

**Cambridge South Men's Hockey Club**  
**Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2008**  
**The Panton Arms, Panton Street, Cambridge**

*Actions are shown in italics*

Changes in club policy are underlined

**Those present:** Jim Thorpe (acting chair), Shahbaz Ali, Chris Baker, Rob Barton, John Benedikz, Jan Brynjolfsson, James Cobbe, Wilco Dijkstra, Robert Garrett, Gareth Hebbroon, James Hodge, Russell Johnson, Vicky Lavis (Ladies committee representative), Ron Oren, Steve Parker, James Raikes, Eliot Read, Kevin Rowland, Neil Sneade, Rupert Webb, George Wych

**Apologies** were received from: Stephen Fleck, John Greaves, Ky Ho, Matt Kern, Chris Massey, Kevin Pride, John Sharp, Colin Singleton, Jim Sutcliffe, Simon Ta, Leo Tomita

1. **2007 AGM Minutes :** Were read and agreed.

2. **Highlights of Reports :**

**Treasurer:** John Benedikz reported that, as things stand, the clubs books show a loss of £285.00 for the season. However, with known other expenditures, this will increase to £480.00. However, JB has only received subscription payments from 58 people, which all at the meeting agreed wasn't properly representative of the number of playing members of the club.

Overall, the club still retains a healthy bank balance of >£6,000. There has been a significant rise in costs this season, with the Leys changing Saturdays from being off-peak to peak time, meaning pitch hire costs have risen from £45 to £60 per match. However, as this only happened part-way through the season, it's full effects are difficult as yet to judge.

1<sup>st</sup> XI: Chris Baker reported that the Firsts have finished 4<sup>th</sup> in Division 3NW, with 41 points, both of which are best ever results. This was represented a really good squad performance, with the squad having a good mix of youth and experience, and also long standing and new players. New recruit Mark Taylor weighed in with 25 goals, whilst long-standing member Chris Graveling was player of the season. Having finished 6<sup>th</sup> and then 4<sup>th</sup>, CB believes promotion is a realistic aim for next season.

2<sup>nd</sup> XI: Kevin Rowland reported that the Seconds finished 5<sup>th</sup> in Division 5NW, which again was their best ever finish. The team only conceded 35 goals, a record only better by the league champions. However, only 45 were scored, which KR believes is insufficient and if a more regular supply of goals could be found then the team would be serious promotion candidates. A major contribution to the success of the team was solid commitment from a group of regular players. Two of the regulars are leaving the club due to moving out of the area; Colin Singleton, who was player of the season, and vice-captain Gareth Hebbroon, who is emigrating to the USA. KR noted his tanks to GH for his work as v-c.

3<sup>rd</sup> XI: John Greaves (via email read out by Jan Brynjolfsson) reported that the Thirds have achieved a second successive promotion after finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in Division 6NW, only missing out on the title by goal difference. Again, like the 1sts & 2nds this is a best ever position. The promotion was achieved via a core of regular players, including player of the season Paul South, with star cameos from a number of other individuals. Goalkeeping was solid, especially from Shahbaz Ali, who improved spectacularly through the season to earn the club 'Most Improved Player' award. However, the side used too many players through the campaign, totalling 58, and need a smaller core of regulars if they are to survive in 5NW. The large number of

players used was not helped by having many home games at the Abbey astro with late push-back times.

4<sup>th</sup> XI: James Raikes reported that this newly formed side had had a creditable season, finishing 6<sup>th</sup> (out of 10) in Division 7NW. More games were won than were lost, and some new young players were brought into the club, who have done well. JR questioned the size of the 3rds squad through the season, emphasising the need for a couple of strong players to give balance to the side and help the younger team members develop. He made the suggestion that irregular players, whatever their past playing achievements, ought to be considered for the 4ths first of all, rather than dropping in and out of higher teams.

JR announced that, due to new work commitments, he would be standing down from running the 4ths next season. The committee thanked him for his efforts in running the team, which, along with all his other work for the club, have earned him the clubman of the year award.

Umpires: Rob Barton reported that the club now has 18 registered L1 qualified Umpires. This is a much improved situation from when RB took over. There are also a handful of others who have passed the theory exam, but are yet to have an assessment game. From feelers RB has put out, there is sufficient interest in the Men's club to justify the club contacting Cambs Umpires to run a theory course in the coming months. Vicky Lavis (Ladies rep) reported that 5 Ladies club members would also be interested in attending. *RB agreed to follow this up with Cambs Umpires/Richard Munns.*  
RB also reported that Kevin Pride and Steve Riches were joint recipients of this seasons Umpiring award, as they had finished joint top of his list of games Umpired, both officiating 20 times.

