

1. Apologies for absence:

Committee: Terri Foggin; Liz Aeissame

Clubs: Guildford; Wanderers;

2. Matters Arising:

a) Fines update

The Fines Secretary made the fines sheet available at the meeting for clubs to check and it will be sent out with the minutes of the meeting.

Unless otherwise agreed, all fines must be paid by 31st March or they will be doubled. Any queries about fines should be addressed to the Results Secretary by 24th March so that they can be resolved in time to meet the deadline.

b) Match related issues

Postponement games from 3rd March may be played up to 14th April providing that both teams agree on the date. If no agreement can be reached then the first available slip date must be used. Clubs should contact the Secretary straight away if there is an issue.

c) Reminders:

- If you wish to apply for entry to the League for a new team then this must be submitted in writing to the Secretary by 31st March. If you are applying to enter above the bottom division then the application must be accompanied by a playing record of at least 8 games which must include match report forms completed by both teams so that the standard can be assessed.
- If you intend to remove a team from the League then please email the Secretary by 31st March. If you are unsure but are considering the possibility then please let the Secretary know so that the impact can be considered.

3. Any Other Business

- Conceded games sanctions – Spencer asked why the penalties for conceding a League game are not as onerous as they are in other Leagues that feed into South League (an initial 1,0 walkover to the non-conceding team which may be adjusted to the average goal difference of the conceding team over the season if goal difference could affect promotion or relegation, plus 1 penalty point deducted from conceding team). The Chairman advised that historically, there was no penalty but that the rule was introduced a few years ago to try to deter clubs from conceding and a balance needed to be struck between not disadvantaging the non-conceding team and giving them too much of an advantage over other teams who haven't had games against them conceded.

The balance of support in the room was for increasing the penalties for conceding a game but when the question of whether it should always be a club's lowest team that conceded, opinion was divided with several representatives arguing that this meant that the lower division teams

would always lose out and that it was not reasonable to expect clubs that had large gaps between 2 teams to necessarily move up to fill in gaps when better players dropped out.

Marilyn emphasised that the rules are determined by the clubs, not the Committee, so if the clubs want greater penalties to be imposed then they need to propose a change to the rules at the AGM (rule change proposals must be received by the Secretary in time to be sent out with the AGM notification). The Secretary suggested that if Spencer wanted to propose a change to increase the penalties for conceding, they think about the wording of a rule change proposal and send it to her before the Committee meet up at the end of season so that she can provide feedback.

- Development league – Old Cranleighans asked whether there was the possibility of running a development league next season. The Secretary explained that this had been done on a friendly basis this season with an initial set of fixtures emailed out to the clubs who asked to be included by the Secretary and these were then set up as friendlies by the clubs if they wanted to take up the fixtures. Due to the nature of the match arrangements, it was decided not to set up either a cup or league on FixturesLive and this will be the same for the coming season. After the end of the season, the Secretary will ask clubs to contact her if they wish to take part in a friendly/development league and will follow up with those clubs.
- Surrey Cup/Plate – Jo Firth confirmed that the competitions had been very successful again with only a couple of teams not fulfilling their fixtures. The finalists in both competitions have been decided, although the date of the finals has not yet been agreed. The Cup will be contested between Purley Walcountians and last year's winners Clapham Common. The plate will be between Cheam and last year's Cup runners up, Barnes. If anyone is interested in organising the competition next season then please contact the Secretary.
- Promotions/relegations – Old Cranleighans asked if the promotions/relegations would be published in time for the club's end of season dinner. The Secretary advised that there would still be League matches taking place up to 14th April and the Committee would not meet up to consider promotions and relegations until the week commencing 23rd April. The Secretary explained that, currently, Wimbledon are in a relegation position in South so it is possible the anticipated gap in Premier that would allow more teams to be promoted than are relegated will not happen. With regard to the policy for promotions and relegations, this is unchanged from last season with the top/bottom team being automatically promoted/relegated and the Committee deciding on any other movement based on the points gap and goal difference. The underlying aim is always to try to ensure the best competition in each division for the following season.
- Division 11 – Cranleigh asked whether it would be possible to have fewer teams in the bottom division and maybe a regional element as it has been a very long and difficult season for teams in that division, with 4 more league dates than the other divisions. The Chairman agreed that it was not ideal but that there were not enough teams to split Division 11 last season and the last time there were only 8 teams in the lower divisions, 2 teams dropped out at the beginning of the season which decimated the fixture schedule. However, it was confirmed that this would be one of the things discussed by the Committee when deciding on next season's structure.
- EuroHockey Club Cup – is being hosted by Surbiton from 17th to 20th May and tickets are available. Please contact Jo Firth at Surbiton HC for more details.

- The Chairman, Marilyn Walker, reminded clubs that the Surrey Hockey Association are again offering £500 per hockey section (men's and women's) towards adult coaching. Clubs should contact the SHA Treasurer or Secretary (via the SHA website). In addition, Marilyn encouraged clubs to send a representative to the SHA AGM so that the SHA Committee are properly held to account and clubs have a say in how their affiliation fees are spent. Attendance is also rewarded with a box of 6 hockey balls.
- Old Cranleighans asked if there were any more Introduction to Umpiring courses being run. Marilyn Walker advised that the person to contact at the Surrey Hockey Umpire Association was Jane Binner and to check the England Hockey website as well. If clubs have enough interest then it should be possible to organise a course at that club.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

Committee attendees:

Marilyn Walker (Chairman); Janet Slater (Secretary); Laura Aalen (Results Secretary); Angela Durnin (Fines Secretary)

Club attendees:

Club	Representative
Barnes	Laura Aalen
Berrylands	Teresa Parke
Cranleigh	Lesley Munnoch
Croydon & Old Whitgiftian	Lena Lewal
Epsom	Andy White
Horley	Judith Shuttleworth
London Academicals	Lauren Barr & Olivia Nettleton
London Wayfarers	Angela Durnin
Old Cranleighans	Helen Hawes
Old Freeman's	Alice Higdon
Old Georgians	Royce Waters
Old Kingstonian	Andrea Cole
Reigate Priory	Janet Slater
Spencer	Sarah Dawkins & Jodie Bellamy
Surbiton	Jo Firth
Wimbledon	Natalie Palmer & Merie King