

WANSTEAD & SNARESBROOK CRICKET CLUB

Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held on Monday 30th November 2009 @ 8:00pm.

Present: M. Pluck (Chair), C. Hurd, T. Hebden, L. Enoch, K. Lloyd, P. Staniford, S. Andrews, N. Baldwin, N. Hutchings, S. Batra

1.0 Apologies for absence

- 1.1 Apologies for absence had been received from Ms K. Byrne, J. Palmer and Arfan Akram.

2.0 Minutes of the previous meeting

- 2.1 The minutes of the previous Management Committee Meeting (24th September 2009) were agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

3.0 Actions from the previous meeting

1. **Send letter to Lord's Taverners regarding nets** – completed.
2. **Provide Martin Pluck with a copy of Redbridge Council planning form** – completed.
3. **Contact Graham Russell regarding obtaining architectural expertise for planning permission** – no longer required.
4. **Sky television subscription** – Sky had now been installed at Overton Drive. The monthly subscription was discounted as a result of the nationwide ECB agreement. It was suggested that we should check the Sky Direct monthly direct debit regularly to ensure no unexpected increase was applied. To justify the cost of this it was important to make use of this additional facility. High profile sporting events should be advertised to encourage members to come to Overton Drive. Simon Andrews noted that the TV was set up each Sunday in the bar area – 45 had watched the recent Arsenal game
5. **Goals for Overton Drive** – Nigel Baldwin confirmed that we could not realistically go ahead with the purchase of these this year as it had not been possible to obtain a 'competitively' priced set. Nigel Baldwin would follow up on this again next summer.

Action *Nigel Baldwin to follow up next summer on his efforts to obtain 'reasonably priced' set of goals for use at Overton Drive during the winter of 2010/2011*

6. **Grange Farm Trust grant** – Len Enoch confirmed that, as he had feared, the club was not eligible for any further grants from this source.
7. **Spending plans for Foundation of Sports and Art and Sportsmatch grants** – the majority of money had now been spent. A small amount (between £200 and £300) was still outstanding.

- Action** *Trevor Hebden to contact the Foundation for Sport and Arts to confirm what the club had committed to spending the outstanding grant money on*
8. **Meet with Jordans to discuss end of season maintenance work** – Nigel Baldwin met with Ian Jordan on 27th August as agreed
 9. **Reapply for Gannett Foundation grant** – Chris Hurd would review (carry forward)
- Action** *Chris Hurd to reapply for Gannett Foundation grant when the application window reopens*
10. **Camera analysis of drains** – Paul Staniford had contacted company to carry the camera exploratory work.
- Action** *Paul Staniford to continue co-ordination efforts with respect to getting a camera put through drains to ascertain reason for blockage*
11. **Work on Gents toilets** – this would be deferred until the camera analysis of the drains was completed.
 12. **Letter to London Playing Fields** – sent
 13. **Brochures on prefabricated score boxes for Nutter Lane** – Martin Pluck had obtained these. Prefabricated score boxes were very expensive. Martin Pluck suggested that we put up an electronic fascia scoreboard with a protective shutter which would be considerably cheaper.
This proposal was accepted by the Management Committee pending actions below.
 14. **Check roof on Nutter Lane score box** – Paul Staniford confirmed that this was sufficiently robust and had boarded up the score box
- Action** *Martin Pluck to carry out further research on alternatives for a new scoreboard at Nutter Lane before making a final recommendation*
- Action** *Martin Pluck to provide Chris Hurd with estimated costs for the new scoreboard at Nutter Lane*
- Action** *Chris Hurd to research into whether any grants were available to fund the new Nutter Lane scoreboard.*
- Action** *Paul Staniford to check that the electricity supply to the Nutter Lane score box will be suitable for the new electronic scoreboard*
15. **Complete decoration in bar/lounge area** – done
 16. **Extractor fan in Gents toilet** – this has been repaired
 17. **Ladies Section plans for next year** – Len Enoch confirmed that they had decided not to apply to join the Women's Southern League. Apart from travelling difficulties, it was felt that the standard in the lower divisions was

