

SUSSEX RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION LIMITED

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held at Brighton FC (RFU) on 24th November 2009 at 7.30pm

09/83 Present – R. Edmondson (RCE) President, R. Hopkins (RH) Treasurer, P. Silk (PSk) Secretary, G. Thompson (GT), G. Howorth (GH), A. Croucher (AC), P. Macaulay (PM), P. Sealey (PS) (Minutes).
Invited – K. Nichols (Competitions), P. Atthis (COPS),

09/84 Apologies – P. Bailey

09/85 Minutes of the Executive meeting on 7th October 2009, had been circulated, approved and signed.

09/86 Matters Arising –

09/72; The Accounts and Tour Report for South Africa had still not yet been received. President is to ask R. Siggs to attend the next Executive to report on the Tour, Schools of Rugby and Shop.

09/72; The U15 Coaching Team was in place and a successful trial had been held last Sunday.

09/72; The lack of progress with the U14 Development Squads had led to complaints from several clubs. Because of the delays in scheduling, some CRC's had already been committed before the programme was confirmed. The CRC's were not at fault – two districts were ready to launch, but had to wait for the other two. GH Agreed that it was largely a problem of poor communication – and AC would contact all the parties involved in the very near future, and confirm a starting date to the President, aiming at mid-January, in order to complete the programme in time for the A & B Matches against Hampshire and Eastern Counties in April 2010.

09/75; GT noted that Tudor Ellis had been appointed Manager of the County XV (but no longer for the U20) and presented a budget for the proposed tour to Belgium on 23-25th April 2010, to play the National U21 team. It was noted that the dates clashed with the Trophy Final, and Worthing's last League match. KN said it was not possible to change the Trophy date, in view of Sponsors commitments, and the following three weeks were the County Championship matches. It was agreed to select players only from those Clubs not involved in the Trophy or Bowl finals. Also it was noted that SRFU paid for the accommodation when Belgium visited us, PSK to talk to Belgium RFU in respect of any contribution they can make to Sussex. The proposal was accepted under these terms.

09/75; KN presented a proposal to play Surrey at level 9, at Cranleigh on 18th April 2010. 23 a side, Coach was Rob Outen and Manager Paul Chapman. KN is to liaise with the county shop to obtain leisure shirts to give to the players. A President's XV of appropriate strength would play St. Francis on 2nd May. Holbrook and Midhurst had played a midweek floodlit Shield tie at Brighton last Friday evening and it was deemed a great success.

09/77 GT and PS reported on their contacts with Rye RFC and were satisfied that matters were improving with a deadline of the 31st August to set up an Executive Committee with Youth and Mini personnel on it.

09/80 GT and PSk were still looking at arrangements for the RFU Roadshow visit and will report back to the January Executive with firm arrangements.

09/82 – Hove RFC had written to Secretary, about the increasing administrative burden placed on club officers by the RFU, SRFU, and legal requirements.

SUSSEX RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION LIMITED

09/87 – President’s Report –

The President had visited 7 clubs since the last meeting (Hastings, Horley, Chichester, Worthing. Hove, St. Francis and the floodlight match at Brighton RFC, 3 U16 County matches and 4 Daily Mail Cup Matches.

Congratulations to both Warden Park (U15) and Worthing College (U18) for reaching the last 32.

He had been involved in Club Aid Visits to Ditchling and Shoreham, both of whom have made great progress in the last year. Both clubs are seeking deals with their local authority with regards to their grounds.

09/88 – Treasurer’s Report –

Invoices for subscriptions had gone out. He would propose that where possible, clubs should be recommended to change their ‘year-end’ to 30th June to co-incide with the RFU and SRFU.

Clubs were reminded that it is very important to send in their accounts as soon as possible to comply with RFU regulations. GT said that there had been a couple of instances of clubs incurring very heavy legal costs where leases etc. had to be amended, or for releasing Trustees and transferring assets, following Incorporation, and GT wanted to remind all clubs to seek the appropriate legal advice at the outset.

09/89 – RFU Representative –

Report circulated – First class RFU Workshop at Horsham – congratulations to all involved – especially the RDO and his team.

SRFU had a moderate record of SOA approval 64%– PM said that the RDO had it as a high priority – and the clubs should be aware of the deadline of the end of this season. RFU statement that clubs must not institute their own Drug-testing regime.

President pointed out that 16-18 FE Colleges should not be members of both Schools Union and CB.

09/90 – Secretary –

Club aid visits were due – Newick in January, Haywards Heath in February, Barns Green tbc. Burgess Hill is to be contacted for a visit.

