



Special General Meeting

DATE: 25th September 2019

Venue: Belgrave RFC

Start Time: 1900 hrs.

Minutes of the Special General Meeting held at Belgrave RFC – 25th September 2019

Present:

Dean Toon (Chairman)	Kevin Whitcombe (Hon Secretary)
Katrina McNamee (Treasurer)	Barbara Crellin (President)
John Brindley (Vice President)	Peter Howard (RFU Rep)
Marc Birr (DOR)	Liz Causon (AGR Chairman)
Helen Wrihten (Exec Member)	R Annis (Past President)
R Green (Past President)	R Tyler (Past President)
B Hesford (Past President)	J Allen (Privileged Person)
R Eames (Privileged Person)	M Eames (Privileged Person)
Aylestone Athletic RFC	Aylestone St James RFC
Birstall RFC	Coalville RFC
Leicester Thursday RFC	Lutterworth RFC
Melton Mowbray RFC	Oadby Wyggestonians RFC
South Leicester RFC	Stoneygate RFC
Syston RFC	Leicester Forest RFC
Vipers RFC	Wayne Wrihten (Jnr & Colts Comps)
Les Vernon (LRU/RFU Panel)	Jenna Bonser (RDO)

Apologies:

P Green (Exec Member)	G Bates (Exec Member)
E Gregory (Past President)	I M Roberts (Past President)
C Elliott (Privileged Person)	J Thawley (Privileged Person)
C Muris (Oakham)	Anton Stander

Kevin Whitcombe welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Agenda

1.0 Apologies for Absence:

1.1 Apologies for absence as above.

2.0 Minutes of the General Meeting dated 10th March 2019

2.1 The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record proposed by Nick Langridge and seconded by Steve Mounfield.

3.0 Actions/Matters arising from the minutes of the 10th March 2019

3.1 The Hon-Sec confirmed that the PFR funding was not withheld and quarter four was paid in full.



3.2 The Hon-Sec informed the meeting that we were unable to find an Honorary Treasurer. Consultation took place with Katrina McNamee who was carrying out the accounts and she agreed to be the Treasurer.

3.3. With regard to the representative rugby review – Leicestershire had both the men and women at Twickenham last season.

4.0 Honorary Secretaries

4.1 There is not a lot to report so close to the beginning of the season. One of the items will be the sole item of AOB.

4.2 17-year olds playing adult rugby was discussed but is a strategy that falls into the remit of AGR and Safeguarding, clubs will be informed if anything changes. Please note that application is a two-part process Club Approval and then Player Approval.

4.3 The Hon-Sec asked the membership in attendance what can we do to get Clubs to the AGM/SGM meetings. Only 11 Clubs had attended the AGM and the same number has attended tonight's SGM. This represents only 36% of the clubs in membership to the LRU. For the CB to be able to work with the Clubs we do need better attendance at these meetings. Moreover, for Peter Howard our RFU Council member to be proactive in his role at the RFU he needs the engagement of the clubs in relation to those matters that effect the game, clubs and volunteers. Peter needs to go the RFU with more than 1 or 2 proxy votes if we are to challenge those matters that are likely to affect the future of the game.

5.0 Executive Committee Report

5.1 The meeting was informed that the RFU had replaced the PFR (Planning Funding and Reporting) process with the LRP (Local Rugby Plan) in relation to the way CB's are funded. We have received our first payment of £36,000 under the new guidelines, we will still have to justify our spending in relation to value for money. Our core funding remains at 52k however the funding for Representative Rugby has been reduced from £22,000 to £18,000. Marc Birr and others are already reviewing the shortfall and have done a great job in attracting sponsors for the teams.

5.2 We are a strong rugby county and we are here to help you. Please can you check that the right person is your Representative at these meetings and is feeding back to club committees.

5.3 How are we going to reach out to the Clubs – We have looked at the process of these meetings this season as they deliver a small number of actions. Now that the LRP has been introduced we are bound to reach out to clubs, whether it be one by one or in clusters so that we can ascertain their requirements. It was proposed that the Clubs Meeting will be removed from the diary in order to visit our clubs. The March SGM is purely a meeting to appoint the RFU Representative. As the post is now for 3 years there is no requirement for that meeting. It may be the next meeting where we will all get together will be the AGM in June. John Allen declared that these meetings are to show the membership the position of the LRU and present the Finance Report.

