

Camden & Regent's Park Youth League

Minutes of General Meeting 27 July 2015
held at The Hub, Regent's Park, London NW1

Clubs in attendance: Mallinson, One Strike, Primrose Hill, Pro Touch, Queens Park Sharks, Soccer Stars, Soccerscool, STF, The Hill, Totally Goal, West End, AFC Islington & Camden, Arsenal In the Community, Atlantic Sports, Camden Elites, DGSS, Drayton Youth, London Eagles Utd, FC Unity, Highgate Rangers, Jolof Sports, Just Play, Kentish Town, Somers Town

CRPYL: Tony Louki (Chairing), Will Cave, Abul Koyar

Royal Parks: Phil Kemp

Apologies: MIFC, Eastside, Finsbury Park, Daryl's Dragons, Benfica, Ash Rahman CRPYL, Sophie Sparrow CRPYL

1 **Chair's opening remarks:** The chair welcomed a good turnout of clubs' representatives at the meeting and explained that due to some administrative requirements this would not be an Annual General Meeting but would go ahead as an ordinary General Meeting of the league. The AGM would take place at 6.30 pm on Wednesday 16 December 2015 at The Store Yard, Regent's Park where accounts would be formally presented and results of CRPYL Sub Committee elections to be run during the autumn will be announced.

Action: Will Cave, Phil Kemp, Tony Louki

2 **Review of the 2014/2015 season:** Koyar and Will felt the season had run well with a good atmosphere, great attendance and noticeable enjoyment by the 1,500 players participating. It was good to see an increase of young coaches attached to teams. Cup tournaments could and would be developed to improve and widen participation.

Will said that for the 2015/2016 season, there will be improved pitch allocation depiction at the table to make games location easier to identify.

Phil explained that pitch layouts for next season would be reconsidered following liaison with the park's grounds maintenance contractors. The main panel is likely to remain but panels 8 and 9 will be looked at mainly because, in recent seasons, the number of mini pitches has been increased from eight to fifteen.

Zahid (Pro Touch) asked whether it would be possible to number the nets. Malcolm (Soccerscool) said that whilst coaches knew where the pitches were, parents weren't so and proposed a zoning and flagging system. Taff (Just Play) suggested that locations of pitches could be shown on the CRPYL website. Chris (Primrose Hill) said that the league should pre allocate pitch numbers and or zones where matches would be played and inform clubs prior to the Saturday.

Amandu (Jolof Sports) was concerned that match playing times were too short often curtailed due to some teams turning up late for the start. A number of

clubs agreed and asked that clubs should confirm start times prior and that teams should turn up earlier ready for prompt starts. Others suggested to scrap or reduce half time breaks by asking coaches to rest and rotate players during playing time and that referees should be encouraged to manage this in order to maximise game time for participants.

Ivan (Totally Goal) asked that the table be set up 20 minutes before the start of the day and that referees should turn up early too.

John (Somers Town) suggested an additional week comparing the greater number of football participants compared to those attending rugby or cricket leagues in the park. KJ (Drayton Youth) asked whether other locations either in or away from the park could be used. Dan (DGSS) suggested that games for some age groups could be played on Sundays. Phil explained that mini pitches are played on for a maximum of 12 hours per week and that the football season is longer than cricket's. Will said that the CRPYL is considering Coram's Fields for some games the season after next and will continue to scout other suitable locations.

Malcolm (Soccerscool) suggested that it should be possible to close off dates at the start of the season. Will gave dates for next season: Start for U9s, U11s and some U12s on **5 September 2015**; last game before break on **12 December 2015**; league restarts **9 January 2016**; season ends **26 March 2016**.

Dina (London Eagles): Asked whether there is a way to publish fixture dates for the whole season in advance and if rain off alerts could be shared earlier than at present. Dan (DGSS) agreed asking whether the park's pitch inspectors could inform CRPYL earlier than present so that this and other cancellation information could be shared (via Whatsapp, Mitoo and e mail) before players set off.

Winston (FC Unity) asked that vital information such as league applications key dates and ID cards be sent by email as well as WatsApp and Will said that the league would do this.

Tony agreed that these were ideas worth exploring and asked that the CRPYL Sub Committee work with Will and Phil to develop.

Action: Will Cave, Phil Kemp, CRPYL Sub Committee

3 Under 6s and Under 7s development: Peter Chapman (West End and CRPYL Sub Committee) offered the meeting a review of the work done to promote this section. Pete described how the number of teams and players has increased this season and the flexibility allowed to mix the age groups and to form A and B sub sections to allow for levels of talent. It was announced that next season, whilst they would still be playing within cones, the games would take place in a better location in the park and using new goals.

The chair thanked Pete for his work and commitment to this important development work and asked that non participating clubs speak to and work with him to get more youngsters playing.

4 Royal Parks feedback: Phil said how delighted Royal Parks were with the 1,500 youngsters coming to play sport in The Regent's Park. He said that despite continued central government cuts to their budget, the community discount of 40% on pitch hire is being maintained.

