



Belper Mens Hockey Club

Committee Meeting

17th October 2023

Attendees

C Beddington, S Emsley, J Connolly, J Beaney, O Philips, P Johnston, S Mills, P Gordon, P Marval, P Yates, R Yates, R Carter (part time)

Apologies

S Sanderson, S Humphries, S Ford, N Hooker,

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Chairman Report
3. Treasurer Report
4. 1st team update and club selection
5. Fixtures
6. House and Bar Report
7. Welfare Report
8. Juniors
9. One Club update
10. Bonfire night
11. AOB

Chairman's report

- We are now well into the season, and it is good to see that the club has been able to fulfil all fixtures.
- The 1st team has been improving week on week, and it has been good to see so many club members rallying around and helping. In addition:
 - Great support from spectators – there were more Belper fans away at Sheffield than the home team had. This support makes a difference to players.
 - We have been congratulated by visiting teams on the clubhouse and hospitality at Belper.
- The other teams have been battling well in their leagues, even although selection has sometimes been difficult.
- The club's sponsorship appeal is making progress, and we are able to buy video equipment and umpire radio sets thanks to generous donations. These will be available for all to use.
- Bonfire night is coming up – the main fund raiser of the year. Chas Beddington and Marianne Dammer have both been able to access matching funding from their employers – all are encouraged to do similarly where possible.
- Next Tuesday (24th October) another 'One Club' strategy meeting will be held – focused this time on Talent Centre issues and social engagement. Olli Philips offered to run a quiz event at the clubhouse.

Treasurer's report – submitted by Stuey Humphris

- Bank balance at £2420 currently. Up to date, insurance paid, affiliation paid, first big pitch hire bills paid and first instalments from Clubbuzz received. Control on Minis, Junior boys and First team

accounts now. Separate accounts being maintained.

- First team expenditure for season projected to be less due to current situation with coaching and senior players. However, there is a loss of income from 12 ex 1st team players that have left (Ben H, Ed, Beast, Elliot, Cam, Luke D, Chris P, Scott, Liam B, Max, Corrin, Dan L), a £4200 loss.
- Currently analysing coaching costs across the club in conjunction with Ruth. Looking to achieve consistency and parity in the future.
- Direct debit, still more members we could get signed up across the club. Minis have introduced the system and are pushing for full compliance.
- Electric costs resolved between Sports club, Synthetic pitches and Ladies and Mens hockey. Result being that a refund received from Synthetic Pitches for last season. And for this season the pitch hire rate has been reduced by £6.20 per hour.
- Clubbuzz use in Mens is good. Charging being actioned regularly. Just need to ensure we have the clarity on who is crediting umpires and post on Admin WhatsApp when you have done so. 4s to 8s are utilising the team selection functions and getting the confirmations in through Clubbuzz. Will look towards 1s to 3s actioning too and for other teams through Club. Second team admin, are we happy with Olli still doing this as a 1st team player, any alternatives? **The committee thanked Olli for this work, organising 2s while playing 1s. ACTION: Olli Philips to call Mark Armson and ask if Mark can run the 2s.**

Fixtures secretary – Paul Yates

- The 5s game on 14th October was called off by NTU due to a 'frozen pitch'. It has been rearranged for 19th November.
- The 7s game on the same day was called off by Market Harborough, who could not get a team together. It has been rescheduled to 16th December.
- Beeston have pulled out of the Badgers league, but some of the empty dates will be filled by Ashby.
- **The committee noted good communication from Paul Yates, with useful match schedules sent out every week.**

House and bar -Steve Mills

- The new draught beer is selling well, but we still have problems with mystery people turning off the gas and power to the pump: reactivating it wastes beer as the machine chills down again. Both systems should be left 'on'.
- Beer prices are higher (£4.80) than our cans, but cheaper than pub prices for the same beer. There has been no pushback to the pricing.
- A small flock of new tables has been acquired by Nigel and Judy Hooker: the excess ones will soon be disposed of.
- The Mini hockey team has started opening the bar and kitchen on Sunday mornings – there is demand for this, so it is a good revenue opportunity. They hope to make bacon cobs available as well.
- Next House & Bar meeting is on Thursday 19th October. Please raise any issues with Stuey Humphris.

Welfare -Joe Connolly

- DBS renewals are going well, with only 2 people still needing chasing up.
- The video training part of DBS certification may be shown on big screen in the clubhouse to save people paying separately for this.
- Rules for umpires have changed – they no longer need DBS clearance.

