



BRANTFORD OVER-35 RECREATIONAL SOCCER

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Minutes of General Meetings

November 2015 – December 2019

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General Meeting, March 10, 2019

Knights of Columbus, 12 Catherine Ave.

Brantford, ON N3T 6B8

Attendance were recorded in a log book.

Regrets: Colin Philbey

Minutes were recorded by Rick Wilmot and later reformatted with minor revision by Raman Chirakal

There were 27 members present and the meeting was called to order by Dave Lee at 1:38 pm. Dave Lee welcomed all members and thanked Knights of Columbus and Donald O' Shea for allowing us to hold the meeting in their facility. Dave outlined the agenda for the meeting and then handed the floor to Raman Chirakal.

1. Membership update

We have 74 members signed up and a further 4 signed today. An additional 6 – 10 players are expected to sign before the season starts. We also have 15 social members.

Elected officers are Dave lee (President), Dave Dodds Jr. (Vice-President), Raman Chirakal (Treasurer), Tomo Dancetovic, Justin Wentzil, Jose Pagoada, Joe Maganja and Natalino Obili.

2. Financial update:

A spreadsheet was shown outlining receipts and expenditures and these were explained in detail by Raman. The finance statement and explanation did not produce comments from the members. Dave Dodds Jr also advised there was a separate facility account as agreed by the membership and this contained \$4000. 00 The projection of receipts and debits for 2019 was then shown. It was explained that these were all estimates but should balance and may even produce a small credit.

3. Harlequins contract

The current contract is for four years from 2017-2020 inclusive. The cost for this was \$XXXX. It has been proposed that we now try to negotiate to extend the contract for an additional four years – hopefully at the same rate. It was pointed out that Dave Lee, Dave Dodds Jr., Raman Chirakal and Joe Maganja will represent our league at the negotiating sessions. Dave Dodds Jr. said the advantage of doing this now was that the current



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Harlequins executive are fair and reasonable people to deal with and there is no way of knowing how a new executive may look at the situation should we defer negotiations. In addition, the Harlequins club profits immensely from the bar proceeds and should be looking to maintain or increase this revenue for their facility. It was explained that any negotiations would be brought back to the members for approval. Dennis Swackhammer felt the members should give our representatives an increased margin, if necessary, to negotiate and agree on a new contract without having to get approval from the members. He felt XX% would be acceptable and this was seconded by Justin Wentzil. The vote was unanimous to allow this leeway, but it was stressed we would be aiming to renew at the current rates.

4. Captains

Only 3 people had volunteered to act as captains for the coming season and a volunteer was requested from the attendees. Hongbin Yu agreed to fill this post and joined Justin Wentzil, Novak Kulina and Jose Pagoada.

5. Amendment to Articles 9.1 & 9.2 in the constitution.

Amendment to Article 9.1 and 9.2 was proposed by Dave Lee and seconded by Raman Chirakal and the proposal was circulated to members on February 4, 2019. Dave Lee advised that a female had signed up to play this coming season which would mean these articles in the constitution would need to be amended to accommodate this. He stated that the executive had fully discussed this and saw no reason to exclude anyone, male or female, as our aim is for fun, fitness and friendship and we are a recreational league. He also pointed out that everyone joining the league would be in the open draft and that we were not changing to a co-ed league which requires an equal number of females per team. The current facilities have changing rooms and showers for both men and women. Various points were raised none which would impact adversely to amending the constitution. Tomo Dancetovic asked that the vote be private which would be against our usual practice of a show of hands. Dave Dodds Jr. then said we should vote on whether a private vote is necessary, and this was done by a show of hands. Five members wanted a secret vote, 3 abstained and 19 were against so the vote to amend the constitution was done by a show of hands. For article 9.1, nineteen members agreed to the amendment, 2 were against and 3 abstained. Three people did not participate in the voting. For Article 9.2, twenty-one members agreed while 6 abstained. There must be a 2/3rds majority of



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attending members to make amendments to the constitution and as this was reached in both instances, Articles 9.1 and 9.2 in the constitution will be amended as proposed.

6. Social events

The meet & greet will be held in May or June subject to confirming with Harlequins.

The picnic will be on a Sunday in August/September

The year-end social will be the 2nd week in October

We will try to arrange 1 or 2 golf days details to be advised.

