

SUSSEX RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION LIMITED



Minutes of the General Meeting of Sussex RFU held at Lewes RFC on Monday 13 December 2010

Present: Peter Bailey (President; Peter Silk (Secretary), Mal Chumbley(RDO), Messers Atthis, Briscoe, Croucher, Edmonds, Edmondson, Hooker, Howorth, Mercer, Nichols, Richardson, Sealey, Thompson G, Thompson J. and Representatives from Cinque Ports, Crowborough, Eastbourne, East Grinstead, Hastings, Haywards Heath, Hellingly, Heathfield, Horsham, Lewes, Pulborough, Rye, Shoreham, Uckfield and Worthing.

10/73 Apologies for Absence: Messers Butcher, Doyle, Eley, Hopkins, D Jenkins, Harding, Keeley, Rogers, N. Silk, Wade, Norfolk Arms, Newick & Midhurst.

10/74 Minutes of the General Meeting on the 6 September 2010 were adopted and signed as a true record. Proposed: P. Bailey Seconded: P. Sealey. Minutes of the Executive Meeting on the 22 November were considered.

10/75 Matters arising: None

10/76 President's Report: He has watched two U18 and four U16 County Matches since the last General Meeting and been a guest of Crowborough, Eastbourne and Hastings and seen Heathfield in an U18 League game. In addition, he has been at an Orientation Day at Twickenham (with Ken Gordon) and has seen 3 Investic Internationals. With GT, RCE and KN, he had attended the Referee's Society Dinner. He had attended the SERDP Meeting and the Community Chairs Meeting. He attended the funeral of a long standing Eastbourne player and then learnt of the sad death of an Eastbourne/Seaford player at the tender age of 35.

10/77 Chairman's Report: Allan Butcher had been struck down with flu – no report.

10/78 RFU Representative Report – GT had circulated his report. Minute 10/68.

- He encouraged Clubs to nominate personnel for President's XV Awards.
- He congratulated Peter Sealey on his excellent work of providing the Team League results on Rugby First.

10/79 Sussex CB Accounts 2009-10. In the absence of the Treasurer, GT presented the Accounts & pointed out:

- There was a working surplus of £3274
- There was provision of £14101 for Kit County Shop most of which may be recovered by sale of stock at cost price.
- The Samurai agreement made Sussex buy larger quantities of goods of larger sizes which were more difficult to sell.
- It was agreed that the CB should give guidance to stock management (control).
- There was a Coaching Bursary which had appreciated again this year because Clubs had not used this facility to support financially coaches on coaching courses.
- The Accounts were adopted. Proposed: Brian Vincent; Seconded: Eddie Bridges.

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10/80 Junior Mini Festivals: Steve Briscoe had undertaken the task of contacting all 24 Clubs with Youth Sections asking them to outline their requirements for Junior/Mini Festivals this season. All except Worthing had replied. Worthing are meeting Wednesday to give detail to their Festivals. Steve thanked for his efforts. All festival requests received approved

10/81 Rugby Development Partnerships.

- Gary Howorth outlined the function of the 4 RDP's and what they are achieving.
- Do the Clubs send the right people to the RDP Meetings and do these representatives report back to their Clubs.
- The RDP's are for Seniors, Juniors and Minis.
- There must be a dialogue between the Club and the CRC in both directions.
- Communication is a serious problem
- It was agreed that Dina Lewis should circulate to all Clubs (5 or 6 personnel in each Club) the minutes of the each RDP Meeting and the Minutes of the Chairs of the Community Rugby to ensure that each Club knows what is going on in their patch. It is important that each RDP Chairman sends the Minutes of each RDP Meeting to Dina Lewis who will then circulate and put the minutes on the website.

10/82 Referees and SCRRG

In the absence of Iain Mitchell, Gary Howorth chaired a lively discussion on how to ensure that more referees were attracted to our game. The following points emerged:

- There was a low numbers of referees in the County who were growing old together
- The low number of Referees is a GAME PROBLEM in all CB's.
- We have a duty of care to provide qualified referees.
- The Community Rugby Group should join the Referee's Society under the CB so that the CB can give funding to develop Referee's. This funding should be equivalent to that given to Coaching.
- Referees need development – Training – Development and a Pathway.
- Clubs need to be engaged in providing referees for the Game.
- There is great support for the Club Referee who likes to referee locally.
- Each team should have a qualified referee. Thus at Senior Level, a Club with 5 senior teams should have 5 qualified referees.
- The last 4 ELRA Courses have been cancelled due to lack of participants and teachers pulling out at the last minute.
- The whole Club Seal of Approval needs qualified referees.
- Financial help should be proved by the CB to encourage players to become referees.
- We must change the culture – help the Club – no stick—no bullying – Evolution – we will have referees in 3 -5 year's time!!!
- Only 26 of the Crefs out of 77 replied to Peter Atthis questionnaire – these 26 had covered 500 games of which 350 were Youth games.
- There is a lack of Society Referees – should retiring players be asked to become a referee – most of the new referees come from Parents and Coaches
- The licensing of referees by the RFU may reduce the number of referees.
- The Referee Society should be more active in referee recruitment.

