

Minutes of the Sussex Executive Meeting at Lewes RFC on Monday 21st November

Present: Peter Bailey (President); Allan Butcher (Chairman); Roger Edmondson (Secretary); Richard Hopkins (Treasurer); Graham Thompson (RFU Representative); Allan Croucher (CBRDP); Gary Howorth (Community Rugby); Peter Atthis (Community Referees); Kenny Gordon (SVP); Peter Macaulay (RRDM) and Simon Flint taking Minutes.

11.41: Apologies: Peter Sealey; Iain Mitchell and Phil Bowers

11.42: Minutes of the Executive Meeting on 3rd October had been circulated, approved and signed by the Chairman.

11.43: Matters Arising:

11.43.1. Midhurst RFC awarded SoA.

11.43.2. Concern was raised about 5 Clubs not putting out lower senior sides last Saturday – Crawley 2; HH3; Brighton 3 and Eastbourne 3.

Chichester 5 players will not play for Chichester 3/4. GH asked mentors of Leadership Academy to come up with a scheme to ensure teams turn out. Not all gloom Lewes 4 playing this weekend.

11.43.3. Horley Club Aid report to be circulated. Action: Secretary.

11.43.4. Brighton Club Aid – GT meeting Rick Bruin and Brighton about their Finances and ‘Sink Fund’ for 3G pitch.

11.43.5. Club Aid Crawley 23rd Nov PB, AB and RCE
Club Aid Norfolk Arms 13 Dec RCE RH + 1.

11.44: President’s Report He had attended a game at St. Francis, 2 County XV matches and Regional Partnership Meetings.

11.44.1. Sonya Da Silva has resigned as Women’s & Girls Chair

11.44.2. Ladies match at Haywards Heath on 6th Dec.

11.45: Secretary’s Report

A written report had been previously circulated.

11.45.1 Communications by the Sussex County managers of Junior Teams needs to be improved. Martin Ely (u18) was held up as an exemplar.

Action: Alan Croucher to address.

11.45.2. Graham Thompson said that the ELRA course has not been cancelled. The Conclusion of the resulting debate was that SRFU would support undersubscribed courses if the RFU was not prepared to promote courses of less than 12 people.

11.46 Treasurer’s Report

11.46.1. Richard Hopkins presented the unaudited Accounts for 2010/2011. In summary, they show an income of £98k against an expenditure of £82k. The surplus of £16k compares with a budgeted deficit of £9k. The result is a Balance Sheet showing £85k of assets

11.46.2. In the past, a figure of £25k was regarded as prudent sum for reserves and this was subsequently upgraded to £50k to cover increased expenditure on CRCs. £9,250 is in the budget for 2011/2012 to cover CRCs and extra monies will not be required this year. Allan Butcher recommended that the stocks be revalued so that surplus stock can be shifted and this led to agreement that there should be a rationalisation of the many different lines currently on offer.

11.46.3. The Accounts will be signed by three officers and were to be submitted to the Auditors. **Action Richard Hopkins**

11.46.4. Both the full County and u15 actual kit expenditures were questioned as they were £2k over budget. Some of the full County kit has been returned.

11.47. Schools & Strategy Plan

11.47.1. The Schools for Rugby Report is to be submitted at the January 2012 meeting.
Action Alan Croucher

11.47.2. The Strategy Plan is due to be submitted on 15 December 2011. A Draft will be circulated 22 November 2011. Alan Croucher requested that each member of the Executive propose 6 Actions to be monitored and tracked over the period of the Plan.
Action Executive to submit by 30 November 2011.

11.47.3. The Draft is to be reviewed by the Executive and any comments to be submitted To Alan Croucher by 30 November 2011. **Action Executive**

11.48. Referees

11.48.1. Unfortunately Iain Mitchell and Phil Bowers were unable to attend the meeting. There was an issue over the timing of the invite. **Action Roger Edmondson to review future invitees and to ensure notice is given.**

11.48.2. There is currently a shortage of referees with not all Sussex 3 matches receiving a SSRFUR referee. One immediate solution may be to make contact with the London Society as it is believed that it might have a surplus. (Care needs to be taken as Horley has had on occasions had two referees from the two societies.)

11.48.3. Private Schools require a Society referee for their Saturday matches. London Society could also be a solution for this shortage.

11.48.4. Thanks to the efforts of Peter Atthis many school teachers have attended the ELRA course resulting in coverage for junior school matches.

