

WANSTEAD & SNARES BROOK CRICKET CLUB

Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held on Monday 24th August 2009 @ 8:00pm.

Present: M. Pluck (Chair), C. Hurd, T. Hebden, L. Enoch, K. Lloyd, P. Staniford, J. Palmer, N. Baldwin, N. Hutchings, S. Batra

1.0 Apologies for absence

1.1 Apologies for absence had been received from Ms K. Byrne, S. Andrews and Arfan Akram.

2.0 Minutes of the previous meeting

2.1 The minutes of the previous Management Committee Meeting (27th April 2009) were agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

3.0 Actions from the previous meeting

3.1 Nets

Trevor Hebden had followed up with Tim Nicholls of the ECB regarding the grant application. The ECB now had everything they requested to process the application. This included:

- A letter from the landlords confirming that they had no objection to the club erecting the nets
- Confirmation that the original nets had not required planning permission. If a formal letter is required from Redbridge Council this would take a minimum of 6 months because of staff shortages. This would also require the input of an architect to provide the technical expertise necessary to complete the planning form
- A letter from Wanstead Sports Grounds Ltd confirming that the club's ground lease would be extended for a further 21 years when the current one expires in 2011. Chris Hurd had sent this to Graham Jelley to support the application

Whilst Tim Nicholls (the ECB Case Officer) had been very accommodating the whole application process was very long winded and bureaucratic – there were over 4 pages of guidance notes to assist in the application process. Trevor Hebden has initiated the application form on the ECB website.

It was noted that because of the inevitable delays it would be necessary to extend the deadline date for taking up the Lord's Taverners' grant. Trevor Hebden had already drafted a letter to this effect.

The following further actions were agreed:

Action *Trevor Hebden to send a letter to the Lord's Taverners explaining that there have been delays in obtaining the ECB grant for the nets and requesting an extension to the deadline date for using the money granted to the club.*

Action Trevor Hebden to provide Martin Pluck with a copy of Redbridge Council form that the club would need to complete to request formal exemption from planning permission for the nets.

Action Martin Pluck to contact Graham Russell to request his help in completing those parts of the Redbridge Council planning form that require specialist architectural knowledge.

3.2 Sportsmatch Grant

Chris Hurd had contacted John Gray to ask him to provide a letter to corroborate Grayson's sponsorship of £4,538 to Wanstead and Snaresbrook Cricket Club. This figure will then be matched through the Sportsmatch initiative. Chris had also provided John Gray with a template letter to send to Sportsmatch/Sport England.

3.3 Gannett Foundation Grant

Chris Hurd had submitted an application to the Gannett Foundation for a £5,000 grant. The grant application window was now closed but would reopen in September 2009.

Action Chris Hurd to reapply for grant when the application window reopens in September.

3.4 Playgroup rental

Trevor Hebden had provided contact details and had confirmed that the playgroup were aware of our plans to increase the rental. Chris Hurd confirmed that the increase in previous years had been 5% per annum. The same increase had been agreed with the playgroup representatives.

3.5 Letter to Jordans

A formal letter had not yet been sent to Jordan's. It was agreed that rather than put together a formal written proposal Martin Pluck and Nigel Baldwin would meet with Jordans to discuss arrangements for ground maintenance going forward.

Action Martin Pluck and Nigel Baldwin to meet with Ian Jordan on 27th August 2009 to discuss end of season ground maintenance work and requirements for next season

3.6 Thames Water

Chris Hurd had contacted Thames Water and had stopped the Direct Debit that they had asked the club to set up to pay for the excessive water bill at Nutter Lane. Thames Water had offered a refund on the bills for both Overton Drive and Nutter Lane. One refund had been received already and the other was due imminently. It was agreed with Thames Water that going forward the club would pay a small monthly charge for Nutter Lane based on head count working there.

3.7 Sky TV

The proposal to have a permanent fixed TV in place was proving impractical – a mobile unit would be necessary. Lynn Rising had purchased a trolley that could be moved between the bar area and the hall as necessary. Simon Andrews noted in his report (see section 6.1) that setting up the television in

the bar area on Sundays was not always appreciated by Social Members who used the bar.