7. Reminders

Draft lists will be issued to captains by March 24

The draft will be April 12 at Raman's house

The schedule will be circulated by May 4

Subject to the weather & Harlequins the season will start on May 10

Guest players are welcome and encouraged. The cost is \$10 per guest and payable before the game.

There were no other comments or points raised so the meeting was officially closed at 2.30pm.



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Minutes of the General Meeting on March 11, 2018

The Knights of Columbus, 12 Catherine Ave, Brantford, ON. N3T 6B8

Note: Minutes were not recorded. They are prepared from Raman Chirakal's memorized notes and his presentation at the meeting.

Meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM by Raman Chirakal

Attendance: Attendance was recorded in the log book. The meeting was attended by twenty-five full time members and two social members.

Regrets: Dave Lee (President), Irvine Russel (Executive), Graham Acott, Gelf Anema, Mario Carrieri, Dave Dodds Sr. and Gerry Tweedie.

Raman opened the meeting by thanking Knights of Columbus, Michelle Ferguson and Donald O'Shea for their support and allowing us to use the club facility for our meeting. He then made a Power Point presentation which covered, among other things, 2018 membership and financial updates and Harlequin contract, picnic, other socials and reminders about the reserve fund, the benevolent fund and fees for guest players. He also highlighted that 2018 is a special commemorative season celebrating thirty years of Brantford Over-35 Recreational Soccer.

It was pointed out that we have seventy-seven players, including eight new players, committed to start the season. It is possible we will end up adding another ten - fifteen players during the season. Raman pointed out that we lost nineteen players from 2017 due to attrition and relocation.

Financial update, as presented by Raman, was approved unanimously.

Raman outlined the four-year contract with Harlequin Rugby Football Club. He reminded that the contract was discussed in detail last year and the next payment is due in May 2019.

The current Executive, elected at the AGM in September 2017, will complete its term of office in January 2019. Each year an Executive is voted on and elected at the Annual General Meeting in September.

It is encouraging to note that five players had volunteered for captain's position this year. Before they were put to a vote, Piotr Pach withdrew his name to allow one of the new players to take over his spot. Captains for 2018 season, Goran Valsenko, Dave Dodds Jr., Justin Wentzil and Natalino Obili were approved unanimously. Raman would circulate the draft list by March 25th and organize the draft on April 13th at his house.

Dave Dodds Jr. explained that our club received a good deal for the price of football jerseys (2016 price) and, therefore, decided to buy four hundred jerseys (200 each red and white) for four years. Only one



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hundred reds and one hundred whites will be printed with the new logo this year and they will be good for 2019 season as well.

Dave Dodds Jr. unveiled an additional 25 golf shirts, with a special embroidered logo, to commemorate thirty years of Brantford Over-35 Recreational Soccer. They are for sale at cost price of \$25.00 per shirt. Both Vic Faiella and John Routledge were given complimentary golf shirts.

It was agreed that we continue with our tradition of having social events during the season. The format for the picnic would be the same as in 2017. i.e., \$10.00 per ticket per person for food and three beverages. Guest will be charged an additional \$10.00 for food.

There was a brief discussion as to the appropriate way to celebrate 2018 season as we are commemorating thirty years of Over-35 Recreational Soccer in Brantford. Two of the founding members of the League, Vic Faiella and John Routledge, have joined us as social members and six players from the original 1988 teams are still playing with us. Membership agreed to one of the suggestions, from Raman and Dave Lee, to invite the players from 1988 to the picnic. As in 2017, captains would schedule a special game that day.

It was suggested that we should organize some games or fun activities to keep the children entertained at the picnic. We were encouraged to see some volunteers for it. Particularly, Chris Ramsay and Antonio Panariello came forward to offer their services to organize children's activities at the picnic.

Goran Valsenko donated a football trophy, named The Raman's Cup, to honour Raman's contributions to Brantford Over-35 Recreational Soccer. Dave Dodds Jr. moved a motion that the membership accept Goran's suggestion and that, every year, the new trophy be awarded to the winner of the game on picnic day. The motion was passed unanimously. Raman thanked Goran and the members for their kind words and generous praise.

Dave Lee will organize two golf dates; one in June and one in September if there is sufficient interest and have minimum of six foursomes. The cost is to be determined later.

