



# BRANTFORD OVER-35 RECREATIONAL SOCCER

## For fun, fitness & friendship

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Annual General Meeting

September 22, 2023 at 7:45 PM

Brantford Harlequins Rugby Football Club.

### MINUTES

Meeting minutes are prepared by Raman Chirakal using his memorized notes and his slide presentation at the meeting.

Attendance was recorded in a logbook. Thirty-one members attended the meeting.

Regrets: Jarek Nagorski, Peter Pomponio

Meeting was called to order at 7:50 PM

Raman welcomed everyone and thanked Brantford Harlequins for their facility, partnership, and support.

He presented the agenda and made detailed Power Point presentation of each item (see PDF copies of slides).

#### 1. Membership update (Slide 4)

- a. We have 156 registered players and twenty-six social members. Mike Simmon enquired if we can accommodate more players if players from Paris Soccer League if they joined us en masse. Raman responded that we do not make decisions based on what might happen in other leagues and frankly we should not care what others do.
- b. Tomo mentioned that we have room for anyone over-35 who wants to register with us. He also noted that we can have as many as eight teams on Fridays.
- c. There was a consensus among members that we should plan to have a bye team for both Friday and Sunday.

#### 2. Financial update (Slide 5)

- a. Raman highlighted the points in Slide 5 to explain the Article 4 in the constitution.

#### 3. Financial update Contd. (Slide 6)

- a. Explained two types of accounts at Tandia Credit Union and how they are managed.
- b. Main account: Savings & CHQing. No cash withdrawals. Two signatures required on cheques.
- c. Secondary account: For payment of registration fee via e-transfer. It is set up for Auto deposit.
  - i. Money can only be transferred to the main account.



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4. Financial update contd.
  - a. Raman presented an Excel spreadsheet showing daily receipts and debits during the twelve-month period; September 22, 2022 - September 22, 2023.
  - b. A detailed summary of the receipts and debits and the bank balance was shown.
  - c. A PDF copy of the bank statements for each account as of September 22, 2023, was displayed and reconciled bank statement with Raman's balance sheet.
  - d. A brief discussion about the use of reserve fund ensued. Mike Simmon asked about the spending priorities. Raman responded that removal and replacement of all goal posts should be a priority. However, it requires Harlequins' permission and preferably their share of expenses. Rick Berardi mentioned the need for a new fridge for the exclusive use of soccer club.
5. Approval of financial update: (Slide 8)
  - a. Raman pointed out that members can request an internal or external audit (Article 4 in the constitution).
  - b. All agreed that no audit, internal or external, is necessary.
  - c. Ziggy Wator motioned, seconded by Novak Kulina and Piotr Sadowski that the financial report, as presented by Raman Chirakal, be approved.
  - d. Financial report was approved UNANIMOUSLY.
6. New six-year contract with BHRFC (Slide 9)
  - a. Raman introduced the new six-year contract (2024 – 2029) and explained the advantages and disadvantages. He mentioned that the executive and team captains agreed, at the breakfast meeting in July, that Harlequins facility would be a great choice for us to continue and we should try to secure a long-term contract.
  - b. Everyone agreed that the contract is beneficial to both clubs. However, several people were skeptical about the commitment from Harlequin to maintain the fields (cutting grass and rolling). Angelo DiFelice was skeptical about their commitment to provide a bartender on Friday nights. Raman emphasized that Harlequins has a huge budget, and they would not suffer if the soccer club decided to leave. Raman also reminded everyone that our choices are very limited and the soccer club need Harlequins more than the Harlequins need soccer club.
7. New six-year contract Contd. (Slide 10).
  - a. Raman motioned, seconded by Tomo, that membership approve the contract. The contract was approved UNANIMOUSLY.
8. Election of officers (Slide 11)
  - a. Dave Lee- Life-time member and senior advisor
  - b. President: Mike Callaghan was nominated by Raman and Tomo and seconded by Novak Kulina.
    - i. Mike Callaghan was elected unanimously.
  - c. Vice-President: Angelo DiFelice was nominated by Raman and seconded by Novak Kulina
    - i. Angelo Difelice was elected unanimously.



