



Minutes of the **Sussex RFU Executive Meeting** held at 7.30pm on the 3rd October 2011 at Lewes RFC.

Present: Peter Bailey (President), Allan Butcher (Chairman), Roger Edmondson (Secretary), Richard Hopkins (Treasurer), Graham Thompson (RFU Representative), Kenny Gordon (Senior VP), Frank Edmonds(Discipline) , Gavin Ross (Sponsorship & Marketing), Mike Richardson(Competitions) (joined at 8.30pm) and Peter Macaulay (RRDM).

11.26 **Apologies:**Alan Croucher and Gary Howorth

11.27 Allan Butcher opened the meeting and welcomed Gavin Ross and Frank Edmonds

11.28 **Approval of the minutes:** The minutes of the Executive Meeting held at Lewes on 22nd August had been circulated and signed as a correct record.

11.29 **Matters Arising:** None

11.30 Secretary's Report

11.30.1 Market Bosworth RFC The Secretary had circulated a letter from Market Bosworth RFC asking Sussex CB to support them in calling a Special RFU Meeting to remove Martyn Thomas from the post of Acting Chief Executive. Agreed to support Market Bosworth RFC. Letter to go to Malcolm Ross on headed note paper stating: In accordance with Rule 10.2, we wish to requisition a Special General Meeting to discuss and vote on the following resolution:

“The game has lost confidence in Martyn Thomas and resolved that he be required to resign from all RFU Executive and non-executive roles with immediate effect”

(RRDM left the meeting whilst discussion took place)

11.30.2. Club Aid Visits.

Brighton RFC 5th October PB, RCE and FE attending. RDO Report and Financial Report 2009 -10 and 2010-11 received. GT to e-mail Sue Bates to ascertain what payments are being made to RFU (CRC)

Horley – 26th October AB PB and GR

Crawley – date in November to be confirmed.

11.30.3 RDT Minutes – Chairman produced a set of minutes of the Meeting on the 6th September when the Secretary met with professional staff both in Sussex/Surrey/Kent and the RFU. A very informative and useful Meeting.

11.31 **Chairman's Report:**

11.31.1 Slaughter & May Survey. The RFU has appointed Independent auditors

(S&M) to conduct a full review on the RFU's Corporate Governance and recommend ways to enhance it. AB, RH, RCE and FE had met and produced report on suggested changes. The report was circulated and approved by the Executive. RCE circulated the report to all Clubs.

11.31.2 **Merit Tables** - £2700 received from the RFU for the work done by Peter Sealey

11.31.3 **Minute Secretary**; - Nicola Walker had resigned due to family reasons. RCE to e-mail Simon Flint to ask if he would take the job.

11.31.4 **Ardingly Report**: The Executive agreed that AB could sign the Ardingly Contract for 2012.

11.31.5 Mentors: AB, PB and Keith Martin are Mentors. Agreed that £300 budget for expenses.

11.32. **President's Report:**

The President had attended SERDP, Referees, Community Chairs and RFU Mentors Meetings and had watched matches at Eastbourne College (Sx U18), Heathfield, Newick and Eastbourne.

11.33 **Treasurer's Report:**

1. He had received from the RFU 3 tranches of money
 - a. RFU Funding
 - b. RFU SoR
 - c. Toolkit – New Club Competition/County Floodlight Competition £1000
 - Recruitment and Retention: 8 Club Activities supported: £2000
 - County Workshops and Club Aid Visits to promote CASC and Incorporation: £500
2. County Shop payments should be on line in next 10 days.
3. Gilbert Contract not signed – kit coming from both Samurai and Gilbert.
4. Kit for Coaches – RH to contact Hadon Westerby for numbers.

11.34. **Discipline Report:** Frank Edmonds reported verbally:

1. FE reminded all Clubs that when a player is sent off, the following must happen:
 - a. The Referee should send his report to Kenny Gordon within 48 hours of the sending off.
 - b. The report written by the Referee should contain a full report of what happened in the incident together with whether the player was injured etc.
 - c. The Secretary of the Club should notify the Discipline Secretary within 48 hours:
 - i) the name of the player
 - ii) the address of the player
 - iii) Contact details of the player
 - iv) Date of Birth
 - v) Registration Number
2. FE reported an article on '**Seasonal Violence**' that has been distributed by West Sussex Council to households in West Sussex. It states that the start of the football and rugby season is a time which some women dread. Studies have shown that men are most likely to attack their wives or partners when their favourite team is losing. Violence has been found to peak when a penalty is scored. Frank has written to Trish Harrison at West Sussex County Council asking her for the evidence in making these remarks about rugby. He is awaiting a reply. He is thinking of consulting the RFU Legal Officer.
3. At the recent SWRDP Meeting, a Referee attended – excellent discussion took place.

