

SUSSEX RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION Limited

Minutes of the Executive Committee held at BRIGHTON FC (RFU) on 17th May 2010 at 7.30pm.

09/154 Present - R Edmondson (President) (RCE), P. Bailey (SVP) (PB), P. Silk (Secretary) (PSk), G. Howorth (GH), A. Croucher (AC), GP Thompson (GT); Messrs P. Atthis (COPS) (PA); K. Nichols (Competitions) (KN) and P Sealey (Minutes) (PS).

09/155 Apologies: R. Hopkins (RH), P. Macaulay, M. Chumbley and Ms C. Thelwall-Jones

09/156 Minutes of Executive Meeting 29th March 2010 were circulated, approved and signed.

09/157 Matters arising

09/143 The President had written to both the Chief Executive Francis Baron and Martyn Thomas thanking the RFU for coming to Sussex and he had a reply received from Martyn Thomas. Martyn replied **'The weekend in Sussex was a great success and I appreciate the work involved in arranging such a visit. It is clear that Sussex is a well-run, enthusiastic CB with a strong club base. It truly reflects the Core Values identified by your own Bob Rogers and promoted by the RFU to the whole game'**.

09/72 Accounts from the SA09 Tour were received by the Secretary only that morning, and further discussions will be needed as there were several matters which needed further explanation. The accounts will be reviewed by the Treasurer and discussed at the next Executive Meeting.

09/144 Community Referees - PA said that six had joined the SSRUFR and one the Hampshire Society. An end-of-season questionnaire had been sent out. An ELRA course was planned for East Grinstead in June. AC said that to function properly, Community Referees must be available, and he questioned where Community Referees' development funding would be found within the CB's budgets. PA said it was available from the RFU. The fundamental question was that a format must be found to cater for those aspiring referees within the Society, and for those who wished to act locally. GT and PB are to meet the Society within the Partnership and report back to the July Executive.

09/158 President's Report

The President had attended the Senior Vase Final at Twickenham the previous Saturday and had written to Brighton FC (RFC) on behalf of the CB congratulating them on winning the RFU Senior Vase. He had attended the 50th Anniversary Dinner at St. Francis, the Presidents XV match against St. Francis two days later and the opening of the new balcony at Hastings & Bexhill RFC. It was a privilege to attend the first level 9 match between Sussex and Surrey at Cranleigh (RCE congratulated the work done by Ken Nichols). He had seen Senior County matches at Reading and Aylesbury and Youth U14, U16 and U17 Matches at Sussex Clubs. He presented the trophies at the Shield Finals (Heathfield), Trophy Final (Hove) and the U18 KO Final at Haywards Heath. He had watched Hove beat Guernsey in the Play Off match to gain promotion to London 1 and commiserated with Uckfield who lost to Cranbrook in their SE3 Play Off Match. The President had attended a total of 30 functions in the last 7 weeks.

09/159 Treasurer - No report received.

The President, Secretary and Treasurer had met to discuss the financial arrangements of the county shop. Concern was expressed at the potential budgetary costs and the controls required for the coming season 2010/11. RH had advised a full stock was due to be undertaken shortly by Karen and Richard Siggs for the annual accounts. RH was asked to make a fuller report to the July Executive with detailed budgets for incorporation into the CB's overall budgets. The costs of providing kit to the coaches and the teams had to be financially controlled within the funds available overall. The Treasurer was requested to discuss this aspect with Karen and Richard Siggs. GT said that the Samurai contract was to be reviewed as p & p etc and other items were leading to unacceptable higher running costs. AC said that the shop needed to be taken to more CB events to generate sales. PSk said that only 3 items were available on the website as that was all that Karen and Richard Siggs had been able to set up for the shop.

RCE will be making an audit of Juniors Kit and GT to do the same for the seniors. RH & GT will produce a paper for the future organisation of the shop. A Kit Manager for the Seniors/U20 and a similar one for U14 to U18 should be appointed before next season.

PB asked that the figures required for the Strategic Action Plan be made available when required.

A GH suggestion that Club subscriptions and RDO levies for 2010-11 should rise in line with the May RPI figure was accepted. RH to advise on the revised figures for presentation to the AGM.

GT reported that seven clubs were in arrears from June 2009 for CRC levies. He was given permission to negotiate payment plans with the clubs concerned. It was not immediately clear as to which years the invoices related to and whether these were for 2009-10. GT asked to investigate the matter and confirm what the clubs could expect to be invoiced in the next month or two.

The mileage rate would remain at 30p for the coming season.

09/160 Sponsorship proposal; U15 Tigers.

R. Siggs had presented a well-argued paper on the sponsorship proposal to call the current U15 Squad 'Sussex Tigers' and they would retain this name as they progressed upwards to U18.

