

HAMPSTEAD HOCKEY CLUB  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
May 21, 1986, 8.00 pm  
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The Hornsey Club  
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MINUTES

1. Apologies for absence: Colin Greenhalgh, Steve Blackney, Melinda Bennett, Penny Wehner, Dick Farr, Stuart Cunliffe, Heather Shale, Sandra Laird, Cyril Flajsner
2. The Minutes of the previous Meeting were agreed.
3. There were no Matters Arising.
4. Secretary's Report: Steve Purnell outlined the accounts. The Woodpecker Fund stands at approximately £77 and the Boizot Fund at approximately £490. The Boizot Fund had not been used since last year. There were no questions.
- 4a) Proposal to have a Ladies' 3rd XI: Wendy Cunliffe spoke for the proposal, saying that it was the only way to improve standards. Stu Waugh seconded the proposal, citing the disparity in standard between the 1st and 2nd XIs. Match Secretary Peter S-H said that the pitch problem was understood and that he thought there would be no major problems. This was endorsed by Fixture Secretary Tony Elliot. The proposal was carried unopposed.
5. Subscriptions: Noting that the Ladies' subscription had been increased by £5, Sally Openshaw asked whether the Ladies' 3rd XI would have full fixture list, to which the answer was 'yes'. The levels of subscriptions and match fees were passed.
6. Pitches: Peter S-H thanked the captains for phoning him at 11.00 am each Saturday morning. He apologised to 6th XI for the non-game at Hampstead Cricket Club. Peter explained the club policy on pitch selection, pointing out the safety aspects, e.g., the 1st XI would not be playing on the drained grass. Fund raising is needed for the Pavilion Pitch drainage scheme. Fillingham asked about the cost of the astro pitches and was told that the final bill for the season would be more than £1,000. Nick White asked how the Pavilion Pitch would be drained - would the same system be used as for the bottom pitch. S-H said that we would not know until a report was done. Charles suggested that we loose too much money, so can we afford it? Borrett from the Chair said that a long-term investment was required and that the Committee always had pitches to the forefronts of their minds. Boizot said that this matter was an old chestnut, and there was no proper drain. S-H said that

the new development incorporated a new drain and that there was a lot more needed. Steve Dawson said that the wrong scheme had been laid on the drained pitch. The meeting instructed the Committee to ask the Hornsey Committee to look into the possibility of drainage advice on the Pavilion Pitch, reminding them of the amount of money spent on astro pitches. Nick White asked whether the 1st XI would be able to use the drained pitch and was told yes, in time. Steve Purnell is to investigate the possibility of temporary flood-lights of the astro tennis courts over the season. The meeting thanked Peter S-H for his hard work.

7. Fixtures: Tony Elliot said he always tried to get full block fixtures, but the World Cup was certain to cause problems at the beginning of the season, although no details were known as yet. The Fixture Secretary has to assume the fixtures are satisfactory unless he is told otherwise, so please tell David Blakemore. Andy Latter asked about the 4th XI League, and would there be proper league arrangements. Tony Elliot had no details, except that Reading were in the League. Nick Openshaw said that in his opinion the League was not satisfactory as there is no feedback on results. Steve Purnell would put this point to the London League Representative. Dick Cresswell spoke about Hampstead Hockey Club hosting part of the Vets World Cup, October 10-13. HHC would be organising 25 games and would be responsible for feeding and entertaining the players. No London League hockey would be played that weekend. Support for the Vets would be needed from the whole club. Borrett from the Chair said that this would be a good opportunity to see good hockey from old cripples. Tony Elliot asked if the Club would like him to re-arrange missed fixtures. Boizot asked if the club wanted to maintain the 'status quo' re the League make-up. Borrett explained the pros and cons. Harry Watson said that technically there were no proposals on the table. Roger Rookes asked, if the question of pitches was relevant, to which Borrett answered 'No'. Stu Waugh said that existing fixtures would not be maintained and players would pick and choose the games they played in and miss matches. We must look forward to become a better club and this would only be possible by keeping the good fixtures, therefore we must look after ourselves and to an extent be selfish to keep our position. Alan Delaney said that we need good players to keep in the top 13. Borrett thanked Tony Elliot for his hard work.

#### 8. Captains' Reports

- 1st Harry Watson reported that the 1st XI had had a relatively poor season and that there were legitimate reasons for our loss of players. A professional attitude is coming into hockey and we are getting more amateur. We do not train and practice enough and more commitment is needed. We have the potential to win 10

league games each season, but a change of attitude amongst 1st team players is needed. The younger players are not dedicated enough. We have a problem: HHC is no longer a fashionable club to join.

