



Annual General Meeting

DATE: 22nd June 2016

Venue: Belgrave RFC

Start Time: 1900 hrs.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Belgrave RFC, Thurcaston Road, Leicester – 22nd June 2016

Present:

R. T. Green, President
P.A. Howard, RFU Council
S. Rice CB Chair
P. Harding
R. Hickson Management Committee
B. Hesford, President Elect
R. Annis, Past President
A. Wells, Past President
E. Gregory Past President
P. Green, Past President
R.D. Foxon, Past President
J.A. Allen, Privileged Person
E. Barker, Privileged Person
E. Mackinder Safeguarding Manager

M. Eames, Privileged Person
R. Eames, Privileged Persons
H. Wrihten Volunteer Coordinator
L. Vernon, Youth Coordinator
K. Whitcombe, Hon. Secretary
J. Thawley, Privileged Person
W. Wrihten U17/18's Competitions
M. Powell, Management Committee
S. Mounfield, MDOC Representative

Aylestone St James RFC
Coalville RFC
Shepshed RFC
Aylestone Athletic RFC
Oakham RFC
Vipers RFC
Market Harborough RFC
LSRUR – Mark Elliott
Syston RFC
Phil Milton – CRC
Luke Green - CRC

County Schools – Phil Smith
Lutterworth RFC
Market Bosworth RFC
Old Newtonians RFC
Stoneygate RFC
Leicester Forest RFC
Sibley Town RFC
Belgrave RFC

Apologies:

I.M. Roberts, Past President
D. Coe, Past President
K. Ball, Vice President
P. Bayley, Privileged Person
D. Bonser, Competitions
J. Bonser, RDO
K. Vivien
Andy Beevers
D. Toon, Management Committee
K. Swift, Hon Treasurer
B. Welford
Paul Macmillan

C. Elliott, Privileged Person
M. Ross
Rhys Davies
Nick Robinson - Hinckley RFC
M.J. Wilson, Past President
G. Donnelly
Nathaniel Holden
Sue Roughley
David Woodford
R. Tyler, Past President
Henri Ginvert



Agenda

1.0 Apologies for Absence:

1.1 Apologies for absence as above.

2.0 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting dated 22nd of June 2016.

2.1 The minutes were proposed by Mark Powell and seconded by P. Green. The membership agreed the minutes as a true and accurate record

3.0 Actions/Matters arising from the minutes of the 22nd of June 2016.

3.1 There were no matters arising from the minutes

4.0 Receipt and Approval of the Annual Report of the Leicestershire Rugby Union

4.1 The Annual Report was circulated through the membership prior to the meeting and it was proposed not to go through the report line by line.

4.2 Nick Langridge identified several minor typos for amendment and in support of his own club Lutterworth Colts won the Laurence Fenton cup and not Syston as documented in the Annual Report.

4.3 In relation to the Development Committee Craig Marshall the current Chair has moved from the area and has had to stand down. The membership was asked that if anyone were interested in the role to contact the Hon Sec.

4.3 Malcolm Ross queried the length of his service in the Leicestershire Rugby Union, and it was alluded to that the use of binary numeration would possibly be more appropriate. There were no further questions.

4.4 The report was proposed by John Brindley and seconded by Helen Wrighten. The membership subject to the necessary amendments accepted the report.

5.0 Financial Report from the Hon Treasurer

5.1 It was noted that there is a proposed rule change regarding the year-end being moved from the 31st of May to the 30th of June each year in line with the RFU. It was noted that the rule change proposed at the meeting showed July as the end date, this in fact should read June.

5.2 The accounts would not be presented until the next SGM in September.

5.3 The Hon Treasurer who was not present tonight had supplied the meeting with initial baseline figures. The current income for the year to date is £89295, with expenditure to date as £108901, leaving an excess of expenditure over income of £19606. There is currently £102287 in LRU funds.

5.3 Increased expenditure is a result of Rugby World Cup expenditure and Coaching Courses, and the cost of the latter is £32878.



5.4 Leicestershire Clubs assets currently stand at £8.3 million, with cash held by clubs at £725,000 with loans to clubs at £875,438.

5.5 John Allen the former Hon Treasurer raised several queries concerning the amalgamation of some of the figures resulting from the use of Sage, these can be separated but would require a little extra work.

5.6 There were questions concerning the figures not being available until September, but it was agreed that the current figures would be circulated in the minutes.

6.0 Appointment of Auditors for the Season 2015/16

6.1 We have experienced several problems with our accounts over the past. However, it is proposed that we continue to use Dowsett and Moore and that the Treasurer meets with them to clarify our requirements.

