

THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD IN THE CLUBHOUSE AT 8.00 ON MONDAY 3 JUNE 1996.

Present: see separate list

Apologies: F. Fleming, J. Vincent, D. Pearson, P. Bates, J. Whiteside, H. Scott, ICH?, C. Whitehead, J. Farraday.

Presidents Introduction.

Dave Bark thanked interested members for attending the meeting as it was their opportunity to voice opinions. He pointed out that younger committee members were needed and posed the following questions.

Were the members happy with the way things were organised?

Were they happy with the playing standard?

Did they think we should have a paid coach/trainer, and if so how do we find the money to fund it?

What about a Colt's team for the future?

If people weren't happy with the way the Club was going, we needed to decide where we were going.

Do we want to play competitive rugby or social rugby?

Should we have stricter selection criteria?

He finished his introduction by reminding everybody it was the Centenary season and that first and foremost we should enjoy it but added that we should know where we are going.

Minutes from the previous AGM.

ACB read out the minutes of the previous meeting and their approval was proposed by Mark Dutton and seconded by Roy Sulway.

Junior Section Report.

Brian Wilkinson opened up by saying what a great thing it was that the Junior Section had been asked to give a report at the Club's AGM. Brian advised that the Junior Section had grown to 110 members and 20 coaches, 12 of which have their preliminary award. He advised that they were winning competitions against established clubs and the benefits of coaching was now showing through. Neil Baxter had represented Lancashire at U13 level. He advised that they were doing OK in terms of sponsorship, but still needed more money. He pointed out that the tour had been a great success and that the behaviour was something to be proud of. He also pointed out that the Colts were coming up, the U16's is the last year of the Junior Section and therefore in the 97/98 season we will have a Colts team which will need taking on board by the senior club. Next year should be a period for senior coaches getting to know them. He finished off by thanking the coaches, the subcommittees, Colin Whitehead for the "Marquee Weekend" and Dave Nichols for his efforts overall.

Secretary's Report.

ACB advised of the major occurrences within the game both at International Board level and within the RFU which had resulted in the professionalism of the game and the advent of Open Rugby; and gave a brief summary on the AGM' and Special General Meetings that had been held during the year along with the RFU Executive's negotiations with EPRUC Ltd who represented the senior clubs.

At county level, ACB reported that the ground had been offered to Lancashire and as a result Lancashire U16 had played Lancashire Clubs U16 which we hope will be the first of many occasions which helped raise the profile of the club. ACB also advised that the contact the Lancs County Rugby Union Club Disciplinary Committee had been excellent in that we had not been brought in front of them recently.

At Eccles, ACB advised of the introduction of subcommittees, and these were functioning reasonably effectively but some more than others. He also advised that the Centenary publication which would be available from Keith Eaton later in the year, and of the Centenary Dinner and Centenary Dinner Dance would be held at the end of the 96/97 Season.

He recalled the Annual Dinner and the Marquee Weekend which had been an incredible success and thanked Colin Whitehead and his Wife along with all others including John Whiteside, Dave Roberts.

On the ground and pavilion front, ACB outlined the list of major and minor projects which had been listed at a meeting in March 1995 and advised how many of these had been completed. ACB then advised of the proposal for the lottery submission.

ACB advised that increased communication between the Junior Section and the main body had been arranged, the Chairman was now to attend the Junior Committee and the Junior Representation on the General Committee had been increased from 1 to 2, with Colin Whitehead joining Brian Wilkinson.

On the medical side, a full list should be drawn up for next season to make sure that medical cover is available for every game with John Noone heading up the list of available medical staff.

Lastly ACB thanked Vic for his assistance in a number of administration functions, including getting the AGM letters out, the Raffle etc.

He concluded that his long term view for the Club was that it's future was secure in the fabric and facilities were established; the junior section was established and therefore efforts needed to be concentrated on the middle and short term future, particularly improving the rugby standard.

Treasurer's Report.

See attached report submitted at the meeting.

In Summary, Vic pointed out that we haven't put subs up in 4 years and that at other clubs annual subscriptions are around £45 whereas ours are £25. Also not putting up the match fee, but did explain that bar prices had gone up thereby spreading the financial burden amongst all

users and not just playing members.

Vic reiterated the Committee's view that we should increase outside functions wherever possible and concluded by saying that given recent capital expenditure the present situation is healthier than we thought it would be and lets hope next year we maintain this trend.

Vic thanked anyone who had helped.

Footnote: Geoff Pennington asked at this junction if the financial report could be published prior to the meeting in order that it could be studied. He was advised that with the AGM being called so shortly after the end of clubs financial year, this would not be possible.

Captain's Report.

