

SALE FOOTBALL CLUB

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

held in the Clubhouse on Wednesday, 26th July 2006

1. **The Notice convening the meeting** was read by Graham Oglethorpe - Hon. Secretary.

2. **Apologies** were received from:- Graham Smith, Alan Castree, Jarlath Walsh, Tony Evans, Bob Kenrick, Jackie Kenrick, Duncan Bailey, Mike Blackwell, Martin Chadwick, Roger Bignell, Tony Evans, Sue Wadsworth, Jean Ash, Paul Ash, Roy Green and Pam Boyes

3. **Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 28th July 2004**

No queries were raised by members in respect of the minutes of the previous meeting, and as such approval of these Minutes was proposed by Vic Matthews, seconded by Harold Stanley and passed unanimously.

4. **Approval of the annual accounts to July 2005**

The President confirmed that approval was sought in connection with the club accounts.

John Lansbury asked why there continued to be a trading loss – this year circa £22k. Don Wright accepted that this was not ideal and advised that there was a loss of income from investment monies, the club had more overheads and was running more teams. Bearing in mind 2005 was the second trading year, the figures were a great deal improved from the previous year. There was also the aspect of depreciation, which affected the figures.

Colin Benjamin posed the question concerning salaries of circa £95k with income of some £76k, which illustrated the poor trading position. DW could not argue with the figures, which largely came about due to the clubs inheritance from Sale Sharks. There were other aspects including the increase in costs associated with security so as to enable the club to be insured.

Steve Smith sought to assure the members that the finances were on the right track in that wages had been trimmed and the club had a plan going forward to address finances.

Richard Rushton felt that continuing to produce figures for the previous financial year at the AGM did not give an accurate picture of the clubs current position. There remains the possibility of two separate meetings to address this point. John Gardiner pointed out that the market value of shares in the accounts was from last year. DW confirmed that the value of the portfolio currently was approximately £3.3m

Jon Pitt felt that there was no indication from the Executive as to its plans going forward. DW confirmed that these would form part of the 2007 budget but he did not see any major development costs and he felt the club were on track to begin to break even.

The proposer was Richard Rushton, and this was seconded by Clive Bancroft. Approval of the Accounts was passed unanimously.

5. **Approval of the proposed amendment to the Club Rules**

The Secretary gave a brief outline of the reasons for the proposed changes, and the rule change was approved by the meeting.

4. **Report of the Captain of Rugby**

In the absence of the Rugby Captain, Richard Trickey outlined the season. Played 32 Won 28 Lost 4 leading to promotion to South Lancs/Cheshire 1. Thanks given to all players/the President/supporters/assistants and medical staff who showed dedication and enthusiasm. 48 players used during the season. Martin Chadwick led the team well throughout the season and conducted himself admirably in all aspects of his captaincy.

Congratulations to both second and third teams who won promotion from their respective leagues and the second team for being cup winners. Richard Trickey confirmed that four 4th XV fixtures were played winning all 4. The continued influx of Manchester Medics players has enabled us to field four teams and their integration has been much appreciated.

The Colts team had another successful season and they are to be congratulated and thanks were given to Dave Jibson and John Kitchen, in particular. Their integration with the club senior teams, including first team has proved important.

Roy Wilson, in his own inimitable style, provided the background to the second XV's season confirming its participation in the Miller Homes Intermediate League where the team finished top of league 5 East. Thanks to the players, supporters and those who assisted in running the team throughout the year. There had been the emergence of some excellent young players epitomised by two seventeen year olds who in two of the most high profile matches of the year came up with the goods to enable the club to win promotion and to win the cup.

5. **Report of the Chairman of Squash**

Frank O'Reilly commented on the lack of squash members attending the meeting. The 1st team were third in Division 3 and were still hopeful of promotion. If promoted, this would attract better players for the coming season. More players were generally applying to become members and teams were always put out in league games. Marc Nelson would continue as captain and he was congratulated on doing a splendid job.

The President took the opportunity of thanking Frank on his time as Chairman and his importance to the Executive Committee during that period.

6. **Subscriptions**

Don Wright commented that in light of no change in the subscriptions last year it was felt in order to increase the subscriptions by around 10% this year. The additional increase in the rugby subscriptions was at the request of the rugby management. Reference to associate member meant non-playing member. Phil Tredwell proposed and this was seconded by Alan Shufflebottom. The resolution was passed.

7. Nomination of vice presidents

Both nominees were asked to leave the room. The President asked for a vote on electing Don Wright. There was a unanimous vote in favour and Don Wright was duly elected.

Eric Bassett objected to the nomination of Nick Lunt. Eric advised that he had been a member since 1973, captained the club at all levels and was a past president. He felt that a vice presidency was an honour which required earning over a lengthy period. Nick Lunt is a relatively new member, non-player and was chairman for only a short period.

Dave Kelly felt that this was unfair in that such chairmanship was at a very difficult time for the club. He asked if the Executive Committee members were aware of any direct complaints against Nick Lunt at that time. Richard Trickey was aware of 2 complaints from other clubs.

Eric Bassett questioned whether Nick would represent the club in the correct way and ultimately, by appointing him a vice president, he could become president. It was then questioned from the floor as to why following his tenure of Chairman, he was not nominated. This was indicative.

Paul Colquhoun felt that Nick had done a magnificent job in difficult circumstances when nobody else wished to do the job. The club welcomed him and elected him at that time and it was not in order to reject him now. Vic Matthews reiterated the earlier comments that the club was in disarray at the time of his chairmanship and it was now a time to 'bury any continuing hatchets'.

John Gardiner felt Nick was anti-establishment who now wants to be part of the establishment.

Ron Dickson felt that he was not in a position to vote on this and asked the President about the possibility of giving the membership the right to leave the meeting and so abstain. Seven members left. Out of a total attendance of 65, there were 24 against the nomination and 7 abstentions meaning that the necessary 2/3 majority was not achieved. Nick Lunt was not appointed a Vice President.

8. Nomination of officers

The President advised that Steve Smith had been acting chairman for some 7 months and felt that Steve required no introductions in light of his past involvement with the club and his national and international profile. Steve sought the appointment as Chairman.

The President advised that Dave Hill had previously been Chairman of Squash for a period of 9 years. After a 2 year break, Dave sought re-election as Chairman of Squash and the President strongly recommended his candidature.

Don Wright sought a further term as financial controller and was recommended by the President.

The nominations were passed unanimously in one vote following proposal by Andrew Thallon, and seconded by Colin Benjamin.

Steve Smith felt it was an honour to recommend Neil Thallon for a further term as President. Neil's track record at the club being exceptional not having missed any of the 79 First Team league games, plus additional cup games in the past four years. He is now approaching 40 years as a member and has never missed a meeting since his appointment to the Executive. The membership unanimously confirmed the recommendation of the Vice Presidents.

10. Any Other Business

Philip Tredwell – various ties and memorabilia have been provided from the RFU and Steve Smith presented a scarf to Ruth Stanley for her services to the club. Neil Thallon presented ties to Harold Stanley and Clive Bancroft. A letter from the County was sent to the club congratulating Des Pastore on his MBE.

Bryan Titchett advised that 284 trees had been planted at Carrington. He also felt that the club suffered from a lack of publicity especially as regards match days and results. Steve Smith acknowledged this and that the club was looking out for a suitable press officer.

It was confirmed that Alistair Gibson was in the spinal injuries unit at a hospital in Southport. Progress was being made and he was able to feed himself. Richard Rushton had been to see him within the last week and advised that he was in reasonable spirits and would welcome visitors. Contact details would be made available on the notice board.

CLOSURE

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed.

CHAIRMAN.....