
**Minutes of the
Seventh Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 9th June 2009 at 7.30pm
Cheam Sports Club**

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Tony Bennett, Dot Hare, Ros Bennett, Roger Bennett, Linda Smith, Vera Dann, Mike Pinchbeck, Di Tombs, Steph Williams, David Balchin, Michele Quayle, Ads Parry, Mark Clover, Ellie Waller, Gill Hopcroft, Phil Smith, Neville Wrench, Craig Grant, Robin Tresadern, Ian Boyce and Anthony Dawe.

2. Minutes of the 6th AGM held on the 12th May 2008

Minutes approved by all present.

3. Election of tellers

Denise Edwards was elected as teller.

4. Reports

(a) Executive Officers

Chair – James Tebbs

I am pleased to be able to be here and to chair my first CHC AGM – unfortunately as many of you will know Lizzie and I were called away at short notice last year.

In my words at the last AGM I commented on what a good year it had been, with a number of teams being promoted. Naturally that was unlikely to happen for a second year in a row but for a number of teams, not including mine!, this has been a year for consolidation. It was a good year for the Ladies 1s, coming second in their league, and the Mens 2s in third.

It has also been a good year for the Colts. Tony Bennett and I were fortunate to be invited to present Sticks awards at the end of the season and the sheer number of Colts winning Sticks awards was extremely impressive. This is thanks in large part to the hard work of the Colts Committee, particularly Denise Edwards as ever, and Jenny Brennan for her coaching. We have said in previous years that we need some full time professional coaching cover for the Colts and have not to date been able to find it.

Our hope is that next season we will have a L2 coach, and as we will see from the accounts later on there is the budget to achieve this.

Our relationship with the School has remained strong, though pitch costs have increased this year and will represent a continuing significant cost in the future. We will be meeting with the School over the Summer in order to maintain that good relationship and to ensure we work with them to best benefit both the Club and its members, and the School itself.

Thanks are due again to our very strong coaching team, Charlotte Dickenson and Emma Elsom in particular who continue to make a very significant contribution to the success of our senior sides.

The social side of the Club is still particularly enjoyable and we must thank the outgoing social secretaries for their hard work during the year. We will hear more from them in the future but I hope that everyone agrees it has been a very positive development to be able to contribute to Charity from these events.

That being the case there is always room for suggestions and contributions from members. We would all welcome any constructive suggestions from members, including new ideas for events, recruitment or development in the future and all will be considered

In my view Cheam remains a great club to be a part of, both on and off the pitch, and I look forward to a successful season next year!

Membership Secretary – Sarah Trinder

I am pleased to report that we have seen yet another increase in the playing membership of the club; the fifth season running. We have recruited 50 new members between the categories with an 11% growth in membership.

33 of the 50 new members are colts, whose membership has risen by 39%, even with a number of colts moving onto senior hockey and thus becoming Junior members. There has been a slight reduction in the number of Ladies members, mainly due to retirement and moving out of the area. However the increase in Junior Ladies covered the drop in Senior Ladies.

The website was yet again our major recruitment tool, with 30 new member detail requests logged with the website throughout the season. Thanks go to Mark Clover for his efforts in ensuring that not only is the website attractive to new members but it provides us all with up to date information.

Thank you to all members that submitted completed membership forms with their subscriptions. It is important that we have such information in order to comply with England Hockey's clubs first accreditation which we are still in the throws of achieving.

Thanks to all the captains for aiding in the collection of membership forms and subscriptions. A huge thank you goes to Denise Edwards for all her hard work in managing the colts' administration and ensuring all colts' subscriptions and documentation are passed onto me.

Keith will run through subscriptions for next year in his Treasurers report.

