



# Eccles Rugby Football Club

Founded 1897

President: E. Crookell

Ground and Clubhouse:

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## Minutes for Annual General meeting – 5<sup>th</sup> June 2006

### **Welcome from President**

Ernie welcomed everyone, and thanked them all for their efforts over the season,

Very good season with some silverware to show,

Eccles 5 Times made the 2005/6 Lancashire Roll Of Honour

In no particular order

Eccles Under 16's- Winners of EFE Lancashire Junior Challenge Plate

Coached by George Glover & Brian Griffiths, - assisted by Greg Wilson

Jordan Davies – (Eccles under 16's) received – Mike Tetley's Plate final Man of match

EFE Reporter of the Year – Carolyn Radcliff – (Eccles Under 16's Manager)

International Honours – Alex Hurst – Eccles Under 16's

The Peter Atkins Club person of the Year – Harry Broomhead.

This proves we are moving in the right direction.

### **Apologies**

Brian Wilkinson, Simon Donavon, Alan Bent , Stuart Smith, Billy Borrett, Shawn Griffin ,Dave Morton, Shaun Griffin,

### **Review of last years minutes**

Roy Sulway proposed- Harry Broomhead seconded.



## Eccles Rugby Football Club AGM 2005-2006

### **Treasurers Report**

Andy Brunt explained that the lack of someone capable of doing the clubs end of year accounts meant that there was no figure head to give the report, - this has now been addressed with Greg standing for Treasurer (trainee accountant final year). We have also been given the professional support of Sarah from the ladies team, who is an accountant and qualified auditor, and John Whiteside has put in a lot of work to get the last two years accounts and the VAT inspection is now complete. The accounts have now been passed onto Sarah.

The 2004 and 2005 accounts are now available for anyone wishing to see, the 2006 accounts will be available at the next months committee meeting, anyone wishing to see them is invited to attend / ask for copy. For next year, the accounts should be better organised with the placement of Greg Wilson as treasurer, who will collate all transactions, Billy Borrett, who banks the money, Dave Pickersgill pays out money and Sarah will oversee all proceedings.

Although things may seem sloppy at the moment, things are much better managed than ever with more people sharing the load, which for a club of this size has become too much work for one person. We are now finally on top of things, and should remain so.

Andy asked for questions from the floor, - are we in credit – Yes.

### **Secretaries Report**

Notification that player registration (both senior and junior) is changing to the 'Trafalgar System' The plan is for this to be up and running for the beginning of next season, with tests & trials taking place prior to this. It has replaced the old registration systems and is being used by all youth and senior registrars for registration of players. It is currently being developed to allow club registrars to register all their players online. This will cut out the need for sending forms to the regional registrar and should speed up the process as a whole, whilst giving you access to online information about who exactly is registered.

The R.F.U. tabled two options for the structure of the leagues.

Option 1. Two additional teams would join each league, resulting  
In four extra league games per season. To accommodate  
This cup competition would be dropped.

Option 2. The present league structure and cup competition would  
Be retained.

The committee voted for option 2.

This was the winning option.



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Fixtures for League and Plate competition have now been received, First 1<sup>st</sup> team league game is Away to Heaton Moor on the 9<sup>th</sup> September and we've been drawn at home to Sefton in the plate, that's to be played before or upon the 27<sup>th</sup> August.

2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> teams leagues have been finalised, but no dates posted to date.

More recently this month we have been notified by The RFU that the RFU conditional Funding scheme will be terminated and in its place, the RFU will centrally fund ALL player accident insurance, together with clubs public liability and employer liability polices.

Player insurance would have been £450 per team for 2006/07, plus our premises insurance due in February should decrease with the removal of the liability cover.

Therefore seems the right move for Eccles.

**Don't forget the player insurance is a minimum cover and players should seek their own personal additional insurance if required.**

With the new licensing laws, the club applied and Notification of the new Club Premises licence was granted.

A letter from De La Salle RUFC Re – The Chris McGuirk Appeal Fund Rugby 10's tournament to be held over the weekend of 29/30<sup>th</sup> July 2006. £100 minimum donation to enter has been paid, now we just need a team to win it.