During lengthy discussion it was decided that:

There was no objection to giving any age group squad an appropriate sponsors name – and sponsorship by the Army was both acceptable and desirable, although it was noted that the 'Tigers' were historically the Royal Hampshire Regiment, now incorporated within the Princess of Wales Royal Regiment. Use of the word 'Tigers' long associated with Hampshire, may conflict with Hampshire RFU. (*Note: the equivalent nickname of the Royal Sussex Regiment was 'The Orange Lilies'*).

It was felt that any such name should be attached to one age-group squad for the period of sponsorship, i.e. the U15's for two or three years – and it was undesirable for the name and sponsorship benefits to follow a group through U15-U18, leaving, for instance, next year's U15's unsponsored..

However if sponsorship could also be obtained for all other Groups (i.e. RAF, RN) it may be possible to arrange matters as requested within the proposal; Nick Silk to be asked to investigate the opportunities and report to the next executive . PSk was asked to obtain and review the proposed sponsorship agreement that Richard Siggs had already sent to the PWRR and report back to the July Executive for final confirmation.

09/161 RFU Representative

Report submitted in addition GT had been in a further meeting with Brighton FC (RFU) and these were continuing.

09/162 Secretary's Report

The RRDM had now returned to work for three days a week. The RDO had also returned to work, but there was concern about his longer term health. The President would write to Andrew Scoular for temporary RDO cover in the County. The letter was to be agreed with RCE, GT & PSk. As a result of the RDO's incapacity, the CRC interviews had not been postponed, and Seal of Approval matters progress had been delayed. PSk was asked to progress the interview and appointment of the CRC.

A Junior Girls Festival at Eastbourne had revised its format following intervention from PSk. It is now a non-contact festival.

Brighton University had submitted an additional agreement for the CB Office – these would total £910 this year and for the secondary period £610 up to when the new Falmer Stadium is completed. The Secretary was asked to contact the Stadium management to see if it could be used for Representative Rugby.

09/163 People and Places/Community Rugby

GH expressed his concern about loss of momentum in Seal of Approval progress due to the RDO's temporary incapacity.

As a result of a Competitions Forum, RDP meetings had to be postponed, and he wanted full consultation when other meetings are rearranged.

P. Mercer's Facilities report had been well received and has been adopted by the RFU as a model.

09/164 Playing/CBRDP

All Senior and Junior competitions had eventually been completed. Special thanks were given to M. Richardson. The Strategic Plan had been completed incorporating an extended coaching plan.

A proposal had been made to hold Divisional CBRDP meetings – which may lead to cross-CB Junior Leagues. The CB and Schools would support in principle such a move.

RCE said that he had seen the U14, U16 and U17 matches in the last six weeks and suggested in his opinion that with a different selection policy could assist in winning more county matches.

The Alternative Pathway document is being discussed (GT will be reporting our thoughts to the RFU Council on 9th June) and there are many excellent ideas incorporated in the document including all age groups dates of birth start on the 1st September, less county matches in term-time allowing youth teams more time with their players, less overplaying and SoR coaches should coach CB teams. The problem of only holiday county matches at half term and the Christmas holidays was a sticking point for schoolmaster coaches and both the England U16 and U18 Groups.

09/165 Competitions

KN reported that all KO's and most Leagues had now been completed.

A Competitions Forum was held on 12 May (attended by 25 Clubs) and proposals to limit Sussex 1 to First XV's and re-establish a Reserves League were defeated. The current League Format would continue to 2010-2011. Proposals to start some form of Vets Competition and to incorporate the 'Bob Rogers' Cup into a new 4 level KO structure was carried. The RFU were again criticised for their failure to create a proper National 'Reserves XV's structure.

President complimented Ken on managing to bring a very difficult season to a satisfactory close. It was confirmed that the appointment of the CB representative to London District Organising Committee was within the remit of the Executive Committee after consultation with the Competitions Committee.

09/166 2010 AGM

One nomination/seconding had been received for the post of Executive Chairman. The County Diary and list of Fixtures was being compiled by RCE for the Handbook and any additional dates should be sent to him. The AGM would be held on 15th June 2010

09/167 Any Other Business

GT reported that London & SE U20's Divisional match had been played, and had been funded by London RFU.

It was agreed that a recommended Code of conduct relating Clubs not staying for a meal after matches, would be put into the Handbook. PB asked that details of CCC's & CrefC's would appear in the Handbook.

PS noted that, 25 years after he first joined the Executive, this was his last meeting, and he thanked the CB and wished it well.

RCE thanked the retiring Peter Atthis for his years of Service, including the Presidency, and said that he had fulfilled tasks that few others wished to undertake. His achievement in recruiting and setting up the Community Referees would be of long term benefit to the CB. The President also hoped that he could be available if future task groups were to be set up.

RCE also thanked Peter Sealey for his work on RFU Leagues and Competitions, and as County Secretary, President and latterly as Minutes Secretary. KN endorsed this, noting the help he had received during difficult times.

Meeting closed at 9.50.

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