All RDP's are encouraged to invite a Referee to their Partnership Meeting.

4. A Worthing player was red carded and then the referee rescinded the red card. Was the player registered?
5. All Worthing players are registered with RFU – hence any player red carded has to be dealt with by the RFU in London – expensive – hopefully only Worthing 1 players sent off by referee will have to travel to London.
6. Safeguarding Course at Lewes on Safeguarding 12th Oct – Twickenham coming down Safeguarding Officers and Youth Chairmen should attend.
7. FE stated that it was difficult to do Governance when he was not on the Executive Committee – Chair to investigate.
8. Discipline Cases this season
 1. Luke Vuillemen Lewes Head Butt TE 10weeks
 2. Richard Adams Chichester Verbal Abuse LE 4weeks
 3. Oliver Bunn Hurst 1st Dangerous Tackle LE 2matches

11.35 Competitions

Ken Nichols was invited to attend but was in Birmingham on family business. Mike Richardson kindly substituted and reported.

1. Minis appears to be going well and Youth Meeting will be discussing the RFU pilot scheme involving teams of 4.
2. Festivals Registrations going well but Worthing have still to reply. RCE to write to BV.
3. U13 – U16 Leagues brilliant
4. U17 KO has seen the number of teams drop from 19 to 12. Leagues of 6 – top team in each League play for 1st and 2nd and second teams play off for 3rd and 4th.
5. U18 Leagues – 18 teams including Heathfield A and B teams. Premier League and Championship League.
6. Senior Leagues going very well with Worthing, Chichester and East Grinstead unbeaten. Concern about Crawley in LSE3.
7. Junior Leagues going very well – Brighton 3, Crawley 2 and Horley 2 have defaulted.
8. New teams: Ditchling 2; Midhurst 2 and Hove 6.
9. Concern was raised about Worthing 3 dropping out of Sussex 1 effectively meaning their 3 players are playing in their 4th and 5th XV. Worthing 2 and Haywards Heath 2 have also cried off.
10. Ken Nichols has e-mailed all Fixtures Secretaries that there will be a meeting at Hove on 12th October to discuss ideas for Sussex Leagues 2012-13. After the meeting each Club should then send their proposals to KN.

11.36 Sponsorship and Marketing: Gavin Ross reported:

Gavin distributed his comments on sponsorship (now called Partnership).

Wants to visit Clubs to discuss marketing etc: World Cup 2015 – Barns Green 20th birthday –

Will have to find a new print firm for the County Programmes

He outlined the rules for use of VirginTickets – no auctions but can be used in raffles and tombolas.

All Sponsors have to pay for their International tickets.

11.37 RFU Representative Report: nothing to report

11.38 Community Rugby

- 11.38.1 Peter Macaulay was asked to find out why Midhurst had not yet been notified about their Seal of Approval.
- 11.38.2 Mal Chumbley will be having a major back operation and will be off work for 6 weeks. Mick Orton will take over his duties in this period and the Chairman has agreed with the RFU that money will be made available to appoint a temporary CRC on an Agency Basis.
- 11.38.3. Chairman had a conversation with the RFU at Brentwood about getting more than 2 CRC's in 2012-13. It had been agreed that comments would be considered.
- 11.38.4 When the CRC's have to reapply for their job, it was agreed that the Executive Committee should request that the RFU involve them in the appointments procedure.
- 11.38.5. The Executive are to request that they should be involved in the RDO Appraisal system.
- 11.38.6 GT reported he had received a letter from the RFU asking Sussex to nominate 2 Volunteers for a spring International (Secretary should have received the same letter but....
Suggested: Philip Johnson – Frank to write a 100 word curriculum vitae
Alex Steele – John Thompson to do a similar report.
- 11.38.7. Rye – whole Club seal of Approval – excellent – GT thanked.

11.39 CBRDP – Alan Croucher: A report circulated – Coaching & Playing Meeting with Schools 12th Oct.

11.40 A.O.B

1. No RFU Orientation Day

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.05pm.