

# WANSTEAD & SNARES BROOK CRICKET CLUB

**Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2008 @ 8:00pm.**

**Present:** M. Pluck (Chair), E. Pluck, C. Hurd, T. Hebdon, L. Enoch, K. Lloyd, N. Baldwin, S. Andrews, Mrs H. Mills, S. Batra, J. Palmer, N. Hutchings

## **1.0 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from J. Gray, Arfan Akram and P. Staniford.

## **2.0 Introduction**

2.1 Martin Pluck welcomed Nigel Baldwin onto the Management Committee in his role as Ground Chairman. He also introduced Nigel Hutchings who had been co-opted onto the Management Committee to assist the Club Secretary, Tony Pluck.

## **3.0 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 29<sup>th</sup> February 2008**

3.1 Chris Hurd queried the fact that the annual subscription rates included in the Notice of the AGM were incorrect and that this should have been raised in the minutes. Martin Pluck confirmed that this was only the case on the printed AGM Notice posted prior to the meeting – the correct figures had been included in the Notice which was given to attendees of the meeting, posted to the website and formally displayed on the club's notice board.

3.2 It was confirmed that the AGM Minutes could be posted to the website after the correction of a typo.

## **4.0 Minutes of the previous Management Committee meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2008**

4.1 The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true record of proceedings.

## **5.0 Secretary's Report**

### **5.1 Lease for Nutter Lane**

Since the last Management Committee meeting, the Treasurer, Chris Hurd, had met with Peter Brown, one of the Landlords. A joint letter from the three clubs involved in the lease negotiations – Wanstead Central Bowls Club, Drummond Tennis Club and the Wanstead & Snaresbrook Cricket Club – had been drawn up for the solicitors dealing with the lease. The following was agreed:

- all three clubs want the lease
- the clubs will be responsible for paying the rates on the ground
- the rent will increase by inflation

As all three clubs would be paying for the lease there is the possibility that Wanstead may receive a reimbursement of a proportion of the costs from the Landlords. At this stage, the main sticking point for all three clubs is the fact that the Landlords were asking them to pay for the legal costs incurred in drawing up the lease, which is an unusual request that would be resisted. It was also noted that there appears to be some friction between Drummond Tennis Club and one of the Landlords' solicitors which may be slowing down the negotiations. If no agreement can be reached soon it may be necessary for Wanstead to negotiate the lease independently. Completing the signing of the lease in a timely manner is important as the Football's Section's ability to apply for grants depends on there being a formal lease in place. Len Enoch emphasised that we should not let the hold up prevent Wanstead from applying for appropriate grants.

## **5.2 ECB Grant**

Martin Pluck had been unable to contact the ECB and would follow up on this.

## **6.0 Development Plan**

### **6.1 Sub-committee report**

There was nothing new to report on this.

## **7.0 Treasurer's Report**

### **7.1 Statement of Accounts**

No formal statement of accounts was available at this stage of the year. The Treasurer could confirm that the club had made a significant loss during the first 6 months of the accounting period but that was to be expected because of the infrastructure costs incurred during the winter.

### **7.2 Banking arrangements**

Chris Hurd presented a report (available separately) outlining the club's current banking arrangements. This included proposals for rationalising the bank and Building Society accounts used to simplify the management of the club's funds. These proposals were accepted with an amendment to retain the existing HSBC account to maximise the flexibility of the banking arrangements.

The facility to pay subscriptions by standing order was discussed. Len Enoch supported this as he was aware of several club members who would welcome the ability to spread payments throughout the year rather than having to pay one lump sum at the beginning of each year. This would require the setting up of a different standing order for each type of subscription and would necessitate the rationalisation of the club's current subscription structure. The Treasurer agreed to review the current subscription configuration and to investigate the setting up of the necessary standing order payment mechanism. During these discussions it was noted that parents of some junior members had raised concerns regarding the level of increase in subscriptions this year as they were out of line with the adult fee increases and had for some time been above

the annual inflation rate. The Committee believed that Wanstead fees were competitive when compared with other clubs but nevertheless the Treasurer would review the rates and breakdown of subscriptions for next year.

### **7.3 Finance Committee report**

The Finance Committee has been formed to review the club's finances and identify opportunities and initiatives to supplement the future income. It is chaired by the club Treasurer who presented the committee's interim report (available separately.) During the ensuing discussion it was agreed that rather than being a one-off exercise the Finance Committee should be considered as a standing committee that met on a regular basis even if this was only as infrequently as twice a year. Club members with the appropriate experience in this key area could be involved when needed to contribute ideas and lead fund raising initiatives. The proposal for the Finance Committee to be a permanent fixture was accepted, although Chris Hurd did voice concerns that this committee should not get too big.