It was agreed:

1. A week in January should be chosen to audit who referees each game:

Dave Maconachie can provide a list of all the Saturday appointments

Each Club can be asked who refereed their Senior Matches on Saturday and Youth matches on Sunday. Dave can also provide a list of midweek appointments to Schools.

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2. **The Secretary should write to the Chairman of each Club asking them to provide at least one more referee in his club to referee. Clubs must take a positive attitude to funding 2 or 3 more referees to referee matches on a Saturday afternoon.**
3. **A Task Group should be set up immediately to recommend the way forward.**
4. **A Target of 1 new qualified referee per Club is recommended.**

10/83 CBRDP Alan Croucher reported

1. **County Coaches** – he reported how County Coaches were appointed – any coach who volunteered is accepted – County Squads are too large – quality rather than quantity. The Coaching and Playing Committee is looking at the present system and hopefully, quality in coaching and quality in selection will produce County teams of a much higher standard. Coaching and Playing Committee are meeting this Wednesday.
2. **Women & Girls** – he reported a full squad at U15 (31 players) and U18 (25 players) – fully staffed coaching at both levels.
3. **The CBRDP (Playing) CB Action Plan** has been written and will be submitted to the RFU.
4. **CB Matches Results:-**

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|------------------|---------|---------------------|
| Sussex U16 | 0 – 57 | Surrey U16 |
| Sussex U15 Girls | 24 - 20 | Berkshire U15 Girls |
| Sussex U15 Girls | 43 - 0 | Middlesex U15 Girls |
5. **RFU Toolkit Application** – has been submitted and approved. £5750 to be received:
 1. **Subsidised ELRA Courses in each RDP Area**
 2. CRefC Volunteer evening coordinating with Sussex Society £1000
 3. Strategic Target Club support for Girls Development. £1000
 4. CVC Workshop £750
 5. Develop Coaches (CPD sessions) £1000
 6. Volunteer recruitment and Retention £1500These Courses must be run by the CB or the RFU will give us less money in season 2011-12.

10/84 People and Places (Community)

1. **Seal of Approval** – all completed except Burgess Hill and Midhurst – Mal Chumbley was thanked for all his hard work in ensuring that the 21 Sussex Clubs had done all their paperwork correctly. He presented SoA Certificates to:
 1. Hellingly
 2. Pulborough
 3. Rye
 4. Seaford
 5. Uckfield
2. **CRC Invoices and Funding**

The RDO reminded all Clubs that they were to receive invoices for CRC's

 1. In January 2011 for the remainder of 2009-10 season
 2. In July 2011 for season 2011-12 in advance.

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10/85 Discipline

Frank Edmonds read out a statement from a recent RFU Disciplinary Hearing involving a League match involving a Sussex Club being abandoned.

1. In determining the appropriate sanction the Panel had regard to the disturbing fact that this was the 7th match to be abandoned in 2010. In contrast there were two such matters in 2009 and only one in 2008.
2. It is both clear and worrying that there is an increase in the number of these incidents. The Panel considered this to be an aggravating feature and one which necessitated the imposition of a severe sanction directed at reversing this pattern of misconduct.
3. The present incident came before this Panel despite a number of warnings issued by Disciplinary Panels that clearly indicate the utter unacceptability of such behavior and the determination of Disciplinary Panels to eradicate this from the game.
4. The sanction imposed by this Panel was accordingly more severe than others issued previously.
5. If further abandonments occur, sanctions will continue to increase in their severity.
6. All Clubs, at all levels, should be in no doubt that in future events such as these that lead to the abandonment of a fixture will result in a significant deduction in league points. This inevitable consequence of such a point's deduction may be the relegation of the clubs concerned.

Sending off

| | | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-----------|
| Adam Butterworth | Pulborough U18 | Kicking | 6 matches |
| Nathan Power | Brighton U13 | Punching | 2 matches |
| Ollie Munson | Chichester University | Dangerous tackle | 3 weeks |
| George Russell | Newick 1 | Striking | 3 weeks |

10/86 A.O.B.

- F Edmonds has not resigned from Executive – just removed in reorganisation!!
- David Hirst complained about the strength of Worthing 3 in a Sussex 1 League match
- John Thompson reported on the London RFU Meeting – A Task Group has been set up and asked to look at its future.

10/87 Date of Next Meeting Tuesday 7th March 2011 East Grinstead RFC 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.