(b) Playing Committee

Women's Playing Administrator - Julie Craig

Happily, the club continues to provide hockeying opportunities for 4 senior teams in the Surrey Leagues. At the start of the season we were aiming to introduce a fifth team but numbers allowed only 4 – availability meaning that nobody was consistently denied a place and therefore all members played plenty of matches according to their own availability. The club days had their usual array of colours as all sections of the club joined in for fun and games, highlighting the social side of Cheam.

Coaching:

The Ladies 1's and 2's trained together at the earlier time of 7-8pm on Wednesdays under the nurturing eye of new coach Charlotte Dickenson. Despite all the puffing and panting around the pitch; turnout at training and positive feedback from her sessions underlined the massive impact she had on hockey and fitness across the winter.

The 3's and 4's continued to train on Tuesday evenings, from 9-10 and 8-9 respectively with Spuggie's enthusiastic guidance. We are aware that the time slots are not ideal, especially with the high proportion of juniors in these teams, and the situation will be looked into by the playing committee over the summer.

Teams

The 1's finished a creditable second and the 2's consolidated their position in their new division, so a positive outcome for both. The 3's finished comfortably within their league, but may fall victim to the proposed league reshuffle and drop a division for next season. That just gives them an opportunity to bounce back again next season. The 4's finished strongly after their promotion last year to show they are a force to be reckoned with. All 4 teams have a mixture of youth and well...experience..., particularly the 3s and 4s, which shows why the club is great at developing and providing opportunities for younger talents.

A massive thank you to all 4 captains and their vices: Roz, Liz, Amy and Michele. Roz and Michele have kindly agreed to take up the challenge for another season so thanks for that; farewell to Liz and Amy from captaincy but thanks for all of your hard work.

Men's Playing Administrator - Ian Sharpe

This year saw two new playing administrators take over from Keith and Sarah. Naturally they have struggled to fill the boot of such illustrious predecessors but Craigy and I have made progress and know what we want to improve upon next season.

Following last season's successes, when five of the club's eight senior teams gained promotion, this season was more about maintaining a level in our new leagues and this was, in the main, successfully achieved. One side (ladies 1s) was promoted (subject to the reorganisation of the leagues) and one (men's 1s) relegated, while everyone else admirably held their own.

In summary of our teams finishing positions:

Team	Pos	P	W	D	L	F	A	Team	Pos	P	W	D	L	F	A
M1	12	22	3	6	13	13	54	L1	2	22	10	7	5	34	29
M2	3	22	14	3	5	75	36	L2	7	18	7	1	10	31	38
M3	7	22	7	5	10	49	51	L3	7	18	6	4	8	26	36
Vets	9	16	3	0	13	24	89	L4	4	22	10	6	6	40	29

This season the men's section encountered the unusual problem of having high numbers of players unavailable to play. On more than one occasion more than 30 eligible players were unavailable leading to major reorganisation of team selection. The problem became so bad at times that two Vets games and one third team fixture had to be forfeited. This unsettling of the teams had an effect on results and we will be making every effort to encourage improved availability where possible next season.

Our thanks go again to Charlotte Dickinson and Emma Elsom for their work as club coaches. They have done a wonderful job during the year and we very much appreciate their dedication

I would also like to thank the hard working captains for their considerable efforts this season. Especially those new to the post as the first year is always the hardest. Omar, James and David have agreed to continue in their posts for another season and Graham has stepped down as third team captain.

Ian Boyce and Michelle Quayle have continued their work as fixture secretaries. They ensure that we all get games each week and we have games in the right place at the right time. And they do this in such a seamless way that it largely goes unnoticed.

(c) Colts Playing Administrator

Denise Edwards

This has been a good year for colts membership numbers. We have had lots of new players coming along, mostly in the U12s, and had over 80 regular attendees by the end of the season. It has also been encouraging to see the number of enquiries about membership generated by the website.

Our girls U16 team finished 5th in their league this season but have had some really exciting close matches and a couple of good wins.

The girls U14 team have played in the development league and have had some great matches – including a 2 hour epic against 2 Wycombe teams at the end of the season. For many of the team it was their first year playing full-pitch matches and they have come on really well as a team over the season.

