

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 – 6th June 2011

Welcome from the Club President - Mr. Ernie Crookell

Ernie Crookell opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the 114th AGM. Ernie congratulated the Ladies team on winning the Lancashire Pate, when they had beaten Floppers – a combined team from Fleetwood and Preston Grasshoppers, who in the previous two seasons had won the Lancashire cup.

Apologies

Paul Thorpe, Billy Borrett, John Brunt, Paul Newton

Andy Brunt asked if he needed to read the minutes from the previous AGM – however these had been circulated by email for all to read and it was therefore deemed unnecessary to read through them. The acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Ted Nicholls and seconded by Don Edmondson.

Treasurer's report

Greg circulated a copy of the accounts. He was pleased to report the cash flow for year on year has increased by about £15k. He did stress not to be disheartened by the loss – this is an accountancy loss rather than actual loss.

The club has accrued about £10k from the all weather pitch, and about £13k from Gift aid. There was a slight loss on the all weather pitch and the bar profits due to the severe weather over the winter which resulted in cancellations and postponements. Also the VAT increase and increase in brewery costs had an effect on the bar profit. However, the first twelve months with Marie in charge has improved the presentation of the clubhouse, control of the bar and resulted in less wastage. Mark Dutton is overseeing Marie's employment.

Good profit was also made from the International tickets.

Secretary's report

Anyone who has not paid their subs is no allowed to vote.

The injury claim for an incident on the all weather pitch has been dismissed.

Reorganisation of leagues at level 7 and above – we intend to vote yes we agree with proposed amendments whereby the split would be along the A580 until it meets the M60, following the M60 clockwise until it meets the M62. Any club NORTH of this line would fall into NLC league (with further splits by CB affiliation), and club South will fall into South Lancashire and Cheshire. However, this would not be until 2012/13 season. Concerns were expressed that this will still be being debated and not acted on. Bill Lowe to echo our view to Lancashire. Another proposal is to split the Cumbrian teams so not as much travelling.

Christopher Tickle's inquest will be 21st July at Stockport.

A reminder that the player insurance is a minimum cover and players should seek their own personal additional insurance if required.

Rugby reports

Simon Donovan congratulated the 3rd team for managing to have squads all season, and sometimes even had the ability to put out a 4th team. Thanks to Billy Borrett and Gary Hamer for this achievement.

2nd team were doing well until Christmas but due to the bad weather, and injuries in the 1st team they had depleted numbers and at the end of the season had slipped, but managed to avoid relegation.

1st team again were doing well until Christmas but bad weather and injuries put pressure on the squads. Finished 4th overall.

Simon Donovan thanked all those who had travelled to Cumbria, Gary Grieves and Sam Simpson for their coaching and Danny Nicholls for his support as vice captain.

Ladies Shelley Powe enthusiastically reported the successes of the Ladies team. Winners of the Lancashire Plate and winners of the Manchester 7's Plate. Promoted to Championship North 2 league along with Birkenhead Park and Liverpool Collegiate. This will involve a few long trips.

Good numbers which has been helped by links with Salford University. Hopefully better links will be forged with Manchester University next season to help increase numbers. The Ladies team currently have about 40 registered players – some will go as they have finished university – however the plan is to run a development squad in conjunction with the Ladies team.

The Ladies had already held their AGM and lots of positives with more people taking on responsibilities. Promise of more sponsorship and tours planned over the summer.

The Ladies have a table booked at the Lancashire dinner. 4 players have played for Lancashire.

Netball folded – but is hoped this only temporary.

Shelley passed on her thanks to Mark Greenhalgh and Mike Ince for their PATIENCE with temperamental ladies and coaching, and a massive thanks to Marie for all the catering during the season.

Junior colts Ian Rothwell was proud of the of the junior colts achievements – played 23, won 14, drawn 2 and lost 7. Started the season with about 17 players but at the end had 23 registered players. Finished 3rd in the league and also qualified for the Colts League cup final Many colts teams have represented Eccles in the plate, vase, bowl and shield but never in the cup, and although they not win the winners were a League A who had a player who had played representative rugby for England. A massive achievement and a team with great spirit. Ian thanked Paul Thornley and Donna Finch for their support.

