

# United Hospitals RFC



## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday May 13<sup>th</sup> at 18.30

Harris Lecture Theatre, Hodgkin Building  
(Old Medical School)  
Guys Campus, Guys Hospital, London Bridge

**Presiding:** Dr T Gibson

**Minutes taken by:** Iain Wilson

### **Present:**

#### **George's**

Chris Jukes  
Chris Crome

#### **RUMS**

Luke Foster  
Felix Allen  
Andy Deacon  
Tim Davies

#### **Bart's**

Mally Scott  
Will Dooley  
Alexander Jones  
Andrew Smith  
Frank Sim  
Matt Pywell  
James Berwin  
Nduka Nzekwue

#### **GKT**

Kit Rowland  
Harry Gasper  
Johnny Elias  
Rauri Haddlington  
John Kendall

#### **ICSM**

Simon Bellringer  
Thomas Maynard  
Richard Sykes  
Xander Ancock  
Jeremy Bartosiak-Jentys  
Chris Hallewell

#### **RVC**

Chris Jordan  
Daniel Preece

### **1.) Apologies for absence**

Mr Geoff Kauffman (Guys)

Dudley Sinnet (ICSM)  
Prof John Shepherd (Barts)  
Mark Pickering (Georges)  
Rhys Davies (Guys)

## **2.) Confirm Minutes of the 2007 AGM**

All those present agreed that the minutes taken by a Mr Bartosiak-Jentys of ICSM were a fair and accurate account of the 2007 AGM.

## **3.) Matters Arising**

### **a.) Proposed Membership of Royal Veterinary College**

Dr Gibson reported that he had received an email from a member of the Royal Veterinary College (RVC) expressing that they were most keen, following competing in the UH 7's two seasons ago, to join the UH Club fully. Dr Gibson reported that the current UH Captain, Iain Wilson, had supported this request as at several points this season he had asked members of the RVC to represent the UH Club. At this point Dr Gibson invited Chris Jordan, a representative from the RVC, to speak. Mr Jordan introduced himself as the Honorary Secretary of the RVC Rugby Club and said he had thoroughly enjoyed playing for the UH Club this season and was most keen to enable other vets to represent the Club. Mr Jordan added that he is aware that the RVC also participate in UH cups and competitions in other sports.

Tim Davies of RUMS added that he felt the addition of the RVC to the UH Challenge Cup may add new interest to the UH competition which he felt had become stale over the last few years.

Dr Gibson replied that he would have to consult the UH Club's constitution, however he stated that if everyone present agreed to the RVC joining the UH Club there is no reason why we should not invite them to fully participate in the UH Club and its competitions. A show of hands was duly called and the RVC were unanimously elected into the UH club. Dr Gibson added that he will amend the constitution next year.

### **b.) Date UH Cup Final**

Mr Xander Ancock of ICSM opened the debate on this topic; he stated that he felt there had been a good turnout at both the Plate and Cup games this year. Club treasurer Professor Imms echoed these sentiments and attributed this to the fixture being scheduled on a Sunday as it enabled friends, parents and members of staff to attend as well as avoiding other student fixtures which take place on Wednesdays.

Will Dooley, Barts Captain, suggested that this year the UH Club try and coordinate the final dates with other UH Clubs as he reported that this year some supporters were unable to attend due to the football UH cup being scheduled on the same day. Dr Gibson replied to this, saying that sometimes it was inevitable that there will be a clash with other sporting fixtures due to the hectic nature of sports fixtures at this

time of year. Dr Gibson felt that there was a general consensus to keep the final on a Sunday; there were no dissenters in the assembly.

#### **c.) UH Dinner**

Dr Gibson acknowledged that there had been no UH dinner organised this year as the organisers, GKT, had failed to organise an event. It was added though by Prof Imms, the Club treasurer, that he was not all sad to hear this considering the catastrophic damages bill the Club accounts had to cover a few years ago.

A vociferous Xander Ancock again piped up, saying that the constituent clubs of UH are now reluctant to take sole responsibility for organising the dinner as they had to take full responsibility for the cost and inevitable financial fallout from the event. Mr Ancocok proceeded to suggest that there be a UH committee to arrange the dinner, so that if there were costs to be paid they could be shared evenly over the UH constituent clubs.

Prof Imms agreed with these sentiments but added that the most important factor limiting the success of the evening is not to select a high class venue and have some system in place to police vandalism.

Alexander Jones from Bart's proceeded to suggest that the UH dinner be held just prior to the Sevens tournament as this would serve the purpose of raising the profile of the UH Club among the younger members of the medical school. This suggestion was met with acceptance and the author added that the new members of the medical schools would be likely to attend as per the saying 'fools and their money are easily parted'.

Dr Gibson agreed and suggested that if the Sevens were to be held on the 12<sup>th</sup> October a suitable date for the dinner would be either 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> October.

