

Cowgirls AGM: 31st January 2022

Present: Hannah (Chair), Harry, SFW, Peta, Bear, Nat Nurse, Jo, Maria, Wendy, Rona, Alicia, Leila, Silva, Zoe G, Zoe J, Emily, Beccs, Vic, Lizzie, Evelyn, Aline, Isy (minutes)

Apologies: Ange, Soooooz, Bridie, Maeve, Sensi

1. Second training session

There has been lots of chat about this and some options have been found but the question is **why** are we doing it and **what** do we want from it?

Some disagreement on the reasons – is it so that we can open it up to new people or so that we can play more football?

Cost implications considered – we're currently running a deficit on our current training session so we need to keep costs to a minimum – when asked in front of EVERYONE Leila offered to support these sessions for free. We realise this offer will not stand up in court and may be rescinded.

Some in favour of using it as a chance to open up to new people, others concerned about how we would ensure even spread across 2 sessions and if we open up and a second session doesn't work out, how do we manage the influx of people.

Peta intervened with pre-meeting pub intel – German coaches the men's first team at City Academy on Monday nights (6:15-7:45) and they're only using half the pitch despite paying for the whole thing. Academy are apparently looking for someone else to take the other half – in post-meeting pub conversations with German we told him how excited we were about this and he's going to look into it – **ACTION: Peta / Hannah to follow up.**

Vote: do you want a second training session?

Yes: 14

No: 0

Abstain: 5

Agreement reached (I think) to book a second session if we can, trial it among ourselves initially and see how it works before deciding whether to open it up to new people. A poll will be sent out to agree on what we want to do with it – fun random kind of football related things, extra (free) coaching or the chance to just play a match every week. **ACTION: Jo to send out a poll**

2. Should we enter a team into the development league of the Casual League next year?

Bear proposed entering a team into the Development league next year. General support for it but when given the option at casual league sign up last year only 2 people chose it. Agreement that this year we need to send out a clearer description of what it is – it's not necessarily for inexperienced people but also for people who don't want to play at such a competitive / aggy / physical level (i.e. if you're old or injured or you just like it when everyone is nice to each other)

ACTION: whoever takes on casual league sign up needs to give a better description of development league and ask who is interested

3. Finance

Amazing report prepared by the Treasurer.

Cowgirl Accounts:

Starting Balance	3312
Ending Balance	1457
Overall	-1855

Activity	Out	In	Balance
Training	3199	3030	-160
Rage Kit	794	500	-294
Pearl'd Cup	1500	800	-700
Other tournaments	480	185	-295
Club activities	288	-	-288
Ethical Fund	309	120	-189
Membership	-	80	80
Total	6570	4724	-1855

Some unacceptable losses that we need to address:

Training – we're running a deficit which will increase over the next year because we will be paying 2 coaches for the whole year (last year we only paid second coaches from September) – coaches and pitch hire will cost £3488 next year so we'll be even worse off.

Agreed that a lot of this is probably down to people forgetting to pay subs. Following ACTIONS agreed:

Encourage izettle payments at training – Sensi and Hannah to lead, coaches to do it if they're not there (though there's an issue about getting the card reader to them).

Encourage standing orders – if you go regularly please consider this, means you never have to forget, remember, feel bad.

Vic also proposed that we offer a third training price of £5 for those who can afford it.

Vote in favour of £3 unwaged / £4 waged / £5 optional training fees:

For: Unanimous (I think)

Against: 0

Rage Kit – it looks like not everyone who got a Rage kit (the "fashion" top with the refugees / LGBTQ+ pride flag) have paid. ACTION: Isy to send out a list of those who have paid so people can check and pay up if they forgot to at the time

Pearl'd Cup – we were supposed to fundraise to cover our £1500 donation to the club. Zoe J bravely admitted to being on the fundraising committee who were meant to sort this. Wendy got excited about something where you jump over the bar at the pub and serve people. ACTION: Zoe J to look into some possible activities

The full club have a rule that if club funds fall below a certain amount they should fundraise to get them back up. Proposal to set this at £1000 for cowgirls.

Vote to fundraise if funds fall below £1000:

For: 19

Against: 1

Other Tournaments – most tournaments have an entrance fee that we have to pay before the tournament. We usually pay this upfront based on the number of people who sign up and then ask everyone to pay nearer the date of the tournament. We're losing shitload of money because everyone overestimates their commitment levels / can't face the FOMO so we get loads of sign ups and then everyone gets too drunk, tired, injured to play. **ACTION: whoever coordinates a team for a tournament is responsible for liaising with the treasurer to make sure everyone who signs up pays (if they can afford to)**

Ethical Fund - Isy proposed setting a minimum spend for the Ethical Fund every year so that we don't just accumulate money but use it to support causes that align with our ethos. Argument raised against this that we might really need it if a club / community member /org is in real crisis so we shouldn't spend for the sake of it. Agreed to park that decision for now but will promote the fund within club so people know it's there. **ACTION: Isy to send reminder about Ethical Fund and also update the policy so that only the Chairs are involved in decision making if it's a confidential request.**

Membership – despite 43 people signing up to the casual league this year only 4 people paid their membership!!! Fucking Useless! See recent email and whatsapp posts. **ACTION: Isy to send reminders, Isy to send reminders, Isy to send reminders, Isy to send reminders**