Despite the many positives there are some concerns to note and address. Litter was still an issue as was informal between match training on unused (and therefore rested) pitches. Some player behaviour could be improved to reduce strong or abusive language towards staff. This season there was damage within The Hub building including to bins, hairdryers, doors and alarms as well as intentional blocking of sinks and toilets causing floor flooding.

Will said that CRPYL had paid some £800 towards repairs. In response to Chris (Primrose Hill) who suggested that changing rooms were not necessary and caused delay to kick offs, Will said that safeguarding young people dictated the need to make the spaces available.

Gerrard (Atlantic Sports) recommended the acquisition of bins similar to the large yellow collapsible ones used on match days at Queen's Park and it was agreed to investigate and do so.

Action: All clubs (on behaviour), Will Cave, Phil Kemp

5 League fees increase for 2015/2015 season:

Will explained this was due to historic increase in pitch fees not since passed on since 2013, an increase in office rent and general bills. The success of the league has led to the need to employ and pay more staff to support the league on Saturdays. He also advised that the increase will contribute towards buying good equipment, trophies and investment in young players.

Amandu (Jolof Sports) asked whether there discounts could be available for clubs fielding large numbers of team. Will said that this may be looked at but would rather examine how to get new players involved.

Taff (Just Play) asked that future increases be advised prior to the release of pre season intention forms.

Malcolm (Soccerscool) and Ivan (Totally Goal) asked whether the availability of spare pitches could be broadcast and offered to clubs able to play friendlies. Will said that the mechanisms to do this could be complicated but considered.

Action: Will Cave

6 Teams in appropriate divisions: Some discussion on how and when to rank teams to A and B streams within age groups. Tobias (One Strike) suggested reviewing ranking at the end of the season, Aklu (AFC) proposed mid season. Will agreed to look at examining how these ideas could be trialled for age groups below Under 12s.

Action: Will Cave, CRPYL Sub Committee

7 Cups and County matches: Will advised that the league would continue to support non CRPYL county and cup games and would advise opponents in advance of postponed matches involving cup and county matches absent participants.

8 ID cards: Will advised that the ID cards system would be the same as last season at the same price. Clubs would be emailed details shortly and the league will provide workshop support where needed, particularly for new clubs. Asked by Chris (Primrose Hill) whether registering for Under 11s and below was still necessary, Will confirmed as such for child safety reasons. Aklu (AFC) asked whether to negate the need for annual registration, cards could be colour coded, Will said that this could be looked at.

Action: Will Cave, Ash Rahman

9 Handbook update for 2015/2016 season: Zahid (Pro Touch) asked that the handbook be ready for the start of the season and be posted and updated in PDF format on the CRPYL website.

Andy (Queens Park Sharks) asked that pitch sizes be detailed in the handbook and posted on the website. He also asked that the retreat rule be clarified, it was agreed that it should be used up to U10s and made clear to all referees that it is a rule.

Gerrard (Atlantic Sports) asked that the previous seasons' honours be recorded in the handbook.

Taff (Just Play) highlighted the need for a league website with up to date information and Will agreed that CRPYL would act on this and build one.

Will asked that clubs provide all up to date contact information including an e mail address available for sharing.

The chair thanked all for these ideas and suggestions and recommended that all should be examined and where possible consulted for adoption.

Action: Will Cave, CRPYL Sub Committee

10 Amateur Football Alliance Youth Council: The league's youth representative, Alamin (STF) invited clubs to offer their members the opportunity to attend a Young Referees training event on 30 July 2015.

Danny (DGSS) welcomed training for the league's young referees but would also like to see continued development particularly in assertiveness and training on how to best referee the various age ranges.

Gerrard (Atlantic Sports) asked for a sin bin provision for young players to dissuade and reduce aggressive challenges and for coaches to support referees in administering this. He also sought clarification on allowing slide tackles and was advised that these are permitted but that referees should monitor and address extreme practices.

KJ (Drayton Youth) asked that space for grading parent, coach and manager behaviour be included on referees' reports sheets.

Dina (London Eagles) asked that clubs be provided with guidelines for parent behaviour and other information for those supporters to learn. Zahid (Pro Touch) suggested the distribution of *Football Parent*, the FA's code on parent behaviour, for sharing with parents via clubs.

The chair thanked Alamin for his report and interest in developing young people for this important aspect of delivering the Saturday games and asked that he calls upon the CRPYL and AFA for the support he and his colleagues require.

Action: Will Cave, Ash Rahma, CRPYL Sub Committee

11 Any other business: The chair, noting the time was 8.00 pm and that there was fair discussion during the meeting on a variety of issues asked whether there were any urgent matters to be raised. None were and the meeting was closed, clubs thanked for attending and announcement that Will Cave would be available to discuss individual matters until 9.00 pm.

12 Key dates reminder: Season Start date Saturday 5.9.2015; Winter Break after Saturday 12.12.2015; Season Restart Saturday 9.1.2016; Season End Saturday 26.3.2016

13 Date of next meeting: Wednesday 16 December 2016 at 6.30 pm

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