

**SHA Ladies League Meeting Minutes
Barnes HC at 8pm**

22/1/15

1. Apologies for absence:

Committee: Angela Durnin (Fines Secretary); Nicky Parry-Jones (Results Secretary); Jo Firth

Clubs: Berrylands; Croydon & Old Whitgiftian; Horley; London Academicals; Woking

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)

As in the last meeting, the issue of how to avoid teams dropping out of the league near the beginning of the season was raised to allow a different group of club representatives to give their opinions. The Secretary has suggested in November 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 positive reaction to this suggestion as several clubs had suffered from these drop outs this season.

EUHC Gamblers asked how many games would constitute a valid record to which the answer was that there was no specific number suggested but that the idea was to show that the club was capable of sustaining an additional team over the course of several weeks so Match Report Forms should be filled in to show who had played.

At the November meeting, 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 said she would be willing to forward emails from clubs desperate for players to other clubs in the area to see if they would direct surplus players their way.

b) Bad weather protocol

The Chairman reminded clubs that it was important to communicate with both the opposition and umpires if bad weather is forecast and to pre-warn the opposition club contact that a match might have to be postponed if at all possible. If a frozen pitch is a possibility then a pitch inspection should be arranged in time to prevent the opposition from travelling unless it is an early slot and it would be unfeasible to inspect the pitch early enough to prevent travel.

If a game is called off before the scheduled start time then please try to amend the date of the game on FixturesLive to the next available slip date which can then be updated once a pitch has been confirmed as this means that no communication with the League is required. If the date is not amended then the home captain should email the Matchday Secretary so that she can amend the fixture date.

Please copy in the opposition captain on any correspondence so that the Matchday Secretary is not inundated with emails about the same match.

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Jane Hallett from Purley Walcountians and Michael Loxton from Addiscombe both recounted issues with match postponements involving Bank of England so the Secretary undertook to contact Bank of England about their matchday arrangements.

c) Fines

A list of fines was circulated at the meeting and the Fines Secretary, Angela Durnin, will contact each team individually before the end of January to confirm the fine and advise how payments can be made. The Secretary reminded clubs that where a fine had been issued because of non-receipt of a Match Report Form, the completed Match Report Form was still required and that if any were outstanding at the end of the season, the team risked having points deducted for each match for which a Match Report Form was not received.

d) 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 and to copy in the opposition team contact if the communication involves them
- Match arrangements:
 - All match times and venues for games after Christmas had to be published on FixturesLive by 31st December. EUHC Gamblers said that they only booked Crystal Palace 6 weeks in advance but the Secretary and Chairman both said that there should be no issue booking all home league matches up to the end of the season and that this should be done and FixturesLive updated.
 - Away teams should check whether to change shirts and/or socks and, if wearing away shirts, these must all be individually numbered and that number must be recorded on the Match Report Form. See rule 5.9.
 - 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 postponed games - please email the Matchday Secretary and the Results Secretary immediately but do not text in a result. If you know in advance that you will struggle to get a team together to fulfil a league fixture then please contact your opposition before cancelling the game to see if it would be possible to play the game as a friendly with other players drafted from your own or the opposition club to make up numbers. This means that everyone at least gets a game.
- 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.

3. Any Other Business

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

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At the last meeting in November, 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 were and still are 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. As has been said at previous meetings, the promotion/relegation lines on FixturesLive are for guidance only and the only fixed elements are that at least one team will be promoted and one relegated from each division (no relegations from Division 11). Any other movement is at the discretion of the League Committee and will depend on points, goal difference and available spaces in each division.

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

4. Future meeting dates and venues

Chertsey Thames Valley will host the final League meeting which will be on Wednesday, 25th March from 8pm. Reminders will be sent out nearer the time.

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Committee attendees:

Marilyn Walker (Chairman); Janet Slater (Secretary); Terri Foggin (Matchday Secretary); Liz Aeissame (Registrations Secretary)

Club attendees:

Club	Representative
Addiscombe	Mike Lockton
Barnes	Frances Feehan & Laura Aalen
Cheam	Lois Hare
Chertsey Thames Valley	Clare Bowman & Freda Madden
Cranleigh	Debra Scutt
Epsom	Andy White
EUHC Gamblers	Charlotte Scudamore
Leatherhead	Liz Aeissame
London Edwardians	Maryam Ben ?
Merton	K Pentecost & M Petzer
Mitcham	Emily Delehanty
Mid Surrey	Nicky James
Old Freeman's	Katy Lutley
Old Georgians Ramblers	Ben Rooney
Oxted	Terri Foggin
Purley Walcountians	Jane Hallett
Reigate Priory	Janet Slater
Richmond	Melani Joubert & Anna Smith
Spencer	Pandora Letroy
Surbiton	Ellie Vickery
Tulse Hill & Dulwich	Marilyn Walker
Wanderers	Nicola Phillips
Wimbledon	Femke van Hoeckel