### 3. Matters arising from the Reports :

Treasurers: *John Benedikz agreed to email the 2007-08 captains asking for a list of all players they would regard as having subs due from the season just gone. JB will then compare these lists with the names of people who have paid, and then JB and the relevant captains will chase up the missing subs. This all to be done ASAP, with people in arrears given notice by the end of May.*  
In future seasons, the team captains will be expected to email the Club Treasurer with their active squad list in mid-October of each season, so he knows who to expect subs from and can inform skippers promptly if they are not paid.

4<sup>th</sup> Xi: KR commented that, although JR had made some good points about the need for strong players in the 4ths to bring the younger players in that side along, there isn't a surplus of players available to allow someone capable of holding down a regular place in a higher side to drop down and perform such a development role. JR acknowledge this, and emphasised that he wouldn't expect to take regulars out of the higher sides, but was hoping that if strong players who are only itinerantly available were to contact skippers, they would be passed on to the 4ths skipper rather than parachuted into higher sides.

### 4. Season 2007-08 :

Pitches: Those involved with the lower teams commented that the Abbey is not a great venue either for hockey or for socialising afterwards. Jan Brynjolffssen (Fixtures Secretary), confirmed that he has already put an application in with the Leys for as many pitch slots as possible, and would try to schedule as many teams as possible at that venue. However, as it is a school pitch, school usage will take priority and it may not be possible to play all matches there. In which case, the 3:30pm slot at the Abbey will continue to be used, as the Perse Boys pitch continues to have an issue with a lack of changing facilities on Saturdays that makes it inappropriate for all but the most local matches.

RB noted that the Perse Girls pitch has free slots available. JBr responded that Cambridge City have it blocked booked, and might not always use all their slots. However, *JBr agreed to contact the Cambridge City Fixtures Secretaries to see if they would be willing to sub-let the pitch when they have spare slots on a Saturday.*

Training:

As part of the pitch block booking, JBr has again requested the regular slot, Tuesday evenings 8-9pm, at the Leys. As the school operates a priority system for returning customers, it is expected that this will be confirmed. Coach from '07-'08 season, Sean Park, has provisionally indicated that he is willing to continue coaching us next season, if he is still in the area, as he expects to be. The meeting agreed that, with the funds in the bank, a second coach should be advertised for. JR agreed to place the adverts with Hockey England, but enquired what sort of payment he could offer. JR to liaise with JB to determine how much the club can afford.

Training has again been over-subscribed this season, with issues arising about space. A number of proposals for more pitch space were raised, but nothing in Cambridge is realistically available for the entire 2008-09 season. The meeting noted the news that Cambridge University HC have received planning permission for floodlights for their astro, but those with contacts at the Uni reported that i) the lights are only scheduled to be erected by Sept '09, and ii) the permission is subject to a court appeal. We will note developments with interest.

JR reported that he had found booked the Leys School was provisionally available for Men's 1sts, Men's 2nds & Ladies 1sts pre-season on Thursday evenings in September, 19:30-21:00. *The meeting informed James Raikes that he should confirm this ASAP.* Sean Park is apparently available to coach this session, but only from 20:00. Some ideas about organising fitness between 19:30-20:00 were discussed, including seeing if Ruth Graveling would be interest. *JR to try and sort a fitness coach out. Attendance will be at the invitation of the M1, M2 & L1 captains. As this session isn't to be offered club-wide, a charge will be applied to cover the costs (pitch £60/session, plus coaching fees).*

With regards to the oversubscribed Tuesday session, a number of potential ways of organising our time to get the most value were discussed. These were felt to be minutiae not suited to an AGM, and *JR was advised to take the discussion offline with the Ladies club's training co-ordinator.* JR also commented that skippers had been coming up to him at the beginning of a training session asking for a specific issue to be worked on. This is far too late for the coaches to have a chance to think about how they would address it. If skippers have a specific tactical/skill need they want addressed at training, JR must be informed by the preceding Sunday evening to allow time to prepare.