Cash back from the Guinness premiership final at HQ (a good day out enjoyed by all,) raised £1,000.00 for Chris's appeal fund and around £300 for Multi Neurone the Neil Pennington charity, which we hope to raise money for next year by running a similar trip

The club has applied for player compensation for 3 of our young players moving to higher division teams

Sam Simpson – moved to Fylde and received most improved player this year – we received - £525.00

We have applied to Tyldesley for Scot Morton – and are still pursuing. £150

And also to Sedgley Park for James Atkins – who may be rejoining us. £150

The club has learnt a lot of lessons with the management / communication with the colts. And although we want them to fulfil their full potential and play as high as possible, meeting have been had with Sale sharks on placement of players.

Negotiations for Chris Parrot, who to date is our most successful player, seems to be more difficult than it should be,

We have proved that Chris is not just a one of with the Under16's Alex Hurst playing for England and scoring in all games played. Definitely one to watch in the future, which ever code he chooses to play.



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Success of club will be reflected in the continued growth of the Junior section, there are still a few gaps in teams and this will be addressed with the appointment of a Community Rugby Coach – full details to follow –

But with success - this means more help is required to coach the future of our club.

Coaching courses are provided and next week another 8 people are attending the level 1 with additional names already for the next course. BUT STILL MORE REQUIRED.

The club received £520 + V.A.T. for reaching the 3<sup>rd</sup> of the Powergen Vase.

Player Discipline has been good with No disciplinary cases for the seniors and a few minor incidents internally handled for the younger players with higher testosterone levels

The All-weather area has been a resounding success, and has also helped with the wear and tear on the pitches. A massive thanks to Ted for all the hard work put in to make the pitches and facilities are second to none.

Sale Sharks were looking for somewhere to hold a training camp. The club was approached by Tom Mapp R.D.O. to see if we could accommodate them. The camp took place on the 21<sup>st</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb and was a success.

Something we are looking to do ourselves with the appointment of the Community Rugby coach. Why line Sales pockets.

The Fossils section continues to do sterling work by turning up for work parties on Thursdays to keep both the interior and exterior of the clubs facilities clean. Always looking for new recruits.

Billy suggested the formation of a sub committee to coordinate and manage sponsorship and money raising events.

He has started this and with the help of Carolyn Radcliff (manager of next seasons Junior Colts) have started collecting sponsors for a match day program. Please contact Bill or Carolyn if you can assist in any way.

Billy & Bill Low have done some sterling work on the Brewery Rep to negotiate better deals, which in turn means we've kept the prices to a minimum.

But we are due for a price increase.

£1,154 has been raised through the R.F.U raffle Thanks once again to Carl Dutton.

Still the same people / teams supporting the club, please do your best to sell your tickets this year.

Following a vote it has been decided to move the committee night from the last Thursday of the month to the last Monday of the month.

Glen proposed we make the club "no smoking venue" – The committee discussed the proposal and thoughts at this time are that this should be raised in the AGM for all members to vote on. The club is still a no smoking venue on Sundays and Wednesdays. (Juniors) - AOB



## Eccles Rugby Football Club AGM 2005-2006

### Captains Report

Senior report by Glen Cahill.

**3<sup>rd</sup> team** information from Radar was start of the season was slow with disappointing results, put down to the influx of new inexperienced players coming through, not just from the colts, but from new adult players being introduced who were new to the game. Once greater experience, confidence and more cohesion as a team was achieved they started to jell and results improved, finishing the league in 10<sup>th</sup> place, and winning the last 4 games convincingly. Special thanks to Gary Hamer, for his support to Radar. Kevin McConnel voted player of the year.

**2<sup>nd</sup> team** narrowly missed out on promotion, finishing joint 3<sup>rd</sup> but losing out on points difference, playing a more expansive game than last year with the backs seeing more ball, and a good mix of experienced players and young up and coming players from the colts. Danny Johnson was voted player of the year.

