



SUSSEX RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION LIMITED

Minutes of the Clubs General Meeting of Sussex RFU held at Burgess Hill RFC on Tuesday 7th September 2010

Present: Peter Bailey (President); Allan Butcher (Chairman); Peter Silk (Secretary) Messers Atthis, Jacqui Coleman, Edmonds, Edmondson, Hooker, Howorth, Lewis, Mercer, Mitchell, Nichols, Richardson, Rogers, Silk N, Thompson G; Wade and Representatives from Bognor, Brighton, Burgess Hill, Chichester, Cinque Ports, Crawley, Eastbourne, East Grinstead, Hastings, Haywards Heath, Heathfield & Waldron, Hellingly, Holbrook, Hove, Horsham, Lewes, Midhurst, Newick, Old Brightonians, Pulborough, Rye, St. Francis, Seaford, Shoreham, Uckfield and Worthing RFC's.

10/29 **Apologies for Absence:** Brooks, Croucher, Da Silva, Henry, Hopkins and Sealey.

10/30 **Minutes of the General Meeting** on the 15th June 2010 were adopted and signed as a true record. Minutes of the Executive Meetings on the 16th August were considered.

10/31 **Matters arising: none**

10/32 **President's Report:** He had attended a wedding and a funeral and been at the Littlehampton 25th Anniversary Dinner (RAG Rogers stated the Club was founded in 1923). He was a guest at the Worthing v Wasps match.

10/33 **Chairman's Report: Allan Butcher reported**

1. That the last Level 2 Coaching Course had been cancelled due to lack of applicants in May. The next course was scheduled for May/June 2011 but Allan was advised that if we could arrange 12 applicants a course could be run prior to that time. Burgess Hill had 4 applicants and Worthing 6 – there are 2 spare places for other Club Coaches. He had agreed with John Bates that applicants could sign up with a £50 deposit subject to the necessary CPD being in place, the remainder being paid just before the course.
2. He introduced the problems of Rugby First and this subject was discussed at length at four different stages in the Meeting.
Rugby First is an excellent website for all the data for each Club etc. but it will only be up to date if each Club webmaster keeps their information on the website up to date. Areas of concern that were spoken were:
 1. The number of coaches in each Club who were no longer members of that Club and problems of removing this date.
 2. This also applied to CRB registrations.
 3. Dina Lewis had used all the Club information from Rugby First – hence Clubs not updating Rugby First resulted in possible incorrect Handbook information.
 4. The RFU had instructed Clubs to re-register their players at both Senior and Junior Levels. Despite being e-mailed by the RFU, Competitions Chairman and County Secretary, some Clubs had not reregistered their players resulting in their non-participation in the RFU Vase Competition last weekend.
3. Allan reported that each CRC and the RDO will produced a CRC Diary informing the Clubs of the previous months work and what will be done in the next 3 months.

10/34 **Rugby Representative's Report.**

Graham reported orally

1. The Chief Executive (John Steele) had been in office one week, was very approachable – rugby will come first and he will visit the CB later this year.
2. RFU World Cup was a great success and should help with the growth of women's rugby in the next few years.
3. He was concerned about the new ESPN/Sky deal which clearly affects Clubs with only 1 live match every weekend. – He will take up the matter at the highest level.



4. He has some spare tickets for the Autumn Internationals – contact GT.

10/35 CB Action Plan.

GH stated that the CB Action Plan 2010-11 had nearly been completed and when the financial Figures have been added; it will be submitted to the RFU and used as a pilot scheme for this year. Work has already begun on the 2011-12 Action Plan. If the tasks in the 2010-12 Action Plan are Not done, the RFU will allocate less money for 2011-12 season.

10/36 Community Rugby (People and Places).

1. Seal of Approval – no update had been received from the RDO but GH reported that they were very close to the target of all Clubs having SoA by the 30th September. RDO visiting those Clubs needing to submit their SoA. GH has written to the 7 Clubs who need SoA.
2. Service Level Agreements – all Clubs need to have their agreements with Office by September 30th.
Each Club needs to submit their wishes for CRC work and then the RDO will plan the CRC Activities.
3. CRC Funding – the RFU have sent out CRC Invoices for 2009-10 season – all Treasurer's Should have received the invoices in the last week of July. Invoices for 2010-11 Season will be sent on the 1st January 2011.

