



Eccles Rugby Football Club

Founded 1897

President: E. Crookell

Ground and Clubhouse:

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Minutes for Annual General meeting – 4th June 2007

Welcome from the Club President (Ernie Crookell)

Ernie welcomed everyone present to the 111 AGM. He Congratulated the under 17s on winning their Lancashire and Cheshire Bowl against Wirral at Sandbach and also showed off the cup for winning the junior colts Lancashire and Cheshire league division B.

Ernie congratulated everyone involved in hosting the National Colts 7 aside competition, and also showed off the cup won by an Eccles team represented within the competition.

Apologies

A Bent, A Davis, R Sulway, P Bates, M Bates, M Bradshaw, D Pickersgill , K Falkner, W Morgan, M Owens.

Minutes from Last years AGM

Approved by S Holland, seconded by G Grieves

Treasurers Report (Greg Wilson)

Greg distributed a set off accounts and asked for questions from the floor, if anyone had not had time to read them, they were told to bring them up at the end of the evening under AOB.

The Bar made a profit of £10,000 at a profit margin of 37%.

Greg reminded everyone to pay their membership by standing order as this was the best way for the club to collect the money.

The accounts need some tidying up; slush fund name needs to be changed to dept reserve fund. This was explained to be the account the club banks £800 per month for 10 years to fund the £100,000 required to resurface the Astro turf pitch when required.



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Secretary's Report (Paul Thorpe)

The most significant move by the club was the appointment of Trevor as the Community Rugby coach who started working for us on the 10th July 2006.

This was initially an employer partnership of City of Salford, The RFU and Eccles RFC. The hours of work to be split evenly with the City of Salford and Eccles/RFC.

Our money was raised by sponsorship by John Smith, and that amount being doubled by receiving a sports matched grant. This was done in such a way to secure the position with no additional costs to Eccles for a 3 year contract.

After the 1st quarter, Trevor's feed back was that during the City of Salford's work in schools, the time spent we thought would be rugby orientated, this was not to be the case.

So after further negotiations with the City of Salford, the RFU and Trevor himself, an amicable decision was made to drop the City of Salford from the partnership.

To compensate for the loss of City of Salford's financial input, which was made up of mainly facilities to work from etc we were able to compensate with the use of our own premises, and a reduction of Trevor's hours to a 4 day week. But instead of the 2.5 days out of 5 day week we were previously getting, we have increased our share of the time to the full 4 days, plus the time Trevor still does as a volunteer down at the club. This came into effect in January of this year.

This has had a significant impact on the club, which I'm sure Trevor and Mark will go into more detail in their reports.

The club rule changes that were passed at last years AGM were sanctioned by the FSA, allowing us to apply for and become CASC registered. This now enables us to claim back the % tax on any donations to the club, amongst other things- Gregs report.

Player registration (both senior and junior) has changed to the 'Trafalgar System' allowing clubs 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 us access to online information about who exactly is registered.

With the placement of Trevor and more and more things becoming computer based, an office has been formed from part of the committee room, and the expenditure for a computer and accessories has been passed.

This will include the purchase of a video camera to film games and then be used as a training tool to assist in the development of all players.

We will also be looking at the possibility for the computer to assist in stock control for the bar and for the new merchandise shop formed in fossils corner.

Merchandise has been a hot topic this season, Dave Morton has kindly taken this on board and had looked at a possible change from Kooga to KUKRI, after much deliberation, a narrow vote was passed to stay with our current provider, but we need to be more clear with our requirements. This will be reviewed on an annual basis.



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The new season saw the launch of the weekly match program, headed by Carolyn Radcliff and Billy Borrett, picked up each week and dropped off by Paul Mackinson.

This was a great success, but match reports and therefore sales of programs did decrease at the tail end of the season. We must all make an effort to make sure this does not happen next year.

Its like most things in the club, the more the work load can be shared the better the outcome. Please get involved, even if its only one week in the season helping to sale programs. If enough people volunteer then for little effort a lot can be achieved.

£1200.00 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.

Ground rent for club - £1500

Renewal of Building insurance was received - £2,100

Player and Liability insurance paid by the RFU,

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

Please can everyone set up your annual membership by Direct Debit, this would make one of them tedious tasks a lot easier.

If you haven't paid membership, you are not entitled to vote amongst a whole lot of other things, Payments should be made before the end of September.

We are looking for a membership sec, 1 amongst others that exist or require to be filled. Although these are Not on the agenda tonight, they are just as important to fill as any other positions in the club.

