

# **CHICAGO FIELD HOCKEY CLUB**

## **First Annual General Meeting**

**Date:** 19th November 2005  
**Venue:** Reza's 5024 N Clark St, Chicago IL  
**Attendance:** 28

### **AGENDA**

- 1. Voting for New Board Members:**
  - a. Men's Captain: Simon Allen
  - b. Women's Captain: Theresa Sukal
  - c. Communications Chair: Montoo Baruah, Alarico Fernandes
  - d. Financial Chair: Ana Calabro, Shayan Zaidi
  - e. Marketing Chair: Margreet Coolen
  - f. Indoor Chair: Kamal ElKhadiri
  - g. Social Chair: Ana Calabro, Cecilia Kline, Steve Moulton, Lauren Pressey, Courtney Rust
- 2. CFHC Incorporation**
- 3. Financial Report**
- 4. Chicago Cup Tournament**
- 5. Sponsorship**
- 6. New Uniforms**
- 7. Club Dues**
- 8. Next Season**
- 9. AOB**

### **MINUTES**

- 1. Elected New Board Members:**
  - a. Men's Captain: Simon Allen
  - b. Women's Captain: Theresa Sukal
  - c. Communications Chair: Alarico Fernandes
  - d. Financial Chair: Shayan Zaidi
  - e. Marketing Chair: Margreet Coolen
  - f. Indoor Chair: Kamal ElKhadiri
  - g. Social Chair: Steve Moulton
- 2. CFHC Incorporation**
  - Chicago Field Hockey Club applied for and was incorporated as a "Not for Profit" Company registered in the state of Illinois. Simon Allen, Theresa Sukal and Cecilia Cline were listed as Agents of the company in the application.
  - Incorporating the club will make applying for corporate sponsorship much easier.

- Allows for opening a business bank account in the name of the company, making handling of funds (dues, sponsorship etc) much more transparent. This was completed in October 2005 at LaSalle Bank.
- Liability is now clearly with the company as opposed to the clubs members.
- The club can apply for sponsorship more easily as a company.
- The attendees were in favor of the incorporation of CFHC.

### 3. **Financial Report**

- CFHC closed the 2005 season with a \$329.25 positive balance in the bank account.

### 4. **Chicago Cup Tournament**

- It is the clubs desire to host a field hockey tournament in 2005, this was met with rapturous applause by the attendees. The realization of this dream will certainly entail tremendous work from CFHC's newly elected board and all it's members. Some of the items identified as requiring further investigation were:
  - a. Liability Insurance – of 3 companies approached 2 refused to quote or were untenable, the 3<sup>rd</sup> gave an estimate of \$3000/year.
  - b. Pitch availability – to rent the field for a tournament will require liability insurance. Northwestern University Astro is identified as the primary choice based on quality of turf and location – they will not give an indication of cost or availability until CFHC has obtained liability insurance. It was mentioned Northwestern should be approached regards sponsoring/partnering in the cost of the tournament in return for the positive publicity it will bring.
  - c. Sponsorship of the tournament – in addition to the general topic covered in item 5. of the agenda, the tournament itself presents an opportunity for reaching a large audience and should be attractive for local company and hockey/sports equipment sponsors. A list needs to be generated and likely candidates approached with a tournament package and formal sponsorship request.
  - d. Attendance – the vibe is CFHC should have no problem filling a tournament in Chicago on the basis of the city's attraction and CFHC's social reputation from many tournaments in the last 2years. The club has strong relationships with other Midwest clubs.
  - e. Timing – this should fill a gap between MidWest tournaments and others that CFHC plans to attend. March, June and August were all offered up as suggestions. The attendees agreed to leave final date selection in the hands of the board once the 2006 tournament schedule is reviewed.
  - f. Tournament Fee – the tournament will be structured as a fund raiser for the club to help cover the cost of insurance, uniforms, equipment etc and keep membership dues down. As such the fee structure will be set on the basis of the 2006 budget and with sensitivity to other similar tournament fees.

### 5. **Sponsorship**

- A first draft sponsorship letter was provided by Alarico Fernandes (attached).
- Members are asked to submit a list of potential sponsors to the new Marketing Chair – Margreet Coolen.
- Margreet with the assistance of the board will put together a request for sponsorship package including details of the club and it's membership reach and a formal letter requesting sponsorship.
- 2 sporting goods companies have already offered club members 10-15% discounts in return for space on CFHC's website.
- [www.chicagofieldhockey.com](http://www.chicagofieldhockey.com) prominence on the web has improved with hard work from Montoo Baruah and Alarico Fernandes. It currently lists in the top 10 on Yahoo and Google search engines – club members can help the website maintain top positioning by asking new members to search for the website using “Chicago Field Hockey” on these and other search engines. The more prominent the website the easier it will be to obtain sponsorship.