Again this year the boys section has been a problem due to lack of numbers. We decided to join forces with Epsom to enter teams into the leagues this year and the jury is out on whether that was a success or not. On the plus side it gave the boys the chance to play in some matches, however it did mean that we did not see as much as we would have liked of the boys at Cheam. We have had quite a few boys joining over the season and some very keen younger players, but just as we were hoping to be able to field at least a 7-a-side team at U14 level we are in danger of losing boys as they move on to senior schools.

The U12s girls and boys are a large and enthusiastic group and their progress has been obvious from the friendly matches they have played over the season.

Many thanks to Jenny who has run the coaching over the season and for the help from Barry, Jon Stenner, Sarah, Quayley and many others including several of our junior players. Can I again say that we would love some more help from the men's section! Thanks also to those who have umpired for us, especially Craigy and Ads, and to the team managers Tracy and Robin for all their work assembling the teams for their matches.

(d) Chair of the Social Committee

Lizzie Tebbs

We have had another successful year of social events. Key events in the Cheam Hockey Club calendar remain the Christmas Dinner, Quiz Night and the End of Season Awards dinner.

As Keith has already indicated in his report, the income from events has greatly reduced this year as we took the decision as an Exec to reduce the profit-making nature of these Socials. Whereas in previous years we have actively fundraised on behalf of the club at these events, we have toned this down during this past season and have in fact looked to allocate any money we do raise to a specific charity.

This was illustrated at the End of Season Dinner recently where all the proceeds from the auction went to Children with Leukemia. We were successful in raising £570 for the charity and have received a letter from the organisation thanking us for our efforts, a copy of which is up on the website for everyone to see.

I know going forward the Exec would certainly be interested to hear the views of members as to other potential charities to support, and perhaps we could look at either raising money for one specific charity over the course of a year or alternatively look to support a different organisation at each social event. These are all things to be considered for next season.

Both Phil Smith and I have organised the social events for the last couple of years. We have both decided to step down at the end of this season - Phil to concentrate on editing the now infamous 'Loads a Stick' and myself to look after the ever growing bump!

Phil and I would like to thank all those who have helped us in organising the events over the years – most notably Richard Lewis and Adrienne Parry for their continued support and generosity whether by providing generous prizes for raffles or cajoling money out of guests at the auctions! Thanks to you both....

Thanks also from us to the rest of the Exec for their continued support and advice and to Vandra and the rest of the team at Cheam Sports Club for helping each event held here run smoothly.

We are handing over the reigns of social secretary to Andy Martin and Amy Collins for next season. I'm sure both will do a great job and already key dates for events in the 2009/2010 season have been booked so make sure you have a look at the website to get them in your diaries.

Do contact either Andy or Amy should you have any ideas for new events as we are keen to hear the views of all members on this and to get more people involved. We are always looking to find new ways to involve all members of the club, from the Colts section through to Vets teams so any ideas would be greatly appreciated.

James thanked all the Officers of the Club.

5. Finance and Subscriptions

(a) Treasurer's report & (b) Presentation of draft accounts for 2008/2009

Keith Boyce – Treasurer

Key financial highlights of the year

1. Pleased to report that the club continues to remain financially strong.
2. A surplus of £3,380 has been realised during the year, higher than expected as a result of lower coaching fees and number of pitches required.
3. As at 30th April 2009 – we had £14.7k in the bank accounts.

