

Cambridge Touch Association

Committee meeting minutes: Monday, January 11, 2010

7pm, at Red Bull, Cambridge

Committee members:

Present: Brad White, Shane Hills, Jon Lovell, Stan Barkhuysen, Claire Raisen, Mark McKissock.

In attendance:

Kyle McLean

Agenda items for consideration

- 1 – Youth league/tournament
- 2 – Committee positions
- 3 – Finances
- 4 – Important dates
- 5 – Tournament(s)
- 6 – NTS Squad
- 7 – Social Activities
- 8 - Referees

Item 1 – Youth league/tournament

Kyle was present to put forward his proposals for a national youth tournament, following on the success of the inaugural event, held at Parker's Piece, Cambridge in June 2009, and also the creation of a Cambridge youth league.

He proposed the tournament, which will be one of three events specifically targeting youth development to be run in 2010, be brought forward to May 22 to better fit into the academic year.

By running a youth league (up to five weeks) in April/May, it was agreed we could encourage more youngsters into the sport. Kyle suggested running it before the adult modules on Wednesdays (5-6pm). He suggested an under-13 division for states and prep schools and an under-16 for other schools, while 16-18 year olds would participate in the adult leagues. The youth league would be free of charge, with CTA picking any minor costs that might be incurred.

With students organising the competition and providing referees, a need has arisen to run a course for would-be young referees. Investigation needs to be undertaken with Chris Wheeler possibly running a level one course, and/or an informal session with Shane and others. Probably needs to happen at the end of March.

CTA should also be looking to help teachers/coaches learn more about the sport.

Item 2 – Committee positions

By mutual consent it was agreed the following people would take the following positions/roles:-

Chairman: Brad White

Secretary: Mark McKissock

Treasurer: Claire Raisen

NTS squad convenor: Jon Lovell

Cambridge tournament organiser: Brad White

Beginners/intermediate coaching coordinator: Stan Barkhuysen

Referees coordinator: Shane Hills

Item 3 – Finances

The financial position has changed little since the AGM, with only outgoing a monthly direct debit for the website.

It was decided that, as was the case in 2009, costs for Valencia and Paris tournament would be met by players attending, and not be subsidised by CTA.

The England Touch Association (ETA) have invoiced in arrears for 2009 affiliation fees and we should be prepared for a 2010 invoice to arrive this year. RFU insurance should be covered by this fee.

Item 4 – Important dates

- **Beginners/intermediate course:** To be run again, possibly start date on March 6

- **League One:** To start with registration night on April 7 and will run for 11 weeks, finishing on June 16. A likely three-week break to follow before League Two begins. To be confirmed.

- **Possible Men's/Women's leagues:** A number of options were explored including running men's and women's league on separate night to mixed league. But the most popular option was to include

the men's and women's competitions on the same night as the mixed league. A women's/men's round (for 5-6 weeks only) could be played in round one, with two rounds of mixed league to follow.

Item 5 – Tournament(s)

- **Cambridge NTS Tournament:** CTA has been asked by ETA to host the final NTS event of the 2010 series on August 7, a good indication that our 2009 tournament was well received by other touch centres. There will be no double points or Super Eights format, as was the case with final event of the 2009 programme.

Facilities once again need to be confirmed. Brad to approach council to book Parker's Piece and look into using Kelsey Kerridge for both men's and women's changing rooms/toilets.

- **Men's/Women's tournament:** ETA has indicated they will support other events organised by regional bodies. With the European Championships in July, we felt we would receive good interest in an event (possibly eight men's and eight women's teams) at Coldham's Common in June. The event would need to fit in with NTS event schedule.

Item 6 – NTS squad

It was decided Jon will take on overall responsibility for NTS squad, but will consult advisors when necessary, with Mark is to assist as manager/coordinator on day of tournaments.

We agreed the assembly or a training squad was the best way forward, with players identified as capable of playing at NTS events invited to attend. Hornets and Bees squad will be picked from the training squad. A greater emphasis will be put on including talented youth players and training together as a squad.

Jon to investigate astroturf options for four fortnightly sessions from end of January for pre-season training and coaching.

