



# Eccles Rugby Football Club

Founded 1897

President: A. Brunt

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## Minutes for Annual General meeting – 1st June 2015

### Welcome from the Club President - Mr. Ernie Crookell

Ernie Crookell opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the 119<sup>th</sup> AGM. He then handed the meeting over to our Chairman Andy Brunt.

### Apologies

Apologies were received from D Bates, G Hammer, D Nichols, F Oakey, J Dale. [P Newton \(but arrived latter\)](#)

### 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 website for all to read and it was therefore deemed unnecessary to read through them.

John Brunt asked the question why in the treasurer's report it was proposed not to have an Accountancy report produced. Greg explained that it was an FSA rule and in his opinion it was a waste of money as it adds no value.

The acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Don Edmondson and seconded by Raymond Cook.

### Treasurer's report (Greg Wilson)

Copy of the accounts given out. He went through the balance sheets and some of the movements year on year. There has been a deficit on the year, not much movement on the costs. The costs are generally fixed for utilities, thanks to Martin, Ground upkeep, insurance costs etc.

Reduction is due to less bar take, due to less outside functions etc. Not taking on as many 18ths any more, as more trouble than they are worth.

The club's income has increased through "EasyFundRaising" set up by Mark Dutton and this is a very easy way of raising funds with no cost to members. (£1300 this season)

*Junior Section Chairman*  
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If we fail to do a Saturday raffle, this hits the bottom line as it is pure profit.

The objective is to run to a surplus of £5-10K, to put some funds away for a rainy day.

Currently paying £7K off RFU loan, putting £10K away to replace Astroturf.

Kitchen now pays for itself (breaks even) so no cost in feeding the kids on a Sunday.

Greg asked for Questions/comments

Mark Dutton explained how EasyFundraising works and explained that the total raised is £3.5K.

Paul Thorpe explained that due to no Thursday night function, the marquee weekend ran at a loss this year. Andy Brunt asked for ideas for the Thursday night in the future.

Martin Parkinson questioned the Bar take being down especially with bar price increase. Again this was put down to lack of outside functions. Martin also asked about gate money and was told it was under "other income". More detail is available the Finance Sub-committee meeting. Suggested that it be broken down into a separate line on next accounts.

Carolyn Radcliff asked about Sponsorship being down and it was explained that some of that was covered under international tickets. Plus the Seward payment of £2k was late so not covered in these accounts.

It was again recommended that the Annual accounts not to have an Accountancy report produced.

Proposed by Mark Dutton. Seconded by Martin Parkinson. (15.48)

Martin Parkinson proposed that:

Player subscription goes up to £40, DD £3 per month.

Non-players £25, £2 DD

Life Members Donation

Vice Presidents £30, £2.50 DD

Social Member £10, £1 DD

Colts /Students £10, £1 DD

Proposal to remove 'spouse membership', classing this as social membership.

Remove penalty for late payment

Any committee /subcommittee must be at least a non-playing member for vote (i.e. not social members).

Some flexibility to be given for unemployed and new player, especially for 4<sup>th</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> team players (S Barlow and P Newton gave their views)

Shelley Powe asked for explanation on social membership – Andy Brunt explained this had no vote and was for local people who just wanted to have a drink and Martin explained that this has increased to 35 social members due to discount on gate entry to first team game.

Proposed By Greg Wilson. Seconded by Shelly Powe. Passed with only one vote against.

### **Hon Secretary's report (Paul Thorpe)**

I am going to start as usual with thanks to Carolyn as Assistant Sec.

This time last year we held a Survey of club to understand where improvements are required. 155 members undertook the survey and I have the results here if anyone would like to see them. These helped us prioritise the works that were completed under the Social Spaces grant. This has resulted



in the improvements to lighting, the refurbished Bar area, new EPOS system, with a new TV and trophy cabinet planned to complete the works. Coffee shop grant (Viridor) and new flooring to the club house will soon be carried out in the closed season.

Thanks to Griff for the coffee machine and the coffee we get at a knocked down cost.

Kit change to Raging Bull – a long delay- but we are almost there, thanks to Shelley for their work on this.