Martin Pluck was finding it difficult to obtain a formal contract from Sky despite several calls. It was confirmed that, based upon the ECB deal agreed with Sky, the basic package (including Sky Sports 1,2 and 3) would be £108 per month.

Action **Martin Pluck** to continue his efforts to obtain a contact from Sky for television subscription.

3.7 Vets Football Side

Nigel Baldwin had not yet contacted Ted Davenport as was having difficulty obtaining a set of goals at a reasonable price. The going rate is £2,500 which is too expensive. Nigel is currently looking to see if he can get a more realistically priced set of goals through his brother.

Action **Nigel Baldwin** to continue his efforts to obtain a 'reasonably priced' set of goals for use at Overton Drive during the winter.

3.8 Discount card system

Simon Andrews and Martin Pluck had followed upon on this and discovered that the minimum cost to set up such a system was £10,000. This was not flexible enough or economically viable for the club. It was agreed that this proposal should be shelved.

3.9 Lights on terrace in front of club house

These had been fitted. The Committee would like to thank Mani Velani for carrying out this work.

3.10 Clubmark accreditation on website

This had been done

3.11 Social members' registration reminder with Tony Pluck presentation evening invitation

Martin Pluck had only received 5 responses from the 100 invitations sent out. The obvious conclusion from this response is that the social members of the club do not like completing forms for their registration.

4.0 Secretary's Report

4.1 Grant Applications

Details of these were covered in the Treasurer's Report (see below.)

4.2 Welfare Officer

Kate Byrne was now formally installed as the club's Welfare Officer. She had still to attend the formal ECB courses necessary to enable her role within the club to be formally recognised by the County.

Len Enoch referred to a complaint by the mother of a junior member whose son had participated in a club fantasy league web site that contained abusive language. He said that all the members involved had sent written apologies

and that the club's Welfare Officer had been consulted. It was agreed that initiatives like this should not be discouraged but that everyone with access to members' addresses should use utmost care when organising group mailings.

The Committee formally approved this resolution

5.0 Development Plan

5.1 Len Enoch drew attention to the fact that the successful development of the 6th XI and Ladies section had continued according to the strategy defined in the club's Development Plan.

5.0 Treasurer's Report

5.1 Grants

- **Nets** – see above under section 3.1
- **Sportsmatch** – the grant for £4,538 had now been received
- **Grange Farm Trust** – it appeared that nothing had yet been received during the current financial year
- **Gannett Foundation** – see above under section 3.3.
- **Foundation for Sports and Arts** – whilst this had been received earlier in the year there was still some money left to spend.

Chris Hurd suggested that the club purchased cricket balls out of current grants before the end of the season

Action Len Enoch and Chris Hurd to confirm whether the grant money for 2009 has been received from the Grange Farm Centre Trust

Action Len Enoch and Chris Hurd to get together over the 2 weeks following this meeting to discuss spending plans for the recently received grants (Sportsmatch and remaining Foundation for Sport and Arts money)

5.2 Statement of accounts

The club had taken a series of steps earlier in the year to rectify problems that had resulted in a £10,000 loss during the previous financial year. Several factors had been instrumental in generating a reasonable surplus as we came towards the end of the current financial year:

- **Increased bar income** – this had gone up by between £5,000 and £6,000. Whilst this was probably attributable to price increases, the bar take at Nutter Lane had almost doubled. However, expenses had increased at Nutter Lane as cover behind the bar had been extended.
- **Match fees** – these had increased from the previous year to cover the cost of running six Saturday sides. It was noted that this additional playing cost had been generally accepted by club members
- **Grants** – the re-instatement of the Sportsmatch grant had helped here
- **Junior expenses** – these had been reduced
- **Ground and pavilion costs** – these were in the region of £11,000 less than last year

- **Balloon race** – this has raised £1,000. The Committee, on behalf of all club members, expressed their gratitude for all the work that Veronica Over had done in running this innovative fund raising initiative
- **Social income** – this had gone up by around £2,000
- **Dads vs Lads match** – this had raised £200
- **John Smith Coaching Academy** – this has been very successful and had raised £1,000 all of which was donated to the club
- **Redbridge coaching courses** – Trevor Hebden had run several of these at the club. £400 would be donated to the club for hosting these sessions

Chris Hurd reminded the Committee that VAT would go back up in December 2009. The Committee would need to decide whether to keep bar prices the same following this increase.