- inferior to that in the North London Women's League and that the overall standard in the North London League was improving rapidly.
18. **List of Snaresbrook CC members** – Keith Lloyd had emailed the list of members to Martin Pluck, who would add them to the existing database for inclusion in any future mailings/communications.
 19. **Junior Dinner date** – this had been confirmed and the evening had been very successful. The Management Committee formally thanked Moni Das and the Velani family for their culinary contribution to the dinner.
 20. **Send Junior Dinner invitation to Ebony Rainford-Brent** – this was no longer appropriate as she would be abroad with the England women's team.
 21. **Place notice on website for applications to join U21 football team** – this had been done but unfortunately no suitable players had been found

4.0 Secretary's Report

4.1 Nets

Trevor Hebden had met with Tim Nicholls to discuss the grant for the nets and we had subsequently been sent a formal offer letter. This had been signed by Martin Pluck and Nigel Hutchings and was now awaiting formal approval from the Management Committee before returning the acceptance letter to the ECB. The overall cost for the work (to be done by Club Turf) was £22,800, broken down as follows:

- ECB – £17,100
- Lords Taverners – £4,000
- Wanstead & Snaresbrook CC – £1,700

Trevor Hebden had already contacted Club Turf Cricket Limited and the agreed start date for the work was 20th January 2010. However, in the event of adverse weather this might need to be deferred. There were several stipulations associated with the offer but none of these were onerous. These included:

- The ECB must receive the completion certificate and invoice for the work before the 31st October 2010. The grant would no longer be available after this date.
- A cash flow forecast was required – this needed to be sent to the ECB
- Normally a Trust bank account should be set up but it had been agreed with the ECB that this was not obligatory in our situation
- Payment – as soon as the work was complete a copy of the suppliers invoice should be sent to the ECB. Payment would be made by return of post
- A publicity initiative would be required to advertise the new facility. This would include a formal opening ceremony. The following was discussed:
 1. Martin Pluck suggested this should include photographs taken at different stages of the project which could be published.

2. Arfan Akram could make use of his wide range of contacts to see if any well-known cricketers, including James Foster, would be available for the opening ceremony. Chris Hurd could also contact Ebony Rainford-Brent to ascertain if she could attend
3. The formal opening was pencilled in for Friday 7th May
4. Local press would be invited to cover the opening event
5. Martin Pluck recommended the setting up of a working party to oversee the development and publicity
6. The Lord Taverners' contribution should also be acknowledged in the publicity material
7. Nigel Baldwin raised concerns about any potential damage to the outfield caused by machinery used in the refurbishment work
8. New nets would be provided as part of the refurbishment but the existing poles would be retained. The club would need to take down nets and poles before work could commence.

The Management Committee formally agreed that this work should go ahead.

The Committee also thanked Trevor Hebden and Chris Hurd for all their hard work in obtaining this grant, which was important to the ongoing development of the club

Action *Trevor Hebden/Martin Pluck to agree the composition of the steering group to oversee the development work on the nets – Trevor Hebden to chair.*

Action *Trevor Hebden to contact the ECB to discuss mechanics and timing of the publicity effort required to promote the new nets facility.*

Action *Trevor Hebden to speak to Arfan Akram to ask him to sound out the 'celebrity' cricketers he knows (including James Foster) to see if any would be available to attend the 'grand opening' of the nets. The provisional date for the formal opening is Friday 7th May 2010.*

Action *Trevor Hebden to return the formal acceptance letter, cash flow forecast and construction plans for the new nets to the ECB*

Action *Trevor Hebden to contact Club Turf Cricket Limited to confirm how they will ensure that no damage will be caused to the outfield by any machinery used in the construction work on the nets*

Action *Chris Hurd to check if Ebony Rainford-Brent would be available to attend the nets' opening ceremony once the date has been confirmed (provisionally agreed for 7th May.)*

4.2 Grant Applications

The Gannett Foundation and Grange Farm Trust are covered under action point above. The window for applying for a Sporstmatch grant for next year would re-open around Christmas. Chris Hurd felt it was unlikely that the club

would obtain a further grant because the emphasis now was on providing funding for one-off capital project costs rather than to cover running costs. Chris Hurd would also investigate the possibility of getting a grant to cover the costs of the proposed new score board at Nutter Lane (see above under action points.)