20<sup>th</sup> October 2014– HRH Prince Harry – Eccles hosted emerging schools, the profile of the club has never been as good. As a result Andy and Gill Brunt invited to the Garden Party at Buckingham palace last Thursday 28/5/15 – The Club is Pursuing Nomination for the Queens award to Voluntary Services 2016.

Pitches through the tunnel – now part of St Pat’s school, due to SFA minimum requirement, Andy has negotiated 5 year agreement, with a 2 year notice period.

The overflow car park - we have been unofficially using this to date, we are now in the process to make it legal but are in negotiation for who pays the legal fees, and who should pay to stone part of the area.

Colts final day once more successfully held here at Eccles, plus we held the North West Intermediate League Finals, thanks to all those who volunteered. These are good fund raisers and helps keep the club profile high.

Mike Ince, now a fully qualified referee, made his first ‘home’ appearance in the league finals.

The club has received a CAMRA award for the second year - North Manchester club of the year. Thanks to Martin & Marie.

We had the mini beer festival in February, a great report in Saracens Web site, and a larger event is planned for the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> July. Thanks to Martin for the organisation of the beer festival, and his subcommittee for their hard work over the season. Members draw new for 2014/15.

The Harry Broomhead award went to ‘Marie’s Girls’. These are the volunteers that give up their time for free to work in the kitchen and other areas around the club. They are Sue Baines, Hilary Berry, Marie Hooligan, Helen Kitson and Lisa Webster.

Sam was awarded the Chris Tickle award for his efforts over several season with all sections of the club, not just the first team. How many clubs have that type of focus from the coach on the Whole club.

Safeguarding – 30 play it safe, 24 first aid course, First aid training has been undertaken, with all teams with a trained first aider, and work is underway to ensure kits are fully up to the required spec ready for the new season. We are looking for funding at present. Thanks again to Kevin Walker for doing the training for free.

Heather was nominated and awarded by Lancashire – Lancashire Volunteer of the year 2015 for her continued services to safeguarding,

After much debate over the last couple of seasons the league re structure for the 1<sup>st</sup> Team has been delayed for a further year to allow further debate,

Webb Ellis Cup is coming to Eccles RFC on the 26<sup>th</sup> July – 14:30 – 16:30

Congratulations to everyone involved from coaching staff, committees, sub committees for the running of the club. To players and parents and also the DOE – These are the volunteers that make our club the great club it is.



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

Greg Wilson asked if we should ask members to complete a survey about the club every year, this was agreed as a good idea.

## **Rugby reports**

### **Club Captain - (Mark Greenhalgh)**

Mark explained that the objectives for the season were for the first team not to get relegated, the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> to get promotion and the 4<sup>th</sup> team to fulfil all fixtures. First team successful after a massive challenge adjusting to a new level of play. Thanks to Sam and Darren. 2nds and 3rds had good seasons, but just fell short of promotion, 4<sup>th</sup> team very successful in fulfilling all their fixtures, and getting a 5<sup>th</sup> team out on a number of occasions.

Good support from Siobhan as physio, going above and beyond for what she is paid. Thanks to committee etc. for pre match lunches, sponsorship, this has really been beneficial. All has helped in bringing the club forward.

Glen Cahill asked, what the plan to replace Darren as assistant coach was. Mark explained that Sam was actively looking for a replacement. Andy Brunt explained that there was someone in mind, just awaiting a meeting.

John Brunt commented that to play at level 6 then 2<sup>nd</sup> team needs to move up a few levels. Paul Thorpe explained that Mark had worked hard to amalgamate the 2<sup>nd</sup> team and if it was not for the injuries to the first team, the 2<sup>nd</sup> team would have gained promotion. Mark explained that 38 players had played for the first team. Andy Brunt explained that a lot of players are home grown, coming from the juniors and colts. But we do attract some outside players, Freddie and George as an example.

### **Ladies (Katie Houghton)**

Katie explained that the first team came 6<sup>th</sup> out of 8 at level 2 (National league, 1 off the premiership). Looking for a top 4 place next season. Injuries plagued us in the middle of the season, especially as the season ends in January. Notable wins were against Birkenhead Park and West Park Leeds.