#### **1<sup>st</sup> team**

Results were pretty encouraging on the hole, proved we can play well against and beat the very top teams, the only team we failed to beat this season was Aldwinians who actually won the league. But had tendency to lower our game to that of the opposition. Training commitment dropped off around Christmas which had a detrimental effect on the pitch. We have improved this year and a lot of credit must go to the coaches, Brunty, Dave Nicholls, and Gary Greaves.

Massive thanks to Adam Wilkinson for his vice captaincy.

This is a young team who will become good and strong together as long as the commitment comes from the players to train hard as a team.

Ginger Kev – Most improved  
Danny Kirkham – Players Player  
Andy Maddock – Captains Player

### Ladies

Shelly Powe gave report.

Very difficult season for us, we currently have 7- 8 players available.

Ladies have been playing in the development league which allows you to play with 10, 12 or 15 players, this is called before they play and the team numbers are equal. Unfortunately the only game won was when we played with only 9 players and this does not count. All games have been a lot closer than the season before.

The obvious need is for new players, and this is being addressed by joining a summer touch rugby league, this is mixed sex and will benefit the whole club, they are therefore looking for male members to join the squad as we have been approached to enter 2 teams.

Ladies are joining the same league next season.



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### Senior Colts

Trevor Parrott gave report,

A mixed but positive season, mainly an under 18s team playing in u19 league.

Came 4<sup>th</sup> in league – highest Lancashire side, beat every team in the league, including team who won, (Sale RFC)

Got to final of Lancashire and Cheshire league cup, but were unfortunately beaten again by our bogy team Wirral.

Semi-final of Lancashire under 18s Cup – knocked out by Aspull

Did not finish on a high as we would of liked to of done, but other than that thought it was very positive.

### Junior Colts

Colin Titley gave report.

Colin Atkins stepped down from coaching the team, and Carl Johnson came in, good pre-season on fitness but then due to holidays lost momentum. When season started Carl was just finding his feet with the lads, so by Christmas, team had 1 win, 1 draw and the rest were defeats. After a talk at Christmas, season turned round with only 1 defeat in the league and being knocked out of the cup. A lot of adversity over the season, but finishing on a high. Colin finished by thanking Steve Cartwright for his support, as he had done lions share over the season.

### Juniors

Report given by Mark Dutton.

Mark started his report, by pointing out that the junior section of the club is the future. Special thanks to all the helpers, we have in excess of 250 registered junior players from under 16 down to U7, Takes some managing, from coaches, managers, helpers and especially the referees, Alan Chettoe, Trevor Howarth, Steve Tunstall.

We are one in four clubs in Lancashire that field a Junior section, fantastic achievement for this club as we have no feeder schools who play rugby union, and rugby league is a fair competitor in this area.

Mark explained the structure of the junior section and how the leagues and cups are implemented, giving the players something to play for.

Under 13s and u16 both played in the Lancashire plate finals with the under 13s loosing out to Aldwinians, but the u16 winning against Blackburn.

Alex Hurst from the u16 first player to represent the top England Team.

All junior teams very strong but need to start retaining some of these excellent players when they progress into the senior section from the colts, the easiest way of doing this is working harder to get the first team into a higher league.



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Most important progression is the future employment of the rugby community sports coach, interviews taking place next Wednesday, part funded by the city of Salford, the RFU and by us. This means we will have a full time coach, doing 18.5 hours for Salford council, and 18.5 hours for Eccles and the RFU, but as the person will be coaching rugby for Salford, we see this as a full time position working for us. This will be a massive step forward for Eccles Rugby football club. The club has found funding for the position and therefore there will be no financial implication onto the club.

The junior section has only two teams missing, u11s and u15s and these will be the two age groups the position will target as a priority.

Mark finished by reiterating that its no good having all these players if you don't have the helpers to coach, manage and support the infrastructure required to run these teams, and thanked these volunteers for their continued support and hard work.

### **Chairman's comments**

Andy Brunt

As can be seen from previous reports, there is still work to be done, but progress is being made. The work done in the past on the buildings and setting up / growing of the junior section is now paying dividends.

With most of the essential building works completed, (other projects need to be done but are desirable rather than essential) we have found more time in committee to concentrate on the rugby which is a nice change.

