



**Norwich Iceni Baseball Club**  
Committee Meeting #2 Minutes

**Date:** 10 January 2022

**Location:** Zoom

Start time: 7:30PM

Attendees

Present: Tom Thornhill (TT), Chairman; Phil Walmsley (PW), Vice Chair; Ashley Waller (AW), Warriors Captain; Rachael Burrough (RB), Queens Captain; Nichole Lim (NL), Interim Treasurer

2.1. Welcome

2.1.1. TT thanks all attendees for joining.

2.1.2. TT asks for members to declare any conflicts of interest. TT declares BBF and EEBL affiliation. No others declared.

2.2. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes (below)

2.2.1. Committee votes to approve minutes from the previous committee meeting.

2.3. Update on Previous Action Items

2.3.1. Hewett spare key: TT or AW to obtain as soon as possible.

2.3.2. Spare Local League jerseys: 2 per team to be ordered with Local League funds as part of the January purchase

2.3.3. EEBL forfeiting procedure: The rule is decided that the team with fewer core players forfeits. However, the rule will need to be flexible especially toward the end of the season (i.e., if one team is more competitive than the other, that team should be given the chance to fulfill its fixtures).

2.3.4. Double-A team name: This will not be changed for this season given it will require a change to the Constitution. Instead, the committee will prepare a proposal to put to the membership at the 2022 AGM. The implications for club identity and unity, kit, Local

Leagues inclusion, etc. will all need to be considered. This will be an agenda point for the committee meeting before the AGM.

2.3.5. First aid training: NL and Andreas Fopp will try their best to obtain UEA+sport certification to help in the short term. AW has not found viable non-student options.

2.3.6. Safeguarding DBS and training: NL to give out DBS forms to relevant coaches and captains at the returners indoor session on 24/1.

2.3.7. Umpiring: TT has drafted a PPC post that is ready to go out this month or next.

Local League will be the training ground for new umpires who can then move up to the EEBL. New umpire recruits are preferably individuals who are interested in solely umpiring (i.e., so teams do not lose individuals who are better served as players). PW to find relevant YouTube videos and send over a few useful links.

#### 2.4. Hewett Update

2.4.1. Ground maintenance: There is concern that Local League games will leave the field in poor playing condition for the start of the EEBL season. This can be addressed by shifting some game weekends to Colney and by looking into basepath or even just base cutouts.

<b>Action Item #1:</b> NL will look into booking Colney for two or three Sunday mornings in lieu of using Hewett.
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<b>Action Item #2:</b> PW will look into a price point for cutting out basepaths to preserve the ground during the wet season. This will be part of our application for the BSUK Facilities Fund, which TT, PW and NL will collectively work on. The deadline for this is <u>February 28<sup>th</sup></u> and will require us to provide designs and accounts.
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2.4.2. Equipment sorting event: Dampness is a major concern after this winter, and there is a pressing need to catalogue what items the club does and does not have.

Measurements also need to be taken down at the field to design the backstop and basepath cutouts.

<b>Action Item #3:</b> AW to put out a Spond request for volunteers for either Saturday 15/1 or 22/1 to partake in an equipment sorting event led by PW. Jim Hudson will preferably be in attendance and lead groundskeeper. At this event, we also need to measure exact distances for the backstop construction and look at measurements/needs for the base cutouts as well.
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<b>Action Item #4:</b> NL to order a new tarp and a large set of strong pegs ASAP.
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2.4.3. Backstop update: PW has been in contact with two companies and has been adapting BSUK's backstop designs for Hewett. An estimated price point is yet to be determined, but the cost can be supported by BSUK's Facilities Fund if the club's application is successful.

## 2.5. Youth Softball

2.5.1. Youth Grant Funding: TT has received a grant of 1000GBP to be used for the development of a youth softball program at Hewett. This money can be used toward any more necessary equipment but will primarily be used to fund coaching for the program.

2.5.2. Coaches and structure: NL is in charge of developing and implementing the program. NL has recruited two other coaches (Andreas Fopp and Miku Kaizaki) and has set up a 7-week program in coordination with Antony Little and the PE department to commence in February this term.

**Action Item #5:** NL to create a promotional video and visit the school with other coaches to talk to students and view the indoor facilities. Coaches will need to complete volunteer forms and DBS checks.

## 2.6. External clinics

2.6.1. Proposed pre-season hitting clinic postponed until further notice.

2.6.2. Cambridge is holding a pitching/catching and coaching clinic on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March (same as those held in December in Norwich)

**Action Item #6:** TT to advertise on Spond to interested club members.

2.6.3. To note: Cambridge is also organizing an umpiring clinic for the near future that would be extremely beneficial to our club.

## 2.7. Memberships

2.7.1. Icen Timeline and logistics: Members will migrate from Local Leagues into Norwich Baseball 2022 on Spond after the Local Leagues season is over. This places membership payment requests to happen in roughly early April. NL will create a spreadsheet to monitor memberships throughout the season.

2.7.2. Local League memberships and jerseys: The jersey deadline is January 16.

**Action Item #7:** AW to send NL a comprehensive list of membership and jersey charges, including players who have moved teams and spare jerseys.

## 2.8. Women's EEBL team

2.8.1. There is scope to create an EEBL Women's Team under the Fire Breathing Kittens given that the Cambridge Valkyries are not playing this year and no single club has enough interest to make a complete side.

**Action Item #8:** RB and NL to work together to start up communication among EEBL teams and create a Women's EEBL chat and eventually a team.

## 2.9. Other Business

### 2.9.1. Third returners session

**Action Item #9:** NL to talk to Andreas Fopp about organizing another returners session either indoors or outdoors.

2.9.2. COVID-19 safety: COVID-19 protocols should be observed and if needed, further measures implemented, to protect members as indoor sessions.

## 2.10. Concluding Remarks

2.10.1. A 3<sup>rd</sup> committee meeting will be planned for the end of February, around the time of the Facilities Fund deadline.

2.10.2. TT thanks all attendees for their time and participation.

End time: 8:40PM