There are a lot of posts that people may not be aware of, all of which are done voluntary.

These range from selling programs to allocation of international tickets, - something the club receives a revenue of around £7,000.00 for. Boo does this completely voluntary, and includes collecting sponsorship money in from the sponsors.

I have received a letter of complaint from a member of the club regarding the allocation of tickets, this was brought up in committee and unfortunately I personally have not had time to respond with the committees decision. John Langslow has wrote again and asked this to be brought up in AOB.

The main purpose of this evening is making sure the people **we** as members want to make the decisions are voted on the committee. All committee members have the same single vote and therefore the same say in all matters, please stand for election, or even just tell a committee member of any concerns, they will be brought up and discussed and minited for members to see.



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I think we have one off if not the best committee to represent our club. Some times too good which leaves people to put on them, i.e., don't worry that committee lot plus the regular doers will take care of that.

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.

Lancashire recognise this as one of the best run clubs, and they offered us the opportunity to host this years National under 19s sevens tournament. With this being the 125 year of Lancashire they were chosen to host it and in recognition of our work this was passed to us.

A lot of hard work by a lot of volunteers from all groups in the club came together, Ladies team collecting gate money, etc – junior section acting as runners for referees with results, - a lot of hard work went in to making sure all the facilities were ready on Saturday, From Dutty marking out parking bays to Dave Nick and others clearing and cleaning changing rooms etc.

Collin did the food for the alacadoes and Yvonne did the food for the players,

Volunteers on the bars and food stalls, etc etc. everyone pulled together most people were here from 8.30 in the morning to past 7pm at night.

A big thanks to everyone involved This team effort meant a prestigious event that would possibly run at a loss at any other club, made a good profit due to the commitment of this clubs members, and it just goes to show what can be achieved when we all muck in.

This is the type of team work that needs to take place throughout the season to enable our club to remain one of the best in the RFU.

And it was no small matter that one of the teams representing Eccles won the plate.

Eccles had two teams and Scot captaining the Lancashire side in this National cup festival.

These are the type of things that allow us to build the merchandise shop, build the changing rooms for the referee and coaches, a second of which may be planned for this year; there is a possibility of a balcony, maybe running onto a stand to the side of the club house. So there are lots of things to do, the bigger the club gets, the more the demand on us all as members to do something about it.



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Club Captains Report. (Glen Cahill)

1st XV

The 1st team only lost 5 games all season, positives for the season were developing a larger playing squad with more confident and competent players available weekly with no detriment to the team.

The forwards have been more aggressive than previous years, line outs more competitive and scrums improving. These are extremely young forwards with only Sean Griffin and Glen over 30.

The backs have scored more points than they have done before, becoming a much more cohesive unit. With defence being very good and therefore conceding very few tries. Kicking has improved, primarily less kicking and therefore keeping more ball possession and therefore control of the ball and the game.

Again a very young set of backs with Steve Lilly being the only regular player over 25 in the backs.

The negatives are that we need to get in the gym over the summer to beef up. Scrums could improve to be more effective, giving a better drive to give more advantage to our young scrum half and quicker back line.

Our backs can be occasionally sloppy, with a few 2 & 3 on 1's going wrong. We are looking for a lot more precision, finishing these moves off.

Training numbers have improved, but occasionally lacking intensity, we may need to introduce more contact work and the backs need to practise their moves so finishing becomes a habit rather than the exception.

The Target for next season would be to win the league and to reach and hopefully win a cup final. Our cup runs over the last few years have been a disappointment.

The 2nd Team - Oggy has filled in brilliantly this year, despite he was only suppose to be vice captain, standing in for Chris Shaw. The 2nd team are still paying the price for those missing colts years and is therefore an aging team. It has been therefore difficult to get a second and third team out this season, so thanks to Martin (Oggy) and Gary for their hard work and also to Henryk. As the colts continue to come through, this should help all teams.

A major problem is the league has stipulated that the first team need both a replacement hooker as well as a replacement prop, thus the 1st team are taking 5 front row players leaving even less players for the 2nd and 3rd in this already sparse position.

Promotion next year will be a reasonable target.



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Women's Team Report (Shelley Powe)

We play in North West 3 League which is a development league, this means you can play with 10, 12 or 15 players, unfortunately we have only played one game of 12 and the rest have been 10's, with one game of 9 aside which we won. We have played 9 games winning only 3, but this is 3 better than last year, but still came joint bottom of the league, so a bit disappointing but good in terms of structure.

