

SUSSEX RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

Sussex Rugby Club Development Partnership – South Area

MINUTES of the Meeting held at Hove RFC on 19th January 2010.

PRESENT: Gary Howorth (South RDP Chairman); Adam Tunesi (Hove RFC); Nick Page (Lewes RFC); Robbie Cannon (Uckfield RFC); Mike Morton-George (Newick RFC); Tom Le Mehaute (Community Rugby Coach); David Beglan (Secretary).

1. Welcome and Apologies. The Chairman had been delayed and the Secretary welcomed those present. Apologies had been received from Tim Loadsman (Old Brightonians RFC); Paul Apps (Shoreham RFC); Jeff Smith (Hove RFC); Neil Thomas (Brighton RFC) and Claire Byrne (South Sussex Barbarians/Girls' Rugby) whose emailed apology was received after the meeting.
2. The Minutes of the meeting of 4th November had been circulated and these were approved.
3. There were no matters arising from those Minutes, which did not form part of this Agenda.
4. Feedback on RFU Roadshows. The Chairman apologised for his late arrival and reported on the Roadshows, which had been relatively poorly attended but which had been well received by those who did bother to attend. Robbie Cannon and Nick Page made the point that, although expressing an initial willingness to attend, members of their clubs failed to put in an appearance. The Chairman said that similar courses would be run in the future, with one after this Season, during the summer. Because of Health and Safety considerations, a Catering Course had been suggested. It was hastily pointed out that this did not mean finding volunteers to learn how to cook but to explain the essential procedures involved in providing food at clubs. Gary requested that all the Clubs in the South Partnership give their feedback, positive or negative, on the Roadshows and for those who failed to provide a representative, to explain why.
5. Activity report from Tom Le Mehaute (Community Rugby Coach). Tom produced printed copies of his previous month's activities and his key planned activities for the months of February/March. These are appended to the Minutes as an Addendum. The Chairman requested that Tom would, in future, produce these statistics in advance of the meetings, so that Representatives might be able to come prepared with any questions and that those that could not attend would have time to let the Partnership know their opinions prior to the meeting.
6. Seal of Approval update. Robbie reported that Uckfield RFC were working hard to get their Seal of Approval and that more information had recently been sent to Mal Chumbley (RDO). Uckfield's target is July but Robbie is hoping to do better than that. The importance to Clubs of obtaining their Seals of Approval was again emphasised by Gary, with the warning that the RFU is considering banning Clubs that do not have this qualification from entering Youth and Mini teams in League or Cup competitions.
7. Pathfinder Scheme – further information. Gary reported that the Pathfinder Scheme is working "just"! The response has been bitty but if Clubs are not in the scheme they will not know if prospective new members are available.

/continued

/Continuation of South RCDP Minutes – 19-1-10.

8. Girls' Rugby update. Claire Byrne was unable to attend the meeting but has forwarded her report, which is as follows:

Success:

We have had a good number of girls nominated for Regional trials which are on 31st January. Some have declined owing to exam pressures but we still have a good number going.

Recruitment & Promotion:

We are consolidating links with our area schools to encourage them to bring any girls interested in rugby to Thursday night training.

The first school, Longhill, should be coming this week.

Ringmer and Uckfield have also agreed – waiting for a date.

Trying to get into Brighton schools to do the same – any help with contacts and introductions would be very welcome.

Managed to get quite a few pieces in the local papers and have put our website details on more websites for sports/activities for young people.

The next Wasps Coaching Class, at Brighton on 5th February, will run girls' groups and they have offered a good discount. The information has been forwarded to local clubs and schools.

Gained a new U 18s coach which gives (when they all turn up)

U 12s: 2 coaches and a parent helper

U 15s: 3 coaches

U 18s: 2 coaches and a parent helper.

Finances:

Raised money for the squad with a New Year's Day dip which got into the local papers. Gained a new sponsor which will allow purchase of some more equipment. Storage will soon be a problem though.

Queries:

Has Tom managed to put the poster out at 6th Form Colleges?

Looking at minibuses for away games at places like Gravesend and Thanet Wanderers as these clubs are in her league. Does anyone have suggestions/links?

Extra:

Brighton are now starting a women's section. Very early stages, though.

9. Other Business.

a). Mike Morton-George reported that free goalposts are available via the RFU. Any enquiries about this matter should be referred to the Chairman as the information was never received by the Secretary.

b). Volunteers' Evening. This event will be held at Hove RFC on Friday 5th March. Up to ten people from any one club; a mixture of current and prospective volunteers would be appropriate. Please apply to the Chairman, Gary Howorth on gary.Howorth@ntlworld.com. Room is at a premium and this will be a case of: first come, first served. Clubs have already been requested to nominate volunteers to receive awards, which include tickets for International matches and airline tickets from Virgin Atlantic (the Lead County Sponsors).

c). A "Safeguarding Young People" workshop will be held at Hove RFC on Monday 1st February from 7 to 10 p.m. One person from each club should attend.

d). "Club for All" and "Equity in Coaching" (elements of the Seal of Approval) workshops are to be held at Crowborough and Eastbourne and Gary asked whether the South Partnership would like similar workshops to be run in this area.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8-35 p.m., with thanks to Hove for their hospitality.

David Beglan (Secretary),
136, Carden Avenue,
Brighton. BN1 8NH.
☎ 01273 883173
Email: david.beglan@ntlworld.com

Next Meeting: WEDNESDAY 10th March at Hove RFC at 7-30 p.m.

