**Cowgirl meeting – 04 / 09 / 23 - minutes**

Present: Sensi, Liz Ripper, Jo, Hannah, Rona, Phoebe, Silvia P, Tammi, Annie H, Lizzie W, Isy O, Natalie Smith, Sally Wood, Maria, Becs, Frances

…waiting for arrivals….

Apologies

Wendy, Harry H, Arlie

Sensi welcomes new Cowgirls.

1. **Should cowgirls only be able to vote if they are present at meetings?**

* Sal says we’ve already discussed this. One of the previous points was that if people aren’t present at meeting, then they’re not able to hear counter points so shouldn’t be able to vote.
* Wendy had emailed in agreeing with this, adding that we’ll have people who aren’t invested in the club voting. Jo also agrees with this.
* Frances raises a point – maybe there should be an exception when there’s a quorum number of people needed - in an EGM, for example.
* Rona suggests we should think about another way to vote because some people are shyer and might not come forward / feel peer or group pressure to vote a certain way.
* Becs suggest that it’s not difficult nowadays to hold or attend an emergency meeting (people have online option). Absentee voting not relevant for this environment, we should encourage people to send in their views though. That’s why the agenda goes out beforehand.
* There was a brief talk about using platforms like slide-o or Spond to vote, to discourage pack mentality and allow people to make free, unpressured votes.

Action points

1. Committee to discuss a new voting platform.
2. The committee would like to make it clear that comments about meeting agenda points can be made in advance anonymously (if people wish) or with their name attached. Just email your comments to someone in the committee.

Vote ‘Do you need to be present at meetings to vote?’:

majority vote yes

one abstaining

1. **New committee roles**
2. Should we have a pastoral role?

* One idea – it could be rolling (changing person each month)?
* Two people suggested it is unnecessary – we already have the two chairs and a vice chair.
* It was noted that we all have joint responsibility for running / organising the club. We are not hierarchical, and we never will be!
* Why did this roll come up? Jo and Tammi confirm that it was because of an incident.
* Risk of ‘It’s not my job’ mentality, if other Cowmittee members are approached with an issue.
* Phoebe questions whether people would just naturally go to who they are closest to, and it might create more emotionally work for someone else.

Vote: ‘Should we start a pastoral role?’

8 people against it

0 people for it

6 abstaining

1. Social security – we need another!

There are currently two social secs. Jo and Ev.

* Add to minutes – details of new social secs (and all committee roles). How important it is. This also needs to be promoted at training.
* Also, if anyone has an idea of anything they went to do – they should message Jo and Ev. ‘We should go for a walk / meal in this specific place’. It’s helpful for those secretaries who are busy working on our social calendar.
* New Liz comes forward as social sec!

Action points

1. If you have any ideas for social outings (e.g. walks, pubs, etc.), email/Whatapp Jo (07973677247, [giblin.jo@gmail.com](mailto:giblin.jo@gmail.com)) and Ev (07841860821, [elc1988@hotmail.com](mailto:elc1988@hotmail.com)) or new social sec Liz (07847796873) with an activity / date / time suggestion
2. Jo and Ev to induct Liz into the role.
3. **Second training session?**

* Thursday after training is a possibility. People not so keen on this.
* It was a pain booking a week in advance (at St Pauls Astros) at midnight. Arduous process for person booking. Also probably affected numbers.
* No space currently available for Tuesday session. Lizzie Winter is looking into it. If anyone comes across a random pitch in the BS5 area (with floodlights), let Lizzie know!
* Sensi says most places seem to use the ‘Everyone Active’ app, so it’ll probably be a similar situation with other places.
* We are going to continue with the St Pauls astros, with Francess booking for 1 month, then someone else will take over.
* ***We need more night owls to come forward to help out with this booking!*** Frances is only able to do it for a month, due to work.
* Need everyone active app downloaded to make this booking. £53.60. The committee will transfer you this money beforehand. Book Monday at midnight (the week before) for next Tuesday

Action points:

1. Please contact the committee if you’ll be awake at midnight on Mondays and are able to make this book the St Pauls Astros (through the app), a week in advance. Remember, everyone needs to chip in if you’d like this second training session to happen.
2. Ring the venues beforehand to see what’s available.
3. Put out a vote to see if cows (including newbies) prefer sun, Mon or Tues for send training. – DONE
4. **The Ethical Fund**

* We always keep a pot of money available for cows who are struggling; Are unable to work due to health reasons, have had their bike stolen. Also for people in the community (someone’s house burnt down, legal help, etc.)

Action point:

Ethical fund info to be added to welcome leaflet (Sal and Annie) and website (Frances and Tammi)

**AOB**

* Annie explains casual league – it’s great fun and about £36 each to take part for a season. Although this year’s casual league registration is now closed, I’ve attached details of a previous year, so new people can read it and think about of they’d like to take part in a future one.
* There is also an over 35 casual league. There’s a mini ‘turn up and play’ tournament on 30th September, Saturday 1-3pm at Bristol Brunel academy. Individual and teams are welcome – followed by meeting at The Greenbank pub afterwards to discuss the league going forward. It will be every three weeks. It’s low tackle so safer for people with injuries.
* Rona, new ways of voting people in. Can we nominate people prior to meeting and check with them that it’s OK?
* Becs talks about potential Cowgirls trip to Palestine next year. The cowgirls have a connection with people there and have done two previous trips there. It would involve 10 days in the country, playing the women’s teams. Visiting friends they have made over the years and various other projects. It is likely to be October 2024. Flights there are Easyjet, so not too bad (£300 - £400) ***Please, please*** message Becs if you are interested on 07944216036.
* Annie has stepped up to do social media!
* Custom football shirts. Company called ‘Art of football’. ‘We want to design custom shirt for you grassroots football.’ Ethically sound company. They’d design us a shirt, take photos then us it as publicity. We wouldn’t get a whole kit, but some ppl could get a free cool kit out of it. Questions about where they’re made – answer, in made in Turkey. People not wanting to embrace anything that involves censorship.
* There’s an Antwerp tournament happened, 5/6/7 July 2024. More info to follow, but save those dates if you’re interested.
* Finally – the committee roles are changing in January.
* Please take a look at what’s available and decide if you would like to do one or speak to someone else and suggest they should do it, because they’d be great at it.

We can’t run the Cowgirls without all of you!

Action points:

1. Committee to think about the voting in and nominating process.
2. All Cowgirls should take a look at the committee roles and think about if they would have the time and passion to do one next February (for a year or two)

People currently doing the roles can be found under the description in info chat, so feel free to talk to the current committee and see what the roles involve. You can also find the Cowgirl’s bank account details there.

Finally

Registration for this year’s casual league has now closed, but I have attached some information for a previous year’s one, so you can get an idea of what it’s about and think about if you’d like to sign up for it next year / a future year.