**Minutes: Ropley Cricket Club 22nd February, 2024**

Present: Ben Matthews, Sarah Harry, Karen Bennett, Quentin Sandell, Adam Wheeler, Andy Erskine, Will Wharfe  
  
Apologies: Rachel King, Nerys Wheeler, Tim Phillipps, Julia Phillipps

1. Minutes of 16th Jan 2024 approved.
2. Juniors Coach update (Adam Wheeler)

* Announced to juniors that we are changing to the coloured kits.
* New kits… evolved not revolutionary. No hurry for a re-design… but let’s go for evolutionary so that no issue with people wearing newer and older versions at the same time. No re-design for juniors at least for 2025.
* Winchester Warriors… winding up over summer (July) ….. £3.5-4K funds left over – going to charity (charity not selected yet)
* Junior fixtures not out yet
* First Thursday night training for Juniors: 18th April

1. Membership & Teamo update (Andy Erskine)

* Waiting to release membership fees
* Cleaning up/ tidying up membership database
* Haven’t deleted anyone yet
* Teamo website update - went through it together with Will Wharfe. The Teamo website can do everything we need with the main benefit that the fixtures are automatically included – making the site more useful and generally showing clearly how active the club is.

1. Grounds Manager update (Quentin Sandell)

* Cut square twice and fertilized
* Both square and pitch mowers out for maintenance
* Start rolling early March… but needs to dry out
* Blocking off rec from cars… (in response to incident where car driven around rec damaging outfield) talk to Giles QS is speaking to the Parish Council.
* Parish Council have committed to cut rec weekly despite increased costs
* When and how often will council start cutting the grass

1. Vice Chair update (Quentin Sandell)
   * Midweek cricket. AGM was on 20 Feb. Fixtures stay as Tuesdays. Start time 6.15pm. Sticking with bowling 10 overs from one end then 10 from the other. Saves time!
   * Ashes BBQ. BBQ cleaned out, New cover, new drip tray ordered
   * Waking up the Square pack ordered
   * We’ll do (GET SET) on 14th April: SET UP SUNDAY
   * 19th April Quiz and Curry night (plug in Bismonroptis for this). Need raffle prizes. Will to talk to Naked Grape… but we need more raffle prizes…
2. Karen Bennett (acting Female Welfare officer)  
   Joined our meeting while we are looking to confirm the permanent female safeguarding officer. Karen recommended that the committee cross-check all documentation relating to DBS checks to ensure it is up to date. We will pass on that recommendation to Alex Minett. Specifically re: Safehands: Ben to put list on Whatsapp. Then send list to Alex. Alex to proactively get the response from members involved. Also, first aid training.
3. Women & Girls update (Sarah Harry)

* HCL changed womens’ fixtures. Done now.
* Sarah suggest the Club provides a Coach’s bag each – would be nice – Coach can take with them… Sarah to source bags/prices - look to review/approve costs next committee meeting
* Girls to Isle of Wight 4 April playing Isle of Wight county U16s. Club pays for ferry, players pay back from Newport

1. Chair’s update (Ben Matthews)
   * HCL AGM happened… rule changes did not go our way: overs for open seniors stay at 45 (we voted to reduce to 40); fielding restrictions in (we voted against).
   * 10-team leagues (which we are generally are in favour of): there will be an Extraordinary General Meeting of HCL in the summer to vote on it
   * Hampshire community spaces grant (timeframe)
   * Flicxmat – full length… lots of uses. Andy E. asked about logistics of getting the mat out, putting it away. It comes with trolley. Clearly we need somewhere to put it. eg Quentin’s proposed new shed near to footpath gate (adjacent to Tennis club) QS to explore funding for new shed from ECB and explore location options with Parish Council
   * All Stars And Dynamos all ready to go (Rachel H update)
     1. All Stars: (5-8) 32 this year. Starts on 9 May. Live 12 March. Need details of insurance and safehands
     2. Dynamos: (Andy E update) 2023 ran in August. Tues-Thurs 4 weeks. Poss offer it as holiday camps in the future? Need another activator signed up. Need at leaste 2 per session, plus 17 year olds.
   * Set up Sunday: 14th April
   * May 4th Everyone… men, women, boys, girls… 4 teams. Parents!!  
     All have a think and put a plan together.
   * Food van – poss for May 4th and (Sats) beyond.. Ben asking around for best option. Not competing with the BBQ.. but where can’t/won’t do BBQ a food van can add quite a lot to the atmosphere of being around the club on a sat eve.
2. Secretary update (Will Wharfe)
   * WW has been in touch with Chase bats – they would be happy to come down with a bag of bats for people to try out. Will to ask if they could come to Perins Nets to allow players to try bats (WW has written suggesting 18th and 19th Mar)
   * WW also talking to Tectronics about minor fix to covers. They are extremely busy. Did finally reply 22nd Feb.. but slow going. WW to push a little harder.
3. Women and girls open day: 9th April

Festival night, sponsors down. Use pavilion, games etc. (Since the meeting, Andrew Morris has set up the W&Gs Taster Session What’s App group. Lot of activity there. Not going to report on that here.

1. Contingency
   * Discussion on how much money we need to hold in reserve to cover contingency. Likely unplanned costs could be replacing mowers and roller. Unlikely they would all fall in one year.
   * Key principle: enough to ensure that the club can keep running… people can still play and train to play cricket.
   * Consensus seemed to be around £18K. Enough to replace most expensive piece of kit (£15k for a 2nd hand outfield mower)… plus £3k in addition.
   * Not looking to hoard funds. Fully aware of the need for members to see the value of their membership fees.
2. Insurance
   * We need to check in with Alex Minett.. insurance renewal date… do we have quotes in ? What has been agree with Jane Turnbull/ Sports Club.
3. Membership fees
   * Last year 2023 we increased Juniors by £15 and Seniors by £20 - this was to include all fees for winter nets. Final decision pending, but consensus currently to put 2024 membership at the same fee as 2023.
4. Backup grounds in case needed -   
    Quentin talking to Old Alresford, and also Rotherfield Park (nr East Tisted) … to update at next meeting.
5. Next meeting 20th March