

Minutes of AGM held in Clubhouse 5 June 1995.

Meeting was opened by the President, Alan Wooller and there were approx. 59 to 60 members present.

Apologies for absence were received from A.Brunt Secretary, D. Bark Treasurer, Messrs. Burrows, Webb, Sulway and Nichols.

The minutes of the 1994 AGM were approved and the Chairman Mark Dutton gave the Secretary's report on behalf of Mr. Brunt.

The Treasurer's report for the Season was given by Harry Broomhead acting on behalf of Dave Bark.

Captain's report for 1994/95 was given by Mike Truron.

He concluded by thanking members for the support, the Coaches and the Fixture Secretary, Bar and Kitchen Staff, the players in both the League and Non-League matches and all people involved.

Chairman's report for 1994 was given by the Chairman, Mark Dutton.

President's report was given by Alan Wooller.

The President whilst putting on report his pleasure in the 2year occupancy of the Presidency, he reminded all present of the continuing need for support and active help on a continuous basis from members if the present progress of the Club was to flourish and continue at a high standard at all times in the future.

Then followed the election of Officers for 1995/96 Season:-

President	-	D. Bark
Chairman	-	M. Dutton
Secretary	-	A.C. Brunt
Asst. Sec.	-	A. Wooller
Treasurer	-	V. Thomas
Asst. Treasurer	-	A. Gilbody
Fixture Secretary	-	A. Chettoe
Captain of Club	-	N. Webb

On the General Committee 3 new members were Keith Eaton, Dave Roberts & John Taylor.

The Duly Elected County Representative was Alan Wooller. The only Chairman of the sub-committee's was the Rugby Chairman which went from Mike Truron to Neil Webb.

The remaining positions were confirmed as Dave Roberts Social Secretary, Bill Lowe Bar Secretary and Vic Thomas Membership, Press & PR Secretary.

Teams Captains duly elected were Neil Webb and Shaun Griffin as 1st Team Captain and Vice Captain. Mark Ogden and Steve Tunstall were 2nd Team Captain and Vice Captain. Dave Pickersgill and Keith Ibbottson were 3rd Team Captain and Vice Captain and Henry Betts and Alan Chettoe as 4th Team Captain and Vice Captain, Harry Minchin as 5th Team Captain.

Any Other Business:

1. Mike Ridgeway asked if the Players meeting was to be held and the Chairman replied it should be arranged amongst themselves and it duly took place after training.
2. Paul Dutton asked how Mark Dutton's visit to the School had gone, and the Chairman replied on this matter.
3. P. Nicholls asked what consideration to style of play in the future had been given, and suggested a five year plan should be taken on adopted. He also asked about the number of coaches in varying positions and whether coaches should be from within or outside the club. The chairman replied the general committee would discuss

these matters.

4. B. Wilkinson and J. Taylor stressed it was important that the success of last season be kept going forward. The chairman agreed with this thought but pointed out that there was no easy solution.
5. M. Caufield suggested a Suggestion Box, Harry Minshall asked about the availability of a playing kit for 1995/96 and P. Girdham finished the meeting by expressing the pleasure that Agecroft's Players had felt given the Welcome and Reception by the Eccles Club that they were happy to be with us.

The meeting duly closed at 10.20pm.

## Secretary's Report - 1994/95 Season.

Firstly on a national level the past year has been a monumental year in terms of the changes that have taken place. Briefly in August 1995 the International Board passed a resolution which allowed players to be paid for playing the game. The RFU then appointed a commission to look into the full implications of the open game and in the meantime put a moratorium on payment at all Club, County and Divisional levels. Therefore allowing people to be paid during the 1995/96 Season at International level.

There then followed a lot of discussion on the open game, the right to decide with RFU statements by the EPRUC which represented the English top 2 leagues, and this finally came to a head at the special general meeting which was held on Sunday 14th February whereby the RFU expected to get a rubber stamping for their man. John Jeffers-Fellows as Chairman of the Executive.....?

The junior clubs revolted, probably more than anything because they hadn't been consulted, and when you think the RFU consists of 1000 clubs, it did appear that there was a plan to steamroll things through without full consultation. The AGM ended in a farce, nothing was passed apart from the Election of Cliff Brittle as Chairman of the Executive it was therefore agreed to have a further AGM in March which would enable the RFU to take on board the comments made by the various clubs when they had answered the RFU questionnaire. basically a questionnaire was sent out prior to the first special general meeting, to be handed in at the special general meeting therefore it would only be used for reference and nobody had to take particular notice of it. One of the big complaints at the SGM was that this was a farcical arrangement. Surely they should be in and someone should assess the feeling and make a report on the percentages of the clubs who thought this, that or the other. Therefore it was decided that the results of the questionnaires would be published prior to the SGM and the Executive would take on board the comments that had been put down.

