



Annual General Meeting

DATE: 28th June 2017

Venue: Belgrave RFC

Start Time: 1900 hrs.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Belgrave RFC, Thurcaston Road, Leicester – 28th June 2017

Present:

B. Hesford, President
P.A. Howard, RFU Council
P. Harding, President Elect
P. Green, Past President
R.T. Green Past President
M. Powell LRU Director of Rugby
R. Annis, Past President
E. Barker, Privileged Person
H. Ginvert Privileged Person
J.A. Allen, Privileged Person
LSRUR – Mark Elliott

M. Eames, Privileged Person
R. Eames, Privileged Persons
J. Thawley, Privileged Person
H. Wrighten Volunteer Coordinator and
Safeguarding Manager
K. Whitcombe, Hon. Secretary
G. Bates, Media and Marketing
M. Birr, Leicestershire U 18's
W. Wrighten U17/18's Competitions
T. Kilburn, Womens Representative
Tim Westwood – CRC

Aylestone Athletic RFC
Coalville RFC
South Leicester RFC
Belgrave RFC
Oakham RFC
Vipers RFC
Syston RFC
Hinckley RFC

County Schools – Phil Smith
Lutterworth RFC
Melton Mowbray RFC
Old Newtonians RFC
Leicester and Rutland Light Blues RFC
Leicester Forest RFC
Cosby RFC

Apologies:

I.M. Roberts, Past President
D. Coe, Past President
K. Ball, Vice President
P. Bayley, Privileged Person
G. Donnelly, Privileged Person
J. Bonser, RDO
Eddie Gregory, Past President
Ken Coleman
D. Toon, Management Committee
K. Swift, Hon Treasurer
K. Palfryman, Past President

C. Elliott, Privileged Person
M. Ross
Adrian March
Mike Higgins, Privileged Person
Dan Quelch
Bob Angell
B. Welford
Mike Wilson, Past President
Richard Hickson
Scott Clarke



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 John Brindley and seconded by Helen Wrihten. 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 Constitutional changes resulting from the 2016 AGM in respect of the removal of the role of past president, creation of the role of Junior President Elect and the change in year end to the 30th of June each year were submitted to the Financial Conduct Authority.

3.2 There were no other 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. One amendment in respect of a spelling error has been identified Paula Brotherton, should read Brotherhood.

4.2 Helen Wrihten took the opportunity to award Paul Green with Mitsubishi Volunteer Awards as he was unable to attend the recent ceremony held at Hinckley RFC. Helen also reminded the membership that the safeguarding team has grown with new members Noel Devonport and Mike Flatt. All officers will be visiting the clubs over the coming month to discuss safeguarding issues and rugby safe.

4.3 Helen also informed the membership that the safeguarding team will arranging SG meetings at the beginning of the season for all SG officers, Chairs and Coaching Coordinators to update any changes. Barbara Crellin asked if sufficient notice of the dates of the meetings could be circulated to avoid other commitments and potential holiday clashes.

4.3 Mark Powell, Director of Rugby addressed the meeting stating that 16 -17 was the best season the county has ever had across all genders, it was achieved not only through hard work but because of club support. The forthcoming season will see the reintroduction of under 20's representative rugby and two barbarian's games are also being organised against Leicester Thursday and Staffordshire. Geraint Davies has been appointed senior coach. Mark thanked Oakham and Lutterworth for their hosting of Leicestershire games. and extended his thanks to the coaches' managers and players for all they have achieved.

4.4 Brian Hesford thanked Mark the coaches' managers and players for all they have achieved on behalf of the Leicestershire Rugby Union during the last season.

4.4 The membership subject to any necessary amendments accepted the Hon Secs Annual Report.



5.0 Financial Report from the Hon Treasurer

5.1 It was again noted that the year-end has changed and is now the 30th of June each year in line with that of the RFU.

5.2 The full accounts in line with constitutional requirements would not be presented until the next SGM in September 2017.

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 £93K. There is currently £85K in LRU funds of which 15K is ring fenced against the Unity project, in effect giving the CB a reserve of 70K or one seasons operating costs

5.4 The accounts will reflect expenditure in relation to purchases as £49732, General Expenditure is recorded at £32981 and overheads are in the region of 55K. It is likely that the CB will show a deficit of approximately £18092.