In more detail:

1. **Income from subscriptions** up on 2008 season by £1.7k as a result of an increase number of colts. Some late subscriptions from the previous season for seniors also contributed to this however in truth, senior members have decreased in numbers.
2. **Match fees** were lower than expected due to the ladies section having a greater number of juniors playing in sides and hence paying a lower match fee than budgeted.
3. **Profit on social events** were down as we decided it would be a good opportunity to raise money for charity at the end of season meal. A small profit was made on the Xmas and quiz night. £570 was raised for CWL at the end season. Thanks to Phil and Lizzie for their work on this.
4. **Kit Sales** – remained at similar levels to previous year although this only represents playing shirts as opposed to the previous year which was social kit. We expect this to increase next year when the new social kit becomes available.
5. **Pitch Hire** – This still makes up our largest expense and one we have little control over with Nonsuch. Pitch costs remain high at £75 per hour however demand for pitches within the area still causes problems to negotiate this price down. Increase in pitch hire was as a result of a) a greater number of bookings, training sessions etc and b) cancellation charges for the bad weather. This is an area the exec are currently discussing with Nonsuch although this was exceptional last year. Thanks to Ian Boyce for managing the relationship with Nonsuch.
6. **Affiliation fees** – We pay these to each of the leagues that the teams play in, Surrey Hockey Association and England Hockey. The increase is due to Surrey Hockey adding a levy to their fees during 2008/09 for development. We have been advised this is to remain the same during the current year.
7. **Coaching fees** – A decrease from 2007/08 as a result of fewer coaching hours. We did have three paid coaches now reduced to two with Charlotte covering the men's and women's sides together with Emma Elsom. We are actively trying to recruit a Level 2 colts coach and hence still believe this cost will increase at some point.
8. **Kit Purchases** – This represents £3.1k of home shirt purchases and £600 of training equipment, match balls etc. The kit sales in income are for the home shirt purchases. A large amount of this kit still remains for sale and therefore further income will come in next season.

Thanks for match fee collectors for work during the season in keeping these up to date. Thanks to Neil Weston for auditing the accounts.

Questions:

- Gill McDonnell asked about the benefit to the Club of increasing funding to Surrey HA. Lois explained that the colts section in particular did benefit from the input of the Surrey Hockey Development Officer, a post part funded by Surrey HA and the main reason behind the increase in fees.

The accounts for 2008/2009, audited by Neil Weston, were approved by all those present.

(c) & (d) Approval of subscriptions and match fees for 2009/2010

Keith Boyce – Treasurer

The executive committee acknowledge that the clubs reserves and bank balance have continued to grow over the past number of years. We have always actively tried to spend money on developing different areas of the club and wish to continue to do this going forward.

In the past, we have felt the need to increase subscriptions to raise additional funds, but we also believe that when we have sufficient reserves it is appropriate to distribute these back to the members.

During the 2009/10 season we are proposing to :

- Recruit a level 2 Colts head coach to build our colts section further and continue the hard work that the current Colts coaching team have put in. (Cost of £1,200)
- Increase our spend on advertising and marketing by running some events to promote the club further. We already have the offer of some coaching sessions with ex GB Captain Brett Garrard and would like to promote this further.
- Increase the clubs insurance premium to include personal accident cover and optical and dental treatment at a cost of £66 per team (total cost of £726). This is not a replacement for personal insurance and medical cover but we feel is an added benefit of your subscription.

- Purchase of new away kits for the club (£1,500).

In the past coaching fees and pitch costs have usually always come under budget due to one reason or another. It is important that we maintain sufficient reserves to meet this cost if and when it increases.

Subscription & Match Fee Proposal 2009/10

The executive committee have reviewed various different ways that we can benefit the members financially in addition to the above.

We are proposing that for the following season we:

1. Reduce match fees paid to the club for Senior and Juniors by £1 per player to

Full playing member - £7

Junior playing member - £5.

This will reduce income by approximately £2k.

Colts match fees will remain at £5 (£2.50 for colts also paying a Junior match fee for a senior Saturday match).

This is the amount from your match fee that is paid to the club that goes towards pitch costs.