Speaking to the team that won the league, 2 years ago they were in a similar position to us, having only 5 core players, but they adopted a similar structure to ours, this proves the structure can work if you can get the right structure in place.

In terms of new players this season we have done well with 4 new members that have constantly played all year.

We had no coach last season, but this year we have 2, with Sandy and Rachel Brown, who is in a similar role to Trevor but is based at Broughton Park. Rachel has played at Waterloo and for Wales, which is good to have such a high class female coach available for both new and existing players.

Other things we have done to incorporate new players into the team and club is to establish a ladies committee. This includes everything through from social through to secretary and fixtures and so we should improve on membership collection and retention of players.

There are 3 tours planned for the summer, the first being a sevens tournament in Nottingham, which we have attended for the last 3 years, not doing well at the rugby but excelling at the fancy dress. The other 2 tours are mixed RFU beach touch rugby tournaments, so anyone wishing to join will be welcome.

We are supporting Trevor in the touch league which is big to us as two new players came from last years touch tournament we played in at North Manchester.

Although the team has not done well in the league, we have had 5 players representing Lancashire, the highest number from any team. Lancashire won the cup competition against Yorkshire and Shelly went on to represent the North West, but unfortunately broke her leg, she was appointed Manager for the last game, which they won, this could be the start of a promising new career.

The Key thing for us is to try to put steps in place to make sure we are part of the club and integrated into the club a bit better for the coming season. Trevor has helped us do that, encouraging us to put a development plan in place and get more involved in the other club activities.



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Senior Colts Report (Shawn Monaghan)

This was a transitional season with some of last years senior colts going to university etc and the junior colts joining the remaining lads. This was not as strong a squad as previous years but we still did extremely well considering.

A negative for the season was that some players chose to play for the 2nd team on a Saturday over playing for the colts, others played rugby league or football etc, this lead to a lack of commitment for Sundays and shown in the results.

We need to make sure the colts stay together as a priority, playing senior rugby only when necessary. This will help build a strong colt's team right through till the end of the season.

A special thanks to Trev for his coaching and for Sandy helping out with the backs.

The Senior Colts leaving to join the senior section should do extremely well given the right guidance and chances.

A good result in the National sevens was a fitting end to the season.

Junior Colts Report (George Glover)

By any criteria the junior colts have had a successful season and represented the club well. We were placed in the second of the four leagues constituted by the Lancashire and Cheshire colts organisation which gave us the opportunity to play teams we had not played before. We were able to hit the ground running having trained through the summer with a squad of 25 good players who Carolyn Radcliff kept informed and sponsored, encouraging the parental support necessary to run a successful youth squad.

This year we have built on the success of our last season in the junior section where we were league and plate winners, introducing new players, Nick Chisnall, Sam Thompson, and Joe Dale in the forwards and Mike Lewin and Aaron Bell in the Backs. Scoring 125 tries for and conceding only 44 tries against, we have been exciting in attack and determined in defence.

The Squad this year has produced 4 Lancashire county players, Nick Chisnall and James Radcliff in the forwards and Jordon Davies and Mike Dutton in the Backs.

This season Greg Wilson continued the work done previously by Paul Thorpe and Brian Griffiths to produce development within the pack which has established the platform for our talented backs. On behalf of the squad, I would like to thank Greg and wish him well in the future.

We have had a good cup run, reaching the semi final of the Lancashire cup and winning the Lancashire and Cheshire Colts bowl competition.

So once again, League and Bowl winners and adding a sevens plate trophy, beating a Leicester county side in the final.

Any Coaching help from experienced players from the senior club would be appreciated.



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Junior Section Report (Mark Dutton)

First of all a special thanks to all the referees that have helped out this season, at the end of the season we had 4 matches at the same time but still managed to fill the referees position. Wilkinson, Danny Tailor and Allan Chettoe for coming on a Sunday to referee the Junior games.

Thanks to all the coaches for all the hard work they have put into their respective teams, with teams across ALL age groups, you really require 2-3 people per team, 2 as coaches and 1 for organisation, telephone calls etc, that's a lot of work. When players get to U13 they train on a Wednesday and play on a Sunday, that's on top of other commitments to the club some people have.

Thanks go especially to those people that don't have children in the teams, but help out. A special thanks to Heather Thorpe who does CRB checks and player registration, that's a mammoth task, and due to Heathers hard work, we are miles in front of most teams with our administration, we have over 40 CRB registered helpers and over 500 Junior players, the envy of all senior clubs.