5.5 Again increased expenditure is a result of representative rugby success, hospitality alone came in at £8400 and we also had outstanding costs in relation to Coaching Courses, although we have now ceased to fund CPD courses as the high cost to the CB could not be sustained. We have spent more than 45K over the past 4 seasons on courses and 12K on the new website. Enhanced masterclasses are to be delivered by Geraint Davies in place of Paul Westgate, funding for the latter has been secured through the Area 4 legacy fund.

5.6 There was a long debate in respect of a written report not being supplied to the membership as has been done in the past. A report has not been supplied as the year end has not been reached and constitutionally it is not required until the September SGM. Several members were not happy that a written report had not been circulated and a verbal update was unacceptable. There were further questions concerning the figures not being available until September, but it was agreed that the current figures should be circulated in the minutes.

5.7 The PFR the document that outlines our annual budget for the forthcoming year has been reviewed by the PFR group. The PFR however is still a document that is not being taken seriously by our sub groups. And we have experienced a season where the treasurer because of his own business has found it difficult at times to commit time to the CB. In respect of the latter we are looking for assistance in this area or a new treasurer – the membership has been invited to nominate, but no nomination was forthcoming. Kim has remained in his role as there has been no one to replace or assist him.

5.8 John Allen expressed surprise that the membership had not been informed sooner that there were problems with the treasurer role

5.8 The Auditor issues we had experienced appear to have been resolved as we have met with them and discussed what we want in our financial statement.

6.0 Appointment of Auditors for the Season 2016/17

6.1 On proposal from the Hon Secretary and seconded by Steve Rice and with no objections by the membership it was agreed that Dowsett and Moore would carry out the inspection of our accounts for the 2016/17 season



7.0 Annual Subscription of Member Clubs for Season 2017/18

7.1 There was discussion that the subscription paid by clubs to the CB had been at the same level of £25 per club and £12 per each team, seniors, vets and ladies, excluding AGR teams for at least 10 years. Consideration should be given to raising the subscription.

7.2 Currently the income from subs is £2398. It was proposed that the subs be raised to £30 and £15 per team. This raised objection from the membership especially as we are perceived to be losing teams across the piste.

7.3 A vote was proposed by Cosby in relation to the rise in subscriptions – In relation to raising the subs to £30 and £15, 4 votes were recorded in favour in relation to remaining at £25 and £12 per team 13 votes were recorded in favour.

7.4 It was confirmed that member subscriptions for the season 2017/18 will remain at £25 per club, and £12 for each senior team including Veterans and Ladies but excluding AGR Teams.

7.5 Further examination of the subscription costs will be required through the coming season.

8.0 Election of Officers for the year 2017/18

8.1 The membership was informed that nominations letters in respect of both officer and committee member election were circulated in March 2017 with a closing date of the 30th of April as per the constitution. After this date where there are shortfalls the committee will be the arbiter.

8.2 Nominations were presented as below

President	Pauline Harding proposed by Mkt Bosworth and duly elected
President - Elect	Steve Rice proposed by the committee and duly elected
Junior Pres Elect	No Nomination
Hon Secretary	Kevin Whitcombe proposed by the committee and duly elected
Hon Treasurer	Kim Swift proposed by the committee and duly elected

8.3 There was discussion surrounding the fact that there was no nomination for a Junior President Elect, it had in fact been Steve Rice, but as no nominations were forthcoming from clubs in respect of the Pres Elect, Steve was elevated to the position by committee. Steve Rice did address the meeting in relation to the process and did agree that over the coming season it would be a task for himself and the President to look to identify a Junior President Elect. Steve acknowledged that there are good candidates within the membership who should be encouraged to take up positions on committee.

8.4 John Allen asked why Steve Rice had been nominated for both Pres Elect and JPE on the agenda. It was an attempt to show the reasoning behind the elevation of Steve to Pres Elect. John considered it to be confusing.

8.5 The current officer nominations were accepted by the membership.



9.0 Election of the Members of the Committee for the year 2017/18

9.1 Again nominations processes were discussed and the fact that there were three vacancies on the committee. It was proposed that the committee would co opt into these vacancies. It was proposed by the committee that Gail Bates, Media and Helen Wrighten, Safeguarding and Volunteering be co-opted. Richard Green did however interpret constitutionally that rather than co-opt both could be full voting members.

