

WANSTEAD & SNARES BROOK CRICKET CLUB

Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held on Monday 27th April 2009 @ 8:00pm.

Present: M. Pluck (Chair), Arfan Akram, C. Hurd, T. Hebden, L. Enoch, K. Lloyd, S. Andrews, J. Palmer, N. Baldwin, N. Hutchings

1.0 Apologies for absence

1.1 Apologies for absence had been received from Ms K. Byrne, P. Staniford, S. Batra and E. Pluck.

2.0 Minutes of Previous Meetings

2.1 The minutes of the previous Management Committee Meeting (3rd February 2009) were agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

2.2 The minutes of the AGM (27th February 2009) were agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

3.0 Secretary's Report

3.1 Grant Applications

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

3.2 Welfare Officer

Kate Byrne had volunteered to become the club's Welfare Officer. Her background and professional expertise in this area make her an ideal candidate as she works as a Welfare Officer with the Redbridge Primary Care Trust.

This appointment was approved – proposed by Len Enoch and seconded by Trevor Hebden.

3.3 Fund Raising Committee

This met as arranged on 12th March. Although the turnout from the parents of the junior members was disappointing several adult players attended. The Committee was grateful for Nalliah Rathakrishnan's assistance in following up on outstanding payments for advert sponsorship in the 2008-9 Fixture and Membership Booklet. Veronica Dyson was looking into promoting the use of advertising boards at the ground. She was investigating the cost of providing wooden boards as the plastic ones were not sufficiently durable. The advertisers would be asked to underwrite the cost of the board and pay an additional £150 a year over 3 years. Cricket House (Waqas Ahmed) had committed to taking a board. The adult players were keen to host various events during the season and Martin Pluck had suggested potential dates to coincide with the higher profile home fixtures. The suggestion of selling coffee and teas during Sunday morning junior games had not been followed up.

3.4 Sky TV

Martin Pluck had spoken to the Sky Business Department who had confirmed that Sky TV could be provided at the special rate of £171 per month plus a £110 installation charge. The minimum contract was for 12 months. The Committee

discussed whether the club would benefit financially from taking out a Sky subscription. There were several high profile sporting events that could be shown during the summer (including the Ashes). If the proposed vets football league went ahead this would make a big difference to the decision whether to take Sky or not as this would ensure a 'captive audience' on several Sundays during the winter. A permanently mounted television would be a prerequisite and it was proposed that we should go for the multiple TV option/configuration for maximum flexibility.

The Committee formally agreed to go ahead with subscribing to Sky once a permanent television had been installed

Action *Nigel Baldwin to contact Ted Davenport regarding the proposal for him to run a vets football side at Overton Drive*

Action *Simon Andrews to Speak to Lyn Rising regarding a contact she has who could set up a TV on a permanent basis at Overton Drive in preparation for getting Sky TV installed*

4.0 Development Plan

4.1 There was nothing to report on this.

5.0 Treasurer's Report

5.1 Grants

- **Nets** – an offer of £4,000 towards the cost of the nets had been received from the Lord's Taverners. They had stipulated that we use Club Turf to carry out the work and that the grant must be spent within 9 months of the offer. They also wanted to know how the remainder of the costs for the nets would be funded.

At this stage the remainder of the funding was proving to be more challenging. The application to the ECB had been approved by the Essex County ECB area director and according to Graham Jelley (Essex County Cricket Board Secretary and Metropolitan Essex Development Officer) the ECB viewed this as a deserving case. There was some still confusion as to the status of the application to the ECB. There was an outstanding issue as to the status of the club's lease on the ground. Wanstead have been in their present location for 120 years and the present rolling 21 year lease was due to expire in 2011. To allay concerns in this area, the club should be able to obtain a letter from the landlords – Wanstead Sports Grounds Ltd – stating that the lease would definitely be extended in 2011. It was confirmed the Essex CCB and the ECB were aware of the Lord's Taverners grant. Should we receive the amount we have applied to from the ECB there would be a shortfall of £2,000. Nevertheless, one of the overriding concerns was the time being taken to get through the early stages of the ECB application, especially in the light of the deadline for using the Lord's Taverners grant.

Action *Trevor Hebden to follow up with ECB (Tim Nicholls) regarding the club's application for a grant towards the cost of replacing the practice nets*

Action Chris Hurd to request a letter from Wanstead Sports Ground Ltd confirming that the club's ground lease will be extended for a further 21 years when the current one expires

Trevor Hebden proposed a motion that Wanstead & Snaresbrook CC resolves that the offer of Grant Aid to the sum of £4,000 made by The Lord's Taverners in a letter dated 15th April be accepted. In accepting the aforementioned offer of Grant Aid, it is further agreed to accept all Conditions as stated on The Lord's Taverners Application Form and Offer Letter. **The motion was unanimously approved by the Management Committee.**

- **Sportsmatch** – a grant of £4,538 had been accepted. They would match a sponsor donation to the same amount. Grayson had kindly agreed to provide the funding for this.

Action Martin Pluck to contact John Gray to request that he 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.

Action Chris Hurd to provide a template letter for John Gray to send to Sportsmatch/Sport England.

- **Gannett Foundation** – this was a corporate foundation sponsored by Gannett Co., Inc. Through its Community Grant programme it supported community non-profit activities.

Action Chris Hurd to submit a grant application for £5,000.

It was stressed that the club must assume that any successful grant applications were a one-off provision and that the funds would not necessarily be available in subsequent years. Grants were typically provided for individual capital projects as opposed to covering ongoing expenditure.

It was also noted that the Essex League (via the ECB) would pay for the cost of a formal report on the condition of a club's cricket square.

5.2 Playgroup Rental

The Playgroup were aware of the club's intention to increase the rent for using the hall and had asked that we provide a reasonable notice period so that the additional cost could be passed on to the parents.