6.2 On proposal from Pauline Harding and seconded by John Brindley it was agreed that Dowsett and Moore would carry out the inspection of our accounts for the 2015/16 season

7.0 Annual Subscription of Member Clubs for Season 2016/17

7.1 It was confirmed that member subscriptions for the season 2016/17 will remain at £25 per club, and £12 for each senior team including Veterans and Ladies, but excluding Youth Teams.

8.0 Election of Officers for the year 2016/17

8.1	President	Brian Hesford proposed by Melton Mowbray and duly elected
	President - Elect	Pauline Harding proposed by Mkt Bosworth and duly elected
	Hon Secretary	Kevin Whitcombe proposed by the committee and duly elected
	Hon Treasurer	To be Confirmed
	Immediate Past President	To be Discussed

8.2 There was discussion surrounding the fact that there was no nomination for a Hon Treasurer and that did this leave the CB without a treasure at this moment in time. The latter was a possible oversight as in the past the committee have proposed the treasurer, but as the membership would be aware there have been concerns re fiscal matters and this is to be addressed with Kim Swift. How we proceed is being discussed and has not been resolved to date.

8.3 The former Hon Treasurer found the matter as found this unacceptable and the issues should have been resolved prior to this meeting – It was discussed that if there are any nominations for a treasurer then let the officers know. The item will be brought back to the table in September.

8.4 It was debated that in accordance with the rules there would be no CB Treasurer at the close of this meeting.

9.0 Election of the Members of the Committee for the year 2016/17

9.1	R. Green	Proposed by Aylestone Athletic RFC
	R. Hickson	Proposed by Aylestone St James RFC



S. Rice	Proposed by Coalville RFC
B. Welford	Proposed by the County Schools Union
D. Toon	Proposed by South Leicester RFC
P. Green	Proposed by Hinckley RFC
M. Powell	Proposed by Oakham RFC

10.0 Proposed Rule Changes

10.1 There were 3 rule changes requiring a vote proposed and circulated prior to the AGM. (See Appendices)

10.2 Taking the last rule change first, in relation to rule 15.4 the financial year end. The proposal is to change the year end from the 31st of May to the 30th of June in each year. The rationale would bring CB's in line with the RFU end of year. It may of course mean that we may have to move the date of our AGM accordingly. Rule change accepted unanimously. Will require ratification from the Financial Conduct Authority.

10.3 Rule 12.1 which discusses the Officers of the Union, the proposal is to remove the office of Immediate Past President. The Immediate Past President role has been discussed by the management committee and is considered to be an outmoded supporting role. Discussion took place regarding establishing a portfolio role for the outgoing President and that there was no proposal to remove the role of President. The question was raised in relation to whether the rules changes impinge on any other regulation(s) and would this require a vote. LRU Regulations can be changed by the committee without the need to vote.

10.4 The current President Richard Green addressed the meeting in relation to the role of Immediate Past President as it was something that he had discussed in many meetings, those same meetings also discussed replacing the role with a Junior President Elect which is also reflected in an amendment to the proposal tabled at this AGM.

10.5 There followed an extended debate in relation to the proposal. The rugby landscape is changing and we no longer play with a leather ball, the committee planning day discussed change in relation to the way we operate. We need to address problems our communications are not good within the union and our website hard to navigate, it is being reviewed. Roles within the CB committee need to carry portfolio responsibility as it is no longer acceptable just to sit on the committee, as an example the President Elect for the coming season will chair a task force whose aim is to address club's difficulties and call on others within the union to assist those clubs.

10.6 There is a CB review of the constitution that will look to take away that which is outmoded. The CB is based on the memberships right to vote and that's what tonight is about the vote and an opportunity to vote yay or nay in relation to the proposals. The Hon Sec observed that we do need to move towards processes that are fit for purpose and assist us to future proof the game, we are in danger of stagnating. We as a committee are duty bound to inform our membership in relation to our executive's strategic direction, we require an operating committee with a dynamic structure - we talk of the same procedures – and the latter amounts to change – we need to lose a role that is without portfolio and front load at the beginning rather than at the end of a tenure.

10.7 A number of members could see the value of dropping the role of Immediate Past President and creating roles that carry portfolio responsibility, but not everyone was in agreement. In fact, what was being discussed was removing a role in order to reorganise



rather than create another chain of command. The amendment however creates exactly the latter by creating the role of Junior President Elect.