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### 9. Election of officers Contd. (Slide 12).

- a. Treasurer: At the executive meeting with captains (breakfast meeting in July) Peter Pomponio had agreed to take over as the Treasurer. He confirmed his intention via an email.
- b. Raman outlined different jobs, in addition to the finance, he has been doing. Dennis Meldrum suggested to **split Raman's current responsibilities** into two and create a new position named "Communications Officer". Rick Berardi volunteered, and he was confirmed to be the new communications officer.
- c. There was a robust discussion about players signing up for both days and showing up only part-time. Ted Lasage enquired about possible ways to confirm players true intentions when they sign up. Tomo pointed out that we can not force anyone to adhere to certain good habits and responsible behaviour. In the end it was decided that captains should pay more attention to players' status when they draft the team.
- d. **Peter Pomponio was approved as the Treasurer UNANIMOUSLY.** He will be responsible for all club's financial activities.
- e. **Rick Berardi was approved as the Communication Officer UNANIMOUSLY**

**PLEASE SEE THE NOTE AT THE END OF THIS DOCUMENT**

### 10. Registration for 2024 (Slide 13)

- a. Raman suggested early registration fees \$80.00 for Friday or Sunday and \$100.00 for both from October 1 to December 31, 2023. Registration fee for rest of the season remained same as last year (See Table on Slide 13).
- b. Rick Berardi suggested that we should raise all registration fees to \$120.00. He argued that the increased fee would increase players' commitment to show up regularly. The suggestion was overwhelmingly rejected by the membership.
- c. **Registration fees as presented in the slide was approved by a voice vote.**

### 11. Team captains for 2024 (Slide 14)

- a. It was decided to wait and see who volunteers to be a team captain during the registration. The new executive will later decide how to proceed.

### 12. Year-end social and feature games (Slide 15)

- a. Year-end social will be held on **Friday October 20, 2023**. Food and one drink will be served for \$10.00 per person.
- b. Two feature games were announced. They will be held in Field 1 and 2 on **October 22, 2023**. Players participating in that game will be charged \$5.00 per game.

### 13. New business (Slide 16)

- a. Ziggy suggested to buy a portable TV for members to watch Premier League games during the social hour on Sundays. All agreed to his idea proving Harlequins pays 50% of the cost and have proper internet facilities.



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- b. There was a brief discussion about having guest players. It was decided to maintain the same format for 2024 season.
- c. There was a consensus among members that we should try to have a bye team on both days.
- d. Members emphasised that we should strictly adhere to and enforce kick-off times in 2024.

#### 14. Acknowledgements (Slide 17)

- a. Raman listed the names of all sponsors and thanked them for their support.

#### 15. Acknowledgement Contd. (Slide 18)

- a. Raman listed names of all members who volunteered their time during the season. He emphasised that this league can not operate without volunteers, and he urged more people to step up.

Before closing, Raman urged the membership to honour Tomo's contribution to the league and award him with life-time membership.

**Tomo Dancetovic was honoured by "Life-Time Member" award by unanimous consent.**

Raman closed the meeting at 9:55 PM.

NOTE: During the presentation I missed two items on Slide 11; election of signing officers and executive members. As such, members did not get an opportunity to elect signing officers and executive members.

Please accept my apologies.

I would like to nominate:

**Signing officers:** Peter Pomponio (Treasurer), Mike Callaghan (President) new signing officers. Angelo DiFelice (Vice-President) and Joe Maganja (current officers). Raman Chirakal and Tomo Dancetovic will be removed as signing officers.

Once approved, all signing officers are required to complete and sign some official documents at the Tandia Credit Union.

**Executive members:** Andrew Bacon (new), Giovanni Petitti, Jarek Nagorski, Joe Maganja and Paul Neumann (current).