

Northwich Rugby Union Football Club
Annual General Meeting held at 7.30pm on 20th May 2009 at Hartford Social Club
MINUTES

Present: C Naylor, T Rawling, R Heath, , A Bown, G Robinson, , J Carroll, D Townsend, M Naylor, R McLaverty, B Johnson, G Gough, S Taylor, R Smith, C James, R Phillips, M Thompson, D Farley, R Evans, C Johnson, W Outram, T Lewis, M Dodd, R Dale, A Chubb. J Davies, A Cartney, S Gough, S Leyland, K Gooch, R Farley, D Millington, M Houghton, N Farrow, P Eaves, J Keegan, A Lawler, K Naylor, S Naylor, J Miritana, D Cairns, J Barber, A Barber, K Senior, R Walker, G Davies, D Eyes, A Eyes, Y Cartman, N Wilson, N Birdsey, R Phillips, H Littler, C Heywood,

Ron McLaverty took the chair and welcomed all to the meeting.

Apologies were received from: K Houghton, Steve Wood, Paul Taylor, Alan Jack, Peter Pattendon, Danile Davey, Steve Campbell, Robert Moxon.

Minutes of the 2008 AGM were unanimously approved and there were no matters arising.

Chairman's Report: Colin Naylor gave his report for the year 2007/8.

- The key points were:
 - Our current status is due to the quality of our members and volunteers.
 - All ere thanked for their hard work.
 - We will continue to always operate within our means.
 - A number of projects have been undertaken in the last 12 months and all have been successful.
 - We need to continue to generate income form all possible sources.
 - We will continue to work hard in the community with our various partners and be the leading community Rugby Club in central Cheshire.
 - All members are encouraged to work for and be proud of the 'Team of the Town'.
- There were no questions arising.
- The meeting thanked Sam for his hard work for the year.

Treasurer's Report: Tomos Lewis presented his report. Key points were:

- The Club finished the year with total cash balances in excess of £30,000..
- This was an increase of £6,500 on 2008.
- Although expenses continued to rise income kept pace.
- Cash sponsorship was down but an excellent Festival and Twickenham Ticket income covered that.
- Festival income was up at £9000+
- We have taken the total cost of our investment in the Greenbank in the year.
- The Meeting thanked Tomos for all his hard work, particularly as Jim is standing down this year.
- The following questions were asked:
 1. 'How is the current economic climate likely to affect us?' The response was that we need to be particularly prudent and cautious with our expenditure and to put maximum effort by all into fundraising – especially the Northwich Festival.

Fixtures Secretary's Report: Paul Taylor was unable to attend but had advised in advance that he had nothing special to report. Trevor Rawling advised the meeting of changes to the North 2 west league and to cup competitions fir the coming season.

- Paul Taylor was thanked for all his hard work.

Senior Rugby Report: Steve Wood was unable to attend but forwarded a report which Colin Naylor read to the meeting.

Key points were:

- 1st XV started well and were in a strong position at Christmas. However a very long injury list caused a lot of disruption and results slipped in the new year meaning we finished lower in the league than we had aspired to.
- 2nd XV had a great season and finished a very strong 3rd in their league just missing out on automatic promotion (again). There is no doubt that if they had not had to keep covering for injuries in the 1st XV they would have made it.
- 3rd XV found the new league tough and struggled for results. However the team management continued to get a side out every week and towards the end of the season the player numbers, rugby and results all improved – well done guys.
- The Women's team did a great recruiting and rebuilding job and now have a very competitive and capable squad. A number of our women players have been selected for Cheshire and the North West. Congratulations.

- The colts had a tough start to the year having elected to play in the top league. They had a lot of near misses but struggled for wins early on. However in the latter part of the season the team started to play more to its potential and secured some good wins and a tournament trophy.
- Special thanks were made to Rob Heath, Danny Townsend, Natalie Woods and all the captains for their hard work.
- Thanks were made to Steve Wood for his valued contribution.
- The following questions were raised:
 - Q: What our playing ambitions for the coming season>
 - A: To really do as well as we can and achieve top 4 for 1st XV, promotion for 2nd XV and consistency and enjoyment for 3rd XV.