Item 7 – Social Activities

The committee agreed to looking into more social events including quiz nights and/or punting.

The issue of sponsorship was also raised – whether CTA can attract a backer with a lump sum to sponsors kit and banners for events, and/or attracting a venue to lend support for social functions in exchange for encouraging our players to frequent these premises on a regular basis.

Item 8 – Referees

With the loss of Bruce Lockie to pastures new, CTA needs to push for more level one qualified referees to take up refereeing regularly and also encourage other players to attend level one course.

The option of player-refs during the league may also need to be implemented to ensure we have adequate officials on league nights.

Meeting closed: 8.35pm.

Next Meeting: Monday, February 15 at Red Bull, 7.30pm.

Cambridge Touch Association

Committee meeting minutes: Monday, February 15, 2010

7.30pm, at Red Bull, Cambridge

Committee members:

Present: Brad White, Jon Lovell, Stan Barkhuysen, Claire Raisen, Mark McKissock.

Apologies: Shane Hills.

Agenda items for consideration

- 1 – Tournaments
- 2 – Leagues
- 3 – Polo shirts
- 4 – Courses (coaching and beginners)
- 5 – Poster
- 6 – Sponsorship

Item 1 – Tournament

CTA has been dealt a blow with news that Parker's Piece, our preferred venue for the Cambridge round of the NTS, is unavailable on August 7. Coldham's Common has been booked as a back-up but investigations are to continue re perspective venues.

Mark is going to contact Ian Wilson, chairman at Cambridge Rugby Club, to see if the club is willing to help us out.

This will be conditional on whether we can get the main field and fields immediately behind it. If we are shoved out on pitches previously used in 2008 league, safety issues will arise in August with the ground likely to be extremely hard and dangerous. Bar facilities and parking will be ideal, and we could potentially have the tournament, presentations and after-party all at the one venue. Camping may also be an option on site.

St John's College and the Perse School were also mentioned as possible venues.

England Touch Association (ETA) have confirmed they would like the tournament to be a Super Eights/Social Eights format, but the committee would ideally like to host 20 teams, with 12 in the social format.

The committee all agreed player-referees are not to be used at the Cambridge tournament. It was felt that only the best, qualified officials will do and will prevent the problems from the 2009 event, the only real blip on an otherwise excellent day.

We may need to actively recruit and encourage referees based in other centres to come up, including hosting/billeting officials from the continent if need be.

In regards to the men's and women's tournament at Coldham's Common on June 27, interest has been high with five men's and five women's teams already expressing a willingness to attend.

Item 2 – Leagues

Preparations for the leagues are coming along well. Coldham's Common has been booked for the whole season. A positive response has been receiving to the idea of men's and women's competitions, as well as the mixed league. Particularly encouraging is the possibility of a Cambridge University women's team being involved, while it is hoped Shelford ladies may also wish to play.

Brad is to get the website up to speed with dates and how to enter a team, including an online option.

The committee decided to use new balls from the start of the leagues, with old balls to go to coaches in need, including Stan. Any remaining balls will be passed on charity, with Brad and Vicki to get in touch with an African-based organisation they have dealt with in the past.

Item 3 – Polo shirts

With the short time frame, we decided to investigate one-off tops for the Valencia tour, with other options to be considered for the rest of the season. Brad is dealing with a Royston-based supplier.

Along with polo shirts, Jon suggested training tops for the NTS squad.

Item 4 – Courses

Coaching – Level One & Two

ETA's decision to hold a level one course in Bristol on May15/16 has not gone down well, clashing with the NTS round in Nottingham. Jon suggested we should consider sending targeted people to Bristol, but will have to be managed with NTS squad needs.

CTA is delighted to have been asked to host the level two course in Cambridge on May 8/9. Stan has offered to tackle this event, organise a venue (both indoor seminar room and outdoor area required), perspective numbers, other needs and cost implications.

Junior referees courses

All set for February 24. Kyle McLean has reported good numbers interested including students and teachers. Bruce Lockie is to run course with Shane, Kyle and Brad to assist. It is hoped these referees will control matches in the youth league.

Beginner's course

Everything is in place for beginner's course, starting on Saturday, March 6. Stan is taking charge.

