

SUSSEX RFU COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE

HOVE RFC - TUES 22nd FEB

Present : Ken Nichols, Mike Richardson, John Thompson, James Melody, Nigel Lyons, Mel Liley, Simon Flint

Apologies : Charles Wise, Martin Doyle

Guests : Peter Bailey (Sussex President) & Thomas Wheelock (Womens Lead Coach)

1. CHAIRMANS INTRODUCTION

Mel Liley was welcomed to the competitions committee. Mel will be acting as Manager, Womens Rugby. Thomas Wheelock also attended as a guest in his new role as Lead Coach for the Womens County side.

Peter Bailey was welcomed as a guest.

2. LONDON LEAGUES

John circulated a report from London DOC. There are no concrete ideas at present as to the shape in which the CB cups will be 'enhanced'

There was a discussion regarding Sussex KOs and the strong feeling among the committee was to maintain a focus on these.

There are currently errors on the league table pertaining to Holbrook and Hastings in Sussex 1. These are due to an inability in RugbyFirst to show bonus points awarded to these teams in their league games against Worthing III which were awarded as walkovers. The final tally displayed is correct but the error in displaying the correct bonus points cannot be changed.

3.SUSSEX LEAGUES.

A discussion was held regarding playing numbers in the county. This season there has been an increase in the number of games cancelled due to lack of playing numbers. The committee agree that this is not a problem isolated to Sussex.

It was agreed that a email be sent to all clubs in the county reminding them that there are regulations in place to facilitate the playing of a game of rugby wherever possible. These regulations stipulate the ability to play a game with less than 15 players and also to play without a front row. Clubs to be asked to remind all coaches and captains of these regulations with a view to minimising match cancellations.

The competitions committee also discussed the absence of a representative on the county executive. The committee are agreed in the view that it is vital to have a competitions representative on the executive committee of a body whose primary focus is rugby competition.

4.SUSSEX KO COMPETITIONS.

Everything is now in place for the senior games. Littlehampton raised an objection to playing against Brighton University in their cup. Brighton University will be entered into the next highest cup competition should they win this season.

There will be samurai vouchers for the winners of this seasons cups. The CB is in discussions with other suppliers for next season. Competitions committee would like to request that the supply of vouchers for cup winners be a condition of any new sponsorship arrangement.

Competitions committee have organised medals and trophies and are happy to do so again for next season. Peter Silk has obtained free printing of programmes from a business contact. Competitions committee suggested providing a pair of international tickets if possible for this contact as a show of gratitude.

5. WOMENS RUGBY.

Mel informed us that the player pathway has changed from regional to divisional in the last six months. CBs must now nominate players to trial for divisional rugby.

There was some confusion regarding a proposed game against Devon. This game did not go ahead due to a lack of funding. The game was not a scheduled fixture for the county side and additional funding should have been provided to cover the travel costs. RFUW did not provide this funding. Late call off of the fixture caused some discontent among the womens side. It was agreed that in future better communication was required between the executive and the womens structure.

Mel Liley has agreed to supply a report to the CB executive in time for their next meeting on the 28th of March.

Mel was also keen for all clubs to be made aware of the support that can be offered should they wish to offer Womens Rugby. Mel to attend next clubs meeting to inform clubs.

6. SPONSORSHIP.

Nothing to report

7. FIXTURE BUREAU.

Fixture bureau is working fine.

8. A.O.B.

Martin Doyle is standing down as Sussex 1 League Secretary. He will be carrying on as London 2 South East secretary. Competitions Committee wishes to thank Martin for his hard work to date.

Simon Flint volunteered and has been nominated by the committee to act as Sussex 1 League Secretary for 2011-2012 season.

Ken will not be organising venues for the County XV fixtures from next season.