

**SHA Ladies League Meeting Minutes
Purley Walcountians HC at 8pm**

11/11/14

1. Apologies for absence:

Committee: Liz Aeissame (Registrations Secretary); Nicky Parry-Jones (Results Secretary);

Clubs: Addiscombe; Barnes; EUHC Gamblers; Horley; London Academicals; London Edwardians; Merton; Mitcham; Mid Surrey; Old Freeman's; Old Georgians; Spencer; Wanderers; Wimbledon

2. Matters Arising:

a) League drop outs:

- Div 10: Old Georgians 4 (6/10/14)

- Div 11: London Edwardians 5 (12/9/14); Barnes 7 (15/9/14); Leatherhead 3 (21/9/14)

The Secretary suggested that, given the degree of disruption to the playing schedules of all the teams in these two divisions due to the drop outs, it would be worth requiring a playing record for any team wishing to join the League even in the bottom division. A playing record would provide some evidence that a club could sustain an additional team over several weeks at the same time as running their existing teams. There was a mixed reaction to this suggestion as it was thought it might put clubs off entering a team in the League as it was too difficult to arrange friendlies on League dates.

Angela Durnin from London Wayfarers suggested that if clubs were having trouble at the beginning of the season then it would be worth communicating that with the League as other clubs that had too many new players so could perhaps have directed those people to the clubs struggling to attract or retain players.

The Secretary undertook to raise the issue at the next meeting so that it could be discussed by a different batch of clubs.

b) Umpiring issues:

- 27/9/14 - Prem - Wanderers 2 v Sunbury & Walton Hawks 1

A complaint was received from Neil McAndrew, the umpire for Sunbury and Walton Hawks that the umpire supplied by Wanderers was not of a suitable standard to umpire a Premier League game and indeed, that she was so inexperienced as not to know whereabouts on the pitch to stand.

A number of clubs agreed that they had also had this happen with Wanderers and other teams.

The Secretary advised that Rule 8.1 (a) i applies to Premier League games: 'If the Umpires Association cannot appoint an umpire(s) then both clubs concerned must provide a qualified umpire for the fixture.'

The penalty for failure to adhere to the rule is rule 9.3 - 'Any team that fails to provide an umpire on more than one occasion, as designated in Rule 8, shall have points deducted at the discretion of the League Committee.'

It was agreed that Wanderers should be issued with a warning that they must supply a suitable standard of umpire for future Premier League matches.

There followed a general discussion about the quality of umpires sometimes being very poor but that asking a beginner to umpire a Premier level game was only likely to put them off ever doing it again as well as adversely affecting the match they were umpiring so was counter-productive.

**SHA Ladies League Meeting Minutes
Purley Walcountians HC at 8pm**

11/11/14

Jane Hallet (Purley Walcountians) who is a circuit umpire said that it was up to clubs to encourage and help players to get some umpiring qualifications, first by completing an online course and following that up with the Level 1 course and assessment. Clubs should be promoting umpiring both within their clubs and, for those who want more of a challenge, within the Surrey appointments pool which is desperately short of volunteers. The Surrey Hockey Umpires Association will provide coaching for people interested in joining the pool.

- 1/11/14 - Div 4 - Mid Surrey 1 v London Academicals 1

Mags Johnson, Mid Surrey's umpire, wrote to complain that Mid Surrey had been told by London Academicals that they would provide both umpires for their Division 4 League match and they would expect Mid Surrey to provide both for the return game. Mid Surrey said that they did not have 2 umpires to provide for the return but felt pressured to accept Academicals' offer of providing both umpires. In the end, the offer was accepted but Mid Surrey asked that the League make the situation clear to all clubs.

The Secretary advised that under rule 8.3 - 'A team is under no obligation to provide 2 umpires if requested to do so by the opposing side. The decision is entirely at the discretion of the Captain of the team being asked to supply both umpires.'

c) Match related issues

- 27/9/14 - Prem - Merton 1 v Woking 2 (player duplication)

The Merton team captain sent in the match report form attached to an email admitting that 3 of the players had also played in an earlier game for Merton 2. This was queried by the Results Secretary, Nicky Parry-Jones, as only the goalkeeper's name appeared on both forms. The team captain apologised for not updating the match report form to show the changes and sent in an amended form. Merton lost the match but having fielded 2 ineligible players the Secretary suggested that a points penalty should be levied against Merton 1 for contravention of rule 4.5. This suggestion was endorsed by the meeting.