2nd Stu Waugh reported that the aim two years ago was to get a side with professionalism. It had not been an easy side to captain but the success was down to a staggering level of commitment; winning is a good habit. Stu thanked all the players, although there was not total agreement within the side; this was tough as a hard attitude is needed. There is talent there that needs to be brought out. Stu thanked the organisers of the play-offs and extended best wishes to Mike Blanning. The Chair thanked Stu and said that the Club should be proud of the 2nd team performance.

3rd Dirk Fleming reported that up to December 14 they had had their worst season for three years, but since then had won 10, drawn 1 and lost 1, which were the best 3rd XI results since the League started. Commitment was good and competition to play in the side was very fierce. The team did not perform properly in the semi-finals and lost on penalties. Charles would have a good team to work with and the possibility of picking up the trophy next season. The team had been the top five for the past four years. The Chair congratulated Dirk on the team's achievements.

4th Nick Openshaw said that the team had performed a mirror image of the 3rd XI: up to Christmas they had had the best start possible but then ran through the gamut of emotions over the next six weeks. There was poor play after the skiing breaks. Nick thanked Roger Rookes and Stu Brunton.

5th Roger Rookes reported that the standard of play was at the bottom end but going up. Players can now stop and hit at 5th team level. Old lags have played well, supported by young legs and were an entertaining side to watch.

6th Stu Brunton reported feeling 50% over the moon and 50% sick as a parrot and mentioned the flood of mediocrity in the 6th XI. Trials allocated everyone to the 6's and Stu was looking forward to his 1st XI debut.

Vets Stan Elgar reported that results had not been as good as in previous years and there had been a large number of injuries. Stan thanked everyone, particularly Dick Cresswell, for their work so far for the Vets World Cup and urged everyone to come and see some good hockey. The Chair thanked Stan for his leadership of the Vets and mentioned the good impression of the Club given by the Vets team.

- 1st Wendy Cunliffe reported improvement over the last year mainly due to Captain Kate Delaney's hard work.
- 2nd Leanne Wilson reported that the team had lots of enthusiasm but lacked penetration. There was no great will to win, possibly because no-one could be dropped into a lower side. The presence of a 3rd XI should sort this out.
- Mxd Charles Fillingham reported that he had slashed a woman's legs and that the bad weather had caused problems, but all opponants like playing HHC.

The Chair noted that the entertainment level of this year's captains' reports was high.

- 9. Election of Officers: It was agreed that in this important year (World Cup) we need a Club President to help the club structure. All positions were agreed.
- 10. Presentations were made:
  - Barnard Cup: 3rd XI
  - Woodpecker Trophy: Tony Elliot
  - Golden Sticks - Men: Hugh Smith
  - Women: Sally Openshaw
- 11. Any Other Business
  - a) Ash Gadhavi complained about a Southgate Tournament cock-up and Steve promised to do better next time.
  - b) Diana Waterhouse apologised for the shirts cock-up, but she has made £100 profit during the year.
  - c) Stan Elgar asked about provision of shirts etc. Roger suggested introducing mementoes of HHC for visiting clubs, shirts, ties, etc. Stu Waugh suggested club World Cup T-shirts. Liaison would be needed with Bourne Sports, who have the World Cup franchise.
  - d) Ali Alibhai expressed thanks to Baldy Fillingham for organising the Brussels tournament.
  - e) Tony Elliot complained about the lack of communication this year and that the bulletins had been sub-standard. It was explained that there had been problems with the duplicator and that the typewriter was naff.
  - f) Sunday Spaniards: the Chair said that the point of Sunday Spaniards had been for players from the top and bottom sections of the club to play in the same side, but this had not happened as there had been no support from the top of the club.

- g) Answerings: the price of using a professional answering service had now risen to £500 per annum, which is too much. Roger Rookes urged that players MUST call their captains on Saturday mornings. Waugh said that captains must be much harder on their teams for crimes such as not phoning in and turning up late.
- h) Stu Cunliffe said that goal keeping equipment is very expensive and would the Committee consider exempting goalkeepers from paying subscriptions.
- i) Boizot recommended that the club has a General Committee to be run on more formal lines with minutes being circulated to deal with long-term club strategy.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.32.

SP/das  
1.5.87