

SHALL Meeting Minutes – 16th February 2012

SHA Ladies League Meeting Old Cranleighans Hockey Club Thursday, 16th February 2012

Committee Attendees: Janet Slater (Secretary); Mel Cassell (Matchday Secretary); Liz Aeissame (Registrations Secretary);

1. Apologies for absence; Marilyn Walker (Chairman); Nicky Parry-Jones (Results Secretary); Philip Pagels (Umpire Secretary); Bridget O'Leary (Website Administrator); Angela Durnin (Captains Secretary); Bank of England; Cheam; London Wayfarers; Old Freeman's; Thames Valley.
2. Matters arising:
 - Byfleet Ramblers 3 have withdrawn from Division 10
 - Woking 3 have been relegated from Division 8 having conceded 3 matches
 - Issues with Results Secretary mailbox exceeding its capacity have been resolved by doubling the capacity but the Secretary asked all clubs to try to reduce the size of the Match Report Form file attachments by scanning them at a lower resolution so that the problem does not recur this season. Bridget O'Leary will look into providing some guidance on the settings to use when saving these files.
A suggestion was made at the meeting that the Match Report Forms could be uploaded to a 'drop box' so this will be investigated.
 - Rearranging postponed League matches:
The Matchday Secretary reminded the meeting that postponed League matches must be played on the next available slip date and that only pitch availability was a good excuse not to play on that date. The Secretary added that, because 2 consecutive weeks' matches were lost just before the 2 slip dates, then providing at least 1 of the 2 lost games was played before the next batch of League games, it was acceptable to rearrange the second match to 31st March (pitch availability allowing). Clubs had to accept the risk that if more games were lost, it would mean rearranging to a Sunday or weekday evening.
Clubs were also reminded that it is up to them to update FixturesLive with the date and time of their rearranged games. Instead of emailing the League committee members when a game is postponed, please put a note against the fixture on FixturesLive to say that it was postponed as the number of emails about postponements over the last few weeks is swamping committee mailboxes.
 - Mel Cassell reminded clubs that they must not text in results for conceded games as it affects her ability to do the correct updates on FixturesLive. She also asked that clubs put a note against the fixture on FixturesLive to say that the game was conceded.
 - The meeting was reminded that the SHALL website FAQs page contains very useful information and should be a first point of call for captains if they have any queries. It has now been updated with links to the EH guidance of age limits and playing whilst pregnant.
 - Following a recent complaint about crowd behaviour at a League match, the meeting was reminded that it is the responsibility of the home captain and both umpires to control any spectators. If their behaviour is causing problems with the players then the umpires can ask for the crowd to retreat outside the cage (which is recommended by the SHUA anyway).

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- The meeting was asked to decide on two issues of player eligibility for Woking (player had played only 1 game for the club & Woking wanted to play her in the team below for a rearranged League match) and Reigate Priory (goalkeeper wanting to play outfield for the team below her normal side) – the meeting agreed that both players were eligible to play for the lower teams.

3. Benching:

Following on from the query raised by Epsom at the last League meeting about benching, Natalia Anda from Epsom put together a proposal to change the rules to allow benching (the proposal will be sent out with the minutes of this meeting). The proposal was discussed at some length and the general consensus seemed to be that the current system of clubs applying to the League Committee for an exception to the rules for each individual club that they wished to bench for a higher team was a better way of controlling the practice.

However, the Secretary agreed to send out the proposal so that all League clubs have the opportunity to read and discuss it before it is put to the vote at the AGM.

(Benching is where a club is taken along to a higher league match as a substitute and given a nominal amount of pitch time or none at all, to allow them to experience the higher level game. It is a development tool and not intended as a way of supplementing the higher level team if they are short of players.)

4. Promotion/relegation/play-offs

Following the discussion about play-offs at the January meeting, Hannah Barnett from Kenley offered to investigate the relative points positions of the promoted/relegated clubs and those who came third/second from bottom over the last 3 seasons. Her conclusions were that in 2 thirds of instances, the points gap between the second promoted/relegated team and the next team was more than 5 points (so a distinct gap) although last season showed the biggest gap of the 3 seasons looked at. Given these findings and the issues involved in getting play-offs played within the League season, she would not recommend play-offs.

A number of clubs expressed the frustration that it was incredibly difficult to get out of some of the lower divisions because teams join the League at the bottom so tend to take all the promotion places as they find their level.

Following this feedback, there was a suggestion from the floor that the League increase the number of promotion/relegation places to 3 for the lower divisions to give more movement between divisions and extend this to the higher divisions if it was successful. This was positively received by all those present so the Committee will discuss this approach before the AGM.

5. Fines:

All fines incurred in 2011 should have been paid by 31st January or be doubled but the Secretary extended the deadline to the end of the meeting (16th February). A few clubs queried the fines and the Secretary agreed to investigate those before imposing the additional penalty.

Action: Secretary to check with SHA Treasurer, Mike Parker, before doubling any fines.

6. The Secretary reminded clubs that all committee positions are up for re-election at the AGM so, if anyone is interested, please email her.

7. Any other business Nothing was raised.

8. Date of next meeting: to be decided but likely to be the AGM

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

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Club representatives present

Club	Representative
Barnes Hounslow Ealing	Laura Aalen
Berrylands	Lin Bowdery
Byfleet Ramblers	Paul Bassan
Cranleigh	Anne Phillipson
Epsom	Natalia Anda
Horley	Alex Hamilton & Amy Matthews
Leatherhead	Liz Aeissame
London Edwardians	Mel Cassel
Mid Surrey	Ele Groves
Mitcham	Anne Williams
Old Cranleighans	Emma Sutton
Old Georgians	Sushila Sathiaraj
Old Kingstonian	L Deeley & Fiona Grant
Reigate Priory	Janet Slater
Spencer	Melissa Palmer & Catrin Roberts
Sunbury & Walton Hawks	Nicole Sewell
Surbiton	Jo Firth & Sarah Bray
Wimbledon	Florence Beckett
Woking	Vicky Derman