

Ops Committee Meeting 16/02/26

Attendees: Vicki Keepen, Nick Swinburne, Chris Mann, Nadeem Ahmed, Connor Dearlove

Apologies: Tina Foley, Irina Mann

Introduction

Nick thanked everyone for taking on a role and thanked everyone in advance for their time.

Nick explained the reason for having the split of the committees (Exco, cricket, Ops) and the reason for the structure. Explained that Exco delegate to us, if we have problems/need resource/support we can then go back to them. We don't need to ask permission, it's for us to do and tell them what we are doing.

Nick and Neil Hussey talked over the winter and made the decision to split the Operations Committee into 3 workflows. The three workflows are Commercial Activity (fundraising/sponsorship/bar), Engagement and Facilities.

Big focus to get some money in this year. A big part of that is the bar and so we need to make sure the bar is fully functional. Also, fundraising and getting people involved in volunteering and supporting with the club/functions/money raising are big focusses.

Point to note - Wayne is going to carry on looking after the clubhouse management. However, we will need to plan for maintenance as the clubhouse is now 20 years old and things will need replacing.

Communications – Connor update

Communication has been successful so far – the WhatsApp community went live at the weekend to put all of the WhatsApp groups together in one place. Some groups are hidden so not everyone can see each group but everyone should be able to see the Walking Cricket Group. Connor has full control of all of the groups.

Our Social media posts are having good interaction and so we need to continue on this trajectory.

Club365 being able to send emails and the Whatsapp groups being set up in one place mean we can contact people and communicate things to the club easier.

Need anything from us? Nick confirmed that Lauren Orchard has offered to help with promotion/fundraising/social media. Connor to get in touch and make a group with himself, Chris and Lauren to put some ideas together.

Fundraising – Chris update

Fundraising prospectus has been put together and been sent out.

Chris has contacted around 100 local businesses and as suspected there has been a high ghosting rate.

There has been 7 player sponsors confirmed so far. Charlie Holton will be making a payment as his name is on the women's shirts. Currently at about £800/£900 that has been secured. Bluebird Care have got in touch and want to get involved in walking cricket, Chris to follow up.

Kev Hendy to speak to St Austell Brewery about potential sponsorship – to be the title sponsors for the club at around £10k. They have helped previously when we have had events so they may want to again.

Daniel Jones Estate Agents responded and he wants to do something but not sure which. Chris to follow up and see what he wants to do but may look for 1st team sponsorship from him.

Need to speak with Connor to ensure social media templates, diarising posts so they get what they have paid for.

Local businesses - Rustiq fitness to also sponsor. Hartley do food discounts for us but they have been sent a prospectus to see if they want to get involved further. Seven Stars - we're holding a couple of events there so would be good if they could give back. Chris confirmed she has emailed so to go back. Cumberwell park? Vicki spoke to Jon and he is to get email address for someone that Chris can contact.

What about boundary advertising? Nick confirmed that we can have it up as long as the manor can't see it. Might be good to approach the person who has dealt with the fencing before to help us put something together. Banners are quite cheap to have made and big sponsors will get boundary advertising so need to be able to follow through with that. Could also look at putting some mesh over Laurel to allow for advertising to be hung from it.

Nadeem – update

Wiltshire Cricket ECB grant has opened so we can put in an expression of interest – going to focus on disability cricket and womens cricket.

There are other sources of funding that are being looked into. Money seems to be there if you do the right thing.

What do the women's section need/would help us? Vicki will speak to Erica about this and see if we have a wishlist.

Additional points

We currently have the Second pitch and centenary committees running which are temporary committees. Second pitch – to be reviewed at the next Exco meeting. Centenary committee is ramping up and events which will be starting in March, one event will be a world record attempt for walking cricket. Nick is looking into a sleep out at the cricket club which he can't see has been done before.

Parish council have said that they want to support us, will want something to get credit for!

Dorothy House have committed to assisting us more, with such things as prizes and publicising our events.

Something we can promise to do?

Something we can then go back to Exco with next week.

Connor – work closer with Chris, so that they are both in the loop with what each other are doing.

Vicki and Nick – to sit with Tim, Kevin, Jan to look at the bar and prices. Also that Kev has said he will finish the work needing to be done in the club by end of March – roller door, 3rd changing room, flooring behind the bar. Kev got called on a lot last year with bar issues and so Nick has spoken with Leggy and Leggy Junior to step in to assist with the bar when needed.

Chris - to follow up with potential leads for sponsorship.