5.0 Development Plan

- 5.1 There was nothing further to report on this. Len Enoch did note, in the context of club development, that there were early indications that some of the Metropolitan Essex clubs were going to struggle to put out junior sides in the coming season. This was an obvious concern as it would potentially dilute the competition available locally.

5.0 Treasurer's Report

5.1 Statement of accounts

The £10,000 loss from the previous year had been turned into a profit of just over £4,300 in 2009. This was a tremendous achievement. The key points of note were:

- Bar takings were up considerably on the previous year
- The increase in match fees had gone a long way to covering the costs of providing home pitches for the 5th and 6th XIs
- Social fund raising events had helped considerably. The Management Committee would like to thank Nigel Baldwin for all his efforts in promoting the Bonus Ball competition each week
- The positive impact of sponsorship and the Sportsmatch grant for 2009
- Family subscriptions had increased significantly
- Junior Section costs had increased but were offset by the Sportsmatch grant
- Cost of ground maintenance had decreased following careful management of the Jordans contract and costs
- Increase in the cost of bar purchases had not been as great as the previous year thanks to the pricing renegotiation with the brewery.
- Whilst the current position at the bank looked very favourable there were several large expenses in the previous month not included in the most recent statement of accounts
- A significant number of the objectives set to improve the club's financial position had been achieved but it was important to avoid complacency

Following the great success of the Balloon Race fund raising initiative earlier in the year Veronica Over was keen to continue her involvement in further efforts to raise funds for the club. She would speak at the junior registration evenings in March 2010 to highlight the work being done in this area and to encourage volunteers and ideas for further schemes in 2010

Len Enoch noted, with some concern, that it appeared that Wanstead & Snaresbrook was becoming predominantly a junior club in terms of participation in social activities. This was typified by the turn out at the recent quiz hosted by Joe Palmer Jnr. This had always been the case to a large extent in recent years but the trend was worrying. Other clubs suffered the same problem but we needed to work on engaging more of the adult club members. Len Enoch also emphasised the positive impact on the club revenues of the number of clubhouse bookings that Lyn Rising continued to achieve over the winter.

Trevor Hebden informed the Management Committee that £500 had been raised at this year's Junior Dinner.

Action *Martin Pluck to speak to Joe Palmer Snr regarding Social Committee activities planned for next year.*

6.0 Bars

6.1 Bar takings

Overall, the bar takings during the August to October period had continued to show a reasonable improvement. The monthly breakdown was as follows:

August:	£360 increase
September:	£4,400 increase
October:	£1,000 decrease

At this stage it was anticipated that November would be up by between £600 and £800.

The club house was booked for every Saturday until the end of the year. In addition most weekends had a booking for the Friday or Sunday

January and February 2010 was expected to be relatively quiet. March and April were fully booked.

The Sky TV response was somewhat inconsistent at this stage.

Takings at Nutter Lane had improved thanks to the increased number of football fixtures

VAT would revert to 17.5% from 1st January 2010. It was recommended that this increase should be passed onto the club members to maintain the existing margins. If we kept prices at current rates this would cost the club around £3,000 per year.

The Management Committee formally agreed that the VAT increase should be passed on to the members

7.0 **Grounds**

7.1 **Grounds report**

Martin Pluck and Nigel Baldwin met with Jordans as agreed to discuss maintenance/end of season work. Areas to focus on were:

- Build up the ends at both grounds, although most work was needed at Overton Drive
- Reduce amount of cricket played at Nutter Lane. The middle 3 tracks should only be used only adult cricket and Junior cup fixtures. The remaining strips were to be used for Junior friendlies

The end of year renovation work had been effective. Both grounds looked better than they had in a long time. Weeds had been removed and root growth at Nutter Lane was excellent whilst at Overton Drive it was good. The Overton Drive outfield has been scarified and would be seeded when the weather improved. The only real concern was how little work had been done at this stage on the outfield at Nutter Lane. It was noted that there was a definite need for fertilizer to be put on the ground here.