Also raised was our agreement with Cambridge Ladies HC that has seen them allow us use of part of the pitch prior to our main training session, for fitness training and goalkeeping practice. The main concern was, now that Cambridge Ladies have merged with Cambridgeshire Nomads Men's HC, their attitude to let us use the space may change. *JR agreed to chat to his contact at Cambridge Ladies to find out how things stand.*

Out of town options including the full-sized pitch at Linton and the small pitch at Bottisham were considered, and rejected. The Bottisham session on Wednesdays will continue as a friendly mixed run around, but Jim Thorpe raised the question of whether these sessions, and the summer hockey currently happening at the Leys, ought to be considered an official part of the club, for insurance reasons. There is no qualified coach or official club representation at either session. *JB to look at the clubs insurance policy to see whether this is covered, with the assumption being if it's not clear, then the sessions will not be considered part of the clubs activities.*

Subs:

Set at £80 if paid before deadline, £100 thereafter, Concessionary subscription fees were discussed, and the decision deferred until *JB can produce a report on the likely effect on the club finances of increasing them.* The other issues to do with subs, such as the grace period for players joining the club after the 31/10 deadline,

were muddy to most of the committee. *JBr agreed to produce a document outlining the clubs various policies.*

After consulting VL on the date the Ladies club are using, the late payment deadline was left as 31<sup>st</sup> October. It is the remit of team captains to liaise with the club treasurer to make sure subscriptions have been paid by their regular players. As last season, to avoid confusion, Committee members who are not team captains should not politely direct players with cheques in the direction of their regular skipper (or vice-captain, if the skipper opts to delegated this responsibility).

- Match Fees: To remain as 06-07; £8 for home matches, £6 for away games, with students and the unwaged paying 50% fees.  
There have been some problems with season with tracking match fees for player-umpires. Currently the situation has varied with the individuals, with some people paying a fee if they were due to Umpire later in the day, others not, and others again paying a fee as they weren't expecting to Umpire and then being roped in. The meeting agreed that all players should pay a fee to their team on the day, regardless of Umpiring commitments. The Umpires Officer will note how many games each Umpire has officiated in the season, and then instruct the Treasurer to reimburse Umpiring fees at the end of the season.
- Umpires Fees: With regard to the above, these were set at a flat rate of £6 per game.
- Club Leaflet: The discussions, and the confusion about the current policies, lead to the proposal that a leaflet, outlining club information like training times, contact details for skippers, costs, deadlines, insurance information, etc., could be useful to produce. It was suggested that such a document be handed to players at the first training session they attend of the new season. *JBr agreed to look in to producing this.*
- Teas: Teas for 2007/08 have been mostly at the Hat & Feathers pub. Generally it was felt that the service provided had been decent, though some issues to do with the amount and quality of the food on certain weekends were raised. Also the cost, being a flat rate of £48 per tea was questioned.  
Social Secretary Rupert Webb laid out for the committee the considerations in picking a post-match venue; food, parking, cost, space for ~20 people, flexibility in cancelling at short notice for postponements. RW ended up with the H&F last summer after a fairly extensive search of venues around Cambridge found few that were suitable. Given that the feedback on the H&F was on the whole positive, RW proposed sticking with the current arrangement.  
The meeting questioned whether the 'soup one week in four' deal we currently have for our £48 could be renegotiated, especially as the pub appears to have discovered via us that sports teams are searching for that match tea venues, and invited two other clubs in. *RW agreed to try and work his relationship with the H&F to see if he can improve the fourth week food quality, and with that proviso the meeting agreed to the H&F as the main venue for 2008-09.*  
RW also noted as part of the arrangement with the H&F, they are provided with a fixture list at the start of the season. However, the pub expects captains to phone up and confirm they will need the scheduled tea by the Thursday of each week. Certain captains have failed on a number of occasions to do this, resulting in RW receiving numerous phone calls on Fridays chasing whether we wanted the food. RW made clear that he doesn't have time for this, and the meeting noted it wished for a more proactive approach from the skippers about confirming teas.  
For matches played at the Abbey, the H&F is too far across town to be a realistic venue. Teams have been going to the Master Mariner pub on Perne Road after their games at that venue. The MM is describe as "cheap and cheerful", and adequate for the job. The meeting agreed that we should continue to patronise it when games were played in the west of the city.

