

MINUTES of the Meeting held at Hove RFC on 16th July 2009.

PRESENT: Gary Howorth (South RDP Chairman); Adam Tunesi (Hove RFC); Nick Page (Lewes RFC); Robbie Cannon (Uckfield RFC); Paul Apps (Shoreham RFC); Tom Le Mehaute (Community Rugby Coach); David Beglan (Secretary).

1. **Welcome and Apologies.** The Chairman welcomed those present, particularly Paul Apps to his first meeting and our new Community Rugby Coach, Tom Le Mehaute. Apologies had been received from Tim Loadman (Old Brightonians RFC), Claire Byrne (South Sussex Barbarians), Stewart Davies (Shoreham RFC) and Mike Morton-George (Newick RFC).

2. **The Minutes** of the meeting of 7th May 2009 had been circulated and there was one amendment to these. Under Minute # 8 (line 8), this sentence should read: "The Meeting was surprised to hear that James Fisher had said that no more than three clubs may be involved". The Secretary apologises to Mal Chumbley for wrongly attributing this remark to him.

3. **Matters arising.** The Chairman reported that the Club Volunteer Coordinator Workshop scheduled for early June (Minute # 7c) had been cancelled.

4. New **Community Rugby Coach.** Tom Le Mehaute was formally welcomed by the Chairman and the Partnership looks forward to working with our new CRC.

5. **Coach development.** There is a new Sussex Rugby website in position and this has been welcomed. The website will be easier to use and will have a Community Rugby page, with Minutes of the RCDPs being available. Sponsorship is being organised and details of this should be available after the next County Executive Meeting. In reply to a question from Nick Page, the Chairman stated that the County website would direct enquirers to Club websites.

6. Seal of Approval.

a). Hove RFC is now approved.

b). Robbie Cannon announced that the Chairman of Uckfield RFC had met with himself and Mal Chumbley to get work on their Seal of Approval up and running. Gary Howorth mentioned that it was probable that clubs that do not get their Seal of Approval by the end of Season 2009/10 would not be permitted to play Youth and Mini Rugby. This "Sting in the Tail" of the SOA should encourage those clubs that had been dragging their feet. It was stated that all Club Secretaries have access to "Rugby First". Adam Tunesi asked if Sussex RFU would have to have a SOA and Gary replied that this was the case, as he understood it. David Beglan suggested that all the details necessary for a club's SOA should appear in that club's handbook. Gary agreed that that should be the case, if the club concerned has a handbook.

7. Partnership Project.

No Partnership Project is planned for 2009/10 but the South RCDP is ready to accept suggestions. The CRB was now run centrally and one "clearance" covered all activities.

8. Girls' Rugby.

Claire Byrne had apologised for absence and there was no update available. Nick Page said that concern had been expressed at Lewes RFC (et al) that girls are being encouraged to join South Sussex Barbarians, centred at Brighton RFC. The feeling is that one club might "hoover up" players and deprive other clubs of membership revenue. Gary recommended that Lewes invite Claire to one of their Executive Meetings, to explain her intentions. Tom reported that girls' rugby in Sussex seems to

be stronger than in many other counties.

10. Other business.

a). The Chairman referred to the Minute of 7-5-09 under Other Business (Minute # 10a) regarding the Service Level Agreement for the RDO and CRCs. It appeared that Clubs were slow to return the forms that had been attached to the Minutes in May and Gary requested that these be returned ASAP. He made the point that Clubs could have no complaint if they did not make their requirements clear and the County thereby assumed that all was well and that the Clubs did not have any specific requirements for the RDO and CRCs.

b). Robbie Cannon stated that the League Structure for the coming Season was far from clear. As a result, the organisation of other matches could become complicated. Adam reported that the draw for the Sussex Cup Competitions had been made the previous evening.

c). Details of the Sussex Under 13-14 programme are to form part of the addenda to these Minutes (please see separate email).

11. Date of next Meeting: Thursday 10th September at Hove RFC at 7-30 p.m.

The Meeting closed at 8-50 p.m., with thanks to Hove for their hospitality.

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