Junior Section Report: Bob Phillips presented the report. The key points were:

- The Charity status is working well and we are starting to realise the benefits.
- There have been much closer working relationships with the senior section.
- Membership is steady after a very big rise last year.
- We need to leverage the work of the Community Coach more to increase Mini numbers.
- Bag packing as a source of fundraising works well and will continue.
- Kevin Jones is still working with the girls section in partnership with Sandbach.
- Some of our Colts played for Cheshire.
- All teams went on tour – over 200 youngsters including under 7s! Colts went to France, Juniors to Newcastle and the minis to Wales. All went well.
- Next season we will field both Junior and Senior colts who will train together under Phil Clarke and Alan Jack.
- In the coming year the key goals are:
 - Revamp the website.
 - Recruit more Mini players.
 - Find a new fixtures sec.
 - Make more use of Rugby First for recording keeping and data management.

The following questions were asked:

- Q: A number of Junior coaches expressed dissatisfaction with the activities of the Community Coach and consider it not worth the investment.
- A: The Club Committee has requested an activity report from the Coach and a presentation to the Committee. Also he needs to meet with the Junior coaches and agree objectives and goals. The club has this item under review and while we want it to work we will have to reconsider our position if there is no benefit arising for the club.

Subscriptions:

The agreed subscriptions for the 2008/9 season are:

Membership Category	Annual Subscription
Senior Player	£5 signing on fee
Senior non-player	£35 0r £3 pm by SO
Women players	£60 – no match fee (student £30)
Senior Non Player	£30
Junior Player (single)	£30
Junior Player (multiple)	£50

Senior Male Match Fees will be £5 per home game.

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
Hon Treasurer	Tomos Lewis
Hon Secretary	Trevor Rawling
Fixtures Secretary	Ken Houghton

Junior Chairman	Bob Phillips
Match & Membership Secretary	Paul Taylor

Election of Captains:

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

First XV	Rick Smith
Second XV	Kurt Naylor
Third XV	Steve Leyland
Women's XV	Natalie Wilson

Election of player's representatives:

The committee unanimously voted for a proposal to increase the number of players reps to three to include a rep from the female section.

Adam Bown, Chris James and Karen Gooch were unanimously elected as player representatives to the committee.

Cheshire RFU Representative: Ron McLaverty kindly agreed to continue with this role. The Club thanks Ron for his work in this area.

Northwich Festival: Trevor Rawling gave brief resume of last year's Festival::

- It was a good Festival last year and we again made £9000+. We hope to match that this year.
- Trevor Rawling outlined the format for this year's event and appealed for more volunteers to help.
- A question was raised regarding our advertising and promotion of the event. The response advised that we always try to keep all our overheads down to avoid heavy losses if the weather was disasterous. However we need to consider new, innovative ideas for low cost, wide reach marketing for the event and all ideas are welcome.
- The Festival Steering committee were thanked for their hard work.

Other Business:

- Colin Naylor reminded everyone of the up-coming awards night and urged everyone to attend.
- Colin Naylor reminded the meeting that we have a negotiated Club membership rate at LA Fitness at £25 per month. Uptake has been small and unless it improves we may lose the deal.
- A question was raised re next year's coaching plans. Rob Heath advised that a Men's Rugby Steering Team was already working on this to find the best solution form internal and external resources. This will be resolved by end of June for pre-season training.
- A question was raised as how best can we help adults who are new to the game. Key issues are a process and contacts for this, key skills coaching and welcoming support. Also we need to be aware to 'go gently' at first in terms of training activities.
- The issue of First aiders was raised by Mel Houghton who confirmed that she is now qualified to deliver first aid courses and volunteered to run them within the club for coaches, players and others – particularly for the Junior section. This may help our Rugby First Ticket point score in the future. Mel was thanked for her kind offer which will be followed up by the junior section.
- A question was raised re Twickenham Tickets. Trevor Rawling briefly explained the way the system works and the Committee's decision to take advantage of the cash generation via RFU licensed corporate hospitality companies.
- Again the question was raised as to whether we should have a social secretary. There was no obvious volunteer for this post! The alternative was offered of any member having an idea for a social/fundraising event to float it the committee for approval (normally given), to form their own task force to deliver the event and to deliver it – and the proceeds!

The meeting was closed and all were thanked for their attendance.