Although the club has put things right with the development of the junior section, the club is still scared from the demise of the colts from years ago. The membership profile is very low from the years we had no colts team. Thorpey was the last colts captain before the break who is now 43, and the oldest of the youngest colts coming through is Chris Shaw who is 23. So we are now paying the price for that 20 year gap. This was reflected this season with older members helping out. Radar, Gary Hamer and Derek Pearson helping out on the 3<sup>rd</sup> team and Paul Makinson and Thorpey on the 2nds, due to the lack of late 20 year olds.

We still need the support of the older ones but we may need to ask the younger ones to do things sooner than we should, but be mindful of not overloading them. The good news is that we have two of last years colts on the committee this year, one standing for treasurer this year.

Andy reiterated Marks comments about the 1<sup>st</sup> team standard rising to higher levels, to match the demands of a strong junior section. This is a common felling within the club from all areas in the club.

The appointment of the new community rugby coach will help massively with addressing some of the failings of the whole club development plan.

Andy finished by thanking the bar and cleaning staff, all the volunteers, Fossils work party, finance committee, referees, Ted for ground and pavilion, Billy for the bar, all coaches, managers etc ,we are very fortunate to have committed people.



## Eccles Rugby Football Club AGM 2005-2006

### Comfort Break

### Election of Officers

1<sup>st</sup> Captain - 1 nomination Glen Cahill  
Vice Captain – Sandy Howarth, Tom Chapman & Andy Madocks – Andy won.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Captain – 1 nomination Chris Shaw  
Vice Captain – 1 nomination Martin Ogden  
3<sup>rd</sup> Captain - No nomination, TBA  
Vice Captain – Gary Hamer  
President –1 nomination Ernie  
Chair – 1 nomination Andy Brunt  
Sec – 1 nomination Paul Thorpe  
Ass sec – 1 nomination John Murphy  
Tres – 1 nomination Greg Wilson  
Ass Tres –1 nomination Billy Borrett  
Ass tres 1 nomination Dave Pickersgill  
Fixtures Sec –1 nomination Don

General Committee –Radar (AKA Neil Webb) Garry Grieves reinstated

One place left open for any one to apply for.

### AOB

#### **Changes to club rules for CASC status.**

Replace 15.14 with the following clause :-

*Membership of the Club shall be open to all persons irrespective of ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, religion or beliefs; or of age, sex or disability except as a necessary consequence of the requirements of Rugby Union as a particular sport.*

*The Club may refuse membership or expel from membership only for good and sufficient cause, such as conduct or character likely to bring the Club or sport into disrepute. Appeal against such a decision may be made to the Club's members and decided by a majority vote.*

#### **Vote – 100% for**

Delete the last sentence of rule 5.4 "There shall be no obligation to state any reason for the rejection of an application." (for membership)

Replace the dissolution clause with:

*In the event of the dissolution of the Club, any assets remaining after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the Club, but shall be given or transferred to one or more of the following approved sporting bodies:*



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1. *A registered charitable organisation.*
2. *Another Club which is a registered CASC.*
3. *The sports national governing body for use by them for related community sports.*

**Vote – 100% for**

We also need to propose a resolution to "*To allow Eccles RFC to disapply the requirement to undertake a full professional audit and substitute it with an audit exemption report*" for the Financial year 2005 2006.

This is because our turnover for the proceeding year has gone over the £90,000 threshold which means we have to do submit a full professional audit or alternatively an audit exemption report.

**Vote – 100% for**

Club development plan discussed – to be re-written and actions placed against the new Community sports coach, plus actions completed removed.

Appointment of Community sports Coach discussed , wages paid by city of Salford, funded by Salford council, RFU and Eccles RFC. Sponsor found and sports match received, therefore no financial strain put on club.

Blue shorts – not to be allowed –

Proposal for everyone in the club to ware white shorts. – Colts to change back to white.

**Hand Vote taken – clear majority for proposal.**

Don expressed his concern on some of the referees expenses, all to keep an eye on.

Proposal of complete No smoking ban except for private functions ( their choice)

**Hand Vote taken – clear majority for proposal.**

Greg asked for all membership to be paid by Direct Debit ASAP.

**Meeting closed**