11.48.5. A collection of suggestions were made to help alleviate the shortage of referees.

11.48.5.1. Details of Community Referees listed in the Handbook should also include club affiliation so that needy clubs can identify referees in their areas.

11.48.5.2 Clubs should provide SSRFUR with a minimum of one referee per team entered in the Leagues.

11.48.5.3. A review of the new Appointment System which may have alienated occasional referees.

11.48.5.4. Transitional funding to be maintained for community referee shirts which provide status.

11.48.5.5. Insurance and legal implications of not using a qualified referee was discussed.

11.48.5.6. The need for Referees at different levels to have a CRB check was unclear.

Action Frank Edmonds (Jackie Coleman) to clarify

11.49. Website

11.49.1. Peter Sealey is reviewing the options for the Website but he reports that the current one is functioning satisfactorily.

11.50. Sussex Administration

11.50.1. Dina Lewis, administrator, is due to take two months leave in December 2011 and January 2012. A number of options were discussed to cover her. It was decided because it was a quiet period that her role could be covered as follows:

- County Shop Richard Hopkins (& Allan Butcher)
- Website Peter Sealey
- County Sec Roger Edmondson
- Others (inc Ardingly) Allan Butcher

Action: Roger Edmondson to ensure that post and emails can be redirected to him.

11.50.2. Mal Chumbley, RDO, is due to return to work early December following surgery.

11.51. RFU Representative Report

11.51.1 A written report had been previously circulated.

11.51.2 . A new CEO cannot be appointed until there is a new Chairman.

11.51.3. Slaughter & May report is awaited.

11.52. CBRDP

11.52.1. Women's XV has been causing concern, however the appointment of Alice Hayes has been refreshing. She has created a fresh momentum and the squad has a nucleus of 31 players. U15 and u18 have a different representation.

Action Roger Edmondson to invite Robin Gale to next meeting.

11.52.2. U14 Programme is being developed and headed by Mick Orton. The programme includes not only installing the correct infrastructure for today's needs but also a pipeline of future coaches. The programme includes providing the correct pathway of development for existing and prospective coaches.

11.52.3. The Master Class for coaches scheduled for 21 November 2011 has been cancelled because it was undersubscribed.

11.52.4. John Thompson has reported that Sussex was the only County not represented at a recent U20 London Division meeting. A copy of London & South East Division notes were passed to Alan Croucher for comment.

Action Roger Edmondson to ensure Sussex is represented at future U20 meetings.

11.53. Community Rugby

11.54.1 The funding of CRCs – this was to be the topic of a single topic session scheduled for 30 November 2011 at Horsham RUFC.

Action Roger Edmondson to invite Partnership Chairs.

11.54.2 Leadership Academy has started and Mentors are in place

11.54.3. CVC Workshop scheduled for 2 November 2011 has been postponed.

11.54.4 Meeting of Safeguarding Officers was attended by seven. This was Disappointingly low. There is a need to check the circulation list and that they are the current club representatives.

11.54.5 Two safeguarding courses are planned for 2012 at Chichester and Uckfield.

11.54.6 Dan Brown is to address the County General Meeting on 5 December 2011 on Leisure Rugby.

11.54.7 There are educational courses (£50 per course) for non society referees.

11.54.8 Dave Bennett of Crowborough has mounted a Girls recruitment campaign for SE RDP.

11.54.8 Dragon's Den session, with a potential £3k on offer for Clubs to "shoot" for, is planned for Hove in February 2012.

11.54.9 Gary Howorth to discuss Action Plan with Alex Handley of RFU.

11.55 AOB

11.55.1 RDT Meeting is planned for 6 December 2011.

Action Allan Croucher to attend.

11.55.2 SRFU will not be funding new goal posts for schools.

11.55.3 Peter Bailey appealed to the Executive to vote for Eddie Bridges on line who was seeking an Energy Save grant.

11.55.4 Peter Bailey reported that St Francis was anxious to secure its outstanding Ground match funding. It had difficulty in contacting Rick Brewer who has recently been on leave.

11.55.5 Peter Atthis was concerned about the employment responsibilities if CRCs are reduced to two. SRFU is committed to financing two CRCs but the issue is who employs them.

11.56 DONM

The next Executive meeting will be as scheduled at 7.00pm on 23 January 2012 at Lewes RFC.

General Meeting on Monday 5th December at Lewes RFC at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.