#### **d.) Representative Games**

Dr Gibson raised the point that the UH fixture list had dwindled over recent seasons. Dr Gibson also questioned if anyone had made enquires with many of the Bank teams and even the junior county teams who had often appeared on the UH fixture card in years gone by. The President also added that more often than not it was not imperative that the fifteen very best players were selected, more so that the UH Club was represented in appropriately competitive fixtures. Dr Gibson invited next years committee to think of some more potential fixtures for the Club.

Mr Ancock suggested that next years committee also contact the National Asscotaion of Medcial Schools (NAMS) to see if the Club could enter their national tournament as a UH team.

#### **e.) UH Website**

The Club President, Dr Gibson, asked those present if it was now appropriate for the Club to have a website. The ranks assembled in the Anatomy lecture theatre wholeheartedly agreed that the Club needed to be dragged into the digital era and that a website would best facilitate this. Dr Gibson asked representatives of the five

constituent medical schools if their respective Clubs had websites and if anyone would be interested in helping the UH Club setup a website. Johnny Elias of Guys informed the assembly that Guys had a successful and simple to use website, whose webmaster would be responsive to setting up a website. Those present agreed the representatives from GKT should follow this request up. Professor Imms added that the due to the healthy nature of the Club's accounts that the Club would be able to afford such a website.

#### **4.) The Club Captain's Report**

Iain Wilson the elected Club Captain for the 2007-08 season gave a brief report of the season just passed. In summary, Mr Wilson said that there had been two UH fixtures this season; one versus Oxford University Greyhounds and one versus Toulouse Rugby International (a team of students and doctors from Toulouse). Mr Wilson reported with regret that the UH Club had lost both of these fixtures, although it was stated that both fixtures had been competitive and enjoyable. Mr Wilson continued saying that although each of the five medical schools and the RVC had been represented in all of these fixtures he was somewhat perturbed at the difficulty he had encountered in organising a playing squad for each game. Mr Wilson said that he had not expected to encounter reluctance to play for the UH side, especially considering it is meant to represent the best medical student rugby players in London!

Mr Wilson finished saying that he would not be running again for Captain, and that he wished next year's Committee and Captain luck. On a final note Mr Wilson suggested that the UH Club can go on to much greater things and asked that the Club look into developing a Club website, consider a tour to Toulouse next season and also to ask the constituent Clubs to consider playing for the UH side a necessity for the awarding of a University or Medical School Blue. The Captain felt this would increase the profile and competitiveness of the UH side.

#### **5.) Treasurer's Report**

Professor Imms produced and circulated copies of the Club's accounts. Prof Imms demonstrated the Club reported massive losses in 2006 due to the fallout from the vandalism from the UH dinner that year. However, the treasurer was able to report the Club had managed to turn this situation around in 2007 due to making a profit on the UH Cup and luncheon that year. The Club's balance now stands at a healthy £2694. Professor Imms also reported that he has collected subs from all the constituent Clubs this year with the exception of Georges. The representatives from Georges looked most guilty and claimed they had never receive the invoice, Prof Imms will send it again. Finally, in light of the RVC joining the UH Club Professor Imms invited the RVC to pay £150 annual subscription to the UH Club in line with what Georges and Bart's pay.

#### **6.) Election of Officers**

In democracy similar to that seen in Zimbabwe the following were elected onto the Club's committee for the 2008-09 season:

**President:** Dr Gibson

**Vice-Presidents:** Dr John Maynard  
Prof John Shepherd  
Dr Tom Crisp

**Honorary Secretary:** Johnny Elias

**Fixture Secretary:** Will Dooley

**Treasurer:** Prof Fred Imms

**Club Captain:** Simon Bellringer

**Vice-Captain:** John Kendall

### **8.)Venue and Date of United Hospitals Sevens Tournament**

Those present agreed that Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2008 would be the best date for the UH Seven's Tournament. The tournament will be hosted by Barts at their Chislehurst ground.

Regarding the Seven's Tournament, a member from Georges asked if the pools could be changed around this year, as it was felt that the same teams are pitted against each other each year. Dr Gibson replied to which, saying that each year he strives to mix up the pools, but with so few teams taking part and also trying to avoid clashes between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> VII's from the same clubs, that this is not always possible. It was added that with the new arrival of the RVC to the UH setup that this will add new life to the tournament.

### **9.)United Hospitals Challenge Cup and Plate- Dates and Venues**

To open matters regarding the UH Cup Competition Dr Gibson suggested the Final and Plate fixtures be held on either Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> March. Dr Gibson favouring the earlier date to avoid the Easter holidays and ensure maximum attendance on Final day. This was agreed by those present.

