

# SUSSEX RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

## Sussex Rugby Club Development Partnership – South Area

MINUTES of the Meeting held at Hove RFC on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2009.

PRESENT: Gary Howorth (South RDP Chairman); Mike Morton-George (Newick RFC); Tim Loadsman (Old Brightonians RFC); Paul Apps (Shoreham RFC); Jeff Smith (Hove RFC); Robbie Cannon (Uckfield RFC); Tom Le Mehaute (Community Rugby Coach); Nick Page (Lewes RFC); Neil Thomas (Brighton RFC); Claire Byrne (South Sussex Barbarians); David Beglan (Secretary).

1. Welcome and Apologies. The Chairman welcomed those present and expressed his thanks for the good attendance. An apology had been received from Geraldine Brown.
2. The Minutes of the meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> September had been circulated and there were no amendments to these.
3. Matters arising. With reference to Minute # 5, Gary said that it was now the policy to hold Coaching Courses at educational establishments rather than at clubs.
4. Activity report from the Community Rugby Coach. Tom Le Mehaute presented copies of his report at the meeting and these form an addendum to these Minutes. In reply to a question from Robbie Cannon, Tom stated that no one from Uckfield had been in touch with him, other than to request some Sunday sessions.
5. Seal of Approval update. Robbie reported that his efforts on behalf of Uckfield were being held up by lack of forthcoming information from the Club's Mini and Youth sections. He was still awaiting some information promised to him at the last RCDP meeting. There had, apparently, been a breakdown in communication somewhere and Robbie was assured that he would get the information in the near future.
6. Pathfinder scheme. Although there was no further news on probable changes to this scheme, a leaflet was produced regarding the programme of events in the "Sussex RFU and RFU Club Support Programme 2009" and this is an addendum to these Minutes.  
Gary explained the format of the three sessions, which start with a Roadshow on 18<sup>th</sup> November. It would be useful for Clubs to have several representatives attending this, so that as much information as possible might be gleaned. On 25<sup>th</sup> November, a Rugby First Training session would be of use to Club Coaches, especially with regard to the coming requirement for all Coaches to be licensed. The final session, on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, would be a Pathfinder Review and the launching of the CVC (Club Volunteer Coordinators) Programme. Registration for these events should be made via the Sussex RFU Office. The three sessions would be held at The Business and Enterprise Centre, The Forest School, Horsham, RH13 5NW. The Chairman expressed the hope that there would be a good turn out from Clubs as this was a useful initiative and the sessions were expected to be highly informative.
7. Feedback from CBRDP Executive Meeting - 19<sup>th</sup> October. The Secretary reported that the Executive had referred the arrangements for Youth and Mini Competitions, after Season 2009/10, to the East and West Clubs' Forums for discussion. There would be preliminary work done on this at the West Forum on 19<sup>th</sup> November and a fuller decision, with recommendations to be passed to the CBRDP Executive being made at the Forum Meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> January. David understood that the East Forum did not meet again until 6<sup>th</sup> January and would make their recommendations in the

light of that meeting. It was hoped that the County President, Roger Edmondson, would be present at both January Forum meetings. /continued

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8. County Youth arrangements. Neil Thomas and Jeff Smith raised the matter of these arrangements and suggested that the situation with regard to Under 15s and Under 14s was chaotic. Tom mentioned that the Under 14s had been split into four districts. The situation with the Under 15s is still unresolved and concern was expressed that the Coaching and Playing Committee under the Chairmanship of Geraint Jones seemed to be uncommunicative in respect of its requirements from the Clubs. It is to be hoped that Geraint would be present at the Roadshow (see Minute # 6 above) so that Club Representatives would be given an opportunity to make their suggestions. David suggested that there might be an open discussion meeting arranged for the members of the Coaching and Playing Committee to explain their proposals for the development of prospective County players. Gary said that there did seem to be a lack of communication and he hoped that this could be addressed. Neil pointed out that the County Under 15s Manager, Tudor Ellis and the Lead Coach, Mark Pascoe (who had taken over from Dean Dewey and Ben Coulson, respectively) had not received any information regarding last season's Under 14s, nor from the Ardingly Course. As a result, they have had to start from scratch with this year's Under 15s.
9. Girls' Rugby. Claire Byrne announced that she had finished the Clubhouse Book, of which copies are held at Brighton RFC and Lewes RFC). It was disappointing that there were still dark mutterings from some at Lewes regarding the move of training to Brighton. Claire had continually assured the Lewes members that there was no question of a "Brighton takeover" of the South Sussex Barbarians. Nick Page said he was disappointed to hear that this matter was rumbling on, as Claire had done as much as she could to explain. The SS Barbarians are gaining members, which is better news than comes from some quarters and there is a new sponsor for the County Girls. There would be a session on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November at Shoreham and a further Sunday session at Lewes is planned. Tom is taking posters advertising the SSB to 6<sup>th</sup> Form Colleges.
10. Other Business.
  - a). Claire suggested that girls should be encouraged to join Clubs' Minis Sections.
  - b). Mike Morton-George commented that the Sussex Shield Round 1 had, apparently, been moved from 6<sup>th</sup> February to 21<sup>st</sup> November at short notice. This caused a problem for Newick RFC, who had arranged a charity match on the free date of 21<sup>st</sup> November. They were contacting their opponents in the Shield (Rye RFC) to try for a change of date. Mike asked if any of the other clubs represented at the meeting had been caused a problem by the change of date. Paul Apps said that he had not heard anything at Shoreham RFC about any problem and Robbie said that Uckfield were all right as they had a bye to the Quarter Final (which is to be played on 6<sup>th</sup> February).
  - c). "V Rugby". Gary said that there had been a disappointing response to the Government/Charity/RFU initiative to involve 16+ year-old club members with voluntary work at their clubs.
  - d). Some clubs were slow to advise what they required from the CRC. Under Tom's Service Level Agreement (SLA), Clubs are encouraged to provide details of their requirements. Gary pointed out that it is no use Club Treasurers (usually) complaining about having to pay out for the funding of the CRCs when their Clubs are not bothering to let the County know which services they require. The Club's Representatives are asked to make this point firmly to their Committees, so that Tom's abilities may be better used.
  - e). Gary appealed for nominations for volunteers, who did sterling work at their club and should be rewarded for their efforts. Please remember to send in your nominations in the near future.

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There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8-45 p.m., with thanks to Hove RFC for their hospitality.

Please see the three sheets of addenda to these Minutes. Please note that Tom's new email address is: [tomlemehaute@therfu.com](mailto:tomlemehaute@therfu.com)

Date of next meeting: Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> January 2010 at Hove RFC at 7-30 p.m.

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