9.2	P. Green	Proposed by Hinckley RFC
	D. Toon	Proposed by Vipers RFC
	M. Powell	Proposed by Oakham RFC
	P. Talbot	Proposed by Loughborough RFC
	Gail Bates	Proposed by the Committee
	Helen Wrighten	Proposed by the Committee

9.3 Consideration was given to either the competitions or facilities chair filling the remaining vacancy. The membership suggested a nomination from the meeting but for the time being the vacancy will remain and any decision as to who fills the position would be made by the committee.

9.4 The current committee nominations were accepted by the membership.

10.0 Relevant Matters

10.1 John Brindley raised the issue in respect of how clubs were performing, we know about the solvent clubs but what about those clubs who are experiencing difficulties. Steve Rice on behalf of the committee stated that several clubs having trouble have been visited and a range of options have been discussed - advice is being given but there is concern that it is not being acted upon.

10.2 We have formed a task force that is there to assist clubs in trouble, we visit but cannot impose, clubs run their club, we offer guidance and advice as appropriate. If clubs want us there and want to engage that's great – Two clubs have asked for money and another in relation to increasing their player base. Money does not cure all, good governance and a business plan makes the difference.

10.3 It was alluded to that some clubs are not sustainable, but merger is considered a dirty word. It may become inevitable that some clubs may need to consider the latter and potentially form super clubs.

10.4 The AGM, SGM and Clubs Meeting were subject of discussion. Clubs should adopt a need to meet pre-season and decide what they want for the county and their clubs. Clubs need to show common sense and tell the committee what they want. Brian Hesford addressed the meeting in respect of attitudes being outdated, merger may be necessary and certainly growth surrounds the women and girls game and AGR. There are national difficulties, not just Leicestershire. We need to think outside of the box, Brian having been around the county as President identified that clubs need to develop how they want to play and not get locked in to the 3 teams on a Saturday mentality. Aylestone Athletic, Birstall and Burbage are all clubs in ascendency as they adapt their needs.



10.5 We are experiencing growth in AGR and 5 new teams have entered competitions, despite some views of the audience, clubs are moving up levels and winning has always been cyclical. To coin a phrase the death of rugby in Leicestershire is greatly exaggerated. We have problems, all sport is experiencing problems, clubs are visited, and issues discussed and believe it or not, not all clubs are mad keen to play every week. Clubs are adapting to the landscape that meets their needs. With representative teams in finals, teams in national 1, merit leagues and cup competitions it is hard to understand why a section of the membership think rugby in the county is in decline.

10.6 Paul Green discussed re-organisation and the changes adopted in the committee structures for the county. We are looking to employ an administrator in support of the Hon Sec and Treasurer. The Executive committee should not be bogged down in the minutia but be focussed on direction and governance. The Operating Committee will deal with operational matters, and the PFR group with fiscal matters. The new formats will be rolled out over the next season.

10.7 Over the coming season we need to look to introduce policy and procedures that support our strategic direction and safeguard the integrity of the Leicestershire Rugby Union.

10.8 Gail Bates addressed the meeting on social media and the power of the website. Posts from the County Cup reached 12.5K people and the website was visited by 18.5K people during May. This is a powerful tool available to clubs, please use the website and our social media platforms.

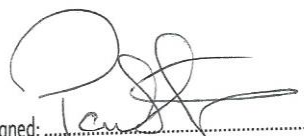
11.0 Any Other Business

11.1 Brian Hesford addressed the meeting in relation to his year as President. Brian thanked the CB and the clubs for allowing him to be president, and of course for their warm welcomes and hospitality. The CB is diverse in nature, has success in its own ways on and off the pitch, and introduced me [Brian] to the boot bag bar. Brian stated he had a fantastic weekend away with the seniors, has attended wonderful games involving the U15 and U18 girls and AGR teams, has met volunteers and players young and old. Brian asked the membership to fully support the CB as it is there to support you [The Clubs].

11.2 Brian received a standing ovation.

11.3 Pauline Harding the incoming President was invited to address the meeting. Pauline acknowledged Brian for his outstanding Presidency. Pauline stated she would hold a handover meeting with Brian to identify those clubs that Brian was unable to visit and plan to visit those clubs as appropriate. Pauline looked forward to representing the CB at as many games as possible. Pauline concluded by thanking Market Bosworth RFC for the nomination and the clubs for endorsing the nomination to President

The AGM closed at 2030hrs

Signed: 

Pauline Harding

Date 27th June 2018



Actions to Be Completed

New/ Ongoing Actions		Responsible	Completion Date	Action Result/Outcome
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