



Eccles Rugby Football Club

Founded 1897

President: E. Crookell

Ground and Clubhouse:

Gorton Street, Peel Green, Eccles, Manchester M30 7LZ. Telephone: 0161 789 2613. Web site: ecclesrfc.org.uk

Minutes for Annual General meeting – 3rd June 2013

Welcome from the Club President - Mr. Ernie Crookell

Ernie Crookell opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the 117th AGM. He congratulated Glen the first team captain for 2nd place in the league. He then handed the meeting over to our chairman Andy Brunt.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Paul Fleming, Sean Griffin, William Borrett, Trev Parott, Mark Dutton, Henry Guetts, and Paul Bates

Minutes from Previous AGM

Andy Brunt asked if he needed to read the minutes from the previous AGM – however these had been circulated by email and put on the Webb site for all to read and it was therefore deemed unnecessary to read through them. The acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Peter Jones and seconded by Raymond Cook.

Treasurer's report (Greg Wilson)

Copy of the accounts given out and Greg put them up on the projector screen; he went through the balance sheets and some of the movement's year on year.

Bank accounts split between 2 figures, one is for the astro turf as this will need replacing soon, it may be one or two years depending on test results. £7.5K repayments being made to the RFU loans, they are interest free. Figures accrued due to marquee weekend at end of the season.

The P&L showed a slight increase of £1k compared to a loss of £13k last year.

Exceptional items include fencing to car park area, although this was covered by a grant/loan from the RFU. The club benefited from Dave Bennetts will of £3K. The bar is still a main contributor with a net value of £23K seeing £0.5K increase from last year although the margin has stayed the same. We will therefore have to look at reducing the cost from the brewery and possible price increases. Room hire has increased and we have also received money from the filming of the music video. Special thanks to Martin P for the improvement of the membership money.

Playing expenses increased by £2K this is mainly due to First Team and Ladies travel expenses although Ladies travel has for the first time been covered partly by the RFU. Pitch maintenance has increase mainly due to tractor maintenance and astro turf inspection.

International tickets is a big contributor thanks to Carolyn R, bag packing is anew contributor thanks to Monica B. Trevor Ps summer camps continue to raise money. Thanks to the Duke of Edinburgh for being self-funding, although £2k had been made available if required. As the club expands we will continue to incur additional expenses.

The handbook/diary cost £700 per year could be something we need to have a look at.

Insurance set to get bigger, also utility bills set to increase.

Cash flow was explained as £73K incoming, and £60K outgoing leaving a surplus of £13K surplus. After repaying the RFU loan of £7.2K and putting money aside for the astro turf of £9.6K this leaves a net deficit of £4K. We therefore need to look at improvements of costs and improving of revenue. More work to be done on sponsorship.

Annual dinner figures explained why the ticket prices are so high. Greg explained that we only cover the cost of the marquee but the weekend improved bar take and also provides the marquee for the Junior presentation on the Sunday which is invaluable.

Greg asked for any questions, Carol Pass asked whether the £2K funding for the D of E be continued to be made available for the coming years. It was explained that £2K per year would be made available if required but any unused monies would not role over.

Secretary's Report (Paul Thorpe)

I am going to start as usual with a huge thanks to Carolyn as assistant Sec, This season brought the introduction of rolling Subs, which seemed to be well received.

New Referees – Mike Bateman and Shaun Baines are doing a marvellous job, thanks to all referees, without them we would not have a game.

After a long search we eventually found the services of a good club Physio. Siobhan. The Club has also seen the launch of a new web site, thanks to Mark and Iain, also with a focus on branding giving the club a more professional image for this technological age. The kitchen has been made bigger to cope with the demand of this ever increasing club membership, we have all but one Junior team, and thanks to Billy and Gary, who managed to raise a 4th team for a good part of the season. Ambulance access problem resolved with St. Gilberts for pitches

under tunnel. Combination locks to be put on gates and a select number of people to be given combination number. New Fence has now been erected, across the car park. Thanks to sponsorship from John Langslow. Dogs on club premises – inside and outside need to be kept on leads – more control. Colts final day once more successfully held here at Eccles, Thanks to all those who volunteered. There has been much debate over the season over the structure of the first team league, to reduce the travel to Cumbria. Voting is now taking place on a couple of options. The club dinner tried a new format, with no expensive speaker, and this was well received by the majority of attendees - all please give your feedback to the new committee. A quick reminder that anyone who has not paid their subs and is under 18, is not allowed to vote, Finally, a reminder that player insurance is a minimum cover and players should seek their own personal additional insurance if required

Rugby reports

Club Captain (Glen Cahill)

Our Third team, have had a great season, eventually finishing second to secure promotion with a tense win away at Oldham.