Action: Matchday Secretary to amend FixturesLive to show the points deduction once determined by the League Committee.

- 4/10/14 - Div 10 - Barnes 6 v Old Georgians 4 (no show)

Old Georgians 4 failed to show up for their match at Barnes and Barnes were unable to contact anyone from Old Georgians to find out what was happening.

Old emailed the League Secretary Monday 6th October to withdraw their 4th XI from the League.

Barnes are entitled to request payment of pitch costs from Old Georgians who will also be subject to a fine levied by the League.

Action: Fines Secretary to advise Old Georgians of the fine.

- 4/10/14 - Div 7 - TH&D 5 v Spencer Sapphires (shirt numbers)

The Match Report Form completed by Spencer Sapphires contained shirt numbers for their whole team but no players were wearing shirts with numbers in contravention of rule 5.9. The League Chairman, Marilyn Walker, umpired this match and made a note on the Match Report Form about the lack of numbers.

**SHA Ladies League Meeting Minutes
Purley Walcountians HC at 8pm**

11/11/14

Committee member Jo Firth, suggested that captains carry coloured chalk in their bag as this is usually adequate for temporarily numbering shirts but the Secretary said that this wouldn't cope with rain so perhaps have a set of numbers that could be pinned to shirts.

The meeting agreed that Spencer Sapphires should be fined.

Action: Fines Secretary to advise the Spencer Sapphires captain of the fine.

- 11/10/14 - Div 9 - Old Georgians 3 v Oxted 3 (match arrangements)

Old Georgians originally posted a match start time of 5pm and Oxted objected to this on 24th August, asking for an earlier slot. Old Georgians replied the same day to say that were removing the 5pm time on FixturesLive and would confirm the new time once it had been arranged. No updates were posted to FixturesLive so Oxted emailed Old Georgians again at the end of September to request confirmation of the time but received no response. By Sunday 5th October, no match details had been posted on FixturesLive so Oxted again contacted Old Georgians to say that they would be claiming a walkover. FixturesLive was updated with a 4.30pm match start time on Monday, 6th October.

Taken with the problems experienced by Barnes with Old Georgians 4, it was clear that there were serious problems with Old Georgians' club administration at the beginning of the season however, the meeting agreed that this was unacceptable and that Old Georgians should forfeit the game.

Action: Matchday Secretary to update FixturesLive to show the game on its original date of 11th October and the result as a walkover to Oxted.

- 29/11/14 - Div 10 - Cranleigh 2 v Kenley SP 3 (match arrangements)

Cranleigh had scheduled this match as a 9.30am start which is before the earliest start time of 10am and Kenley objected. Up to the date of the meeting, the issue had not been resolved although both teams had been corresponding. Kenley were unable to provide a pitch on that day so the venues could not be switched and the first available slip date for which neither team had a League match (due to the vagaries of Division 10) was 21st February.

The Secretary said that if a start time within League rules could not be found then the fixture date should be changed to 21st February.

An email was received from Cranleigh after the meeting to confirm that a 10am slot had been acquired for the original match date.

d) Social Media

An email was received from the Secretary of Richmond HC to complain that following the division 9 match between Barnes 5 and Richmond 6 on 18th October, that resulted in a win for Richmond, one of the Barnes players posted derogatory remarks about the Richmond team on her Twitter account. The account has about 20,000 followers. This was followed by offensive comments being posted on her Facebook page.

The Secretary forwarded the complaint to Barnes HC who have taken internal action against the player.

The meeting was asked to discuss whether the League should think about setting guidelines on acceptable behaviour on social media. After some discussion, the general consensus was that it was up to clubs to set standards of behaviour for their members and to follow that up if necessary.

