



Sale FC Rugby Club

AGM Minutes of 18th July 2018

Executives in attendance:

Steve Smith (SJS) Chairman, Ian Bullough (IB) Treasurer, Paul Kelly (PK) Chairman of Rugby, James Hourihan (JH) President, Scott Bambrick (SB) M&J Chairman, , Dave Hulme (DH) Acting Hon Secretary.

1. Opening Statement

The meeting opened with a welcome from SJS. The meeting was then handed to Acting Secretary DH.

2. Apologies:

DH read out the apologies and asked for any additional apologies from the floor: The final list read as follows:

Michael Anderson, Stephen Armstrong, Simon Baker, Michael Barnes, Jacqueline Batstone, Paul J. Batstone, Rita Blythe, Alan Castree, Jeff Christophers, Karen Crawford, Denis Cremin, Peter Denton, Patrick Duffy, John Gardiner, Sue Gardiner, Jo Gibson, David Gillan, John Goddard, Jeff Horner, John Hugall, Nicola Hulme, Noel Irwin, Peter Laws, John Ludlow, Roy Maddix, Nicky Mailey, John Oliver, Helen Reddington, Richard Rushton, David Seaborn, Martin Timms, Paul Turner, Roy Wadsworth.

3. Minutes from the last AGM held on 14th June 2017

Neil Thallon noted that in the AOB section, it was stated that 'the club had not been submitting reports to the Rugby Paper and the Messenger Newspaper'. Neil indicated that we didn't normally send reports to the Rugby Paper so the reference to this could be removed.

With this amendment agreed, a show of hands approved the minutes.

4. Annual Accounts

IB addressed the meeting and presented the annual accounts.

IB reported that turnover had increased by 31% on last year and the margin had increased from 50% up 52.1%. The club reported a loss of £279,049 last year with a forecast loss of £209,000 this year.

In respect of rugby costs, player wages had increased by £23,000 on the previous season.

Barry Boardman noted there had been a personal undertaking from the Director of Curzon North West/M&F Renewables/JCM that money would be paid back. IB indicated that the company have changed hands three times which regrettably makes any possibility of recouping any monies almost impossible.

This tenant has now been served with notice to leave the units they occupy by the end of July 2019. SJS asked that the accounts be accepted into the records.

This was proposed by Martin Blythe and seconded by Richard Trickey. A show of hands approved the accounts.

5. Chairman's Report

SJS asked that a note be placed on record thanking Mike Jefferson for the hard work and enthusiasm he has gave to the club during his time as Chief Executive.

SJS then formally introduced Dave Hulme who took up the role of General Manager at the club on 1st May 2018.

SJS also thanked Dave Levings for hard work he has put into delivering the Suite@ Sale. Thanks also to Brad for his efforts. We hope to make it a money making machine for many years to come.

Moving onto the rugby side of the club, we are experiencing a period of fantastic success thanks and well done to Keepy, Tote and PK. We were cast adrift when the Sharks left fifteen years ago but we were saved from oblivion by Trickey and his team. Now we are one level from the Championship which is the highest we can go. The question now is, do we maintain our position in National One or do we go for it?

The current squad will be given their chance at National One level

SJS then explained the use of Sale Sharks Academy players. The Sharks will give us six players per game but currently the RFU are looking to reduce this to four. What the members must recognise is that the Sharks lads play for us for free which allows us to recruit a better standard of player for the remainder of the squad.

SJS confirmed that the club are currently in negotiations with Sale Sharks regarding how much assistance they wish to give FC to help them gain promotion to the Championship. The outcome being that we want to provide the best standard of rugby possible for our members whilst maintaining the Sale FC identity.

6. Chairman of Rugby

PK reiterated what an excellent season the 1st XV had. After the first five games they went unbeaten for the remaining 23 games of the season.

The recruitment process has already started for the new season which aims to bring in new faces to enable us to compete at the higher level. All but one player, Chris Mayor, from last season will remain with us. The squad already have three weeks pre-season training under their belts and are under no illusion that next year will be tough.

The 2nd XV had a tough year. They were placed in a very tough league from the outset especially with such a young squad and for a number of reasons we had to pull them out of the league at Christmas. After we pulled out, other clubs followed suit.

We had hoped to be placed in the lower division but this hasn't happened and we have been drawn to again play in the premiership. We have regrouped and are in negotiations with MMU to assist with players and their coach, Kit Brammer has agreed to lead the 2nd XV. It will be a tough year again but with a mix of our 2nd team, MMU and last year's Colts this should be sufficient to be competitive. Last year's Colts were a good team finishing mid table of the NW Colts league which is considered the league in the UK. They also won the Cheshire Plate.

We will now look to consolidate with the next step being to run a 3rd team.

This year's Colts, last year's U16s would appear to be low on numbers but we are intending padding their numbers out with last year's U15s until we can recruit.

7. Chairman of Minis & Juniors Rugby

Scott Bambrick (SB) indicated that the M&Js have two main objectives: to grow in size year on year and become an integral part of the club.

SB explained how each age group has developed based on the 20/20 vision which focusses on developing players and coaches alike. The end goal being that the section includes 300 boys and 100 girls by 2020.

SB offered sincere thanks to all volunteers who have assisted throughout the year on match days and beyond.