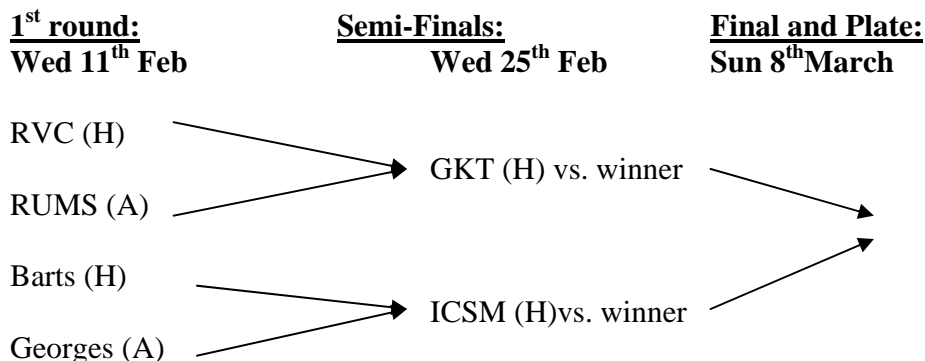
Xander Ancock of ICSM once again suggested that given the cost of hosting the final at Old Deer Park, that the UH Club enquire into the possibility of moving the final day to Rosslyn Parks RFC's Ground. He mentioned that he had encountered difficulty in making similar enquiries last year due to an illness affecting the chap who arranged bookings at Rosslyn Park. The front row player also sighted the post-game food at Rosslyn park as being a particular highlight. In response, Dr Gibson welcomed Mr Ancock's suggestion and said there can be no harm in investigating this matter further. However, Dr Gibson added that the final had been hosted at Rosslyn Park in years gone by, but the Club had been thrown out due to a large damages bill. John Kendall of Guys who has played for Rosslyn Park this season offered to make enquiries at the Club to see if the United Hospital name still strikes a sore nerve at the Club.

On a different matter regarding the final day, Professor Imms suggested that with the addition of the RVC to the UH organisation; the qualifying format for the final be changed so that there would be two pools of three teams who would play each other once each throughout the season. Prof Imms suggested that the winners of each pool would play in the final and the runners-up in the plate game. In addition to this Bart's Captain, Will Dooley, suggested that there also be a bowl game for the losers of the pools who could play also on the final day. As per tradition now, the suggestion of extra games was met with discontent from the ICSM contingent at the meeting. This was echoed by the GKT assembly who stated that at present their 1<sup>st</sup> XV fixture timetable is crammed and many players are already playing in excess of forty games.

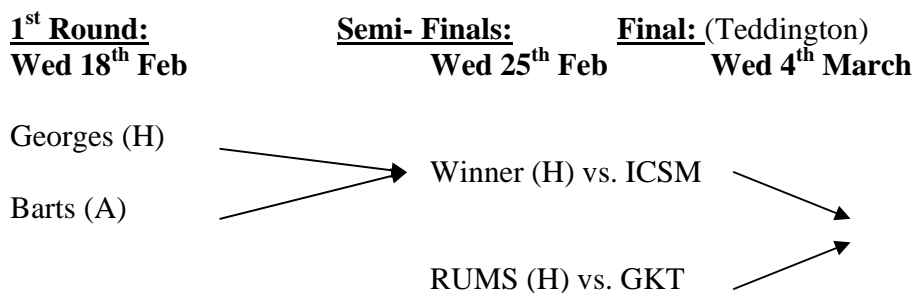
In response to this Mr Ancock suggested that last years bottom teams play each other in a pool in order to play GKT and ICSM in the semi-finals. Will Dooley quickly replied, saying that this could mean one of the pool teams would have to win 5 games in order to win the UH Cup, which he thought would be both unrealistic and unfair. Mr Ancock's suggestion was accordingly dropped.

It was felt by all that spirited discussion regarding the UH Competition could last well into the night, and with the carrot of Guys bar dangled in front of the assembly the following was promptly agreed for next season's cup competition.

### 1<sup>st</sup> XV Competition



### 2<sup>nd</sup> XV Competition



### **3<sup>rd</sup> XV Competition**

**Final:** (Teddington)

Wed 4<sup>th</sup> March

ICSM vs. GKT

NB: The above will be forwarded to the National Press and hopefully will be available as a double page wall chart in one of the large weekend sports supplements.

#### **10.)Any other Business**

Rauri Haddlington (Guys) asked if it would be possible to follow up Iain Wilson's Suggestion of a UH Sevens team offering that it would be a good opportunity to further the name of the United Hospitals Club. Dr Gibson replied that it was a good idea and suggested that the newly elected committee look to entering a team into appropriate tournaments next season if the opportunity presents.

#### **11.)Date and Location of Next AGM**

The next AGM will be held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May in the year of our Lord 2009. The meeting will be hosted by RUMS in the Cruciform Building, Gower St.