The second SGM duly took place on Sunday 24 March 1996 where it was decided that the RFU Executive should join in negotiations with EPRUC Ltd with a clear mandate to keep the control of the game with the RFU, the rest of it has been well documented in the press with EPRUC under the chairmanship of Donald Kerr, but with Peter Wheeler being particularly vociferous and Brittle taking an equally strong view on behalf of RFU. There also has been a threat of a break-away but as you will know, last week it was resolved with what was most people will be inclined to think a climbdown by the RFU in that the money, which is what it has all been about, raised from the competitions will go to the clubs, but the control of the game is still clearly under the RFU.

To conclude we have received a letter this week from Cliff Brittle the Chairman of RFU which I will skip through very briefly.

At county level, the county have been very good at keeping us informed of events with the RFU and have their own strong opinions on this matter. 1 of the 2 county reps, who are Malcolm Phillips and Peter Hughes the Referee who spoke at the last dinner, Malcolm Phillips was actually on the Cliff Brittles negotiation committee so their has been a very accurate insight. One other thing at County level, as you know we offered the ground to Lancashire and as a result hosted a Lancashire Schools U16 against a Lancashire Clubs U16 and hope to do some more of that which raises the profile of the Club.

Lastly, our contact with the Lancs. County Rugby Club Union Disciplinary Committee has been excellent in that we haven't been brought in front of them this year.

### Eccles.

This year the rugby sub-committees have functioned reasonably effectively, we have a Ground & Pavilion, Finance, Rugby and Social, but some have definitely been more effective than others, hopefully the next year we will have even more effective subcommittees which result in more efficient general committees.

Details can be confirmed and rubber stamped as opposed to.....? as you realise from the .....? £60,000 per year and it need efficient organisation. The general committees met every month, attendances have been good and generally speaking the last year I feel has been certainly from an organisational view and getting things done has been a good one. Working through the season the new changing rooms were opened by the President of Lancashire, Ernie Neeley prior to the Lancs. U16 match. A centenary committee has been formed to deal with the centenary eventy which will first of all be the publication of a centenary handbook which should be available for the start of the season at a price of £

*and these will be available from K. Eaton. It is intended to have some functions of some shape or form every month culminating in a centenary dinner which where hopefully past captains, presidents will attend, this will either be at.....? or more likely in a marquee here if we can coincide it with a similar event with the juniors and a dinner/dance which I think will be held at the ..... in June 1997.*

*During the year the annual dinner was held at the Liberal Club, and had very contrasting speeches from Peter Hughes, Vice President of Lancashire and I from Ian Scott-Brown a former referee. Various other social functions were held throughout the year, some well supported, some not but the final social function of the season, the marquee event was an absolutely incredible success, for which Colin Whitehead and his wife are being formally thanked and others mentioned in despatches, the rest of the junior committee in particular along with John Whiteside and Dave Roberts and everybody else who helped. It's obviously going to be an event of the future.*

*On the ground and pavilion front, I have got here the minutes of the meeting held earlier in 1995 to outline future projects, and the major project we itemised possible ideas being:-*

*Gym and equipment,  
extending the Clubhouse,  
all weather changing area including lights and floodlights*

*and I can tell you at the moment a lottery application is being put together to extend the changing rooms and to give extended changing facilities and gymnasium along with floodlights and other bits and bobs, and we think there is a reasonably good chance of getting something which will be marvelous.*

*The following items were highlighted as minor projects and have rated them in this order:-*

- 1. Move Kitchen to Committee Room*
- 2. Buy new furniture*
- 3. Overhaul the pitch*
- 4. Nets behind the Poach*
- 5. Build a porch on the front to make the entrance more welcoming and therefore increase revenue from outside functions.*
- 6. Get cable TV installed*
- 7. Turn visitors 3 changing room into a cloakroom*
- 8. Extend the canopy across the clubhouse.*

*If you count the cable TV which is coming in next week, we have done 6 out of 8 which is good. And you will see there is a list on the noticeboard of things we would like to get done in the close season which anyone can feel free to join in. One of the more immediate ones will be the topdressing which will be arriving in the next week or two and will require chucking around the pitch.*

*On the junior front, we have made efforts to increase communication between the junior section and the main body, this has been done by Chairman attending the junior committee meetings and the juniors representative increased from 1 Brian Wilkinson to 2 Brian and Colin Whitehead purely to increase communications so that they become fully integrated and further recognise the growth and contribution by the junior section, by asking them to give a report today.*

*On the medical side, towards the end of the season we tried to formalise the medical coverage, Dr. Noone very very kindly volunteers to pop down when he can, what we are trying to sort out at the end of the season is have a formal rota which will again be filled mainly by Dr. Noone but his missing dates will be covered by some of the other recognised medically trained members of the club, and you should also note that one of the jobs for the close season is to refurbish the first aid room.*

*To wind up - I will not be thanking all the people who keep the club going, I'm sure Mark will be doing that later but those who specifically helped with the Secretarial function, Vic who does a lot of the administration, help getting the letters out for the AGM and helps with the raffle and a lot of other timeconsuming jobs, and I have deliberately dwelt on finance and rugby which will be addressed in the captains report and the financial report.*