

SHALL Meeting Minutes – 9th January 2012

SHA Ladies League Meeting Cheam Hockey Club Monday, 9th January 2012

Committee Attendees: Marilyn Walker (Chairman); Janet Slater (Secretary); Mel Cassell (Matchday Secretary).

1. Apologies for absence; Nicky Parry-Jones (Results Secretary); Philip Pagels (Umpire Secretary); Liz Aeissame (Registrations Secretary); Bridget O'Leary (Website Administrator); Angela Durnin (Captains Secretary); Old Cranleighans; Spencer.
2. Matters arising:
 - Player Registration
The Secretary reminded clubs of the rules on player eligibility relating to rearranged matches (rule 6.4) and that an audit of registered players would be carried out again shortly so all clubs should ensure that their registrations are up to date.
 - Cheating
The meeting was informed that there have already been about half a dozen incidences of cheating this season. This issue was raised at the last League meeting in November and the rule and penalty was noted in the minutes.
Cheating is playing an unregistered player and not recording that player under their own name on the Match Report Form or fielding an ineligible player in a rearranged game. The penalty for this is that the cheating team will forfeit the match (it will be recorded as a 1,0 win to the opposition) and will be docked a further 3 penalty points.
If a team fields an unregistered player but makes no attempt to cover it up and preferably admits it to the Results Secretary when the Match Report Form is sent in, it will be treated as an administrative error and will incur a fine.
FixturesLive will shortly be updated to show the penalties incurred by those teams who have already been caught cheating.
 - Umpires – feedback on appointments
Clubs with teams in the Premier Division were asked whether they were getting more appointments this season. The response was very positive with clubs receiving more appointments and appreciating the higher standards.
 - Benching
Epsom emailed the Committee before Christmas for confirmation that they could have adult players from their 2nd XI benching for their 1st XI in South League. The response from the Committee at that time was that it was not allowed and permission would only be given for specific individuals (colts) to be used as part of a development program. The issue was discussed in the meeting but the issue from a League point of view is that it is not possible to police whether a bench player plays for 10 minutes or the whole game and, as the League does not allow players to play more than once within the Surrey League, it does not seem fair to allow it for clubs with higher level teams.
Marilyn Walker asked Epsom, if they still wanted to change the rules to allow benching, to draft a rule change that could be discussed at the next meeting and sent round to all clubs ahead of the AGM.
3. Fines:
All fines incurred in 2011 must be paid by 31st January or they will be doubled. Clubs were reminded to check the website regularly as fines are still being added for infringements before Christmas.
Action: Secretary to send a reminder 1 week before the end of the month to all clubs with an outstanding fine from before Christmas.

SHALL Meeting Minutes – 9th January 2012

4. Any other business

- Pregnancy guidelines

The question was asked whether the League had any rules on when pregnant players should stop playing hockey. The answer to this is no, but clubs are referred to the England Hockey website for guidance on this which recommends 12 weeks as the limit.

- Lower age limit for league matches

As above, the League does not have any rules about a lower age limit on players in League matches but 13 is the guideline for higher leagues and from England Hockey.

Sue Ogden of Leatherhead HC has asked their insurers about both the above issues and they advise that, whilst they have no specific stipulations on either topic, they would expect the insured club to abide by any governing body guidelines. The concept of an individual writing a disclaimer is not recommended as this generally carries no legal standing and still leaves the club in breach of EH guidance. Please check the England Hockey website - englandhockey.co.uk:

EHB_Policy_on_playing_hockey_when_pregnant

EHB Statement_on_Juniors_Playing_in_Open_Adult_Leagues

- Fixture allocation on FixturesLive

Oxted asked if it was possible to ensure that teams in Division 10 had a more even distribution of home and away fixtures next season as they ended up with 2 additional away games when London Wayfarers and EU Gamblers dropped out of the League after all the fixtures had been generated. Other clubs also had issues with unequal numbers of home and away fixtures on particular dates causing problems with pitch allocations. Mel Cassel advised that fixtures are automatically generated by FixturesLive without the option to adjust the criteria but clubs are allowed to switch home and away games with the agreement of their opposition.

- Wimbledon asked whether there would be play-offs from Division 10 as this was discussed at last year's AGM but there has since been no mention of it.

The Secretary explained that there has not yet been any discussion of exactly what will happen regarding Division 10 but that the issue was discussed fully at the AGM so all clubs were aware that a play-off was a possibility for this season and were asked to be aware of that when organizing friendlies for few weeks after the League program ended.

The discussion was broadened to encompass the possibility of play-offs if a space were to become available in a higher division rather than allow a new side to come straight in above existing teams. Since no spaces have yet become available, the issue has not arisen but Hannah Barnett from Kenley offered to investigate the points differentials in the top 3/bottom 3 places of the divisions over the last couple of seasons to give more information for the next meeting.

- Marilyn Walker suggested the possibility of running an indoor league but this would require someone to investigate and organize it. If anyone is interested in taking this forward then please contact the Secretary.

5. Date of next meeting:

8pm on Thursday, 16th February 2012 at Old Cranleighans HC, Portsmouth Road, Thames Ditton KT7 0HB. (Please park and come round to the front of the building and go through the glass doors over on the far side, as the closest entrance to the car park goes into the hall, where there will be a yoga class. The meeting will be in the bar.)

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

SHALL Meeting Minutes – 9th January 2012

Club representatives present

Club	Representative
Barnes Hounslow Ealing	Sarah Lamplough
Cheam	Lois Hare
Croydon & Old Whitgiftians	Lisa Phillips
Epsom	Natalia Anda
Guildford	Fiona Harley (Finn)
Horley	Alex Hamilton & Amy Matthews
Kenley	Sue McGrath & Hannah Barnett
Leatherhead	Sue Ogden
London Edwardians	A Darbyshire & M Benrabha
London Wayfarers	Jen Locke & J Iles
Old Freeman's	Nikki Linsell
Old Georgians	Catherine Smit & Astrid Stealey
Oxted	Terri Foggin
Reigate Priory	Janet Slater
Tulse Hill & Dulwich	Marilyn Walker
Wanderers	Ellie Crawford & Hannah Fox
Wimbledon	Georgina Headley
Woking	Vicky Derman