

MINUTES OF COMPETITIONS MEETING

Held at Hove RFC on
Thursday 19 November 2009

Present: Ken Nichols (KN)
Mike Richardson (MR)
Nigel Lyons (NL)
John Thompson (JT)

Apologies: Geraldine Brown
James Melody
Martin Doyle

1. London Leagues

JT reported that he had attended a Lon DOC meeting on 3 November where there was no contentious issues raised. He is awaiting the Minutes and will pass them to KN.

It was stated at the meeting that major cup finals (Sussex Spitfire trophy) were now not ring fenced and JT enquired as to when this was put in place and why. As a CB we are NOT prepared to accept this because our finals, like all major finals, are written into our structured season and with new cup sponsors in place this is unacceptable. JT has been told to seek full clarification and inform the LDOC that as a Competitions Committee and Sussex CB we are not happy with the ruling.

2. Sussex Leagues

The ongoing saga over third XV's in Sussex has still to be resolved (registrations) and JT has moved it up a level at the RFU to move it forward.

MD has a league running well and has come down hard on several clubs (alongside Mike Ward) over clerical errors and unregistered players and being kept in the loop.

Issue over Sussex I teams playing on occasions, over-strength teams, with players playing down. We cannot tell clubs who to play and in which team. All we can do is to appeal to clubs to try and play a regular XV (squad) where possible, making promotion and relegation battles as even as possible.

3. Junior Leagues

All running well, with MR getting results and match cards in quickly, giving time to present match results and league positions on website sooner than in previous seasons. With great regret Worthing V's have withdrawn from the league, but will still try to honour the fixtures as friendlies. The setting up of a Vets' League and possibility of a Vets' Cup is ongoing and will be discussed at the season's end forum.

4. Women's Cup

Inter-counties Cup Competition is ongoing.

5. Fixture Bureau

Some Fixture Secretaries are sending out requests to individual clubs, rather than through the Sussex website, where it targets all clubs, in and out of Sussex.

ZYGO

ZYGO have informed Peter Sealey and KN that this is now non-operational and has closed down, at no cost to Sussex RFU.

6. Sussex Senior/Junior Cups

Junior Cups have advanced to round 2, with Senior Cup starting on 21 November. A few pull outs in both sections have occurred, with a few games re-scheduled for 2 January 2010 because of RFU success. Draw for next round of Senior Cup will be on Tuesday 24 November at Brighton Senior Exec meeting.

7. Worthing/Haywards Heath

Both of the above have mentioned again their first XV's not playing in the Sussex Trophy. KN is writing to both Club Secs to re-introduce a competition for these two clubs to play for a Bob Rogers' trophy and details of the same will be circulated by KN.

8. AOB

We have put in place a level 9 or below County game against Surrey at Cranleigh on Sunday 18 April 2010 and hopefully next season we can add another County to the list.

On Sunday 2 May 2010 St Francis have a 50th Anniversary match at their venue. KN proposes to take a squad of equivalent strength players from as many clubs in Sussex as possible, to play them in this match.

All the balls, for the senior, junior, Colts and women's cup finals have been purchased and invoices sent to Richard Hopkins.

All medals, plaques and programme covers are now in place for all competitions from minis to senior County games.

Meeting ended at 9.35 p.m. Date of next meeting TBA.