Thanks to all the members that have raised funds to enable us to keep the player subscription to only a £1.00 a week, this is instrumental in getting players from all aspects of the community down to the club. This is a community club and for the £1.00 the kids get a pie and drink after the game or training session on a Sunday, this is fundamental to what the club is all about.

Thanks to all the people that work behind the bar or serve food to the kids on a Sunday, and the patience they show with the kids.

Thanks to the fossils who make the club tick, with the amount of work behind the scenes that takes place on a Thursday is tremendous, it helps everything run smoothly.

Thanks to Ted for marking out and cutting the pitches amongst other things, and thanks to Brian Wilkinson for arranging the fixtures.

All this shows the organisation and number of people required to run a junior section successfully.

Overall a very successful season, the phrase that sums the club up is, "we can offer rugby to every age group, in a safe environment, by qualified coaches." We make sure we have had people on coaching courses, that they have been CRB checked and that happens because we are well organised.

The biggest plus is that we have had teams at all age groups, with a lot of hard work done by Trevor and others, we managed to fill our only missing age group, the under 16's by the end of the season. This team will go forward to the senior club as Junior colts next season, which is very important to the future of the club.

The fact we have teams at all age groups and we are fully CRB checked, gives us high profile within Lancashire.

Please try to come down on a Sunday to watch these kids, as you will see a high level of rugby being played.

The negatives are that we have mixed our 7's & 8's, our 9's & 10's and our 11's & 12's together, that's our only negative, but as many clubs have not even got a junior section at all, then its



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hardly a negative, especially as when we reach the under 13's, we have managed to get the numbers to run that team on its own, largely due to the work Trevor is doing.

Thanks to everyone that's helped as the junior section is the life blood of the club.

Community Sports Coach Report (Trevor Parrott)

The idea of the position is to promote and develop rugby union in the Salford area, as was said in the secretaries report, things changed slightly and I started with the RFU on 30 hours a week as of the 1st of January.

Started work with Eccles college back in September, in November we entered the emerging colleges and won it, against over 20 teams from all over the north west, this was advertised in the local paper which is good for the club. We have now got a signed college club RFU agreement in place with the college and the college is looking at setting up a rugby academy in 2008.

For secondary schools, we have been into St Patrick's, Salford City Academy, Moreside High school, Walkden High school, and Wentworth High School, doing both rugby for boys and girls. In March this year the boys from years 7 & 8 from St Patricks and Salford City Academy were entered into the emerging schools competition. This later culminated into the first game of rugby union ever played between two Salford schools, which was played down here at Eccles.

The girls stuff was tag rugby and was well received in all schools, and Walkden High school played in a full contact tournament at Broughton Park. All the schools took part in a tag rugby tournament here at Eccles where 40 plus girls took part. Two teams will be formed from this group of girls to represent Salford in the Greater Manchester Youth games. This will be the starting point for Eccles under 14's girl's team for next season. This will help the ladies sustain their team as the girls start to come through, as is the rest of the junior section.

The primary schools are St Mary's, Barton Moss, Christ Church, Broad Oak, Grovner Road, St Josephs, years 3,4,5 and 6 are all doing tag rugby and we will be holding a tournament here, after the school holidays.

This week we are holding a 3 day rugby skills camp, Tuesday to Thursday, 10 till 3. we have 16 kids booked to date and in the summer we have the multi sports camp being organised , more details coming out soon. We have managed to secure some funding for this through the local network fund.

As a direct result of these activities, the club has benefited with over 20 new players at various age groups, just to show it really does work.

On the adult side we have setup the Salford Community Touch Rugby Tournament with over 15 teams entered to date, over a 150 people will be turning up on a Thursday, a lot of them are from outside the club. This should lead to more opportunities for new players.

This is leading up to the "Go Play Rugby" campaign which is an RFU initiative to recruit adults into rugby in the build up to the world cup. We have been chosen as a club, because we get things done. We have got a campaign team together to come up with some ideas, as well as the touch rugby, any ideas or volunteers welcome.



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Chairman's Comments (Andrew Brunt)

We can quite clearly see the benefit of having a full time rugby development officer. There are not many clubs that can boast a line up like that, the only bit missing is the girls 1-16 year old which as Trevor has already explained, has already got covered for next season. That's the full selection of rugby available to anybody.

I make no apology for reiterating that our current strong position of the club is due to the long term strategy adopted and carried out, (carrying it out being the hard bit) of developing the junior and colts structure, and the facilities, and that's been going on at least for the past 15 years.