## 6. **New Uniforms**

- 3 uniforms were presented as options by Theresa Sukal and ably modeled by Meredith and Margreet.
- The Under Amor kit was preferred by most attendees. Navy Blue and White kits were presented.
- The cost was estimated as \$35 for tops and \$30 for bottoms. Each would have a unique squad number, CFHC logo and applicable sponsorship. Basic plain socks (white, navy blue) would be purchased by club members.
- Soccer strips were mentioned as another alternative that may be cheaper.
- 20 Women's kits and 20 Men's kits were proposed as a suitable number to field a full men's and women's team or 2 full co-ed teams.
- It was suggested rather than carry the entire cost of the kits with club funds; members could repurchase the kits from the club at full cost or a subsidized rate.

## 7. **Club Dues**

- It was unanimously agreed that \$20/year was too cheap for membership in a sports club in Chicago. Anecdotal evidence was given: \$80 four times/yr for SportsMonster, 500Euro's/yr in Ireland, 200GBP/yr plus 10GBP match fee every week
- Care will be taken in setting a membership scheme that generates enough funds to move the club forward and allow for hosting our own tournament, whilst keeping it affordable for all current and future members. A discounted rate for students and non-working members will be applied.
- A rough budget showed anticipated costs of \$9000 in 2006, major items included insurance (\$3000), uniforms (\$4000).
- It was estimated that 30-40 members would pay membership in 2006 and be defined as “Active” members. Active members would play regularly, be eligible for team selection and tournaments and have voting rights in all CFHC affairs.

- Various schemes for membership dues were discussed, including match fees, part membership fee & part participation fee, pay per season (3 seasons per year) and pay per year.
- Concern over the hassle with collecting weekly or monthly fees meant that most attendees supported a seasonal or annual subscription.
- \$100 per year was proposed for “Active” membership to include all outdoor field hockey. Indoor field hockey (winter season) would be paid for individually on a participation basis (approx\$15/night).
- Other proposals centered around the aim of still collecting about \$100 from each full time member but making it more accessible for players who may only play 1 or 2 seasons per year. Examples were: \$35/yr flat membership fee applies to all and then \$30 per season fee for 3 outdoor seasons based on participation; or direct debit set up through the bank account to pay monthly.
- A guest playing fee of \$10/week was suggested fro non-members.
- Should US Field Hockey Membership be included, encouraged or left to independent decision?
- Attendees agreed the board could set a membership fee schedule using the AGM discussion as a guideline. The primary tenet would be to grow (and at the very least maintain) existing participation and ensure financial constraints do not prevent anyone from playing with the club.

## 8. Next Season

- Indoor season will start in January on a date to be determined. Kamal ElKhadiri will release further details closer to the time. The format will be 5 or 6-a-side for 1 hour in mini-tournament fashion. The cost will be approximately \$15/session at the Windy City Field House.
- MidWest League – Derek Aspinall of the Cincinnati Centurions has proposed a MidWest League. The e-mail will be forwarded by Simon for information. Basically it will consist of 2 divisions of 8 teams who will play each other home & away. Away games will be played 2 at a time (Sat & Sun) to minimize travel. The league will be co-ed – USFHA guidelines suggest max 3 men, the Centurions are enquiring about interest in raising the participation of men to 5.

## 9. AOB

- Superlative Awards were organized by Alarico and Shayan, the results:
  - Guys Best Offensive Player: Steve Moulton
  - Ladies Best Offensive: Ana Calabro
  - Guys Best Defensive Player: Mo Otte
  - Ladies Best Defensive Player: Cecilia Kline
  - Guys Most Improved Player: Eric Jerauld
  - Ladies Most Improved Player: Lauren Pressey
  - Guys Fresh New Face: Mo Otte
  - Ladies Fresh New Face: Moe Denney
  - Party Animal: Mo Otte
  - Comic Relief Award: Simon Allen

- Meeting was adjourned at 10pm and the new social chair Steve Moulton led the party on to Moe's Cantina in Wrigleyville.