Action: Secretary to send reminder to clubs about responsibility of individuals to follow the EH code of behaviour.

e) Reminders:

- Correspondence protocol - please remember to include in the subject, the name and division of the team, the opposition and the date of the match in question.
- Match arrangements:
 - All match times and venues for games up to Christmas had to be published on FixturesLive by 31st August and by 31st December for games next term.
 - Away teams should check whether to change shirts and/or socks
 - If possible, the away team should consider sending their teamsheet to their opposition in advance of the game so that the Match Report Form can be typed up and just signed on the day
 - If you change the details of a match, please contact the team concerned directly rather than relying on them having an alert set on FixturesLive. This is especially important if there is a radical change of time or if the date is not far off.
- Procedure for conceded games - please email the Matchday Secretary and the Results Secretary immediately but do not text in a result.
- Shirt numbers - these are required for all League matches under rule 5.9
- Match Report Forms - all sections should be filled in before the start of the match and then signed by both captains and umpires at the end of the game.
- Pitch & spectator safety - please ensure that any children inside the cage are supervised and are positioned safely. Nobody should be behind either baseline.

3. Any Other Business

- 1/11/14 - Div 7 - Sunbury & Walton Hawks 3 v Tulse Hill & Dulwich 5

This match was abandoned due to lack of floodlights after less than time required by Rule 6.2. Secretary advised that match must be rearranged but Tulse Hill & Dulwich appealed this decision on the grounds that Sunbury & Walton Hawks should have ensured that the floodlights came on.

The consensus of the meeting was that, by requesting that the school to provide floodlights from a specified time, Sunbury & Walton Hawks had done everything they could to ensure that lights were provided but as they didn't have access to the floodlight controls, there was nothing they could do to check the settings or to switch the lights on when they failed to come on at the required time. The original decision was upheld and the match is to be rearranged for the first slip date.

- League structure if more than 1 team is relegated into the Premier League

Jo Firth (League Committee and Surbiton) raised the question of how the League structure would need to change if more than one team is relegated from South League into the Premier League. This is because there are currently two Surrey teams at the bottom of South Division 3B, with 5 teams to be relegated, and looking unlikely to climb out of danger.

Marilyn Walker warned that if this were to happen, clubs should be prepared for a greater number of teams to be relegated from each division in order to allow for teams to be promoted and the number of teams per division to be kept at 10.

Jo Firth will monitor the situation and report at the next meeting.

- League website - please check your club details and notify the Registrations Secretary, Liz Aeissame, of any required changes: registrationssecretary@surreyladieshockeyleague.co.uk
- Andy White from Epsom raised the issue of teams dropping out of friendlies at late notice meaning that the home team had to pay for the pitch.

The Secretary advised that the League had no jurisdiction over friendly games but there was no reason why a club couldn't ask an opposition who cancelled a game to contribute towards the pitch costs.

- Angela Durnin (Fines Secretary) passed around a list of fines already incurred this season and she will be contacting the captains of the teams concerned with details.

4. Future meeting dates and venues

No dates or venues were set but there had been several requests for a venue more easily accessible by public transport so the January meeting will be more central. Sunbury & Walton Hawks offered to host the final meeting.

Action: Secretary to arrange dates and venues for both future meetings as soon as possible and publish the details.

**SHA Ladies League Meeting Minutes
Purley Walcountians HC at 8pm**

11/11/14

Committee attendees:

Marilyn Walker (Chairman); Janet Slater (Secretary); Terri Foggin (Matchday Secretary); Angela Durnin (Fines Secretary); Jo Firth (General Committee)

Club attendees:

Club	Representative
Berrylands	Theresa Park & Sarah Candy
Cheam	Lois Hare
Croydon & Old Whitgiftian	Lena Lewal
Epsom	Andy White
Kenley SP	Diana Phillips
Leatherhead	Sue Ogden
London Wayfarers	Angela Durnin & Bonnie Hatcher
Old Kingstonian	Stephanie Kvam
Oxted	Terri Foggin
Purley Walcountians	Jane Hallett
Reigate Priory	Janet Slater
Sunbury & Walton Hawks	Nicky McAndrew & Neil McAndrew
Surbiton	Jo Firth
Surrey Spartans	Lauren Burnard
Tulse Hill & Dulwich	Marilyn Walker & Lucy Muldoon
Woking	Caroline Peedell
Wimbledon	Deborah Lewis & Julie Quester