5.4 The Hon Sec remarked on the fact that not all clubs attended the meetings and that all being well the introduction of the LRP would support the change in direction. The Hon Sec was asked if he knew why clubs are not attending, in short, the Hon Sec replied that from the clubs that he had spoken to they do not attend because of the "Bunfight" that always



takes place between certain members and the executive committee regarding financial matters. The latter may perhaps be the barrier to volunteering to sit on the executive. The member who asked the question countered that it was the duty of the executive to present those matters brought to the SGM clearly and concisely, then there potentially wouldn't be the "Bunfight". The membership after all does have a duty to ensure that the CB is being run efficiently and effectively. In a further observation Malcolm Eames emphasised that having the paperwork for the meeting [SGM] 10pm the night before didn't allow enough time to prepare. Chris Redfern in adding a constructive comment to the meeting confirmed that Oadby Wyggestonians had, had a visit from the LRU last season which was a positive experience. The CB President Barbara Crellin confirmed that the Executive were focused on CB matters, and that the meeting should look at the presentation tonight, draw a line and move on.

6.0 Finance Report including receipt and approval of Annual Accounts for 2018/19

6.1 The Chairman mentioned the tight turnaround to prepare the accounts especially as there were some inherited problems. The timeline would be looked at for next season as the 3-month turnaround inherited is very tight. We are considering presenting the accounts in November to give a more realistic time to gather all the information needed. We are also most likely to change our accountants. Many questions were fielded around the content, detail and presentation of the accounts. Notably: -

6.2 Cosmetic changes to the headings were made. The financial report received by the members was slightly different to the one being presented as it was a fluid document up until late in the afternoon. A final version of the accounts will be sent with the minutes and published on the LRU website along with the presentation – **Appendix 1&2**. The Chairman confirmed that he was confident the monies in and out were correct based on all the information we had.

6.3 The question was asked if the stock was a true cost. A stock take had been carried out very recently and the cost in the accounts is correct. Stock consists of unused (useable) kit a large number of ties and county caps from previous years. Some of the kit will be sold this season and the value will be written down when sold.

6.4 Discussion took place with regard to the Representative Rugby figures as they were a lot higher than the £22,000 funding from the RFU. Match day expenses, travel, kit and medical costs were not covered by the funding. Sponsorship and player contribution are to be deducted and shown in income lines. Last season we fielded an u20's team which required new kit and they were successful if getting to the semi-finals. Both senior teams reached Twickenham incurring more expense. The Chair pointed out given all the extra expenses we had come close to our budgets, whereas in previous years (notably 2015) when this last occurred we lost a significant amount of money.

6.5 The Chairman presented to the room a power point presentation. M Eames questioned why we utilised Welford Road for the Cup Finals. The consensus of the room agreed players liked the prestige of playing on a Premiership ground and Marc Birr confirmed we are the only County able to offer this to our players. Members confirmed that on the occasion when Welford Road wasn't available they played at Coalville and it wasn't the same. Sponsorship and creating other revenue streams for the event are being sought to make the finals cost neutral. It should be noted we also use WR for the Volunteer Awards saving on hiring a secondary venue.



6.6 A suggestion from the floor was made that if the accounts were done on a monthly basis there wouldn't be the rush at the end of the year. It was confirmed that we are now in control and a management P&L can be run at any time during the year.

6.7 The date on page 2 of the Executive Summary should read 25th September 2019.

6.8 With the amendment of the date change the meeting were asked for a show of hands to adopt the accounts for the year ending 30th June 2019. 20 votes for and 0 against.

7.0 Any Other Business

7.1 Nick Langridge Secretary Lutterworth RFC presented a paper he had written regarding the problems with protocol and GMS at the beginning of the season. It also outlined suggestions on how things could be done in the future. **Appendix 3.** Notification of New regulations were being sent out on the 1st August and the guidance information followed a couple of weeks later. GMS modifications it was said are not meeting the needs of the clubs. Block booking of courses has stopped, and it is now down to individuals to book on and pay. The latter presents problems to a club when they are later presented with expense claims for courses.

7.2 The question has been asked of the CB "What can the CB do for our clubs?". The Hon-Sec asked the meeting to take away the information from tonight's discussion and share with your Clubs and report back with their thoughts and anything they wished to add.

7.3 Peter Howard informed the meeting that one of the main topics at the Discipline Conference a couple of weeks ago was GMS. The question was asked if there was in fact a test bed for all the patches to GMS, the meeting was assured there was one. It was agreed it was now time to get GMS working properly before adding further updates. It was clear from Peter Howard that the RFU council were already aware of the many issues and were raising the issues with the RFU.

7.4 Liz Causon AGR Chair stated that she will raise GMS at the AGR Clubs Meeting on Monday and seek their input and support.

7.5 Feedback was requested to be sent to hon-sec@leicestershirerugbyunion.co.uk

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20:41

Signed

Date

Actions to Be Completed

New/ Ongoing Actions		Responsible	Completion Date	Action Result/Outcome
1	Minutes and Appendix's to be emailed	Helen Wrihten		
2	Recruitment of new Auditor	Exec		
3	Clubs to report back to Hon-Sec re Nick Langridge Paper – Appendix 3	ALL		
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