10.8 Voting rules were clarified – Clubs will get 1 vote, Management Committee Members 1 vote, several members of the committee representing their club will potentially have 2 votes as will those acting as a proxy. The clubs represented tonight are:

Aylestone Athletic RFC	Old Newtonians RFC
Aylestone St James RFC	County Schools – Phil Smith
Coalville RFC	Lutterworth RFC
Shepshed RFC	Market Bosworth RFC
Vipers RFC	Leicester Forest RFC
Market Harborough RFC	Sileby Town RFC
LSRUR – Mark Elliott	Belgrave RFC
Syston RFC	Melton Mowbray RFC
Oakham RFC	Stoneygate RFC

10.9 The process as is conventional started with the amendment submitted by Richard Green first – This introduced the role of Junior President Elect. Of the votes cast 15 for and 11 against. This amendment was carried.

10.10 Rule 7.2 which discusses The Chairman of all such meetings (AGM et al) shall be the President, be replaced with The Chairman of all such meetings shall be the Chairman of the CB management committee. Full details are in the appendices. The rationale for the change is that the role of the CB management committee chairman is becoming more operational as a role within the CB and at this time affords an understanding of all aspects of the function of the union and its clubs.

10.11 The current president Richard Green is against this with a long-held view that in electing the president the clubs effectively elect their chair. The discussion surrounding this proposal was healthy, given that the CB Chair is more operational the President who chairs a number of meetings would keep the distance that at times is required. The change was in a member's opinion necessary to change an archaic system and get things done. Alan Wells observed that dealing with day to day activity would be better represented by the CB Chair with the President having a vocal role, Steve Rice did add that the whoever the Chair would need to have and draw on county experience. Other members felt that the chair of the AGM should be an independent.

10.12 The Hon Sec who had proposed this change addressed the meeting observing that in an ideal world 34 clubs would have responded with a nomination for president and we would have had a vote in order to make our choices through a yay or nay. This is not the case and proposed changes are not made regarding individual kudos, they are not made in an attempt to dumb down or undermine. We are charged with protecting the integrity of the CB and I make this proposal based on comments made at a planning day with an overall objective looking to future proof the CB, and looking at how rugby could be run in the next 3 to 5 years. A personal observation being that in the future a CB will no longer exist in its current format and will be managed by no more than 2/3 people at a local level, with the rugby landscape currently divided into areas (or divisions as they were previously known) an area governance committee will possibly govern the CB's, with those areas managed by the RFU – At present in order to promote efficiency and effective working practice the committee chair is better placed to administer all of the CB meetings.

10.13 The members voted in relation to the proposed rule change at 7.2. The vote 18 for and 9 against. This amendment was carried.



10.14 All rule changes were subject to ratification by the Finance and Conduct Authority.

11.0 Other relevant matters for the consideration of the Committee during the coming year including details of a proposed review of the constitution of the CB.

11.1 The AGM was given a brief overview of the objectives for the forthcoming season. Ordinarily this would have been a PowerPoint presentation but it was a full agenda and a busy evening. As already alluded to the management planning day discussed change – our processes need to be more robust – our sub committees should be able to make informed decisions and be brought together as was the CBRDP to bring together all the operating elements of the union to deliver our objectives.

11.2 The CB needs change and we need to examine our constitution and regulations – we no longer play with a Leather Ball and we need to modernise to suit our needs. Any change may not take place until 2017/18, Steve Rice stated that the planning day was forward thinking and that there is a culture change coming – we need to look towards club engagement and we need to look ahead with our clubs having a voice in how we are run.

11.3 There is to be a Root and Branch review of our constitution and regulations.

11.4 GMS was once again mentioned in connection with the RFU cleaning strategy and the issues faced by clubs in relation to cleansing their membership numbers – Lutterworth show a membership of 2500 on GMS and there is a reluctance to press the cleansing button for fear of losing data. GMS is an ongoing strategy as an objective within the PFR and will be continually reviewed and subject of discussion.

11.5 Steve Mounfield raised a recommendation in relation to the CB chair considering the earlier vote that the Chair should become an officer of the union – It was proposed that change be made to the constitution to accommodate this – This will be reviewed as at 11.3

12.0 Any Other Business

12.1 AOB was not usual at an AGM however opportunity should be and was taken on several matters – The president took the occasion to comment on behalf of all of those present to thank Malcolm Ross for all that he has done for the Leicestershire Rugby Union over his years of service. Malcolm held a number of roles within the CB, with Midlands, and Nationally as a RFU council member.