Losses are due to a few inexperienced players, playing their first season of rugby ever, at such a high level, this will come the more they play. We had 12 Lancashire representatives from Eccles which is amazing (from a squad of 26); two of those players were in their first season of rugby. Igemi Ekoku was again selected to play for the North of England. We have 53 players registered for the ladies squad, which means we have made a bold decision to enter a second team for next season. Help required on a Sunday to help manage the 2nds and also some low level coaching.

As Shelley said last year we are looking to heighten the profile of the ladies section by more appearances on a Saturday and help out in the club in more general. Hopefully an improvement has been seen and we are looking at furthering this next season. A big thanks to Mark, and anyone else who has helped, including the club for their support and the full use of the facilities.



### **Colts (Nick Spooner)**

Strong start to the year, a few injuries, plus a loss of players to a variety of reasons. Lost a few games we should have won, although quite a successful season. Two players selected for Lancashire. Both Nick and Danny Nicholls to continue coaching next season.

The plan is to have two colts teams next season with the under 16's coming up as the junior colts and the present colts moving to under 18's. Senior colts to do more training with first team when possible.

Andy Brunt explained that despite the hard work of Dave Bates, the present senior colts disbanded around October due to players moving away etc. but all players that remained integrated into the senior section, just need to get them to play at a higher level than 3<sup>rd</sup> team.

### **Minis and Juniors (Paul Bates)**

Paul started by wanting to answer John Brunt's previous question by explaining how additional coaches have come from senior players and this has been noticeable by better coaching being delivered.

We have all the teams from under 9's to under 16's training midweek in addition to the usual Sundays.

Lancashire development program has helped, with sessions put on for coaches, and with coaches part of the Lancashire set up, they bring back good practise and share with the other coaches.

We have 10 teams in total, with 30 volunteers within the club and somewhere in the region of 200 players, paying £47 to contribute to the club.

We had two teams reach the Lancashire finals, under 14's and 15's. Quite a few Lancashire players, and a player with Sales Sharks academy. Under 13's represented Eccles on tour to Gloucester, all well behaved. Next season we are hoping to get a few more teams touring.

We do need a new fixtures sec as Tom Williams is moving to Sheffield. As mentioned previously we would like more players to help out as this strengthens the teams.

More work has been done with certain age groups as they progress through tackle (u8's) and moving to the full 15 a side game (u12's) with sessions put on by Rugby development officers, this has helped to grow numbers.

Going into next year we have a full set of coaches and teams so a lot to be positive about.

Some training nights have been changed to create more pitch space.

Positive change required to get two training sessions per week.



### **Girls (Trevor Parrott)**

Good season from a girls perspective, both playing and recruitment. 3 age groups: u13's, u15's and u18's.

Under 13's have increased from 6 to 18 players registered, thanks to Sam for work within the schools.

U15's we have around 12 players, they won the area cup, 3 county players and 1 North of England. But they will lose 5 players to u18's so need to do some more recruitment.

U18's have moved to training twice a week and, as Archie has said, this has shown in their games, playing 13 and winning 8.

6 Lancashire players and 3 North of England Girls. 1 Girl moving into ladies team next season.

Finished season with tour of Prestatyn, 'Salford Holiday camp', all three teams played Conway. Thanks to coaching team. We are looking for additional coaches to help out. Thanks to Hillary and Sheryl for their management.

### **Duke of Edinburgh (Mark Baines)**

Big thanks to all volunteers. Additional volunteers are required on the admin side. We have been growing strongly year on year and to date we have presented in the region of 120 medals. That includes the 12 golds going to Buckingham Palace to get their rewards. This Friday we will be awarding a further 21 kids their bronze award. We have 21 kids taking their silver and 19 going for Gold. A further intake of bronze is planned for September.

### **Chairman's Comments (Andy Brunt)**

We are very lucky to have very capable people in charge of all sections of the club and some great quality of people working alongside them. Thanks to Mark Greenhalgh for two years as club captain, but is standing down after a good stint.

Hopefully starting next season with a 'full house' with all teams through the sections.