A brief discussion took place regarding the installation of a shed to store soccer nets and ladders. Dave Dodds Jr. took the responsibility for its acquisition at decent price and its installation this summer. The size and location of the shed will be determined in consultation with the Harlequin Club.

Raman mentioned that a *Meet and Greet Day* and an *End of the Season Social* will be held as in 2016.

Guest players: Fee for guest players will be \$10.00 per game per player on Fridays and \$5.00 per game on Sundays. Money must be collected before the game and there will be no exceptions. It was a unanimous decision.



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Reserve fund: At the GM in February 2017, it was proposed that the League should start a reserve fund by saving every year \$20.00 per player. Raman had deposited \$2000.00 in a savings account at Tandia Credit Union. The fund will be used only for “facility improvements” that must be discussed and approved by the general membership. It was again clarified that the purpose of setting up a reserve fund, with certain conditions, is to prevent the Executive from arbitrarily exhausting the League’s savings.

Bereavement fund: In 2017 it was agreed to set up a bereavement fund that amounts to approximately \$5.00 per registered player each year. Our club made \$200.00 donation to the BGH geriatric care. Another \$1000.00 was donated to help Caroline Smith.

Raman mentioned the final players’ list will be sent to captains on March 25th the draft will be held on April 13th at his house. He also mentioned that the season will start, weather and Harlequin schedule permitting, on May 11th.

Raman closed the meeting at 2:45 PM.



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Minutes of the General Meeting on February 26, 2017

The Knights of Columbus, 12 Catherine Ave, Brantford, ON. N3T 6B8

Minutes were recorded electronically by Dave Dodds Jr. and revised and reformatted by Raman Chirakal

Meeting was called at 1:30 PM by the President Dave Lee.

Attendance: Attendance was recorded in the log book. The meeting was attended by twenty-four full time members and two social members.

Regrets: Novak Kulina, Goran Vlasenko, Dave Dodds Sr. , Richard Ward and Giovanni Petitti

Dave Lee outlined the agenda for the meeting and then passed it over to Raman Chirakal. Raman made a presentation which covered, among other things, membership and financial updates and Harlequin contract for the upcoming season.

There was a brief discussion on the preferred number teams to accommodate potentially eighty payers in 2017. The consensus was to continue with four teams and later expand to five teams when we have at least ninety players registered. The motion to continue with four teams and later expand to five teams, if necessary, was moved by Dave Lee and approved unanimously.

Captains for 2017 season, Bruce Smith, Dave Dodds Jr., Natalino Obili and Piotr Pach, were approved unanimously. Raman would recruit a new captain if needed.

The current executives will remain in office till January 2018. However, a new executive may be elected at the next Annual General Meeting in September 2017.

Financial update, as presented by Raman, was approved unanimously.

Raman outlined the four-year contract with Harlequin Rugby Football Club. He reminded that the contract was discussed in detail last year.

We will have more than seventeen new players in 2017. After a prolonged discussion, it was agreed to purchase new jerseys for the new players (only). Dave Dodds Jr. will be responsible for the jerseys.

Membership agreed to continue with our tradition of having social events during the season. There was some discussion as to the ideal day to have annual family picnic. A motion to hold the family picnic on a Sunday was carried with a stipulation that the captains would schedule a special game that day. Raman mentioned that a *meet and greet day* and an *end of the season social* will be held as in 2016.

Dave Lee will organize two golf dates; one in June and one in September. Approximate cost will be \$50.00 per player per tour.



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Dave Dodds Jr. will consider organizing a trip to the TFC game if there is sufficient interest. Date and cost to be determined.

Guest players: Fee for guest players will be \$10.00 per game per player. Money must be collected before the game and there will be no exception. It was a unanimous decision.

Reserve fund: It was proposed that the League should start a reserve fund by saving every year \$20.00 per player. The fund will be used only for “facility improvements” that must be discussed and approved by the general membership. It was clarified that the purpose of setting up a reserve fund, with certain conditions, is to prevent the executive from arbitrarily exhausting the League’s savings. Dave Lee motioned to approve setting up the reserve fund; passed unanimously.

Bereavement fund: It was proposed to set up a bereavement fund by setting aside \$5.00 per player each year. If the money wasn’t needed at the end of the year, the fund will be exhausted through donation to Nova Vita and the Geriatric fund at the BGH. The motion was moved by Dave lee and it passed unanimously.