2. Offer a 10% discount to all members on their subscription for the 2009/10 season ie:

Full Playing Member - £145 – reduced from £160 late rate remains at £185

Junior Member - £ 75 reduced from £85 late rate remains at £110

Colt (under 12) - £ 60 reduced from £70 late rate remains at £85

Colt (12 – 16) - £ 80 reduced from £90 late rate remains at £105

This will reduce income by approximately £2.2k. This is a discount on the basis that it is a temporary measure and will only be carried forward if reserves permit in the future.

Questions:

- James Mantle asked whether it would be better to spend more money on recruitment rather than reduce subs. JT replied that the Club intends to make recruitment a priority next season, but felt that it was also important that all members benefit directly by a reduction in subs next season.
- Richard Eggleton asked whether the remaining reserves would be sufficient under the proposed expenditure plans for next season. KB replied that he felt it still left enough reserves to cater for planned expenditure and a reasonable level of unexpected expenditure.
- Dom Beales suggested that all new members be given a free playing shirt as part of their membership. JT said that the Exec would certainly consider this option for next season.

All present agreed with the above proposal re subs and match fees.

(e) Appointment of the Accountant

Neil Weston was appointed as the Accountant. Many thanks to Neil for his help.

6. Elections for 2009/2010

(a) Election of President and Vice-Presidents

The current President, Anthony Bennett, was willing to continue next season. **All present in favour.**

Margaret Dickens, Vice President, has stepped down, but all other Vice Presidents were willing to stand again. Many thanks to Margaret for all she has done for the Club.

It was also proposed that Catriona Grant, Steph Williams and Craig Wilson, in view of their hard work and support for the Club, become new Vice Presidents (proposed Tristram Clucas and Derry Brophy, seconded by Ian Sharpe)

All present in favour.

(b) Election of Executive Committee

The following existing officers were willing to stand again:

Chair – James Tebbs

Treasurer – Keith Boyce

Membership – Sarah Trinder

All present in favour

Nomination received for Secretary was Jo Syron (proposed by Julie Craig, seconded Andy Martin.)

All present in favour

(c) Election of Men's, Women's and Colt's Playing Administrators and Development Officer, and ratification of proposed Chair of the Playing Committee:

The following were willing to stand again:

Men – Ian Sharpe

Women – Julie Craig

Colts – Denise Edwards

(Chair – tbc)

All present in favour.

Nomination received for Development Officer was Ruth Bailey (proposed by Lizzie Tebbs, and seconded by James Mantle).

All present in favour.

(d) Election of Men's, Women's and Colt's Social Managers and Recruitment Officer, and ratification of proposed Chair of the Social Committee:

The following were nominated:

Men – Andy Martin

Women – Amy Collins

Colts – tbc

Recruitment Officer – Rose Hutson & Ellie Waller

Chair – tbc

Proposed by Ollie Wilson, seconded by Liz Grimes

All present in favour

(e) Ratification of appointment of:

• Team Captains

Men's 1st XI

Omar Shibli

Women's 1st XI

Roz Plowright

Men's 2nd XI

James Mantle

Women's 2nd XI

Bev Nicholson

Men's 3rd XI

Krish Gunatunga

Women's 3rd XI

Ellie Waller

Clarets

David Balchin

Women's 4th XI

Michele Quayle

Mixed

Rob McKenzie

• Team managers

Girls U16

Richard Mabin

Girls U14

Robin Tresadern

Girls U12

tbc

- Fixture Secretaries

Women	Michele Quayle
Men	Ian Boyce
Colts	Denise Edwards

- Child Welfare Officer Robin Tresadern
- Website Administrator Mark Clover
- Newsletter Editor Phil Smith
- Press Officer Dominic Beales
- Kit Officer Stuart Lawrence & Lara Amato (Cheryl Watson – First Aid Kit)

- Colts Playing Committee Rep Denise Edwards

Colts Training Co-ordinator	Jenny Brennan
Colts Umpire Co-ordinator	Claire Mostert

All the above were ratified.

JT closed the meeting at 8.45pm.

July 2009