Martin Pluck emphasised the need to increase efforts with respect to identifying and applying for grants and suggested setting up a Grants Committee rather than relying on the efforts of Mike Meade and Tony Pluck to deal with all the grant applications. It was also stressed that we should focus on grants to help pay for things the club really needs rather than discretionary items.

Chris Hurd described the Friends of Wanstead & Snaresbrook Cricket Club concept and the potential for raising additional funds through this initiative. An application form and invitation to support the Friends would be included in the Fixtures Booklet. It was agreed that a page promoting this initiative should be added and the end of the booklet. Chris Hurd also suggested that we invite well known cricketers such as Imran Khan and Michael Holding to act as figureheads for the Friends as it was agreed that Arfan Akram would use his contacts in this area. The proposals were unanimously agreed.

## **8.0 Bars**

8.1 There were no details of bar takings and expenditure since 1st October 2007 but the Bar Chairman, Simon Andrews, confirmed that the bar had been busy during the period as a result of numerous social events taking place at the club. The annual stock stake was scheduled for 8th April and revised prices would be announced at THE start of the coming season. Overall, the bar takings were down around £8,000 on the previous year and as a result consideration would be made to accepting bookings on Saturday evenings during the summer, provided they did not impact on cricketing activities. Mullaleys want to continue with the softball evenings again this year and had booked the club for 10 weeks (on Wednesdays) as well as a full day event.

## **9.0 Grounds**

### **9.1 Maintenance**

Considerable maintenance had taken place to both grounds over the winter, including the deep scarifying and deep aerating of the squares and outfielders plus the application of top dressing and reseeded where appropriate. Regular cutting and light rolling had taken place during the winter for the first time.

A working party had been arranged for 29th March to tidy up both grounds and put up the nets at Overton Drive.

### **9.2 Expenditure**

A heavy roller had been purchased for Nutter Lane. A safe storage facility was also needed at Nutter Lane and this was being addressed through the purchase of a sea container at the cost of £300 plus £180 for delivery.

Tony Burgess has been asked to quote for the removal of weeds from Nutter Lane and the nets at Overton Drive.

All machinery has been serviced during the winter.

Further small expenditure would be required for wood, paints etc. to be used primarily for the repair of the sight screens at both grounds.

It would be necessary to confirm the arrangement with Jordan's regarding the use and rental of equipment owned by Wanstead and Jordans. Tony Pluck will provide an inventory of Wanstead owned equipment.

Residents next to the Nutter Lane ground have raised the issue of balls going into their gardens. As a result it will be necessary to obtain a quote for improved netting to prevent this happening in future. The cost for this will be included in the next grant application

## **10.0 Social**

9.1 There was nothing to report on this.

## **11.0 Cricket**

### **11.1 Cricket Secretary's Report**

Martin Pluck reported that the first game was due to take place on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April. The first cup game (Essex league Cup) was the following Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April. The League starts on 10<sup>th</sup> May and finishes on 6<sup>th</sup> September. This will be Saffron Walden's last season in the Essex Shepherd Neame League.

Several promising recruits have attended winter nets which continue until Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April.

### **11.2 Junior Section**

Registration was now complete. This was all done online this year for existing members rather than sending out registration forms by post. The number of junior members is broadly the same as last year, although there were a higher number of re-registrations than in previous years.

New membership is still restricted to Year 8 (Under 13 age group) and below. However, it was agreed that there was a need to review this policy as this was having a definite impact on the club's success at the Under 15 and Under 16 age groups as we are not replacing the older juniors when they leave the club.

### **11.3 Ladies**

Several are studying this year, which will impact the numbers available early season. It was suggested that the club recruited older players to act as role models. Wanstead were looking to compete with clubs such as Loughton and Harold Wood in the long term, although the policy was to grow players within the club rather than rely on recruiting from outside to achieve success.

### **12.0 Football**

12.1 The senior team started the season well but is likely to finish in the bottom 4 of their division. The Under 17s team has been very successful – they are top the league and unbeaten and have also reached the semi-final stage of the cup. The girls are training on Saturday mornings.

### **13.0 Membership**

13.1 There was nothing to report on this.

### **14.0 Any Other Business**

#### **14.1 Club Clothing**

Fayyaz wishes to be involved in providing clothing for the club again this season. It was agreed that any clothing items that Fayyaz produces with the Wanstead logo on them must be approved by Marin Pluck in his role as Cricket Secretary.

#### **14.2 Membership Booklet**

It had been agreed that this will not continue in its traditional format with all names and addresses of club members listed as there were concerns about potentials data protection issues. Instead, the Membership Booklet would contain details of fixtures only along with information on club officers. A limited membership list would be produced for internal circulation to club officers.

### **14.0 Date of next meeting**

14.1 The next Management Committee meeting would be on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June at 8:30 pm.