Senior Colts Mark Dutton reported the senior colts had finished mid table in League C. But in the overall picture this is in about the top 10% in Lancashire as there are many teams who cannot field colts teams. Two teams – Manchester and Rochdale, who both have 1st teams in higher leagues than our 1st team had to withdraw as they couldn't field a senior colts team. This shows how feeding from minis to juniors and on to colts is working at Eccles and we have much to be proud of. 9 senior colts have played 1st team rugby this season and many more have played regularly for both the 2nd and 3rd teams.

Mark finished by thanking his support team of Gary Hamer, Simon Holland and Carolyn Radcliff, and by wishing the U19s good luck with their playing in years to come.

Minis and Juniors Paul Bates addressed the meeting with the following:

Recognition

- Carl Dutton for doing Fixture Secretary
- Heather Thorpe for Welfare Office
- Heather and Angela Dutton for registration weekend

Successes:

- 120 young people playing
- U15 girls
- U15 boys increased their numbers
- Duke of Edinburgh for U15 supported by Carol Pass and Mark Baines
- Two teams visited north Wales with a game and team bonding
- U13 through t plate final
- Dinner dance organised by Dave Bates and Monica Borrett

Disappointments

- U14 not returning as a team following the summer but requested from March onwards to re-start.
- Level numbers at U9 through to U13 where we need to increase the numbers going to full size.

Challenge for coming season

- Getting an U15 side (ex U14) we are currently training these and we have about 18-20 players but numbers are varying

- Coaches to support gaps in experience with U15 & U11
- Get a Junior committee to help get more volunteers

Community Coach Trevor Parrott reported about the good links with schools with a number of festivals and competitions. Good connections with many senior schools in the Salford area and hopefully this will increase. Both boys and girls being involved.

Also good relationships with many of the primary schools who are enjoying their introduction totag rugby.

Problems with Salford City College as they don't seem to acknowledge Wednesday afternoons as sport afternoons unlike schools and universities.

Salford university Ladies have been helping with festivals and with coaching minis and juniors at Broughton RUFC.

There is an opportunity for coaching Salford University Men's team – paid position – but would also encourage them to play for Eccles.

Adult touch rugby has good numbers, hopefully a grant from sport relief. Ernie was thanked for donating the trophies last year and hopefully will do the same this year.

Summer camps run at Eccles, Broughton and De La Salle last summer, which will be repeated this year. Well attended and good assistance with running the camps.

Good for player recruitment and retention.

Girls 15s – Ladies team helping with coaching and hoping to run an U15's and U18s girls next season.

Andy Brunt closed the meeting by saying it was always good to finish with Trevor and there are so many positives – particularly for the future development of the club.

Hopefully more people will volunteer on a day to day basis.

The first half of the meeting concluded at 2110.

Election of Officers

President	Ernie Crookell
Chairman	Andy Brunt
Secretary	Paul Thorpe
Asst. Secretary	Carolyn Radcliff
Treasurer	Greg Wilson
Asst. Treasurer	Mark Dutton
Fixtures	Don Edmondson
Bar Secretary	Mark Dutton and Martin Parkinson
Committee 2014	Ted Nicholls, Ray Cook, Kath Wilkinson
1 st team Captain	Sean Griffin
1 st team vice captain	Will Hamer
2 nd team captain	Carl Wilkinson
2 nd team vice captain	Craig Cartwright
3 rd team captain	Billy Borrett
3 rd team vice captain	Gary Hamer

A.O.B

Oktoberfest – Kath Wilkinson to arrange on 24th September.

Vote in favour of not having an audit.

Security – need to be more vigilant and make sure clubhouse/changing rooms secure.

Andy updated the meeting about the building project. Hopefully revenue to be made from seminar room.

Glen Cahill wants the De La Salle issues to be addressed to Lancashire – a vote was taken and agreed. Paul Thorpe to write to Lancashire.

Bill Lowe – more control over subs.

Training days may need to be revised if more links with Universities.

Simon Holland suggested bottle beers and others suggested judicious use of pin size (36 pint) casks out of season, which was unanimously agreed.