At long last the tractor was now locked in the garage. It had also been serviced. The mower should also be stored away in the container at Nutter Lane

The golf club had agreed to remove all dead leaves from around the ground at Overton Drive at minimal cost top the club

A letter had been received from Rob Wallace of the Drummond Tennis Club regarding the damaged access gate and clearance of the area between Preston Drive and the tennis courts. We would clear the area in question but the gate was not our club's responsibility

Action *Once we have cleared the area between Preston Drive and the tennis club, Martin Pluck to respond to Rob Wallace at the Drummond Tennis Club confirming that we are not responsible for the gate used to access the tennis club*

There was concern regarding the condition of the access road to the car park at Overton Drive and the car park itself. There were a lot of holes that get filled with water when it rains. This was potentially dangerous both when walking and driving into the car park

Action *Chris Hurd to contact the Landlords about the damaged access road and car park at Overton Drive to clarify who is responsible for repairing this.*

The sightscreen at Overton Drive had fallen and knocked over the flag across the path to the Lakeside tennis club. The tennis club had complained

Action *Nigel Baldwin to investigate how to rectify problem with the flagpole at Overton Drive.*

8.0 **Social**

8.1 Joe Palmer Jnr had continued his excellent work on encouraging more participation in social events in the club by hosting a quiz recently. This

succeeded in raising £227 for the club. Unfortunately, as noted above, this was almost entirely supported by members connected to the Junior Cricket Section.

The club would be open on New Year's Eve and there would be no entry charge.

9.0 Cricket

9.1 Adult Cricket

- 2 sides had entered the Metropolitan Essex District Indoor League.
- The League AGM had taken place recently. All 1st XI league games would follow last season's Premier League example by switching to a mixture of 9 50-over games and 9 timed matches. From next season clubs could only charge away teams a maximum of £40 for teas.
- There were some potential concerns about the additional travelling required by the 6th XI next season following their promotion to a division where 6 of the teams were located east of Gallows Corner
- James Outram had agreed to take over from Terry O'Connor as club Fixtures Secretary.
- There was every likelihood that Chris Murray would be available to play for the 1st XI next season, which was encouraging news

9.2 Junior Section

- 10 sides had been entered in the Metropolitan Essex District Friday evening Indoor League and 2 in the League at the Ilford Cricket School on Saturday afternoons. The agreed strategy was to put out mixed ability sides to provide a balance in the teams and increase player participation. As a result, we had met with limited success so far in terms of results
- Succession planning was now being considered to identify potential candidates who, should the need arise, be able to take over from Len Enoch and Trevor Hebden. They would obviously be a hard attack to follow having done such an outstanding job in running the Junior Section for a number of years. As a result, Trevor had asked Stuart Phillips to review the Junior Section to identify areas of strength, areas that could be improved and to define a succession plan. Stuart needs to be provided with the necessary authority to carry out this task

Action *Martin Pluck to contact members that Stuart Phillips plans to interview as part of Junior Section review to confirm his approval for this initiative*

- There had been some concerns about discipline earlier in the season and a warning mechanism had been put in place to deal with any further problems should they occur in the future

10.0 Football

10.1 The season had started reasonably well. The young adults side is in the U21 Chelmsford Football League and had not lost a game so far this season. They were through to the area quarter finals of the Essex County Cup

- 10.2 The girls U10 side was exceptionally strong. They had one particularly outstanding player who was already earmarked for future success. The girls U12 team contains mostly U11 players and was not doing as well as had been hoped at this stage

11.0 Any Other Business

- 11.1 It was noted that the clock that Tony Pluck had presented to the club when he gained his MBE had disappeared.

Action *Martin Pluck to look into finding a replacement for the clock presented by Tony Pluck that originally stood on a wooden plinth in the main hall at Overton Drive*

- 11.2 The AGM was scheduled for Friday 26th February 2010. A preparatory Management Committee meeting would take place on 25th January 2010.

At this stage the consensus of the Management Committee was that the club should maintain membership and match fees at the 2009 rate.

- 11.3 It was agreed that we needed to focus on the social aspect of the club at the beginning of 2010 to encourage more involvement from adult members.

Action *Trevor Hebden to organise winter cricket match on Sunday 27th December 2009 provided this does not clash with the rearranged football match currently scheduled for Sunday 3rd January 2010*

Action *Sanjay Batra to publish August 2009 Management Committee minutes on the club website*

12.0 Date of next meeting

- 12.1 The next meeting would be on Monday 25th January 2010.