

# **SALE FOOTBALL CLUB**

## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**

### **held in the Clubhouse on Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> July 2007**

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

2. **Apologies** were received from:- Dave Swanton, Glyn Evans, Judith Mayne, David Mycock, Jarlath Walsh, Jean Ash, Paul Ash, David Hill, Bryan Edwards, Harold Stanley, Michael Atherton, David Morrison, Tom Barker, Sue Barker, Brian Collins, Colin Benjamin, David Fallows

3. **Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2006**

Chris Coventry queried section 7 relating to the nomination of Nick Lunt as a vice president. Paul Colquhoun cannot remember saying the words as minuted. It was agreed that the words 'when nobody else wished to do the job' be removed from paragraph 5 of the section.

Des Pastore proposed and Alan Shufflebottom seconded approval of the minutes (subject to the above change). Approval was given by a show of hands of the requisite number.

4. **Approval of the annual accounts to July 2006**

Vic Matthews asked Don Wright about the advisability of having so much merchandise (up 5k from the previous year) when the net profit from the sale of the same (mainly via the shop) was only £821. DW advised that the decision to increase the amount of stock and range was taken when the club employed a dedicated commercial manager who took Sale Sharks (her previous employer) as a model. DW agreed that following the departure of the commercial manager, that the marketing and sale of the merchandise had not been carried out to his satisfaction. DW felt it should be remembered that the stock had been very useful for handing out to players and officials (as opposed to any kind of payments) which was much appreciated by them. The stock was also obtained at a ridiculous cheap price and would be available for use for the next 4 to 5 years. DW hoped very much that there would be better marketing in 2007/08 including a dedicated page on the website.

VM did not feel the question had been fully answered and went on to ask about the whereabouts of the stock. He also made comment on stock recently removed from the shop which was soiled and not fit for use and whether there should be a 'sale'. DW confirmed that some of the products were in a secure location at Heywood Road with the remainder (those without logos) in a secure warehouse at Atlantic Street. DW accepted that there was some soiled stock which should have been avoided.

VM made mention of lack of investment in maintenance and difficulty in getting things done, as a consequence. DW categorically refuted this as can be seen from the accounts and the management accounts for the current financial year. There remains reliance on volunteers to get work done, which is appreciated.

Mention was made (CB/David Howe??) of exceptionally higher salaries continuing (in the region of £100k pa) in light of the clubs relatively low income. DW reminded the audience that these accounts relate to 2006 and since then the commercial manager has left and other costs such as cleaning have been reduced. The position is healthier in 2007. The remaining salaries are not individually high. SS advised that to run a club even of this size, there was a need for paid individuals.

Graham Smith referred to an annual loss of £125k before taking into account investment income. GS wanted to know if the position would improve. DW referred to the high figures for depreciation in 2005 and 2006 (£64K) which slightly distort the figures. In light of the value of land and buildings (including the recently constructed Carrington Facility) a high depreciation figure will continue to apply. There was confidence that the figure for 2007 would be in the black. DW reminded the audience of the level of expenditure on infrastructure and repairs in the past 2/3 years some of which is not particularly visible.

Nick Lunt commented on the doubling of professional fees. DW advised that the majority of fees were incurred with the parting and subsequent joining of the clubs association with Sale Sharks).

David Howe proposed, Graham Smith seconded and there was a unanimous vote approving the accounts.

5. **Report of the Chairman of the Executive**

SS reiterated some of comments made by DW. Figures were quoted of the headline figures for income and expenditure on the member behalf. £295k/£131K in dividends/£259k.

He felt the club continues on an upward curve and there and has achieved a lot in a short time from its rebirth as an amateur club. £3.5m (£120k in bank). Such expenditure included resurfacing of the road and car park/refit of the kitchen, both at Carrington. New Roofs on the clubhouses at HR as well as bar refurbishment. Annual ground maintenance was costly but necessary on both sites so as to continue to benefit from magnificent pitches.

Next major expenditure will involve lights at Heywood Road.

6. **Report of the Chairman of Rugby**

Richard Trickey read out the statistics for the season which were as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> Team – played 26; won 18; lost 7; drawn 3; points for; 607 points against; 358; 4<sup>th</sup> Euromanx South Lancs. and Cheshire 1.