The Committee agreed in principle to an increase of between 10% and 15%

Action Trevor Hebden to provide contact details of Playgroup representatives

Action Chris Hurd to confirm when Playgroup rental was last increased

Action Chris Hurd/Martin Pluck to agree rental increase and inform Playgroup.

5.3 Grounds maintenance

Action Martin Pluck/Nigel Baldwin to put together a formal written proposal to Jordan's regarding the annual all inclusive charge for grounds' maintenance (carried forward from the last meeting)

5.4 Water rates

Chris Hurd had written to Thames Water asking them to contact Nigel Baldwin regarding the exorbitant water bill at Nutter Lane based on the reading from a water meter that was no longer used. He had received an acknowledgment that promised they would follow up on this within 14 days. No further communication had been forthcoming.

Action Contact Thames Water Board to inform them that the club will cancel the monthly payment of £100 if they do not follow up on their commitment to contact the club regarding the query on the excessive water rate demand. This is due to the fact that the meter being measured does not belong to the cricket club.

The Overton Drive water rates were based on the number of permanent employees at the main ground. Since this had been formally reduced to one the club was due a rebate, backdated over 3 years. This would result in a saving of around £1,500.

5.5 Accounts

The club had made a profit of £2,500 in the first 6 months of the financial year as opposed to a loss of £3,000 for the same period the previous year. This did not include the guaranteed Sportsmatch grant. The profitability was predominantly due to cost savings rather than increased income. The increase in bar prices had helped although there was some concern as to the level of prices, especially for non-alcoholic drinks. To offset the price increase Chris Hurd recommended that the club absorb the Budget increases rather than pass these on to club members. The possibility of introducing a discount card system was also discussed. This would be open to all club members.

£21,453 had been received in junior subscriptions but this was £2,000 less than last year. There were some payments still outstanding. These registrations included 329 juniors, 26 occasional players and 6 full playing members. £415.80 had been received in donations via the junior subscriptions. It was noted that fewer juniors had applied to join the club this year – none had been turned away at this stage.

Action Follow up on the feasibility and mechanics of introducing a discount card system for bar purchases. Simon Andrews to contract Wanstead Golf Club and Martin Pluck to speak to Woodford Wells Cricket Club

5.6 Clothing

Fayyaz had provided a list of all clothing items that he was selling to club members. Vivienne Hebden was currently managing the financial aspect of the clothing sales.

6.0 Bars

6.1 For the first 2 weeks of the season the bar at Nutter Lane would be opened for both junior training sessions to see if this resulted in extra bar takings. If there was no material increase in takings we would revert to opening for just one session. John Rising had requested additional lighting for the front terrace of the club.

Action *Simon Andrews to contact Mani Velani to ascertain whether he could fit additional lights on the terrace at the front of the clubhouse*

7.0 Grounds

7.1 Grounds report

Nigel Baldwin was concerned about the condition of the Overton Drive ground during February but things had improved greatly since then. New covers had been obtained and some tidying up of the ground had been carried out. The decision was taken not to use a skip at the cost of £200. Nigel Baldwin removed fallen leaves on the ground by hand – this cost £20.

Nutter Lane was still not up to scratch – there were 2 weeks to resolve this before the start of the season here. There were a lot of weeds on the square although things had also improved here as well in the previous 2 weeks. There were some concerns that the club's tractor had been left out rather than been locked up in the shed. The new site screen had arrived and Nigel Baldwin had shown the team captains how to erect this and put it away.

8.0 Social

8.1 There was nothing to report at this stage

8.2 Arfan Akram proposed the hosting of an 8 aside cricket festival on the August Bank Holiday

The Committee approved this proposal

9.0 Cricket

9.1 The club has had its Clubmark accreditation renewed

Action *Nigel Hutchings to contact Sanjay Batra to ask him to update the website to reflect the recent renewal of the club's ECB Clubmark accreditation*

9.2 Adult Cricket

- There were already problems early season with fixtures not being fulfilled – 3 fixtures had been lost already as the opposition had been unable to raise a team.
- The increase in overall membership this year would make team selection more challenging.
- One new 1st XI player had joined the club – he already appears to be a good acquisition. Arif Saeed had also rejoined this year. There were also some promising juniors coming through into the 1st and 2nd XIs.
- One major headache was the requirement for all players to be pre-registered on the League Play Cricket website. Len Enoch raised concerns about the increasing bureaucracy and regulation throughout recreational cricket – volunteer administrators were being overwhelmed by this.

9.3 Junior Section

- The Girls team did very well in the U13 Lady Taverners Final that was carried over from the previous season – they eventually finished a very creditable 3rd.

9.4 Ladies

- 2 new members of a high standard had joined the club. There was now a distinct possibility that the Ladies team would be too strong for the North London League and it might be appropriate to join the Southern League next season to ensure competitive cricket.

10.0 Football

10.1 The form and league position of the senior team had improved greatly in the latter part of the season. Subject to appeal they may reach the final of the League Cup

10.2 The Youth team finished 3rd in its league. This was an excellent achievement considering the fact that the majority of the teams in the league were from senior clubs,

10.3 The new U10 girls team won their league.

11.0 Any Other Business

11.1 Due to the increasing demand for games, Len Enoch asked if additional Slow Coaches matches could be accommodated at Overton Drive on Wednesday evenings. This would be on an occasional basis and would supplement the normal Tuesday evening fixtures.

This request was approved by the Committee.

11.2 Martin Pluck reminded the meeting of the Tony Pluck presentation evening that was scheduled for Saturday 1st August. Martin would send out invitations with the Membership and Fixtures Booklet. This would include a reminder for members to register for the 2009-10 season

12.0 Date of next meeting

12.1 To be arranged.