6.0 Bars

6.1 Simon Andrews was unable to attend the meeting but provided a written report for the Committee. The key points of this were:

Bar Figures

April:	£4,035.60
May:	£10,736.65
June:	£13,594.90
July:	£10,087.75

The bar had done well since May although July takings were slightly down on what was expected due to the bad weather

Adult Cricket Week

Unfortunately this was poorly attended by adult members. This was a concern that we should look to address next year. Lynn Rising and Joe Palmer Jnr, along with several other club members, had worked very hard to make this week a success

Junior Cricket Week

The takings were substantially up on previous years thanks to the excellent support of Junior Section members.

Use of Hall during the winter

There are several functions booked over the winter period, including Sundays. Lynn should be contacted if any football matches were planned at the club to avoid any potential conflicts.

Functions organised by adult members

Apart from Joe Palmer Jnr's Frog Racing evening in May the monthly events due to be arranged by adult members failed to materialise. As with the adult cricket week the response was very disappointing.

Winter Bookings

Once again these are very popular – apart from 2 spare days in October all other Saturdays are booked until the New Year.

7.0 Grounds

7.1 Grounds report

Both tracks played reasonably well this year with Nutter Lane being appreciably better than in 2008. Preparing a good wicket on the Saturdays following the two cricket weeks had been a challenge. Outfields at both grounds were generally good apart from one week at Nutter Lane when the grass was not cut properly. It was important to keep a close eye on things all the time and it was no coincidence that problems tended to coincide with Nigel Baldwin being on holiday. It was noted that Arfan Akram requested that 6 tracks be made available for 1st XI games at Overton Drive next season. As Nigel Baldwin had proposed 4 this would have to be discussed at a later stage.

A meeting was scheduled with Ian Jordan to discuss end of season work and next season's requirements.

Action *Nigel Baldwin and Martin Pluck to meet with Ian Jordan on 27th August to discuss end of season ground maintenance work and requirements for next season*

There was a concern that the tractor was still being left out at Overton Drive rather than being moved to the lockup at Nutter Lane.

There were problems with the drains at Overton Drive. There appeared to be some kind of blockage and although the drains had been flushed through the problem had recurred. This could be caused by tree roots. It would be necessary to clear them again and use a camera to help diagnose the problem

Action *Paul Staniford and Martin Pluck to obtain quotation for getting camera analysis of drains to identify cause of blockage*

Action *Nigel Baldwin to check with Golf Club to confirm demarcation of responsibilities between Wanstead Cricket and Golf clubs with respect to resolution of the blockage*

Action *Chris Hurd to speak to Wanstead Sports Ground Limited regarding sharing costs for fixing blocked drain*

The club had been very impressed with the pitches provided at Fairlop for the 5th XI and 6th XI fixtures.

Action *Len Enoch to send letter to London Playing Fields Society to formally congratulate them on the high standard of pitches provided for 5th and 6th XIs during 2009 season*

7.2 Other expenditure/repairs

- Nigel Baldwin proposed that the club purchase another site screen for the top end at Nutter Lane. This would be the same as the one at the bottom end, which was more robust and easier to set up and dismantle.

The Committee approved the purchase of the new site screen. This should be ordered during the current year.

- The score box at Nutter Lane was no longer secure or very stable and would need to be rebuilt. It was noted that the roof was part of the electricity substation and this should be taken into consideration when carrying out any refurbishment. A decision would have to be made as to whether to purchase a prefabricated score box or construct a purpose-built one

The Committee approved the purchase of the new score box subject to a further review of options and costs

- The extractor fan in the gents toilet at Overton Drive looked very unsafe and needed to be fixed
- The work on the ceiling in the bar needed to be finished

Action **Martin Pluck** to obtain brochures for prefabricated score boxes that could be installed at Nutter Lane

Action **Paul Staniford** to check roof on Nutter Lane score box to assess viability of replacing it

Action **Trevor Hebden** to check extractor fan in gents toilet at Overton Drive and contact Mani Velani if necessary to replace/repair

Action **Trevor Hebden** to complete work to ceiling in bar at Overton Drive

8.0 Social

8.1 Adult cricket week

The Committee thanked Joe Palmer Jnr and Nigel Baldwin for all their help during the adult cricket week. As noted above in the bar report, the adult members' support had been particularly disappointing this year. This applied both to the games themselves and the evening functions. This was not necessarily a problem unique to Wanstead – Woodford Wells has reported having similar issues.