2<sup>nd</sup> Team – played 31; won 29; lost 2; points for 1188; points against 206; 1<sup>st</sup> Miller Homes Divison 4 North.

3<sup>rd</sup> Team – played 25; won 9; lost 15; drawn 1; points for 281; points against 473; 9<sup>th</sup> Miller Homes Division 5 South.

Colts – played 17; won 10; lost 6; drawn 1; points for 356; points against; 259; 6<sup>th</sup> League Division 1

Captains: 1<sup>st</sup> – Adam Richardson, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Paul Kelly; 3<sup>rd</sup> – Tom Haworth; Colts – Dominic Clancy; Players of Year; Fergus Mulchrone/Scott Hayes/Andrew Gardiner/Lee Evans.

Congratulations were given to Paul Kelly, second team captain after their successful season

Running the third team proved a challenge but it retained its place in the division. Thanks, in particular, to Tom Howarth, Dave Smyth and Roy Wilson. Help is again needed for this season.

There will be no colts team this year. Rupert Smith is to head up a junior section (likely for 2008) with under 8's initially. It will be a long process before senior players are coming through the system.

John Aby is assisting Pete Anglesea with senior coaching. There is likely to be north Wales influence in the teams this coming season. Efforts have been and are being made to attract new players.

Thanks given to coaches, supporters, officials, medical staff, groundsmen (bearing in mind that there were 53 games at HR last season) and players. In particular, Ron Dickson for running the line, those who operate the gate and sell programmes, Barry Boardman & Andrew Thallon re the sound system. However, more volunteers are needed.

## **7. Report of the Chairman of Squash**

Read by Neil Thallon in the absence of Dave Hill.

A bit of a mixed season with some terrific performances and also some disappointments. Our first team finished top of their division without losing a single match and have now been promoted to division 2. 4 of our players finished in the top 10 ranking places for their division and special mention must be made of Mike Tudor who won 25 out of 25 games played, Amir Khan who won 22 out of 23, Lee Brownson who won 24 out of 26, Alan Cleal won 25 out of 25 and Warren Nazarowicz who won 25 games out of 26. This was one of our best overall team performances for quite some time. Our second team just missed out on promotion finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in their division on 407 points just 10 points behind second place. It was a disappointing season for our 3<sup>rd</sup> team who finished second from bottom in their division and look like being relegated. Our 4<sup>th</sup> team finished the season in 8<sup>th</sup> place in their division.

This coming season we would hope that our second and third teams are competing at the top of their divisions and with at least one of them looking to gain promotion at the end of the season

Once again Marc Nelson deserves a special mention, as captain of squash, for organizing the teams last season. Marc has agreed to do the same again this coming season.

The end of season tournament saw Lee Brownson and Alan Cleal in the final with Lee coming out on top and Ray White winning the handicap plate tournament with Dave Milburn runner up.

Despite keen competition in our area from the likes of David Lloyd, Dragons and the Northern we continue to compete at team level and membership numbers remain steady at about 70 members.

Although we have just had some minor repair works carried out on the squash courts we do need to invest further in the maintenance of the courts and changing areas if we are to continue competing with other clubs in the area. We have been playing squash at Sale for about 40 years now and although we will never again reach membership levels of, say 12 years ago, the playing of squash is still an important part of the Club. We look forward to the continued support of members in the same way that squash supports the aspirations and objectives of the rugby section.

NT offered his own congratulations to the squash section on a successful season.

## **8. Subscriptions**

It was confirmed by NT that rugby playing members annual subscriptions included match fees. Once 13 games had been played (based on last years match fees) a player is in credit. Nick Lunt questioned this bearing in mind what is offered to players at the club already. Eric Bassett raised the point that he doesn't have to try to collect monies from players on match days which has always been difficult.

Graham Smith raised the question about the Manchester Medics paying annual subscriptions. It was suggested that the £40 rate was very competitive and the cheapest in the area, yet offering the best facilities (including use of gyms).

A question was raised about the increase in the squash subscription rate in light of difficulties with the showers over the past few months. Steve Smith accepted the difficulties which were now sorted. He also advised that there is likely to be some expenditure on the squash courts in the coming year which needs paying for.