12.2 Malcolm responded thanking the membership for their support and the kind gift of the weekend retreat package in Gloucestershire and tour of Highgrove. Malcolm touched on his time with council, and with our discussions today on change recalled his time on the RFU reform group looking toward change, some changes were made but latterly this has become more difficult. Malcolm stated it had been a privilege and he had been proud to serve the County. Thank you.

12.3 Richard Green thanked the membership for their hospitality during his time as President and stated he had enjoyed his time and had watched some fine county games. Richard will be around the county and possibly in a role at South Leicester. Richard invited the incoming President Brian Hesford to make his maiden speech.

12.4 Brian thanked Richard the clubs for their attendance and Belgrave for hosting the AGM. Brian also stated that he was proud to be nominated as president considering that



he was the first president from Melton Mowbray in their 100-year history. Brian declared that he would do his utmost to represent the county to the best of ability; and he was looking forward to being invited out to the clubs. Brian closed by thanking the committee in explaining the ways of the LRU with special thanks to Richard Green.

The AGM closed at 2040hrs

Signed

Brian R. Herford

Date 28th June 2017



Actions to Be Completed

New/ Ongoing Actions		Responsible	Completion Date	Action Result/Outcome
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				



Appendices

Proposed Rule Changes

It is proposed that the following changes are made to Rules of the Leicestershire Rugby Union Limited:

Rule 12.1 which currently states “The Officers of the Constituent Body shall be a President, an Honorary Secretary, an Honorary Treasurer, the Immediate Past President, a President Elect and such other Officers as the Constituent Body may in General Meeting from time to time determine”. Is replaced with the following “The Officers of the Constituent Body shall be a President, an Honorary Secretary, an Honorary Treasurer, a President Elect, and such other Officers as the Constituent Body may in General Meeting from time to time determine”.

Rationale: The Immediate Past President role has been discussed by the management committee and is considered to be an outmoded supporting role. If the CB is to be a dynamic organisation, then any support to both of our presidential roles should be an ongoing cyclical process as both the president elect and president evolve through their terms of office. These roles are likely to be further enhanced by portfolio responsibilities.

Proposed: The Hon Secretary

Seconded: The Committee

Rule 7.2 which currently states “The Chairman of all such meetings shall be the President of the Constituent Body or if unavailable the Immediate Past President or if unavailable a Member of the Committee appointed at the Meeting concerned to take the Chair for that Meeting”. Is replaced with the following “The Chairman of all such meetings shall be the Chairman of the CB management committee or if unavailable a Member of the Committee appointed at the meeting concerned to take the Chair for that meeting”.

Rationale: The role of the CB management committee chairman is becoming more operational as a role within the CB and at this time affords an understanding of all aspects of the function of the union and its clubs. It is with the latter in mind that it would make more sense for the chair to take the chair all of the unions meetings and allow the president to experience unhindered his CB ambassadorial role.

Proposed: The Hon Secretary

Seconded: The Committee

Rule 15.4 which currently states “A Financial Statement of the Constituent Body’s affairs shall be made up to 31May in each year” is replaced with “A Financial Statement of the Constituent Body’s affairs shall be made up to 30th June in each year”.

Rationale: The RFU have asked all CB’s to change their financial year end date to fall into line with their year-end date to make funding more appropriate. It will also allow more costs to be applied to the correct season as some costs for a season are not received until after the end of the financial year and are shown in the next season accounts.

Proposed: The Hon Secretary

Seconded: The Committee

Proposed Rule Changes



It is additionally proposed that the following changes are made to Rules of the Leicestershire Rugby Union Limited:

Rule 12.1 which currently states “The Officers of the Constituent Body shall be a President, an Honorary Secretary, an Honorary Treasurer, the Immediate Past President, a President Elect and such other Officers as the Constituent Body may in General Meeting from time to time determine”. Is replaced with the following “The Officers of the Constituent Body shall be a President, an Honorary Secretary, an Honorary Treasurer, **a Senior President Elect, a Junior President Elect** and such other Officers as the Constituent Body may in General Meeting from time to time determine”.

Rationale: The Immediate Past President role has been discussed by the management committee and is considered to be an outmoded supporting role. However, in order for future Presidents to ensure that they are fully conversant with CB matters a period of two years prior to election to the office of President would be more appropriate than a single year. This is particularly appropriate where the person concerned has had little or no experience on the CB Management Committee. If the President and President Elect are to be given portfolios it would also allow a further portfolio for the additional officer.

Proposed: LRU President Richard Green