In relation to integrating the M&J players and families into the club a number of initiatives have been introduced which fosters a family orientated atmosphere and aims to have more families attending games.

A number of successful M&J hosted events have taken place over the past season including a New Year's Eve party, Ladies Day and an away trip to Leicester.

Work in the community undertaken by Andy Hughes, the Community Coach has meant that he is now coaching in nine secondary schools which has already brought fifteen players into the club.

The 'Pathway for 2020' aims to allow people of all ages an opportunity to play rugby at a club where they can play rugby for life. This encompasses teams for minis, juniors, colts, seniors, vets, casual social and walking rugby.

8. Club Rules

Following discussions at the last AGM, the club rules had been amended to bring them in line with the current activities of the club.

The amended rules were presented for approval.

Jonathan Brooke identified a slight issue with the numbering of some of the points which were noted.

DH asked that, with these amendments made, could the rules be accepted.

This motion was proposed by Martin Blythe and seconded by Neil Thallon.

9. Annual Subscriptions – 2018/2019

SJS proposed an amendment to the club subscriptions for the coming season. The rates proposed would be:

Social Member - £120

Social Member + relative - £150

Mini & Junior – One parent/guardian + child(ren) £120

Mini & Junior – Two parents/guardians + child(ren) £150

The subscription rates for the coming season were proposed by David Lomax and seconded by Tamsin Caine. A show of hands approved the amendment.

10. Elections of Officers of the Club

Executive Members

The positions of Chairman and Secretary were open to nominations for acceptance at this meeting. The term of office for the Chairman had run its course. Brad McBride, who held the position of Secretary, stepped aside when he became an employee of the club. Dave Hulme was asked by the Exec to take over as Acting Secretary until the 2018 AGM. As DH has also become an employee of the club he will not be standing for election to the post in a substantive capacity.

Accordingly, a notice requesting nominations for these posts was posted thirty five days ago, in accordance with the club rules.

Steve Smith was nominated by Dave Hulme to continue as Chairman, this was seconded by Scott Bambrick.

A show of hands from the floor carried the nomination with Steve remaining Chairman for another term.

Gareth Daniel was nominated by Scott Bambrick to take on the role of Honorary Secretary; this was seconded by Dave Hulme.

A show of hands from the floor carried the nomination with Gareth Daniel becoming Honorary Secretary of the club following this meeting.

Vice Presidents

SJS informed the meeting that the President had accepted nominations put forward for the following members to become Vice Presidents of the club.

Tamsin Caine, for efforts as a volunteer and most recently for her work as membership secretary.

Scott Bambrick for his work as Chairman of the Mini's & Juniors, as a volunteer and a member of the Executive Committee.

Anthony Howcroft (Tote) for the fantastic amount of time and effort shown in helping secure promotion for the 1st XV from National 3 and National 2 North in the last three years.

11. Any Other Business

AGP – Artificial Grass Pitch

Steve Smith explained that the club had investigated the possibility of installing an artificial pitch at Heywood Rd however, the associated cost along with issues related to planning meant that it wasn't a feasible option.

However the club are progressing with discussions with the RFU for them to provide an AGP at the Carrington facility as part of the Rugby 365 Programme.

The project means that the RFU locate an AGP on the site of a rugby club. The RFU pay for the installation and upkeep of the facility and run and manage it subject to a lease from each club to the RFU. The host club obtains access to the new facility on preferential terms although the RFU will make the facility available to other sporting bodies.

There is however a stumbling block in that the RFU will not enter into any arrangement other than with an incorporated trading entity. This is a nationwide policy and no exceptions are acceptable. Sale FC is not incorporated. Sale FC Ltd which owns the site at Carrington is incorporated but it is not a trading entity.

The simplest way forward with which the advisers to the RFU are satisfied is for Sale FC to incorporate with a constitution following as closely as possible to the new draft rules. The assets and liabilities of Sale FC will be transferred into the new corporate body and in return all the current Sale FC members will be granted membership in the new company. No payment will be required from any member for this.

Sale FC having become a shell will in due course be wound up.

Sale FC Ltd will continue in its present form holding the land effectively in trust for the members of the new company from time to time. Sale FC Ltd will grant the lease to the RFU but all day to day operations will be between the new member's club company and the RFU.

There is no other option than for the club to incorporate into a trading limited company if it is to get an AGP at Carrington.

There might be an issue relating a potential tax implication for the transfer of the land but this is being checked with the auditors.

Barry Boardman asked if the club would be giving our lives away to the RFU. This would not be the case as the club would still own the land and would be giving a lease on the one pitch.

SJS asked the meeting if the Exec could be given the authority to investigate all options for the AGP. The finding would be brought back to the members in the form of a Special General Meeting.

The motion was proposed by Tamsin Caine and seconded by Martin Blythe.

A show of hands approved the amendment with one objection and one abstention.

BT Sport

Clive Bancroft asked if it would be possible to contact BT Sport in relation to the club hosting one of their Rugby Tonight programmes on a Wednesday night.

Volunteer Committee

Ian Currie suggested the formation of a Volunteer Group will look at days/dates for Club functions

Members Survey

DH indicated that he would be circulating a survey to all members with a view to gaining views on all aspects of the club.