Neil Webb thanked everyone for attending and gave particular thanks to Martin Ogden, Dave Pickersgill, Henry Getts and Harry Minshall in their roles at the respective captains of the lower teams. He also thanked the In-house Eccles Referees for their efforts.

He confirmed his disappointment at being relegated, but felt that some of the newcomers pushing for positions would help the situation in the following season. Some of the players mentioned that weren't here 6 months ago were Steve Whittingham, Nathan Richardson, Les Foreshaw for example. Neil then gave a summary of the results of all 5 teams and went on to say that we need to work to get out of the present league and that would be his top priority and reflected that the 5 wins at the start of the season could possibly have gone against them.

Neil felt that there were 30 players capable of first team rugby and that there was plenty to work at, but one big problem he felt was commitment and this was shown by lack of attendance at the AGM. Neil advised that training would start of 10 June and that fitness would count and will be a part of training and concluded by saying that its everyone's club and everybody must get involved and get together and work together. In the longer term he agreed that juniors will come through eventually, but in the meantime everybody should help the captains and themselves by working hard to enable the club to climb the ladder.

Chairman's Report.

Mark Dutton opened his report by referring to the negatives of the season, obviously the first one was that the first team got demoted, the second that fitness levels had not been high enough and that the third that the players had not got involved in the day to day business of the club, even down to bin emptying, cleaning etc.

On the positive side though, he firstly thanked Bill Borritt for organising the tour which created camaraderie and brought people together. He thanked Ted Nichols for the hundreds of jobs he does and Andy Brunt, Vic and Jeff Crompton for organising the raffle, Dave Roberts and Alan Chettoe for their thankless tasks as social secretary and fixture secretary and it was stated what a very good job they both do. It was also noted that Vic's position as Pool Secretary had benefits to the club in getting 5th team fixtures. Mark went on to say that the runners up of the Whistlers Trophy game was a credit to the club and reminded everyone that we had won the Trophy once and had been runners up three times in four years the Whistlers Trophy had been in existence.

He pointed out that we had consistently had 4 teams and 5 teams on some occasions and that this was not the trend at other clubs. He referred to the high level of coaching within the junior section and that this had hopefully secured the long term future of the club, and commented upon how well structured the coaching was with the ratio of 1 - 12.

On the accounts side, he commented that these were healthier than previously as a result of the combination of increased efforts and the total rate relief now received from Salford.

On the Lottery application he pointed out that the Committee was taking its time with a view to getting it right ie. contacting Salford Lottery Co-ordinator, the Sports Council etc. and advised that the Lottery application included extending the changing facilities, adding floodlights and leasing the pitches across the railway line; these were all necessary, most certainly the changing room and the pitches were needed as a result of the expanding junior section.

Mark finished his report by saying how pleased he was to be going into the Centenary season with the projects that we had outlined 5 years ago or so all complete, and we were looking at new and more exciting plans.

INTERVAL.

Election of Officers.

The following Officers were duly elected.

President	Harry Broomhead
Chairman	Mark Dutton
Secretary	Andy Brunt
Treasurer	Vic Thomas
Ass. Treasurer	John Whiteside
Fixture Secretary	Alan Chettoe
Gen. Committee	E. Nichols W. Lowe W. Porrit
1st Team Captain	N. Webb
1st Team V. Captain	N. Turon
2nd Team Captain	F. Fleming
2nd Team V. Captain	J. Tilley
3rd Team Captain	D. Pickersgill
3rd Team V. Captain	H. Mottershead
4th Team Captain	H. Ketts
5th Team Captain	Dave Prescott

Any Other Business.

1. Playing subs to Students were put up from 50p to £1.00 as a result of a proposal from Dave Pickersgill and then a further amendment from Mike Ridgeway not to alter it. Mr. Pickersgill's proposal was passed to increase the subscription to

£1.00

2. Steve Everson asked about improving the internal fabric of the clubhouse, Mark Dutton and ACB gave the committee's view on this matter.
3. Martin Ogden asked about Coaches for next season. Neil Webb advised that possibly Derek Whitehead and Keiran Rabbit may be available. Joe Bromby added that we need to decide where we want to go and Mark Burrows pointed out that people needed to turn up irrespective of who the coach is.
4. Steve Everson pointed out that there will be a lot of youngsters coming up from the junior section who will need coaching, Mark Dutton pointed out that there are experience people within the club who will need to attend some of the coaching courses available to make the best use of their experience and that more liaison was needed between the senior coaches and junior section.
5. Bill Lowe suggested that free food after training would be a good idea.
6. The alteration of the training night from Monday to Tuesday was discussed but it was decided to leave it at Monday.

The Meeting closed at 11.00pm there being no further business.