## 5. Election of Officers :

President:	Stephen Fleck (as 2007-08)
Honorary Life Members:	Frank Allen, Mike Gronow, Eric Jacobs, Richard Jacobs, Peter Mercer, Harry Rider, Noel Sutcliffe, Keith Westley, Colin Worboys, Mick Beasley, Roger Craigen (as 2007-08)
Chairman:	Kevin Pride (as 2007-08)
Hon. Treasurer:	John Benedikz (as 2007-08)
Hon. Secretary:	Jan Brynjolffssen (as 2007-08)
League Liaison Officer:	see note 1
Fixture Secretary:	Jan Brynjolffssen (as 2007-08)
Umpires Liaison Officer:	Rob Barton
First Xi Captain:	Chris Baker (as 2007-08)
First Xi Vice-Captain:	Rupert Webb
Second Xi Captain:	Kevin Rowland (as 2007-08)
Second Xi Vice-Captain:	George Wych
Third Xi Captain:	John Greaves (as 2007-08)
Third Xi Vice-Captain:	Shahbaz Ali
Fourth Xi Captain:	James Hodge
Fourth Xi Vice-Captain:	Ky Ho
Mixed co-Captain:	John Benedikz (alongside Lou Tonkin from the Ladies)
Indoor Captain:	Rupert Webb (as 2007-08)
Training coordinator:	James Raikes (as 2007-08)
Social Secretary:	Rupert Webb (as 2007-08)
Press Officer:	Matt Kern (as 2007-08) – see note 2
Website Manager:	Jan Brynjolffssen (as 2007-08)
Club Welfare Officer:	see note 3

note 1 – There was felt to be a distinct amount of double-up between the Club Secretaries role and that of League Liaison Officer. When JBr indicated he was willing to take on the LLO's responsibilities, it was agreed to combine that role formally into the Club Secretaries responsibilities.

note 2 – Coverage of Cambridge South in the local press is not all that might have been hoped for, despite Matt Kern providing copy each week. A wide-ranging discussion about how we could improve this settled on providing the paper with a captioned action shot of each member of the Men's and Ladies 1st team squads, to be added to their library. It was suggested that *MK could liase with Ian Glover to try and provide this.*

note 3 – Recent communication both from hockey governing bodies and local schools makes it apparent that a Club Welfare Officer is needed. Vicky Lavis has been appointed in that capacity for the Ladies club. She indicated a partial willingness to take that on for the Men's club as well, but suggested that Rich Morgan might be approached to see if he would be willing to do the role. *JBr/VL to approach RM to discuss.*

## 6. Awards & Tributes :

Awards:	Clubman of the Year: James Raikes
	Player of the Season: Chris Graveling
	2nds Player of the Season: Colin Singleton
	3rds Player of the Season: Paul South
	4ths Player of the Season: Ian Glover
	Young Player of the Season: Dave Stock
	Players' Player of the Season: Chris Graveling
	Most Promising Newcomer: George Wych
	Most Improved Player: Shahbaz Ali
	Top Goalscorer: Mark Taylor, 25 goals
	'Accidental Tourist' (highest away/home games ratio): John Sharp
	'Mick Beasley Perpetual Shield': Simon Ta

## 7. Any Other Business :

Shahbaz Ali raised a suggestion of offering our father away opponents games at neutral venues, to cut down on everybody's travelling. The meeting appreciated the thought, but rejected the suggestion on a number of grounds. Rob Barton brought up the issue of good quality practice balls for use in warm-ups on match days. This lead into a discussion of match balls. It was suggested that *a number of club members (naming no names) have stockpiled practice balls. It would be good if these can be counted up and returned ASAP.* It was also commented that this years match balls haven't been of suitable quality. *JBr agreed to purchase six new match balls per side, of a different brand from last season.* The decent practice balls ought to be provided from recent seasons match balls, there ought not be a need to buy them specifically. It's not an expense it was felt the club could afford. Neil Sneade reported that the club tour to Barcelona had been a success. He also agreed to *look after summer tournament hockey again this year, and to look in to running a further tour in spring '09.* NS suggested that new kit bags be purchased for the team shirts, as the old ones are becoming quite tatty. He has a quote of £20/bag for decent sized bags with pockets for match balls. It was agreed, that *NS should go ahead and purchase five bag, one per Men's team and one for the blue away kit/Mixed kit.* The value of the clubs sponsorship deal with PwC was raised from the floor. RW explain the nature of the deal, which is worth ~£500 per year to the club in equipment. Generally this consists of two sets of playing kit. Suggested spending this season is a set of away shirts for the Ladies club, and a set of home shirts for the Men's 4ths. The meeting agreed that this was an acceptable deal.

The meeting was declared closed at 10:30pm.

J Brynjolffssen