

**8SHA Ladies League Meeting  
Croydon Hockey Club  
Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2011**

Committee Attendees: Marilyn Walker (Chairman); Janet Slater (Secretary); Mel Cassell (Matchday Secretary); Sue Strachan (Results Secretary); Liz Aeissame (Registrations Secretary)

1. Apologies for absence; Bridget O'Leary (Website Administrator); Cheam; Cranleigh; London Academicals; Old Freeman's
2. Matters arising:
  - Croydon HC appeal against points deduction & fines imposed for fielding unregistered players  
The Secretary explained to the meeting the background to the imposition of a points deduction and fine following the full audit of all teamsheets on 22<sup>nd</sup> January and the discovery that Croydon had fielded 17 unregistered players. All other clubs who incurred fines under this audit have already paid their fines.  
There was much discussion about the size of the fine. Tony Hilton from Addiscombe advised that the men's league limits fines to £50 per match and the consensus of the meeting was that this was much more reasonable. There was no support for any change to the points deduction.  
Neither the fine nor the points deduction decisions were overturned.  
Action for Secretary to draft a proposed rule change to this effect to be voted on at the Fixtures meeting in May.
  - Trophies / medals for division champions:  
At the last meeting, Byfleet Ramblers' representatives suggested that it would be a good idea to reintroduce trophies or medals for each of the Division champions. The idea received general approval at this meeting.  
Action for Chairman to acquire a shield for each Division to be presented at the Fixtures Meeting in May.
  - Request by Wimbledon HC for 4<sup>th</sup> XI to be promoted out of division 10:  
Wimbledon 4, who entered the League in Division 10 last season having asked to enter at a higher level, finished 3<sup>rd</sup> so are not currently in a promotion position. They have written to the League asking to be promoted anyway, given their goal difference (twice that of the teams in the promotion places).  
There was general agreement that it is not a good idea to have teams in a division who are vastly superior to all their opposition but the problem remains that for a team to be promoted out of a division, another team has to drop. Currently, there are no spare slots that Wimbledon 4 could fill. (See point 3 below.)
  - Complaint from Surbiton 2 against Epsom 2 – Premier division on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2011  
Surbiton wrote to complain that Epsom 2 fielded players who normally play in their 1<sup>st</sup> XI in the League match on 2<sup>nd</sup> April. Epsom responded that they did not field any of the 8 nominated players who are not allowed to play in the Surrey League so have not broken the rules. The Chairman confirmed that no rules have been broken.  
Action for the Secretary to respond to the correspondence to this effect.
3. Promotion/relegation – Is 2 up/2 down too inflexible?  
It was suggested to the meeting that to allow more room for manoeuvre when new teams apply for entry to the League, it might be useful to move to a system whereby there was only 1 definite promotion and relegation place in each division and any other movement was at the discretion of the League Committee or handled by way of play-offs. Although the consensus was that it would be good to have more flexibility, the prospect of missing out on promotion to

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allow another team to enter the League or be promoted by more than one division was not supported.

4. New team/removing team from League next season
  - Application letter received from Gamblers HC to enter a new team (Gamblers Ladies 1<sup>st</sup> XI) into League next season above Division 10. This team has played 2 matches this season against London Edwardians 2 in Division 3 (won 3-2) and Wanderers 6 in Division 6 (won 3-0) but have also been rotating ladies in mixed games
  - Application letter received from London Wayfarers HC to enter a new team (London Wayfarers 8<sup>th</sup> XI) into the League next season above Division 10.

The point was made to the meeting that it has always been League policy not to displace an existing team from a division in order to accommodate a new team. As no teams have notified the League that they will be withdrawing next season, there are currently no spaces above Division 10. (See previous points)

Action for Matchday Secretary and Secretary to check which teams had conceded more than one match during the season then to contact them to see if they are in a position to continue running a team next season.

5. League Player Registration

FixturesLive are changing the registration function from a club based system to one that is based on players being allocated to a specific team. It is also changing from a free service to a chargeable one (£300 pa). Sue Ogden from Leatherhead has been in contact with FixturesLive to clarify the features of the new system and has also negotiated a discount for the first couple of years as this is not a change that will benefit the League. She also explained that although the new system registers players at team rather than club level, it will be possible to list all a club's players under their 1<sup>st</sup> team and to copy across all the existing player registrations to the new system in one go.

A brief discussion was held around whether the new system would be usable for our league and the consensus was that it was worth paying for the new service and, if necessary, to increase League fees to cover the increased cost. The Results Secretary, Sue Strachan, made a plea for clubs to tidy up their list of registered players before doing the wholesale transfer to the new system.

6. Rule change issues for discussion:

- Penalties for fielding unregistered players

See first point under Matters Arising for discussion – Introduce cap on fines chargeable per match.
- Benching for teams in higher leagues

The Chairman explained that 'benching' means being included as an additional player in a match that is above the player's normal standard in order for them to acquire experience at that higher level. It is a method of developing players rather than a way of boosting the number of players available for a particular fixture. Several clubs have asked this season whether benching is allowed and the answer is that it is judged on a case by case basis.

The meeting discussed whether it would be desirable or feasible to allow benching without resorting to a specific dispensation for a specific match and the consensus was that it was too easy to be used to boost numbers and too difficult to police so no benching should be allowed within the Surrey League but should be available for South and National League teams providing they have specific permission for that match from the League.

Action for Secretary to check existing rules for clarity on this issue and draft a proposed change that is clearer to be voted on at the Fixtures Meeting

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### 7. Any other business

- Fines

A list of fines already posted on the website was circulated and clubs were advised that any fines not paid by the end of April will be doubled and if any fines remain unpaid by the end of May, the club will not be eligible to take part in next season's League program.

- Kenley SP asked if a rule could be added about biased umpires as they feel they have suffered from that this season.

The Secretary advised that the League has no jurisdiction over umpires or umpiring decisions. Clubs can raise an issue by ticking the Issue box on the Match Report Form and can email the League if they feel that the situation warrants it. The Chairman explained that if the League receives several complaints about the same umpire then it would raise the matter with the club concerned.

The Matchday Secretary made the point that player behaviour also seems to be getting worse and that it does not help clubs if people are put off taking up or continuing with umpiring because they consistently come up against poor player behaviour so there is room for improvement on both sides.

Action for Secretary to include a point in the Guidelines to Captains document explaining what to do if the captain believes that an umpire was biased.

- Nicky Parry-Jones from Bank of England has offered to stand as Results Secretary next season. Angela Durning from London Wayfarers and Philip Pagels of London Edwardians have also expressed an interest in joining the committee.

### 8. Date of next meeting:

Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> May at Barnes HC, Lonsdale Road, Barnes

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.

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**Club representatives present**

<b>Club</b>	<b>Representative</b>
Addiscombe	Tony Hilton
Bank of England	Nicky Parry-Jones
Barnes Hounslow Ealing	Cheryl Blake; Mandy Griffiths; Sonia Goute
Berrylands	Teresa Parke
Croydon	Sharon Burke
Epsom	Natalia Anda
Horley	Alex Hamilton
Kenley SP	Hannah Bennett; Sue McGrath
Leatherhead	Liz Aeissame; Sue Ogden
London Edwardians	Mel Cassell; Philip Pagels
London Wayfarers	Angela Durnin; Lucy Strong
Purley Walcountians	Jane Hallett
Reigate Priory	Janet Slater
Richmond	Mary Cooley; Claire Johnson
Sunbury & Walton Hawks	Nicky McAndrew
Surbiton	Carolyn Llewellyn
Wimbledon	Georgina Headley
Woking	Sue Strachan