10/36 CBRDP

1. Summer Camps have been run this summer by the CRC's at five different venues. All Clubs Should try to run one next summer. Great success at Midhurst this summer with money for the Club.
2. Training Courses for CRefC, Rugby First and Coaches being run this year- see website for Details.
3. All Youth players are to be re-registered or registered by 30th September.
4. U16 Team Manager – Matthew Jolliffe ; vacancy for U14 Team Manager.
5. U18 had beaten Eastbourne College by 4 tries to 1.
6. Schools Coaching Course at Christ Hospital School on Sunday 26th September
7. U18 Club League will need re-organising; some Clubs have withdrawn their B Teams.

10/37 Sponsorship Manager – Nick Silk reported:

1. Virgin Atlantic – 2nd year of sponsorship (£8.5k per year)
Virgin have given free tickets to (approx. face value £10k)
 - a. Sussex RFU to two lucky winners of the website draw
 - b. With Brighton and Hove winning tickets to use for raising funds
 - c. To Sussex Volunteer of the Year winner
 - d. Eastbourne for their Mini Festival.
 - e. Chichester for their upcoming Mini event.
 - f. Lewes RFC December auction for funds towards their refurbishment.

This is a two way exercise – if we want to keep Virgin as sponsors, we need to be able to value their support. Can all Clubs planning an overseas Tour, check prices with Virgin by clicking on any VAA logo on the website and you will get an enquiry form.
2. VAA are willing to look at clubs wishing to raise funds using free tickets – clubs have to demonstrate that the appropriate value is returned for the value of the prize, along with proactive PR – newspapers, photos/posters for further help contact Nick Silk
3. New website competition will start this month, again giving Clubs the opportunity of winning tickets based on the last two draws.
4. Shepherd Neame – £2k sponsorship of Sussex Leagues and competitions. Shepherd Neame would be keen to talk to any club looking for a new supplier or extra beer products
5. The Army sponsors U20; Covers the Minis and Ditchling Press the U17 South African Tour.
6. Sussex needs more sponsors – please contact Nick with ideas. We are looking right now for a sponsor for the Bob Rogers Cup and W&G sections



10/38 Safeguarding Courses.

1. Jacqui is running 4 safeguarding Courses for new Safeguarding Officers.
2. RFU only getting 1000 application forms per month – please contact Jacqui for them if required. Electronic CRB forms available from October 2010.

10/39 Discipline

Frank Edmonds reported the changes for this season which are in the Handbook. These may change when the IRB issue new guidelines in January 2011. Sussex CB have been using these guidelines for the last two years.

Remember

1. Clubs are responsible for their own discipline
2. Clubs with more than 5 proven disciplinary cases can be charged with 5.12.
3. If the Police are involved, please let the RFU know.
4. Cross cb-citings are done at Twickenham
5. Illicit Drugs RFU policy
6. New Cheating policy
7. If you appeal against the length of your sanction, you are still banned from playing.
8. Any Club can cite within 14 days of the offence.
9. All players found guilty will pay a £50 administration fee.

10/40 Treasurer's Report – in the absence of the Treasurer, the Secretary reminded all Clubs that they should be incorporated so that their officials are financially protected. Tax Fraud, Abuse of the Tax rules. Checking that Trustees have not been banned as a Trustee are all areas of concern.

10/41 A.O.B.

1. Brian Vincent informed the meeting that the Worthing Raiders Academy had been set up with Dean Dewey as the Academy Manager. It is for player development so that players reached higher skills standards etc. A letter from Joe Launchberry was read out thanking Worthing Coaches for all the help received last season enabling Joe to transfer to Wasps. Each match at Worthing costs £5K to stage. Sussex Clubs were asked to support this initiative and all Club Coaches were invited to watch Worthing coach their 1st XV squad.
2. Facilities Report on the Sussex website.
3. Wooden Spoon – Christmas Lunch on Thursday 16th December on Brighton Pier (Bob Rogers)
4. ELRA Coaching Course at Tanbridge House School – date to be confirmed
5. Level 9 match Kent v Sussex on either April 25th or May 8th.
6. Chris Keeley expressed disappointment at the lack of a Girls/Women's report. Sonja will be asked by the Secretary to provide a report for the December General Meeting.
7. Sussex Ladies match Sussex v Essex at Worthing RFC on Sunday 7th November.
8. Handbook changes to Roger Edmondson by e-mail.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.