***** we know people might not be able to afford costs associated with the club and they might not want to tell anyone that so none of this is about chasing people down individually, it's about overcoming our general crapness at remembering to pay for things we can afford *****

4. Copa Lucrecia

Last year there was discussion around whether we should be involved with the tournament because of alleged anti-leftist activity by the Nicaraguan Government, which was refuted by the tournament organisers. Last year we agreed that it was an individual decision whether to participate but that as a club we wouldn't pose for photos with any government officials. We also said we'd explore the issue in much more depth, which we haven't... sign up is in March / April so we agreed to stick with the interim decision made last year and ask Dana if she wants to make a separate presentation on it. **ACTION: Dana let the committee know if she wants to do a presentation / have a discussion**

5. Volunteering

We know we're great but are we as great as we think we are – do we live the ethos we're always banging on about? We could and should get involved in more community stuff! Loads of volunteering opportunities knocking around at the moment:

- Sustainable meals service
- Bristol Drugs Project
- Bucket shaking at the Plough on Fridays and Saturdays for the veg box project – Zoe J agreed to organise a group for it.

ACTION: Hannah send out an email with all the current opportunities and Zoe J to organise bucket shaking group

6. International Women's Day

Sat 11th March, organised by Bristol Women’s Voice at College. We’ve been asked if we want to have a stall and run a Beat the Goalie competition. Agreed that this would be around raising awareness of women’s sport and community action rather than promoting the Cowgirls as we’re not letting anyone in at the moment. Also suggestion to ask the Casual League to get involved as bigger representative of women’s sport. Needs someone to take it on, coordinate cowgirls to be there. They’re also looking for stewards to help out with the overall event.

ACTION: Zoe G to contact Casual League. Maria absolutely agreed to run the Beat the Goalie competition. Zoe G / Maria to liaise and send an email out.

7. Cultural exchange with men’s refugee team / LGBTQ

Jesse (Cowboy) runs a refugee team and is thinking about affiliating it to the whole club but realises there are disparities between the club’s ethos and some cultural beliefs. Wants to know if anyone interested in helping him work it out. Parked as Sensi knows more. **ACTION: SENSI tell us more**

8. Our name

There was a recent discussion about whether we should change our name because we’re open to trans men and women and support the Manchester laces trans equality campaign but the name is a bit heavy on the girl. There were lots of strong feelings on it so we agreed to nothing but will keep the conversation going.

9. Committee Roles

Committee happy to stay or go, everyone happy to vote them back in en masse so they could go to the pub, everyone EXCEPT HARRY, who quite rightly insisted that we fulfil our constitutional obligations and do it properly. A CACOPHONY of nominating and seconding ensued:

Position	Person	Nominated	Seconded	Votes
Chair	Hannah	Wendy	Isy	For - Unanimous
	Sensi	Rona	Isy	For - Unanimous
Vice Chair	Peta	Harry	Isy	For - Unanimous
Secretary	Lizzie	Rona	Wendy	For - Unanimous
Treasurer	Isy	Peta	Sally	For - Unanimous
Political Secretary	Sensi	Leila	Peta	For - Unanimous
Social Sec	Rona	Wendy	Isy	For - Unanimous
	Wendy	Isy	Rona	For – 17 Abstentions – 2 (one too many broken “every week” promises...is this the beginning of the end for Wendy’s grip on social power...)
	Jo	Harry	Becs	For - Unanimous
	Ev	Isy	Sally	For - Unanimous

10. AOB

Yes it went on and on and on...

- Feminist theatre in Bath – check website and buy tickets – **ACTION: social secs get a group of people together**
- Haggis peeps tackles – invited by Glasgow West to a tournament in Glasgow, 25th March 2-5pm and stuff in the evening, 7 aside. **ACTION: If anyone wants to organise shout**
- Leeds May tour – first wknd in May, not confirmed
- Ball together now – transinclusive festival for women and non-binary – 7-9th July in Manchester, £270 to enter a team – limited spots. **ACTION: If anyone wants to organise shout**
- Café 5 (run by cows and cow friends) – outdoor space being taken away and used for parking, this would be terrible – **ACTION: everyone sign the petition – <https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/road-usage-for-hospitality-in-bristol?source=email&>**
- Hamburg tournament – 9th-11th June, 6 booked already, there is a whatsapp, talk to Sooooooz
- Big Ride for Palestine – from Swansea to Bristol, 3-6th August, a few Cows did it last year, really good, lots of fun for a great cause - [The Big Ride for Palestine \(thebigride4palestine.com\)](http://thebigride4palestine.com)
- Soft ball team – Jo and Zoe G starting one, it's a bit like baseball but a smaller field, good for injured folks and people who can't run. It's not actually that soft. Lots of lesbians play in the league according to Wendy.
- Walking football group Thursday lunchtimes at the bottom of the M32 – ask Sally / Zoe G
- Becs will be running Bethlehem marathon – 10th March, talk to her if you're interested. She'll be there for a week meeting folks with Peace. No football. Really fun, inclusive event. Full, half or 10k.
- Sally – there's a volleyball league that Tamsin wants to do. **ACTION: I'm not sure.**