

Northwich Rugby Union Football Club
Annual General Meeting, 7.30pm on 12th May 2004 at Moss Farm
MINUTES

Present: C Naylor, T Rawling, R Owen, G Stoker, S Bridle, R Heath, S Mills, S Wood, J Simpson, A Bown, K Senior, G Robinson, P Clarke, D Johnson, J Cartman, T Pickering, S Taylor, A Stanley, J Gough, M Penny, J Carroll, K Dean, D Phillips, I Dale, M Lowe, D Townsend, C Heywood, J Brotherton, K Stansfield, B Williams, 'DD', 'Illegible'.

Apologies were received from: J Brunlees, R McLaverty, M Naylor, A Naylor, K Houghton, K Jones, B James.

Minutes of the 2003 AGM were unanimously approved.

Matters Arising: The honours Boards and team photographs have still not been brought up to date.
Action: Committee

Chairman's Report: Colin Naylor gave his report for the year 2003/4. The key points were:

The season started well with good attendances at training and the first team going unbeaten for its first four league games. But the combination of the loss of several players (e.g. to Australia) and injuries meant we started losing and training attendance dropped off badly. Finding ourselves in a relegation battle we fought back at the end to secure good wins against Warrington and Widnes to ensure we stayed in our current league.

It was good to see Mike Penny, Donny Phillips and Danny Townsend back with the club and making a valued contribution to the 2nd XV management and coaching. A particular thanks to all the coaching staff who worked well as team.

John Blower's tragic injury on 6th December was a blow for everyone and the Club should be proud of the way everyone has rallied round to help and support the situation and the JBT. Andy Naylor deserves special recognition for the unstinting effort he has put in. John will not get much better so we must keep at the task of supporting his cause.

So after a somewhat disappointing season in the league and the shock of John's situation let's look at the positives:

1. The 2nd XV had an excellent season and developed into an effective and cohesive team under the new team management.
2. The 3rd XV maintained their status as the 'famous 3rds' under the continuing leadership of Ian Dale.
3. Many young players came through to our senior teams from the Juniors during the season.
4. Our Junior section is in excellent shape and now includes two teenage girls teams.
5. We have a women's XV.
6. Our finances are sound and our internal organisation is improving.
7. Senior and Junior paid up membership both increased.
8. We won the Cheshire Community Club of the year award and came close to winning two other similar awards.
9. We have a much-improved working relationship with Winnington and other local clubs.
10. Jan Cartman organised another excellent club tour.
11. The restructured Northwich Festival under Tim Pickering's leadership raised a record amount for the club and has given us a blueprint to follow in future years.

Colin concluded by thanking everyone who has supported the club with their hard work in the last 12 months, particularly the committee, captains, team managers, Ray Owen and most importantly the players who proudly wear our shirt every weekend.

Treasurer's Report: In Jim Brunlees' absence Trevor Rawling presented his report on his behalf. Key Points were:

1. The Club is in a sound financial position and will finish the year (after late transactions are banked) with a balance of £12,160 compared to £10,200 last year.
2. This is despite two worthwhile but significant payments of £1250 to the JBT and £729 for the John Nancollis Memorial bench.
3. Also we paid £560 of laundry bills this year, which were 2002/3 items, and we did not have Sport for All money to cover our costs for coaching courses.
4. Both Senior and Junior subs income was appreciably up reflecting both our growing membership and improved subs collection.

The following question was raised for Jim to address – There is no money showing for sponsorship this year but a number of sponsorships were received as cheques. Where is this income booked?

Action: J Brunlees

Fixtures Secretary's Report: Trevor Rawling gave the report the key points of which were:

1. We finished our 1st XV league fixtures in schedule despite two rearranged games. We played few non-league 1st XV games due to an unwillingness by our own players and those of our scheduled opposition to play them. We need to agree our policy on non-league 1st XV matches for next season.
2. The 2nd XV had a tough time with fixtures as the existence of the new NW regional leagues (which we were not in) meant that we had many fixtures cancelled so were often in the pool. However the 'go anywhere – play anyone' attitude of the squad is to be commended and they hardly missed a Saturday.
3. The 3rd XV honoured all their fixtures and took a few pool matches when the opposition cried off.
4. Next season we have entered both our 2nd and 3rd XV's in the leagues. TR read out the proposed league structure and opposition teams and will forward details to 2nd and 3rd XV management.
5. We are entered in the Intermediate Cup.

Senior Rugby Report: Steve Wood gave the report for the senior rugby section, the key points were:

1. We lost a number of key players for a variety of reasons early in the season.
2. Some other good players did return to the club and we expect some of the others to return.
3. Coaching this season was by a 'coaching team approach', which worked well and will continue. Special mention should be made of the contribution by Barry James.
4. The 1st XV started well but player attrition led to disappointing results offset a little by an end of season rally which saved us from relegation.
5. The revival of the 2nd XV was particularly encouraging and the 3rd XV continued to be a solid outfit.
6. Special thanks to the Junior section for continuing to provide a source of valued players for the seniors at all levels and to the captains, team managers, coaches and George Stoker for all their hard work.

