

Easton Cowgirls Football QGM on 20/5/24 at Easton Community Centre

Present: Peta, Ripper Liz, Emily, Frances, Sensi, Ev, Rona, Sooz, Ange, Maria L, Zoe J, Silvia, Alicia, Becs, Nursey Nat, Mari

Apologies: Lizzie Winter, Maeve, Annie, Vic, Zoe G, Wendy, Isabel

Chair: Peta, Minutes: Jo

1) Finances summary from Treasurer Frances

- In Feb 2024 we had approx £2300 in the bank, but as of May 2024 were at approx £1300 - what is causing the deficit?
 - Potentially because Tuesday game only sessions had low attendance, and low attendance on Thursdays training during March – we were paying for pitches, but not getting enough subs in
 - Possible that iZettle payments are not coming through
 - Peta took approx £80 in subs in one session in April and it's not showing up in the bank
- Some money (strange amounts - ~£82, £59, £11) going into bank account from PayPal money coming in – what are these payments?
 - Sensi confirmed not from merch sales
 - Particular amount mean it doesn't look like subs
 - Have iZettle payments been going to Hannah (who set up iZettle account) and she's been moving it over via PayPal
- ACTION – COMMITTEE - to discuss with Hannah and figure out what is happening with iZettle and PayPal
- ACTION – FRANCES - to send message out to Cowgirls to remind people to pay subs and memberships, and to reiterate option of paying monthly via direct debit/standing order

2) Summer training

- from 6th June until September we will no longer train at Bristol City Academy (BSA) on Thursdays – need to decide between training at Oldbury Court and Eastville Park
 - Oldbury court has slightly better pitch and less bugs, but is further from Easton and the Plough!
 - Eastville Park is closer to HQ, but issues with bug bites and playing surface
 - VOTE – 8 for Oldbury Court, 3 for Eastville Park, 3 abstain – Oldbury wins
- What time to start training in Summer?
 - 7pm – more light and more football time, but ongoing issue of people showing up late and having to rush to Oldbury
 - 7.30pm – more consistency with training at BCA, less late comers, but less football time
 - VOTE – 2 for 7pm, 10 for 7.30pm – 7.30pm wins

- Discussed timekeeping – where possible, please be on time for training to show respect for coaches and other players, even better to show up early to do your own warmup
- ACTION – PETA - to send message to cows that from 6th June we will be training at Oldbury Court from 7.30pm, with reminder about timekeeping
- ACTION – COMMITTEE - As previously agreed, someone from committee to read inclusivity statement at training shortly after QGM

3) Games only sessions on Tuesday evenings over summer

- Peta suggested that we could keep up Tuesday game only sessions in the park over the summer on an informal basis
 - Suggest that if you would like to play football on a Tuesday – send a message out to cowgirls a few days before and ask for people to let them know whether there is enough interest (so you can gauge if there are enough players to make it worthwhile)
 - If you put the message out, you can decide where!
- ACTION – ALL COWS – send a message out if you want a kickabout on a Tuesday! ask others to reply or react to message or do a poll

4) Should we open to new players?

- It is a shame to be an inclusive club that can't take any more players
- It is great having new players in the summer, but becomes difficult when we are back at BCA after summer as space is limited
- Tuesday sessions were initially proposed to be second training session to allow opening for new players, but ended up being game only sessions that were poorly attended (likely because of the later start time)
- How would we manage if we had lots of new players coming to training at BCA after summer ?
 - Could have system where you have to “sign up” for each training, and numbers would be capped
 - Issues with logistics of running this system
- Would it help to make it standard to pay upfront for training monthly?
 - This would help with financial planning, knowing consistent money coming into account
 - Also helps logistically, not collecting weekly subs
 - Concerns of financial barriers – could make monthly cost cheaper than paying weekly, and of course money should not be a barrier to anyone so players could contact member of committee to discuss alternative payment
 - People felt they would come more often if they had paid upfront
 - How will this help with issues of too many players?
- Proposal or more structure to introducing new players to the clubs
 - For example, could open for summer with a clear message of the ethos of the club and introduction to what we do, continue paying per session over

the summer, then ask for folk to make a commitment by September and we go back to BCA (pay membership, and pay subs monthly)

- Discussion was decided to be too big to fit within this meeting, and agreed EGM may be required
- ACTION – COMMITTEE – discuss points raised and come up with proposal to bring to EGM

5) Summer Tournaments

- So many of them and you're invited to them all! See spond for more details, or ask a committee member to point you to who has more info
- Bantham - 7th -9th June. £20. Great location by the beach. Womens tournament tbc, but definitely will be some games with the Yardbirds – contact Sooz or Sensi
- CACKK camp – 21st June – Priddy – weekend of camping for cowgirls and cowboys kids klub
- Fundraiser in Sheffield - 22nd June – 6 a side!
- Antifascist network tournament in Antwerp 5th – 8th July network – a few cows will be driving and a few getting the Eurostar – this is a biggun!
- Football Has No Gender FLINTA+ tournament in Connewitz Germany – 9-11th August – if anyone is interested speak up! We would need to put in a team by June 15th
- Clapton CFC may be hosting friendlies and party on 20th July

6) Casual league next year (how many teams, which divisions)

- We've had 3 teams across gibbons and Williams divisions this year
 - The casual league has become more competitive, and we have all have taken a beating
 - some teams struggling to pull enough players together for a team each game
- previous years we have asked players if they would like to be in the melling division (development division) which is more suited to new players, and is perhaps less competitive
 - only a couple of players opted to be in this division - not enough for a team
- Proposal for next season – ALL players would be in development division, UNLESS they OPT IN to be in the more competitive divisions
 - Potential to then have teams across development and more competitive and experienced divisions
 - Agreed importance of mixed training so we can all mingle and love each other
- Proposal for next season – only TWO TEAMS in casual league – encourage people to sign up to a team only if they can make almost all games, and if not, sign up for reserves

- Reminder of language of “development league” – it’s a division within the same league, playing at same times and locations – no more separate than it is now with teams in different leagues
- Reminder of those signed up to teams – please let your team know if you cannot play a game, not just if you can play a game
- Question of whether we should recruit specifically new experienced players?
 - Pros and cons
 - We have encouraged lots of players new to the game – great and inclusive, it seems a shame to be selective
 - Misfits have had to recruit specifically experienced players when their development team was full, but other teams needed more players – balance needed
- Request for return to more of a social aspect around casual league – teams to coordinate when meeting at pub/park/etc after games, and also go watch each others games!
- Decision about how many teams and in which division is needed BEFORE next QGM in July as casual league has waitlists
- Over 35s league hopefully will be there next year too – great option, people love it
- ACTION – COMMITTEE – agree proposal for divisions and number of teams and put out to whole club to approve or disagree

7) End of season awards ceremony

- A lovely whole club affair
 - Saturday 27th July
 - Awards ceremony at Easton Community Centre first, and then after party in Plough
 - Theme is Palestine colours
 - Fundraise for 4th team and other causes close to our heart
 - Save the date, and please let sensi know if you can help out
 - Alicia, Ripper Liz, and Maria have offered their help
 - Voting for awards will happen in next month or so

8) AOB

- Stapleton Road Art Project – go check out our very own Zoe Gibbon’s art work on Stapleton Road hanging from banners on lamp posts! A celebration of women in Easton – it looks amazing, well done Zoe
- Please please come to meetings – important decisions are made there that affect you!

Next meeting – late July