We have also, on occasions, due to Billy's persistence, been able to field a fourth team. That means that we have a senior player pool of at least 65 players to select from – this is a fantastic number for a club at our level.

Our Second team have enjoyed a decent season finishing safely in mid table. Nick and Dave in Stu's enforced absence have done a great job in introducing some new faces and integrating some emerging colts.

The first team had two clear targets:

1. Gain promotion
2. Get to Twickenham

We finished second and were the highest placed Lancashire club in our division by some distance and if you consider we had no fewer than eight games away in Cumbria then that is an impressive achievement.

Our away form has been disappointing at times with some unnecessary defeats away at Littleborough and Upper Eden in particular. These games highlighted the need to concentrate fully for the entire eighty minutes, particularly in defence.

Our best performance came in our home defeat again by Wigton, That game saw our forwards retain the ball for long periods with some great rucking and mauling and our backs combine to score some outstanding tries, including Chappy's last minute length of the pitch effort to grab us a bonus point. That match must now be out benchmark next season, we must we must ensure we treat all teams like Wigton, pressing hard in defence, tackling aggressively and retaining the ball for long periods.

There is now real competition for most positions, with some previously regular team players now turning out for the 2s and even 3s due to work commitments.

Forwards wise, we could do with some competition for our props and second rows so the likes of Huw, JK and Lewis Cooke need to get down pre-season. We remain blessed with a surplus of good back row players.

Our backs will be a season older next season and will continue to make massive improvements under Chris Parrott's guidance but we clearly need more numbers in there.

I must thank all the coaches, Sam Thorpey & Chris for their continued commitment and effort this season. Particularly Sam, its no understatement that without, Sam we would probably be nowhere near our current status. Thanks also to Will Hamer for performing a pretty thankless task with a degree of success.

Thank you to Carolyn Radcliff for her continued support, dealing with all the admin (Ian Scott-Brown) and providing the excellent food on away trips.

I must also thank Ted Nicholls for his excellent work in preparing the pitches each week. All of the Fossils and the members of the Thursday Work Party who do so much for the upkeep of the clubhouse and changing rooms. Finally thanks to Dolores for serving the food each week and last but not least Marie and the entire bar staff for putting up with so much grief on a regular basis.

Good luck to Mark and Freddy next season – our target once again must be to secure promotion, perhaps this time by winning the league?

Ladies (Shelly Powe)

In our first season in Championship North 1, we came 5th, winning 4 games and drawing 1. Knowing we had a large squad and a very competitive season we scheduled a number of friendly matches for new developing and those recovering from injury or trying new positions. In addition to league games we played 9 friendlies and therefore overall this is the most games played in the season.

Our squad grew over the season with 13 new faces joining as new members taking our registered players up to 40 +. Many joining are existing players moving into the area and joining Eccles and Uni. Graduates staying in the area, this is evidence of Eccles being a desirable club to join due to the standard of playing and training we offer. It also means that the new players have made it into the first 15 on many occasions adding their skills and experience.

Five of the team represented Lancashire this season and were all selected in the first 15. Titch, Katie, Karen, Igz and I. Igz (our Fullback) has gone on to play for North as well, which is brilliant representation for Eccles.

Next season we hope to have the first of our U18's join the ladies section, which is thanks to their continued effort along with Trev and Pete's coaching.

In an attempt to bring the girls and ladies section closer together in training and playing approaches we have also changed the training for the forthcoming season so that the U18's and Ladies train together on a Tuesday evening. Mark will lead the coaching but is looking for some support from any volunteers who are interested in coaching but haven't started out yet.

Ladies will continue to train twice a week, adding Thursdays once Summer Touch League is complete. Pre-season starts on Tuesday 25th June, and a couple of friendlies will hopefully be confirmed in advance of the first league game on Sunday 8th September.

We thank you all for your continued support and our sponsors for their contribution to the club this last season, we are all grateful and hope to raise more next season with more Spraffle and new fundraising ideas.

