

**SHA Ladies League Meeting Minutes
Chertsey Thames Valley HC at 8pm**

25/3/15

1. Apologies for absence:

Committee: Nicky Parry-Jones (Results Secretary)

Clubs: Mitcham; Spencer; Purley Walcountians

2. Matters Arising:

a) Umpiring issues:

This season has seen a large number of complaints about the standard of umpiring but also from umpires about the standard of player and supporter behaviour. The Secretary emphasized that the League cannot make rulings on decisions made during games but that it was important to report serious problems so that if a pattern emerges, the League can make a club aware that there may be an issue.

Woking's representative, Ryan Casson, suggested that the Match Report Form be amended to include a section for feedback from umpires and/or captains rather than just ask for the issues box to be ticked and the issue to be sent by email. The Secretary agreed to see if this could be done but it would require a 2 page match report form.

The Secretary also stressed that it was important to try to match the experience of the umpire to the game and not to ask someone inexperienced to officiate in a higher division.

b) Match related issues:

The Secretary has received a number of queries over player eligibility over the past few weeks which will be investigated and discussed at the Committee meeting before discussing promotions and relegations:

- 12/2/15 - Div 6: Barnes 4 v Richmond 4 - query ineligible players fielded by Barnes
- 14/2/15 - Div 9: Epsom 5 v Old Georgians 3 - query ineligible players fielded by Old Georgians
- 5/3/1 - Div 4: Barnes 3 v London Academicals 1 - query ineligible players fielded by Barnes
- 7/3/5 - Div 4: Spencer 5 v Mid Surrey 1 - query ineligible player fielded by Spencer

The Chairman, Marilyn Walker, reminded the meeting of the criteria for deciding the penalties for fielding ineligible players:

- administrative oversight, when an unregistered player is fielded but that player would have been eligible to play if they had been registered in time for the game is normally dealt with by way of a fine.
- fielding an ineligible player but making no attempt to conceal the name of the player on the match report form could be dealt with by way of a fine, forfeiture of the match and/or a points penalty depending on other factors
- deliberate attempt to conceal the use of an ineligible player by not including them on the match report form or listing them under a different name would be dealt with by forfeiture of the match as well as a points penalty and possibly a fine.

Marilyn asked if anyone at the meeting disagreed with this approach and nobody did.

The end of season Committee meeting will be held on 8th April and FixturesLive will be updated as soon as possible after that date to show promotions and relegations. The Secretary will notify clubs when this has been done.

c) Applications to join the League:

Interest in joining the League next season has been expressed by Aces (currently in Middlesex Premier League); Old Cranleighans/Maori Vamps; Clapham Common.

Aces wish to join the League at the highest permitted level, which is Division 5. The Secretary had already advised Aces that entry above the bottom division is dependent on there being a suitable place higher up the League.

Clubs were reminded that written applications must be submitted to the League Secretary by 31st March.

3. Any Other Business

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

Jo Firth confirmed that only one team will be relegated from South into the Surrey League next season despite indications throughout the season that two Surrey teams would be relegated.

Marilyn Walker advised that only the top team in each division is guaranteed promotion and the bottom team, relegation and any other movement would be decided by the Committee when it meets up after Easter. The guiding principle is always to ensure the best competition in each division so the Committee looks for natural gaps between positions and points at the top and bottom of each division in order to make a decision. If a Committee member's club is involved in this process for a particular division then that person takes no part in the decision on their fate.

- Fines

Angela Durnin asked everyone to check the fines sheet that she brought to the meeting and advised that she would be sending out this term's fines notifications shortly. Please contact Angela straight away if you believe your team has been incorrectly listed.

- Back to Hockey Festival

Maggs Kyte from Guildford is organising a Back to Hockey Festival and would like to hear from clubs interested in taking part. Please contact Maggs by email at maggs.kyte@gmail.com.

- FixturesLive contact details reminder

The Secretary reminded clubs that a matchday contact telephone number on FixturesLive is a League requirement but there is no point in publishing a number if the person is not going to be able to answer the phone (eg. they are umpiring) so if this will be the case, the captain should contact their opposition with an alternate contact number for match day.

- Hockey teas

The issue of teas not always being provided at or close to the hockey pitch was raised. There is no rule that teas must be provided at venues and as many clubs cannot hire pitches close to their clubhouse where they may have cooked teas provided, it is not always feasible for teams to offer refreshments at the ground. The Chairman suggested that the pre-match communication between the captains should make clear whether teas would be provided and where and that away teams should ensure they let the home team know whether or not they will return for teas.

- Thefts at hockey venues

Clubs were advised to be very wary of leaving their belongings unattended at hockey pitches, especially Battersea Park where there has been a spate of thefts even from the area between the two pitches.

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4. Future meeting dates and venues

Barnes offered to host this year's AGM - Secretary to liaise with Linda Lonsdale to fix the date.

The following clubs offered to host one of next season's League meetings: Camberley & Farnborough; Cheam; Chertsey Thames Valley; Old Cranleighans; Surbiton. The Secretary will liaise with clubs to ensure that each meeting is on a different night of the week and in a different part of the county.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm

Committee attendees:

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

Club attendees:

Club	Representative
Aces (Middlesex League)	Claire White
Bank of England	Sarah Downes
Barnes	Lucy Withnall & Laura Aalen
Berrylands	Sarah Candy & Teresa Parke
Camberley & Farnborough	Ali Holme & Keri Wilson
Cheam	Shelley Mills
Chertsey Thames Valley	Linda Beere
Epsom	Andy White
Horley	Amy Matthews
Leatherhead	Liz Aeissame
London Academicals	Hannah Newton & Isabela de Pedro
London Wayfarers	Emma Frost & Jasmine Walton
Old Cranleighans	Helen Hawes
Old Georgians Ramblers	Royce Waters
Oxted	Terri Foggin
Reigate Priory	Janet Slater
Sunbury & Walton Hawks	Nicky McAndrew
Surbiton	Ellie Vickery & Jo Firth
Surrey Spartans	Lezanne Denton
Tulse Hill & Dulwich	Marilyn Walker
Wimbledon	Louise Laws
Woking	Ryan Casson & Caroline Peedell