We are looking at replacing the floor to the clubhouse with new grant, so we are choosing the covering at the next committee meeting, all welcome. Work party required to remove the old floor planned for last week in June.

Plans afoot to apply for Queens Award for Voluntary Services. This would recognise the club as a whole. We are looking for the correct people to propose and second etc.

Andy finished by thanking Marie Wilson and giving her a bunch of flowers for all her hard work.

### **Interval**



### **Election of Officers**

Andy Brunt thanked Ernie Crookell for his 10 years as President and made a presentation to him.

The following officers and captains were elected:

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President	Andy Brunt
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Chairman	Mark Dutton
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Treasurer	Greg Wilson
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Assistant Treasurer	Martin Parkinson
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Secretary	Paul Thorpe
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Assistant Secretary	Carolyn Radcliff
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Senior Fixtures Secretary	Don Edmondson
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Ladies Captain	Katie Houghton
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Lancashire Representative	Bill Lowe
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Elected Member (2015)	Nick Spooner
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Elected Member (2015)	Maria Hooligan
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Elected Member (2015)	Declan O'Regan
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Elected Member (2015)	Mark Greenhalgh
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Ladies Captain/Representative	Katie Houghton
1 <sup>st</sup> team captain	Simon Donovan
1 <sup>st</sup> team vice-captain	Freddie Oakey
2 <sup>nd</sup> team captain	Andrew Maddocks
2 <sup>nd</sup> team vice-captain	Jordan Bromley
3 <sup>rd</sup> team captain	Vacant (later appointed Jacob Henderson)
3 <sup>rd</sup> team vice-captain	Vacant (later appointed Craig Wells)
4 <sup>th</sup> team captain	Paul Newton
4 <sup>th</sup> team vice-captain	Vacant (later appointed Sam Delaney)

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### **Vice Presidents**

There has been a failing to honour Vice Presidents for a number of years. The committee therefore proposed the following to be added this year, in honour of service over a number of years:

George Glover, Alan Bent, Brian Griffiths, Dave Nicholls, Brian Wilkinson, Billy Borrett, Ray Cook, Trevor Parrott, Don Edmondson, Carolyn Radcliff, Kevin 'Radar' Webb, Gary Grieves, Gary Hamer, Mike Bateman, Glen Cahill, Shelley Powe, Paul Thorpe, Mike Ince, Henryk Getz, Derek Pearson, Jeff Pennington

Andy asked if anyone wanted to vote on any of the names from the proposed list, no names were given, so were nominated for approval en masse.

Proposed by John Brunt - Seconded by Mark Greenhalgh





#### **A.O.B**

Shaun Barlow asked if additional training can be put on for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> team. Paul Thorpe replied that this should go through the rugby committee and there should be no reason why this could not happen. Mark Greenhalgh explained that this has happened in the past but they just want to play touch. It was decided to take to rugby committee but could happen as long as we can get a volunteer to do it.

Shaun also asked about the use of the pitches through the tunnel rather than utilising the floodlit pitch. It was explained that due to the use of this pitch through training and the number of games we have on a Sunday, we have to manage its use. Communication needs to be passed down so more people know.

Paul Newton asked that we do all we can to make sure the pitches are marked out. It was explained that these are done by the school's subcontractor and therefore out of our control, but we will work with the school to see what can be done.

Mark Greenhalgh asked why do we have elections for vice captains should this not be up to the captains to appoint them? Andy Brunt explained that this would have to be a SGM or more notice as this is a large change.

Martin Parkinson spoke about the forthcoming beer festival on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> July. The hope is to raise between five and seven thousand pound. Volunteers are required. Plus more sponsors required for barrels etc. A promotional video is going to be produced, so we need players next week, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> June. Reiterated that the club has also won the CAMRA award again.

John Brunt asked what the strategy is moving forward for the totality of the club. Andy Brunt said that the club development plan does need updating and communication of what the club is planning needs improving.

Andy mentioned that on the 29<sup>th</sup> June, there will be a van here from the Arts Council filming people talking about anything they want, for a project called 'Between us we know everything'.

With no further business to discuss, Andy Brunt closed the meeting.