.5 The pitch was in good condition at the moment although concern remained about the drainage as the weather deteriorated.

11.0 Any Other Business

- 11.1 There was a definite need to refurbish the hall. Trevor Hebden proposed that he undertook this work (in conjunction with Fayyaz Khan) during the half term. He would provide a quotation for the work.
- 11.2 Charity cricket match – there had been an enquiry through the web site regarding use of Overton Drive. Chris Hurd would follow up on this.
- 11.3 Chris Hurd has written to the Olympic Committee offering use of our ground during the 2012 Olympics
- 11.4 In the run up to the 2009 Ashes, Sky TV will be following and promoting an amateur cricket club over a period of weeks. Wanstead are in contention to be selected for this. Apart from the obvious kudos and publicity that would ensure this would also provide potential sponsorship opportunities, such as boundary advertising. The club would need to be in position to take advantage of this.

12.0 Date of next meeting

- 12.1 To be arranged.