Frank O'Reilly raised the issue of pro-rata payments if a member joined during the season. Prospective members were being put off. Graham Smith advised that the position was already covered by the club rules. GS, as membership secretary, found it difficult to deal with late payments due to the fact that it was not clear if it was a late payment from the start of the season or a new member paying pro-rata. DW assumed that the latter would need to fill out a new membership form in any event which would make the distinction clear, in theory. FO and GS/Tony Rainford to liaise directly.

It was agreed that reference to associate member should read non-playing member.

The proposed rates of subscriptions (as a whole) were approved unanimously (save as to Clive Marty/Chris Smallbone) after being proposed and seconded.

## **9. Nomination of officers**

Graham Oglethorpe sought a further term as honorary secretary and was recommended by the President. NT and Andrew Thallon had previously proposed and seconded this nomination and the appointment was passed unanimously.

## **10. Any Other Business**

Brian Titchett referred to last years meeting where mention was made of a press officer as, he felt, that the club still lacked visibility. SS agreed and passed it back to the membership for somebody to come forward to volunteer. Ben Higgin put himself forward and enquired as to whether there was a job specification.

Rodney asked about a mirror on the roadside at the entrance to Carrington. It was understood that the Highway Authority were not keen on such mirrors.

Vic Matthews asked that the next AGM be brought forward by several weeks. Ron Dickson felt that if it was shortly after the end of the playing season, more players would attend. Don Wright advised of the difficulties in getting the final accounts prepared in time but he agreed that it should be brought forward.

Nick Lunt was disappointed in the appearance of rugby playing members especially in comparison with other clubs (shirts and ties often being the norm). RT would take his views back to the rugby membership.

Philip Tredwell said that there was a perception by the North West Facilities group of the RFU (including Ted Mitchell) that Sale FC were not interested in the funding which was available. The RFU were, apparently, advised (March 2007) that an all weather pitch was not a priority and there was a difficulty in finding a suitable location for it. Dave Lomax advised that there were 3 or 4 competing claims for the all weather pitch funding and the club decided to move aside to let another club have an opportunity. It is also not a foregone conclusion that planning consent would be given. The clubs interest was deferred not abandoned. The training lights were more urgent. There is a state of the art surface in the barn at Carrington so there is not a lack of an indoor training area at present. DL would speak directly with Ted Mitchell to clear up any misconceptions. The relationship with Cheshire RFU is stronger in light of the success of the RFU tractor operated from Carrington. This satisfied Philip Tredwell who advised that Cheshire RFU were in a strong position regarding funding. SS stated that applications had been made previously for funding to the RFU but that the club had not been awarded a penny to date.

Barry Boardman asked about the club hosting more high profile games/training sessions in the near future. RT advised that the England Saxons/England Under 21's were keen to continue to use Carrington and that RT was in contact with Nadine Keating in this regard. The loss of Jim Mallinder to Northampton would not help, however. Venues for county games tend to be moved from year to year so there is never any guarantee of these matches on a regular basis. SS confirmed that the club would accommodate and help Cheshire RFU as much as it could with use of the clubs facilities.

Mention was made from the floor to the lack of appointment of senior rugby captains for the forthcoming season. RT advised that this was not through lack of trying and approach. It was conceded that the first team may be captained by a new player. Martin Chadwick had agreed to captain the second team but on condition that he would still be available for first team selection. With regard the third team, experienced individuals had been identified but not yet convinced to take charge.

Brian Titchett mentioned the need for the floodlights at HR to be replaced in the near future. SS confirmed that the committee were well aware of the need to deal with this and it was the likely next 'big spend', although the consensus was that it would, hopefully, wait a year or two. The floodlit games for the coming season would be confirmed going forward but would include Sharks A league games, the Grammar School game, the University game and potential Cheshire Cup games.

GO encouraged the membership to buy programmes on first team match days as a lot of effort goes into producing and selling the same.

## **CLOSURE**

NT thanked the Executive Committee and the sub-committees (who do a lot of the unseen and thankless work). Particular mention was made to the work of the Sponsorship and Advertising group including Ron Dickson, Vic Matthews and others.

Thanks were given to all those involved in running the club, playing and supporters. Congratulations were given to Des Pastore on his MBE.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed.

CHAIRMAN.....