Juniors and Minis -Julian Beaney

- Big thanks to Stuey Hunphris for sorting money issues.
- Numbers are good, and stable, across most of the age groups. This has been bolstered especially at schools by the Madsens efforts.
- Only group short of players is U10 boys: this may create an issue for our league teams in a few years, when this cohort is old enough for adult hockey. Solutions are being investigated.
- U12 boys have been particularly successful in matches.
- The Dev 8s team concept seems to be working, and has ensured that those U14s not in the U14 tier 1 team are getting pitch time.
- 'Doubling up' of experienced adults into Dev 8s games has been difficult due to game scheduling. Rory Stieger may need more support on Saturdays as the season progresses: Julian B may sometimes be available for this.

One Club update

- Our Talent Centre application needs support, preferably from Juniors parents. The commitment would be to attend meetings, and there is funding available. Mens and Ladies Chairs are discussing the way forward.
- Next One Club meeting is on Tuesday 24th October: Ali Nelson has sent out a notification.

Bonfire night

- Planning is going well, volunteer helpers mostly in place. Three more volunteers signed up during the meeting (thanks to Olli Philips).
- Ticket sales are live on various social media and websites.
- Nigel Hooker is leading the operation as usual.

AoB

1. Roger Carter explained the possible purchase of land between the Astro pitch and the river. Key points were:
 1. Cricket Club expect to buy the land between their current pitch and the river, which would allow them a 2nd pitch.
 2. Roger can approach the land agent and investigate a package deal for BMCSC to buy both parcels of land. He sought the Committee's approval to start these discussions.
 3. Expectation is that we may get some feedback in around 4 weeks, after which a special BMCSC meeting might be called to progress the issue.
 4. Costs are estimated at around £44,000 for the cricket area, and £15 - £20k for the hockey parcel.
 5. A second astro pitch could then be built. Decision on this is not needed straight away, but will be at some point. The cricket pitches would need a specific alignment to allow us another astro, so the 2nd astro pitch debate would need to happen soon enough to co-ordinate with cricket.
 6. The land in the meantime could be used for extra car parking, with a 'grasscrete' surface. This would be especially helpful if the plans for moving club access to Derwent Street go forward.
 7. There are substantial funds available in the pitch replacement account.
 8. A 5m strip along the river bank would remain the responsibility of the Environment Agency, and we would need to ensure the Club does not become responsible for the water pipe bridge over the river.
 9. Planning permission may be an issue: it will be easier for an extra cricket pitch than an extra

astro.

10. Roger recommended we should buy the land if possible, to enhance the club. If we do not do so, a rival could buy the land and then block any developments we want to undertake.
11. The committee agreed Roger should go ahead and investigate the potential with the land agent.
2. Paul Yates noted we have been approached by another high level goalkeeper. Chair's opinion is that we currently have enough, so will not take this up.
3. Simon Emsley – issues from Selection Committee:
 1. Ben Proudler and Lucas Brandon are rotating as 2s/3s keepers in 2 week blocks: committee was happy with this.
 2. Travel funding – agreed that £10 credit would be given to drivers who transport other players for games further than 25 miles radius from Belper. This is for adult teams.
 3. Simon noted that we have some 10:00 am start times for away games. We will fulfil the fixtures, but it would be good to know if the league has rules against such early games (**ACTION: Steve Sanderson**).
 4. Over 50s: two Burton players are interested in joining, but we do not know how to allow this on GMS. (**ACTION: Steve Sanderson**).
 5. Incident at 2s vs Leicester Panthers game on 23rd September.
 - The Chair has spoken to both the club member and parent involved: the latter has not spectated pitchside since.
 - Paul Yates has sent a second email to Panthers, explaining that we are taking disciplinary steps. Panthers are awaiting the outcomes of these.
 - Following the club's disciplinary process (available on ClubBuzz), a disciplinary panel will be held with the club member involved, on Monday 23rd October. Chas Beddington (chair), Pete Gordon, and Joe Connolly will constitute the panel. (**ACTION: Steve Sanderson to notify club member involved**).
 - After the process has been used, it should be reviewed, especially to ensure it covers non-member spectators. (**ACTION: Steve Mills**)
 - Pete Gordon noted that other clubs ensure players not on the pitch are segregated from spectators by putting them on the further sideline, and asked if we could revert to this. Opinion was that we do not have enough space on the far side of the pitch to allow this with sufficient run-off area. The already improved barrier arrangements by our dugouts may be further improved, and players waiting on the next game not allowed into the dugout area.
 6. GMS: there should be a collective input to England Hockey, protesting at the excessive demands for data. This is not only unnecessary, but also dangerous, as conclusions may be drawn from the often inaccurate data submitted. Chair noted that he had raised this, but not received any hope of improvements.

All business concluded.