The example of that success, is as Glen alluded to, and that's the 1st team is getting packed with colts and there is improving colts coming through.

The current senior colts are disappointed in only coming 5th in the league, but to put that into perspective, that's 5th out of 32 clubs in the whole of the North West. The junior colts winning the 2nd division, so the lowest they can claim is 9th out of 40 and 3 cups. If you take the aggregate of the two colts teams, Eccles have the best colts set up in Lancashire and the 3rd best in the North West, which is pretty phenomenal.

Examples of the commitment/ tenacity/ or the long term view are:-

Coaches that don't have any children involved. George Glover, 10 years plus, Allen Bent, Greg, Ross, Chappey, Thorpey, Trevor and Billy.

Oggy and Gary Hamer, both were duty bound volunteers that reluctantly took vice captain, but ended up doing the Captains role instead, as they were let down by their captains.

The committee, Mark Dutton, 10 years Secretary, 10 years chairman and a few years junior chairman. - Billy Borrett, assistant treasurer and Bar sec for over 10 years (a continuously demanding job no closed season) Dave Pick, a good seven years as assistant treasurer, Allen Chet 16 years as fixture secretary, Brian Wilkinson, junior chairman for a long time, marquee doer for I don't know how long, - Fossils work party has been going know for 10 years, And ground and pavilion has been done by Ted Nichols for 20 years.

I wanted to give those as examples as people sticking to things they said they would do.

This year, things we used to talk about at the bar, have happened over the past few years, example:- Full time coaching coordinator going into schools etc, diaries and match programs, referees changing rooms have been done, the pitches, Ted has and follows a detailed program for the up keep of the pitches, and helped by volunteers when required, and with hosting the National County Sevens. In the past these have been just pipe dreams.

Next year, we have planned the fitting out of the shop, 1st team games getting videoed, scoreboard, balcony, and possible stand. It does no harm to reiterate the things that are going on and the success stories.



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There are still a lot of areas where help is needed, annual dinner ticket sales, new years eve ticket sales, social events in general, longer term help, like the bar sec, membership sec, to mention a few. We do need more help.

To focus on the objectives, as Glen said, the 1st team winning the league and getting promotion, and perhaps winning the Lancashire plate.

The 2nd team being a structured team the younger players are happy going into, and to push for 1st team places.

The 3rd team keep defying the laws of ageing until the 2nd teamers being pushed out by the youngsters to the 3rds.

The senior colts, on wards and upwards, integrating more with the senior teams.

The junior colts climbing through the league, ably coached by Tom Chapmen.

The women's team, as Shelly has alluded to, achieve a full team, with continued growth in training numbers and achieving the goals in their development plan.

We are doing very very well, but there is still loads to do. I'll end this half by thanking all the volunteers, in what ever form they do, be it long term or just show up on busy days and ask "what can I do to help" – Because that's massive - Sharing the load is fun; if you are carrying the load then it becomes a burden. If everyone can look where the help is needed, and share the load, we will carry on having fun and carry on moving onwards and upwards.

Interval

Election of Officers

1st Captain - 1 nomination Glen Cahill

Vice Captain – Scott Morton & Andy Madocks – Andy won.

2nd Captain – Sandy Howarth & Neil Webb – Neil won

Vice Captain – Andy Davis & Sandy Howarth – Sandy won

3rd Captain - 1 nomination Gary Hamer

Vice Captain – 1 nomination Simon Rose.

President –1 nomination Ernie Crookell

Chairman – 1 nomination Andy Brunt

Secretary – 1 nomination Paul Thorpe

Assistant secretary – 1 nomination Allen Chettoe

Treasurer – open

Assistant Treasurer –1 nomination Billy Borrett

Assistant treasurer 1 nomination Dave Pickersgill

Fixtures Secretary –1 nomination Don Edmondson

General Committee – David Morton.



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AOB

Martin Ogden nominated the change of white shorts to blue shorts – vote taken and white shorts remain the Club colour.

Greg asked for some one to replace him as membership secretary, members to think about it.

Mark Dutton reiterated that the although the accounts are stronger than ever, there is still a lot of bills that require paying, as well as funding for future projects, i.e. the gas bill - £7,000, the water bill - £2,500, in fact the top ten bills come in at over £20,000.

This is why we need to do the RFU Raffle, sale of international tickets, hold 18's birthday parties etc on Fridays and Saturdays for the bar profit.

The End