Raman mentioned the final players’ list will be sent to Captains on March 24th the draft will be held on April 14th at his house. He also mentioned that the season will start, weather and Harlequin schedule permitting, on May 12th.

New business: There was a spirited discussion on the registration fee to be charged when players join the League part-way through the season. Some members felt that there should be a discount for players joining late in the season. Dave Lee explained that registration fee is not related or dependent on the number of games played. It should be considered as a membership fee to become a member of the League. The motion to charge full fee to become a member of the League, motioned by Dave Lee and seconded by Dave Dodds Jr., was passed by 21- 3 vote.

Dave Lee closed the meeting at 2:45 PM after thanking Don O’Shea and Michelle Ferguson of Knights of Columbus for their co-operation and help.



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Minutes of the General Meeting on September 23, 2016 at Brantford Harlequin Rugby Football Club, George Jones Field, Brantford, ON

Minutes were recorded and transcribed by Rick Wilmot and revised and reformatted by Raman Chirakal

Meeting was called at 8:00 PM by the President Dave Lee.

Attendance: The meeting was attended by thirty-six full time members and three social members.

Regrets: Tomo Dancetovic, Ken Devlin, Dave Dodds Jr., Steve Larkin, Ed Wittek, Gerry Tweedie,

Dave outlined the agenda for the evening then passed it over to Raman Chirakal. Raman thanked the bar staff at the Club House and congratulated the Harlequins Rugby club on their very successful season winning the League Cup. He then gave a summary of the 2016 membership which included eighty-two members and thirteen social members. Four players were injured prior to the start of the season and they would be given credit for the coming season. There are seven regular part time players and thirteen players who signed up did not appear most, if not all, of the season.

The latest financial spreadsheet that was e-mailed to all members a week prior to the meeting was again presented for queries and discussions. Raman stated that any member could request and will receive an updated statement at any time (see amendment to the constitution; Article 4.3.3). Dave Lee also added that anyone can email a request or enquiry at any time and would receive a prompt reply. Richard Smith asked what would be done with any surplus funds. In response, Raman stated that would be a decision made by the membership.

Raman motioned approval of the financial report which was seconded by Tony Berardi and passed unanimously by voice vote

Looking ahead to 2017 the committee had negotiated a four-year contract with Harlequins a copy of which had been circulated by email to all members. During the discussion, several members voiced concerns about the cleanliness of the club house, particularly the ladies' wash room, and the condition of the drive-way. Dave/Raman said that it would be discussed with Harlequin and every effort will be made to alleviate the situation. Approval of the Harlequin contract was motioned by Raman, seconded by Alphonse DeCloet and it was passed unanimously by voice vote.

Following the financial report, the Constitution and amendments to the constitution, both previously circulated by email, were presented for discussion. Raman provided a step by step explanation of Article 4.3.1, 4.3.2, 4.3.3, 4.3.4 and 4.3.5 (Treasurer's responsibilities) and emphasized that those articles are constitutional guarantees to maintain the integrity of the League. It also guarantees a members' right to know the League affairs.



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It was pointed out that Article 6.1.1 (to hold Annual General Meeting after a game in September or October) was added to the constitution to encourage increased participation by the general membership in the decision making process.

A motion to approve the amendments (moved by Raman and seconded by Dave Dodds Sr.) was passed unanimously by voice vote.

A motion to ratify the constitution (moved by Dave Lee and seconded by Irvine Russel) was passed unanimously by voice vote.

Election of officers:

Raman motioned that the current committee be given the opportunity to serve again for the next year unless there were objections or other volunteers. No other names were proposed so Raman motioned acceptance which was seconded by Dave Lee and passed unanimously by voice vote.

A beer and pizza night was proposed for October 14 at \$10 per person. The league would provide a keg of beer and pizza. Bottled beer will be available for \$2.50 a bottle. Dave Dodds senior asked whether another choice of food would be available and this would be looked into.

In conclusion Raman again stated the mission of the league – fun, fitness and friendship through recreational soccer – is guided by the principles of 2A's, accountability and affordability. He also encouraged members to be vigilant and proactive not only to protect their rights and privileges but also to curb the potential for abuse of power by the executive.