There was an overall £76 profit during the week – the expenses were £700. The bar take was lower but not by a significant amount. This was a trend that had continued over the past 3 years. There was a pressing need to revamp and rejuvenate the evening functions. Only the mini Olympics and bingo were well attended this year. It was also suggested that the Dulwich game, which was particularly disappointing, be replaced by a Twenty20 game next year. A working party was required to discuss the format for 2010.

Action **Martin Pluck** to discuss with Joe Palmer Jnr how to involve more adult players in organising social events during the 2010 season

8.1 Adult cricket week

This had been exceptionally successful, especially when compared with the rain affected week last year.

9.0 Cricket

9.1 Adult Cricket

- 1st, 2nd and 3rd XIs – generally this had been a frustrating year for all 3 teams. Whilst the 1st XI started well they had been inconsistent and the results of late had been disappointing. They had however succeeded in reaching the final of the League Cup. In contrast the 2nd XI had recovered well from a very poor start
- 4th XI – this had been a good season so far, especially considering they were playing the 3rd XI First Division league. The team still had an outside chance of winning the league
- 5th and 6th XI – both teams had done exceptionally well this season and were top of their respective leagues
- A 14 year old player, Rehan Hassan, had played regularly for the 1st XI during the last quarter of the season. This was a significant achievement.

9.2 Junior Section

- The Matchplay squad had reached the final and were due to play Loughton
- The U15s reached the regional finals again this year
- The U13 girls reached the regional finals, However, due to the fact that we were given very short notice of the date for these finals, several players were not available and we were unable to field a side. This was a very disappointing and frustrating outcome.
- The U11s were very strong this year. They were doing well in the Nasser Hussain Trophy and had reached the final of the Hayden Davies Cup.
- There had been some disciplinary issues earlier in the season but these were resolved quickly and behaviour since then had been much improved.

9.3 Slow Coaches

- This had been a very successful season and the fixtures were very well supported. Several extra Wednesday games were organised on an *ad hoc* basis because of the popularity of these matches.

9.4 Ladies

- They won their league very easily and the section is growing in size and quality. A decision was now needed as to whether to continue in this league or apply to go into the Southern League. The cricket here would be more competitive but far more travelling would be required. Availability may become an issue. The group would meet to discuss the plan for next year. One option perhaps would be to set up a 7th XI to include ladies but this might be logistically difficult to facilitate (changing facilities etc)

Action *Len Enoch* to report back to the Committee on the Ladies section's decision regarding applying to join the Women's Cricket Southern League (WCSL) in the 2010 season

9.4 Fixture Secretary

- After many years of committed service to the club Terry O'Connor has decided to step down as Fixture Secretary. The Committee expressed their gratitude for the excellent job he had performed. A volunteer would now be sought to take over this role.

10.0 Football

10.1 The senior team won their cup final

10.2 The young adults side had been entered into a competitive U21 league for the coming season. There were concerns regarding availability when many of the players went back to University. Len Enoch suggested advertising for players on the club website.

Action *Sanjay Batra* to place a notice on the web site inviting members to join the club's U21 football team

10.3 The girls section would be running an U10 and U12 side this year.

11.0 Any Other Business

11.1 Trevor Hebden proposed that if there was sufficient demand we should hire a coach to take players and supporters to the Matchplay final. The general consensus of the Committee was that there was unlikely to be sufficient take up to warrant this.

11.2 Some of Snaresbrook CC members did not receive membership renewal invitations this year. We would need to update the membership database to ensure these members were included.

Action *Keith Lloyd* to email list of names/addresses of Snaresbrook CC members to Martin Pluck

11.3 The junior dinner date was yet to be confirmed. It was suggested that we invite the England player Ebony Rainford-Brent to the dinner once the date had been agreed.

Action *Trevor Hebden* to confirm the date for the Junior Dinner

Action *Chris Hurd* to invite Ebony Rainford-Brent to be guest speaker at the Junior Dinner once the date has been confirmed,

12.0 Date of next meeting

12.1 Monday 30th November,