Colts

Senior (Martin Parkinson)

Suffering with lack of number but have fulfilled all fixtures other than pulling out of the Lancashire Cup. On a more positive note there are large numbers playing for the senior section at all levels.

Junior Colts (Dave Bates)

Ok with forwards but short in numbers for backs. Will need some help from senior players with coaching asked to move to League B for next season.

Minis and Juniors Report (presented by Simon Rose in the absence of Paul Bates)

Thanks to

- Heather Thorpe for registration and Child Welfare
- Marie and Kitchen team
- Carl Dutton Fixture Secretary
- Coaches and Managers

Statistics

- 130+ players
- 25 coaches
- 8 managers

All age groups represented apart from U15

Coaches training

- Continuity in Attack run at Eccles
- Defence in Phase Play run at Eccles
- 6 attended Scrum Courses
- 6 scheduled on Coaching Rugby union to Level 2
- 3 workshops on towards Level 3

Plans for Season 2013

- Under 14 and 15 having two teams
- Referees per team
- Two Development workshops
- Junior Tour

Community Coach (presented by Mark Greenhalgh in the absence of Trevor Parrott)

Primary schools (tag rugby):

St Joseph the worker, Cadishead, Riverview, Cathedral school, Monton, Marlborough road, St Mary's, St Edmunds, Holy Cross & All Saints, Christ the King, St Pauls, Clarendon Road, St Gilberts.

Salford Yr5/6 Borough tag festival – St Pauls Primary winners – represented Salford in the North West tag 2 Twickenham festival on 20th June 2012.

Secondary Schools (Boys and Girls):

St Patrick's R C, Walkden, St Ambrose Barlow, Albion High, Harropfold, Oakwood High, wentworth high, St Georges High, Chatsworth High, Oasis Academy.

Yr 7 & 8 Boys – RFU emerging schools/HSBC festivals –Walkden, Albion, St Patrick's representing Salford schools. Albion yr 9 boys went on to win Greater Manchester finals.

Yr 10/11 Boys – Greater Manchester RFU emerging schools, Eccles RFC – 10 schools attended – winners Walkden High School.

Yr 7/8 Girls Tag – borough festival on 22nd May, 5 schools attended, Top 2 teams St Georges & St Ambrose going through to the Greater Manchester Schools Games festival on 3rd July.

Yr 8 Boys development day, 2 teams attended St Ambrose & St Patricks - 1Hr coaching followed by Game.

Colleges

Salford City College – No college team this year.

Coach development sessions for Btech and A level PE students.

Possibility of girl's rugby next year.

Salford University

Female student volunteers continue to help in the community with coaching and festivals.

Coaching of womens XV - poor numbers in training. Number of games completed was low due to lack of numbers.

One or two new Students came down training with Eccles RFC womens team but not as successful as last year

Need to consider taking over coaching of Salford Uni mens 1st XV next season with the potential to attract players to the club. With A.N.Other taking on the womens XV.

Adult Touch Rugby Summer League:

12 teams, squads of up to players in region of 160 adults competing for title of Salford community touch rugby champions.

3 weeks Broughton RUFC, 3 weeks Eccles RFC, – Finals week at Eccles RFC. Cup winners "The Straight Bananas.

Best Finals day as yet with after match activities organised by Womens section. Tug-O-War etc.

Many thanks to Ernie for donating Trophies.

SRUDG Summer Camps:

Eccles RFC venue - 40/50 children per day with a total of 90+ different children attending the camp throughout that period. Headed by John Fray, assisted by Tom Dutton plus volunteers, James Wright, Charlotte Harrison, Bryony Cullen and number of u15's players.

Broughton RUFC – Now up to 30 children per week. Headed by T Parrott, assisted by Uni Students.

No Grants available but still able to fund the camps using payment from parents (£20 per head at Eccles, £15 per head at Broughton).

Other Camps

Easter Rugby camp delivered at Eccles RFC.

Delivered by T Parrott assisted by Club volunteers Jon Pan (AKA Fat neck) Tom Waring & Big Bob from u15's.

20 children attended between the ages of 6 and 14yrs.

Player recruitment/retention:

Good number of recruits at u12's & u14's. Struggling with u13's in an effort to split the current u13/14 squad into two separate squads.

Girls U15's increased numbers, up to 19 training on a regular basis all registered to Eccles RFC.

