

Easton Cowgirls Football Club Quarterly General Meeting 21st October 2025

Present: Peta, Sensi, Harry, Alicia, Annie Gainz, Rowan, Sal FW, Jo, Soooz, Kaz, Ripper, Isy, Kirsten, Harley, Annie, Rona

Apologies: Eyebrows, Vicky, Dana, Becs

Chair: Peta, Minutes: Jo

1. Finances

- Cost of pitch hire has increased, but lots of people coming to training at the moment so we are making money
- ACTION (all) – remember to pay your subs each week to keep this going!

2. Christmas parties

- Cowgirls FC Christmas party – 10th January 2026
 - In July QGM we voted for party after Christmas - if you weren't there to vote tough titties
 - ACTION (Annie H & Kaz) – lead organising party
- Whole club (all sports) Christmas party – 13th December
 - CACKK (cowboys and cowgirls kids klub) friendly party early pm and community christmas meal (potluck style) at Pickle Factory Easton, then PM karaoke in the Plough
 - Please help out on the day (set up, pack down, or cooking something for the meal)
 - ACTION (all) – If you can help - sign up to help out on spreadsheet shared on Cowgirls Info whatsapp group

4. Closed to new players

- 30+ players at training weekly – closed to new players for now for safety and quality of training
 - Please note a few new players who enquired before closing may trickle in – but all new enquiries are being told we are closed
- Will be reviewed in a few months
 - Need to consider how we manage numbers moving forward so we do not end up closing for a long time again
 - ACTION (Harry and Peta) - set up another whatsapp group to discuss this
- Do we stay open to any players who are seeking asylum or refuge?
 - No vote required, the consensus was a big yes!
- Further discussion about we can better facilitate refugees and asylum seekers playing with us
 - Suggested “buddy” system – have a pool of cowgirls committed to checking in on these players, ensuring they understand drills, assisting with skills coaching, generally making them feel included and welcome
 - ACTION (committee) - ask on whatsapp who can be a “buddy” – especially helpful if they know other languages than English
 - Welcome leaflet has been translated to Arabic – awaiting checking – plan to also translate into a few other languages

5. Fundraising

- Cowgirls FC have committed to raising min £500 for whole club refugee and asylum seeker players fund – need ideas of how to do this
 - The Menstrual Cramps are donating profits from their “Kiss on the Pitch” merch run
 - Shaking bucket on door of The Plough

- ACTION (all) – look at events that will be good for fundraising and let committee know what dates you think would work
- The Plough needs help raising money for their Christmas veg box scheme (<https://www.plougheaston.co.uk/vegbox>)
 - ACTION (all) - if you can help any time over autumn/winter, please any of the committee, or scan QR code on posters in The Plough

6. Feedback from recent events

- No Hate, Just Sport – multisport pilot in Bristol led by WeSport and SARI – recognises sports is great for physical and mental health and socialising, but discrimination is a problem in sport that creates barrier to access - they have developed and shared best practice guidelines for tackling discrimination in sport (see <https://www.wesport.org.uk/our-impact/no-hate-just-sport/> or ask Peta and Sensi for more info)
 - Note - Police present at launch event, booo. However, lots of community there too
 - ACTION (all) – if you want to get involved in No Hate, Just Sport contact Peta
- The World Transformed (annual leftwing festival and year round political education project) - 2025 event was in Manchester - Sensi and a couple of cowboys spoke on panel on how to empower community and use skills to fight against the awful state of the world
 - Highly recommended - if it happens again next year we should go on mass

7. Upcoming events

- 2 Short films about Cowgirls FC tours in Palestine - 29th October 7pm at The Pickle Factory – contact Soooooz or Becs for more info
- Social trip to Bridgewater Carnival 1st November – contact Kaz for more info
- Radical Film Club 10th Nov 6.30pm at St Pauls Learning Centre – showing film about south American sex workers angry at the system who start a football team
- Cowgirls FC hosting community meal 15th November 4-6pm – come and eat!
 - ACTION (all) if you can help with set up, pack down, or cooking please contact someone on the committee
- Whole club christmas party – 13th December afternoon til late
- Cowgirls FC Christmas party 10th Jan 2026 after casual league games
- May Day tournament 1st-3rd May 2026 Leeds – big fun – contact committee for more info

8. Committee roles up for vote in January

- In January 2026 AGM there will be votes on who is on the committee
 - You could be chair, vice chair, treasurer, secretary, social sec, social media sec (see doc with role descriptions that has been sent with these minutes)
 - role sharing is an option
 - ACTION (all) - consider putting yourself forward for a role! speak to any current committee member if you want more info
- Some committee members may wish to stay on (but we can have more than one person going up for a role and can vote on it!)
 - ACTION (committee) – let all cowgirls know what roles need filling ahead of Jan AGM
- Discussion whether there is a better way of nominating for roles and voting
 - Should it be anonymous?
 - Should people interested be able to shadow current committee members to get a taste?
 - Or committee to give description of what they might do in a typical week?
 - ACTION (all) – consider these options – any suggestions, let committee know

- General discussion about improving engagement with running of the club (attending meetings, active organisational roles)
 - Newer players commented that there is a lot of information on whatsapp groups about things going on in the club – can be overwhelming
 - Suggestion to be more intentional with helping newer players get to know what's going on within Cowgirls FC and in wider club - could make some drinks after training focussed on this etc

9. Paying coaches

- Harry has been coaching consistently, and we need to start paying her!
 - Agreed Harry will be paid moving forward, and paid in arrears
- Agreed that Mark's pay should be increased
- Harry highlighted that Mark plays larger coaching role and pay should reflect this
- ACTION (Alicia) – arrange updated payment for our lovely coaches

10. Extending training at City Academy Bristol

- Previously years we have moved to the park for training in June, July, August
 - allows us to train longer (no time slots) and helps us make money (no cost for pitches)
 - Bollocks to finances! Less people come to training in the park (so less subs paid and less engagement)
 - Additionally, risk of injury in the park due to shit ground conditions
- In previous QGMs, we have questioned whether we want to stay at City Academy longer
 - could go the park for just July and August – but light better in June
 - Could do park in just June and July – but is City Academy open in summer holidays?
- VOTE on whether to stay training at City Academy Bristol as long as we can over summer
 - Yay – 14, Nay – 0, Abstain – 2
- ACTION (Jo) – contact City Academy to discuss how long we can stay training there over summer

11. Any Other Business

- Process for using reserves list for Casual League games
 - if you need a reserve for your team, ask Alicia (who has list) – Alicia will ask the first name on top of the list to ask if they can play (if no, ask next person on list)
 - Note – reserve player is then part of that team for remainder of the season
- We will be trialling using a “WhatsApp community”
 - This pools together all the different cowgirls whatsapp groups in one easier to manage space on whatsapp
 - A central announcement group for sending important updates to all members will replace the current Info Group,
 - Cowgirls can still chat in the separate, smaller groups that make up the community
 - This does not mean you will get more messages, or that you will be added to more whatsapp groups – it just makes things more streamlines
 - You will be able to see other Cowgirls whatsapp groups that exist, and you will have the option to join them (not added automatically) – eg cowgirls cycling, cows watching womens sports, cows walking groups
 - It will be a trial – if it goes tits up we can undo it
 - ACTION (Sal and Sensi) – make WhatsApp Community happen

Next meeting: January 2026