The RDO Office at Hove would close on 31st December, and move to Brighton University – details to follow.

Virgin Atlantic Airways were donating tickets for on-line draws, and also would host the clubs meeting on Monday next their Crawley training centre .

The Website was now attracting more visitors, it is around 1400 per day, it was expected to increase further when the Shop was put on-line shortly, and the on-line draw linked and the proposed Sussex Newsletter was started. PS said that the site had grown to over 100 pages, but he noted that he was experiencing some technical problems which made loading material onto the site very difficult and this aspect was still waiting resolution.

The delay over the launch of the online shop was due to R & K Siggs being unavailable for training.

It was noted that Playing & Coaching minutes were still not yet available – GT to liaise with C&P Secretary.

SUSSEX RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION LIMITED

09/91 – Community – People & Places

GH confirmed that Invoicing for CRC funding was to be changed from *'in arrears'* to *up-front*.

This meant that clubs would be invoiced for the 2009-10 contribution in December 2009. There will be another invoice in July 2010 for their CRC Contribution for season 2010-11. Clubs were strongly advised by the President to set up a monthly direct debit arrangement for these payments.

09/92 – CBRDP – Playing

AC reported that the Junior Leagues were running well, but a discussion had been opened to decide the format for 2011/12, to balance the need for proper competition with that to reduce travel. The discussion about the future Structured Season, would be widened to consider whether the emphasis on Competitions was having a deleterious effect on less skilled players getting match opportunity. The need for better communication with some County Squads had been highlighted. Rye U18 and U16 had been disbanded, and permission had been given for players to join other Clubs. GT asked that a Student Rugby representative should be included in the CBRDP, and several names were proposed. AC to approach a suitable candidate.

Schools Committee requested that the CRC's should be involved with their non-playing schools in their RDP to enter the Emerging Schools Competition and those schools who play some rugby to enter the Emerged Schools Competitions. Each RDP should have a tournament with the winners then going on to the Sussex festival, the winners to Regional Festivals and those winners to Staines/Twickenham. CRC's should inform the Schools Union, the dates of these tournaments.

09/93 – Data Protection – COPS

PA had circulated his paper which had been widely approved. PSK to circulate the finalized edition to clubs and the paper put will be published on the website.

09/94 - Discipline

The President reported the following cases had been dealt with by Senior and Junior Discipline Secretaries

Mr. Redman	Uplands Parent	verbal abuse	Warned as to future conduct	
J. Levine	Hove U14	punching	Sending Off Sufficient	14.10.09
S. Andre	Lewes 1 st	spitting	5 weeks	03.11.09
J. Knight	Hove U19	kicking	2 weeks	27.10.09
J. Baker	Hove 1	retaliation	4 weeks	27.10.09
M. Chandler	Midhurst 1 st	stamping	not proven	
P -J Parker	Haywards Heath 1 st	punching	3 weeks	27.10.09
Rye RFC	no permission to tour - warned as to future conduct			

SUSSEX RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION LIMITED

Newick RFC no permission to tour – warned as to future conduct

Hastings & Bexhill RFC no permission to tour – warned as to future conduct

D. Gower Hellingly 1 punching 3 weeks

M. Caket Uckfield 1 head butt 2 weeks

A. Allingham Norfolk Arms kicking 4 weeks 04.12.09

S. Sayers Lewes 2 punching 3 weeks 01.12.09

J. Wren St. Bedes U15 punching 1 match 22.11.09

M. Orton Worthing Coach playing 16 year old in Senior Team 4 weeks 14.12.09

D. Hart Worthing Manager playing 16 year old in Senior Team 4 weeks 14.12.09

NB. Remember that you must be 17 years old to play in a Senior Team and 18 years old if you want to play in the front row.

NB. Remember in Youth Rugby you can only play 1 age group higher ie U13 can play in U14 etc except that U16 players can play U18 Rugby.

NB. D. Elliott has emigrated to Majorca but has not been given permission by the RFU to play there until he has:

1. Attended a Sussex Disciplinary Hearing
2. Paid £85 fees to Sussex RFU for his previous appearance before the Sussex Disciplinary Committee.

09/95 – AOB

GH – There had been a disappointing return to the Pathfinder campaign, reflected nationally.

PA – his correspondence with the RFU and PSk about the ‘wilful neglect’ paper he had drafted and that this was still under consideration.

GT – Eastern Counties Executive Committee wanted to visit Sussex and he would propose some dates when Haywards Heath were playing an EC team.

Meeting ended at 9.45.

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