U18's now has a squad of 9.

Coaches and team managers have also been put in place – Pete Jones, Jon Pan & Andrea Marland – u18's

Kim & Jackie Wallace – U15's

Coach development:

Tag rugby course:

16 teachers attended, 8 club coaches. (funded by the development group)

Rugby Ready:

2 teachers, 10 club coaches

With the help of Archie the club has put on two RFU development session:

Continuity in attack and Defensive phase play -

Great attendance from Eccles RFC coaches 15/20 attended

Chairman's Comments (Andy Brunt)

Trevor Parrott is retiring from Community Rugby Coach position he is going to be greatly missed as he is highly regarded, the RFU has lost a valued employee, but their loss could be our gain (we hope!). Andy Congratulate Glen in his fantastic job as first team captain over all those years he has been a great support to all players coming through the system, also thanked Will Hamer for doing his role as Vice Captain.

Another good year, with solid progression. Highlights successful spilt between u15s and u16s team, we should have a full set of juniors going into next season, all other teams have improved league status this season. Sam Simpson was selected for Lancashire Senior men's team, the last time this happened at Eccles was 1919. Strategy has also been to build junior section this has been hard work now it has been achieved we can now strategy can change to focus on improvement in other areas such as standard of coaching. At times we have let ourselves down, we must support referees both on and off the field as without them we wouldn't be here. Andy presented Marie Wilson with flowers for her great work over the season for going above and beyond.

Interval

Election of Officers

President	Ernie Crookell
Chairman	Andy Brunt
Secretary	Paul Thorpe
Asst. Secretary	Carolyn Radcliff
Treasurer	Greg Wilson – (Mike Farn to cover Greg whilst absent)
Asst. Treasurer	Mark Dutton
Fixtures	Don Edmondson
Bar Secretary	Mark Dutton
Subscriptions Secretary	Martin Parkinson
1 st team Captain	Mark Greenhalgh
1 st team vice captain	Freddie Oakey
2 nd team captain	Nick Spooner
2 nd team vice captain	Tom Othick
3 rd team captain	Nic Hageman
3 rd team vice captain	Ryan Chattington
4 th Team Captain	William Borrett
4 th Team Vice Captain	Gary Hamer
Ladies Captain	Shelley Powe
Ladies Vice Captain	Katie Houghton

Billy Borrett, Iain Rothwell and Dave Nicholls resigned from committee, therefore 5 general committee members to be voted in, 7 people nominated, it was agreed to take on all 7, with 5 elected onto general committee and 2 co-opted. It was agreed that the split of the 5 and 2 to be arranged at the next committee meeting. The 7 nominations were, Gary Hamer, Mark Baines, Carol Pass, Glen Cahill, Sam Simpson, Nina Martyn and Martin Parkinson. It was also agreed that Trevor Parrott would remain on the committee as Girls Rep. due to this being a growing part of the club and therefore requiring representation, with other team captains and Colts managers etc.

A.O.B

Increase subscriptions – proposal by Greg Wilson, seconded by Martin Parkinson to increase adult subscriptions to £36 early payment and £50 for late payment. Pete Jones asked to increase non playing subs, Sean Barlow asked how much non-paying people affected cost, reply not much now Martin Parkinson is Membership Secretary. Collection of weekly subs also needs to be tightened, vote carried unanimously for the proposed increases.

Andy Brunt proposed impose a slight change to current rules, that state that all proposals for AGM need to be in by the 29th April, this is to be clarified as 7 days before the AGM. Mark Greenhalgh commented that good things are put forward but with little facts and time to analyse. Simon Donovan explained his reservations on any other business restricted to 7 days, could constrain people's opinions. It was therefore agreed to propose election of officers 7 days before, exception if position still vacant, for any other business it is desirable to have upfront, to be published for thought, but still allow proposals from the floor, although fundamental rule changes would need to be submitted 7 days prior to AGM.

It was proposed that Annual accounts not to have an Accountancy report produced, voted for all in favour, except one.

Colin Titley, requested that when we have paying guests that members behave better, Carol Pass agreed, a better drinking culture required when young members present.

Andy Brunt explained the proposed league restructure, plus that there will be a full review in May. Glen and Mark G stated that their opinion would be to stay as it.

Mark Greenhalgh advertised summer Touch Rugby.

Meeting closed. 22.30hrs