Item 5 – Posters

Mark has designed a flyer to distribute to gyms, schools, workplaces, supermarkets and rugby clubs. A few changes need to be made before final version is sent to Stan to print copies. Need to get the out in the community asap. The flyer can also be emailed to anyone who wants one.

Item 6 – Sponsorship

The committee agreed the best course of action to attract sponsorship was get backing for the Hornets squad kit (shirts and shorts) with advertiser on front. Signage can also be offered. Balls, tournament entry fees, and trophies for Cambridge tournament are other costs which could be offset by sponsorship.

Meeting closed: 8.37pm.

Next Meeting: Monday, March 29 at Red Bull.

Cambridge Touch Association

Committee meeting minutes: Monday, March 29, 2010

7pm, at Red Bull, Cambridge

Present: Brad White, Shane Hills, Stan Barkhuysen, Jon Lovell, Mark McKissock

Apologies: Claire Raisen

Meeting opened: 7.12pm

Agenda items for consideration

- 1 – League One
- 2 – Brief tournament venue update
- 3 – Hornets/NTS
- 4 – Kit, including polos
- 5 – Level Two Coaching Course

Item 1 – League One

The mixed league is set to go on April 7 with at least 12 teams confirmed. The committee decided that player/referees can only play for one team and any other players participating for two teams must specify their 'first choice'.

Week one is registration night, with the competition proper starting on April 14. There will be two rounds on April 14 and 21.

The men's and women's leagues start on April 28, which will see the schedule increase to at least three rounds. The youth league is also due to begin on the same night.

The CTA is encouraging team captains to take responsibility for their teams and the draw, which will be posted on the website, along with referees. No group emails will be sent out this year.

Costs for the league will be £150 per mixed team, and £50 per men's or women's side.

Item 2 – Tournament updates

There is still no confirmation of a venue for NTS event on August 7. Mark has made contact with Cambridge Rugby Club. Coldham's Common has been booked as a back-up.

The men's and women's tournament on June 27 has been well received. The men's event has a full quota of 10 teams confirmed from around the country and includes some England rep sides.

The women's event currently have seven spots confirmed with three remaining places available.

Item 3 – NTS

The committee was disappointed to hear Cambridge would not be permitted to enter a second team this year. England Touch has taken the decision.

Jon is to draft a letter outlining our position as a representative body and pointing out the number of London teams, and Welsh sides who are taking up places in the England series when they have their own series up and running.

By not having a development side, Cambridge is unable to bring players through and Jon made the point, of the 17 teams England reps only up to a handful would regularly be considered for the side, such is the depth in the current playing stocks.

Training nights will begin soon for NTS squad members – the night is yet to be confirmed but Jon wants it to either be on a separate night or at another location from Monday night social sessions at Parker's Piece.

Item 4 – Finances

The current balance is under £1000 and with a number of tournament entry fees that either have already been paid or need to be paid in the near future, it was noted we may need to budget more tightly at the end of 2010 to cover costs at the start of 2011.

12 months previous, the bank account had more than £3000.

Obviously, the league entry costs will help boost the balance in April.

By encouraging the sale of Hornets kit is another way to bring in more monies.

Item 5 – Kit

The decision was taken to force people with old kit to upgrade this year. If we are going to be going out into the community to try to attract sponsorship, we need to look sharper at tournaments and events.

Stan is also investigating costs for polo shirts, hooded jumpers and training jackets – all embroidered with the CTA logo – which will be advertised for purchase on the website. Interested people must pay up first and once we have at least five orders we can make the order with Samurai. If they have the order in stock, they can be shipped within two weeks, but may take a little longer if not.

Item 6 – Courses

Stan has sourced a venue for the Level Two Coaching Course on May 8/9 – The Perse School on Hills Road. The course will cost £155 (minimum eight people), the majority of which includes the shipping and sourcing of resources. As of the meeting date, four people had confirmed their places.

The committee discussed setting aside monies for a development fund to offset the costs incurred to Cambridge-based people participating in courses, whether a nominal contribution made by the committee or through an application made by the participant to the CTA. To be discussed in depth at next meeting.

Meeting closed: 8.15pm

Next Meeting: Monday, April 19.