Junior Section Report: Simon Bridle presented the report, the key points of which were:

1. NRUFC were the Sports Cheshire Community Club of the Year. This is prestigious award of which we should all be justly proud.
2. We were runners up in the North West Club of the year award.
3. We have established 2 teenage girls teams and a women's team.
4. Next season we will have complete Junior squads from under 7s to under 19s with no gaps for the first time in the club's history. At some age groups we have sufficient players to field two sides.
5. We secured a lot of sponsorship getting sponsored shirts for all age groups and monies towards general costs. £5000 was raised this year and next year we are going for £10000 towards the clubs general finances etc.
6. We have continued to develop our use of the Club Web site and this great facility should be pushed more throughout the club.
7. Junior membership has grown and the total number for next year (including the girls and women's teams) will be ~ 250 players.

Subscriptions: After considerable discussion it was agreed the previous use of the category 'Family Membership' was confusing. It was agreed that this will be split into two new categories:

- 'Multiple Junior' membership. This applies where there are two or more Juniors from the same family.
- 'Family' membership. This will confer senior (playing or non playing) membership and junior membership for that members children for one subscription.

The agreed subscriptions for the 2004/5 season are:

Membership Category	Annual Subscription
Senior Player	£50
Student or unemployed senior player	£30
Senior Non Player	£30
Junior Player (single)	£30
Junior Player (multiple)	£50
Family	£75

Senior Match Fees are unchanged.

The above decisions were approved by a large majority vote.

Election of Officers:

Colin Naylor was unanimously re-elected as club chairman.

The following officers were unanimously elected for the coming year.

Position	Name
Vice Chairman – Rugby	Steve Wood
Vice Chairman – Administration	Trevor Rawling
Vice Chairman – Community Development	Phil Clarke
Vice Chairman – Records	Kevin Dean
Hon Treasurer	Jim Brunlees
Hon Secretary	Trevor Rawling (temporary)
Director of Rugby	Donny Phillips
Coach	Barry James
Fixtures Secretary	Trevor Rawling
Junior Chairman	Simon Bridle

Election of Captains:

The following were unanimously elected to be team captains for the coming season:

First XV	Jan Cartman
Second XV	Graham Robinson
Third XV	Ian Dale

Special thanks were given to the two retiring captains Rob Heath and Jez Gough for all their hard work.

Election of player's representatives:

Rob Heath, Andy Stanley and Adam Bown were unanimously elected as player representatives to the committee.

Tour Report: Jan Cartman presented a report on this year's club tour the key points of which were:

1. The tour was to New York and 44 went.
2. It was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone and has made us the envy of local clubs.
3. The teams we visited in the US made us very welcome and would love us to come back.
4. There is a proposal to go again next year but spending time in New Jersey.
5. Against Bayonne the Vets team just lost but the first team won their game by a very large margin.
6. In the second match a 'hybrid' team of firsts and vets were just beaten.
7. Bayonne donated \$1000 to the JBT and the tour party raised £111 and a second cheque for \$600 for the JBT.

John Blower Trust; In Andy Naylor's absence Colin Naylor gave a brief update on the JBT:

1. The JBT has raised £50K+ so far (the goal is £150K).
2. Progress is being made to getting John and his family a purpose built house in Hartford at very favourable terms thanks to the generosity of many companies.
3. There are many events scheduled and these are posted on the JBT notice board and the club website.
4. The Bank Holiday weekend at Winnington was a great success with a profitable lunch at the County Game on the Saturday, an excellent tournament on the Sunday and a great 'bash' on the Sunday night.
5. Warrington are organising a sponsored 6 mile run and we are committed to providing 15 runners.

Other Business:

The Annual Awards night is Friday 21st May at Hartford Social Club. £10 a head, please be there and let Colin know your table requirements.

Rob Heath raised the issue of improving communications. The meeting was advised to use the web site and e-mail more and to ensure the club had full contact details, phone numbers and e mail addresses for each of us.

Action; All

This could be helped by having everyone complete a club registration form, which would also record everyone as bona-fide members of the club for insurance purposes etc.

Action: T Rawling/K Dean

The problem of members who do not pay their subs was raised. The Junior section will apply a strict 'no pay – no play' policy after September 30th. It was agreed this is more difficult to enforce in the Senior section but the best policy is one of pressure from Team Captains, Team Managers and fellow teammates on non-payers. Updates of who has paid and not paid will be provided to Team Managers and Captains/

Action: K Dean

The Meeting was closed at 9.25pm