Dave Lee then asked if there was any new business. Joe Maganja asked if there was a disciplinary committee. Dave explained the captains are the 1st option if any incident arose that would warrant discipline. If the captains could not resolve the situation it would be referred to the full committee.

Raman pointed out that this particular issue was discussed at Captains' meeting on July 28th and the minutes from that meeting was e-mailed to all members. It is also posted on our website.

Alphonse asked why the picnic could not return to Brant Park and it was explained that this was due to cost and poor attendance. This could always be reviewed as time progresses.

Colin Philby and Piotr Pach asked if scores of games could be put in the paper primarily for the sponsors. Raman felt posting results in the past had led to more competitiveness. Dave Lee said he would ask the sponsors before any final decision was taken.

Miroslav Jackow wondered if we could get a storage box in the field to store nets and step ladders. Raman said it would be unlikely as the distance to the existing storage shed is relatively short.



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Dave thanked all members for a successful first season and asked they spread the word to family and friends in order for us to grow and prosper. He also thanked all our sponsors for their generous support.

Dave closed the meeting at 8:45 PM



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FOR FUN, FITNESS AND FRIENDHIP

Minutes of the introductory meeting on November 29, 2015 at The Knights of Columbus, Brantford

Note: Minutes were not recorded. They are prepared from the recollections (three days later) of what was said at the meeting by Raman Chirakal.

Revised after comments from attendees: December 7, 2015

Meeting was called at 12:30. Attendees were asked to sign the guest book. Twenty-seven guests were present. Nine others and Vince's indoor soccer group (11:30 - 1:00) sent regrets.

Raman introduced himself and made a presentation explaining the agenda and objectives of the meeting.

Agenda: who are we? what are our objectives? Why start a new group? and What our plans are.

A major part of the presentation was explaining why we need to start a new group. After the presentation, there was open discussion.

Discussions started on the question why we need to start a new group. A major reason among many is that over-35 executive lacked transparency and openness when they conducted league business.

There was unanimous consent that the executive at Over-35 over reached their power and violated league's written policy when they decided to take additional disciplinary action against Tomo after routine red card offence during a Friday night game. Everyone agreed that Tomo's suspension of eight games and \$50.0 fine was totally unjust.

Several people were apprehensive about breaking up from Over-35 to start a new group. Many felt that they could alleviate all problems by taking appropriate steps at the next AGM. The same people wondered why we couldn't force the executive to convene a general meeting!

Raman explained that "rules are for rule abiding people" and our group had done everything within the League rules to meet with executive. Ninety-seven players (approximately 40% of the membership) signed a petition in August asking the executive to call a general meeting. It was completely ignored. The executive is well aware of the general apathy among members. They waited till the end of September to respond to Dave Dodds Jr. that they had no intention of calling a GM before next AGM. By waiting that long they avoided any contact with players. They knew that most of the opposition against the beer price in the club house and Tomo's suspension came from the Masters' group. So they decided to ignore and disallow the masters' captains at the captains' meeting. The Over-35 executive designed and executed their plan very well. Raman emphasized that we have an uphill battle because of lack of time and we must start organizing now.

There was unanimous consent and disbelief that the Over--35 executive was arrogant and insulting to the Masters' group when they decided to hold a Captains' meeting, in lieu of a GM, without inviting the



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captains from the Masters group. It is unconscionable that they would isolate and marginalize the senior members of the league.

A major discussion occurred on the amount of money the League has saved over the years and how we are going to be left in the "cold" if we break up and start a new group. Many senior players felt that they had been ripped off their investment in the League. Some even suggested that we might consider obtaining a legal counsel to recoup some of the money from Over-35.

Obtaining a legal counsel was also suggested as way to force the Over-35 executive to call a general meeting. However, we have neither the time nor the money to pursue the legal route.

In his concluding remarks, Raman argued that both time and money are against us. Over-35 has the control of our money and they are free negotiating contracts on behalf of the League before the next AGM which would most likely be three-four weeks prior to the start of 2016 season. That gives our members hardly any time to have any input into the decision-making process that would affect the immediate future. This is a game the executive well planned and well executed. It is for us to decide if we want to continue in Over-35 League or be part of a new group where open dialogues are encouraged and members' rights to be heard are respected.

The meeting was called off 14:30.