



OXFORDSHIRE RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

Minutes of Financial AGM held at Stratfield Brake on Tuesday 15th November at 7.30pm. (Chaired by Andy Rolfe)

Present: Vincent Murphy, Kevin Robinson, Colin Baldwin, Rob Walsh, Chris Skaife, George Merry, Karen East, Andrew Rolfe, Doug Bosley, Pete Bramley, David Witts, Richard Tyrrell, Jenny Bosley, Tony Cooke, Rick Bonito, Chris McCarthy, Roger Graham

Minutes taken by: Karen East

AGENDA

1. Introduction and Previous Minutes
2. Elected Members (Chairman and County Secretary)
3. Financial Report – ORFU expenditure / Approval of Accounts to June 2016 / Payment of Players
4. CB Priorities and Vision
5. Any other AGM Business
6. County Presentations

Meeting starts 19.30

1. Introduction and Previous Minutes

Andy Rolfe welcomed everyone to the meeting. The previous minutes were accepted
1st – Vincent Murphy / 2nd – Pete Bramley

2. Elected Members

Chairman – Chris Skaife and Secretary – Karen East
No other candidates put forward for the roles
The Executive put these forward – No one against either.

Both elected.

Also, the Executive put forward an interim Playing Chair – Doug Bosley was put forward. Everyone agreed.

3. Financial Report

Vincent explained that ORFU accounts are complex compared to normal accounts as we have to report to RFU and ORFU as well.

Please see a copy of the accounts to support these minutes. (Attached)

Vincent also took this opportunity to say that it would be useful to have another accounts person to support him in this role. If anyone is interested please contact Vincent.

Vincent highlighted that we pay for storage £3600 is shown in accounts (this is two years worth).

Rugby World Cup dinner shows a loss – valuing volunteers were there as guests.

It was agreed to dip in to the reserves to support the World Cup this year. Chris and Vincent will be meeting to reset the reserve – aiming for a reserve of circa 50k.

There is nothing noted against coaching on the accounts – this is included within the PFR – Vincent noted we did incur coaching costs – in future this line will be listed specifically as people want to see the specific info.

Chris – The plan is to use the PFR to lay out focus and financial allocation.

Kevin – The women and girls expenditure is over 2k but RFU made no provision for women's and girls – however it was expected in PFR funding plan. However, women and girls was an element in PFR last year but it is not ongoing.

Accounts were accepted – Vincent Murphy / Kevin Robinson.
(No one against)

Payment of Players

Colin – It came to council on 14th Oct – first time they knew about it.

At level 3 players payment and coaches payment capped at 150k (equivalent of where Henley was).

Level 4 – 100k cap (Henley / Chinnor level)

If you pay above that you will not qualify for travel allowance from RFU or funding for facilities and club ground.

RFU are asking all clubs to make a statement as to whether you pay players. If you say you do, someone can ask to check your PAYE (HMRC) etc. If you say you do not and you are found out you are there can be serious consequences (with HMRC etc).

The worry is the threshold is too low – Colin needs to know the thoughts of the clubs. The next council meeting on 2nd December there will be a vote on this and Colin will be voting against it.

Vincent – Any encouragement to suppress visibility is bad – HMRC will go after clubs.

Kevin – How have the sums 100k and 150k come about? The glass ceiling is being enforced on promotion, it does not allow natural evolution and will also restrict sponsorship.

Colin – HMRC look carefully at these. If you put players through business as PAYE (fictional) as a way of sponsoring it, it will be picked up.

Colin – I do not know how the levels were set.

Kevin – A lot of clubs are Ltd companies so are audited. RFU trying to dictate is policing the game.

Chris – I don't think it's policing. The levels may be questionable but they assume if the club can pay excess amounts on players they can afford to manage their own clubs and don't need funding – isn't fair to give them funding. Please don't leave thinking 100k / 150k is limit – it is not the case. *It just affects funding if you exceed the capped amount.*

Colin – I think the amount is too low. All clubs should be able to access funds to improve the situation – good facilities bring players in.

Rob – I don't know what Chinnors budget is but it's been successful this year. As seniors are successful it brings minis and juniors to the club. I agree the limits are too low.

Vincent – The RFU have not thought this through. Funding being restricted doesn't make sense; receipt of funding isn't automatic anyway. You have to apply for funding. If there is a more deserving club you wouldn't get it now anyway.

Peter – It will affect grass roots rugby and referees society too.

Tony – Playing budget at Henley is done through PAYE system now – these amounts are too low.

Grove – We survive year to year, lower clubs welcome this as means they may get some funding. We don't pay players – only expenses if required. To get to another level its not just about facilities money, we need money to grow and get players in.

Colin – it shouldn't matter if clubs want to pay players, if clubs want to pay players they should still have access to funding.

Kevin – it will penalize the juniors and minis membership essentially. Also, don't be fooled in to thinking any lower clubs will get funding not allocated to higher clubs. It won't happen. There are lots of criteria that affects funding – whether you own the club, tenancy agreements etc. as well as other regulations.

Rob – Chinnor gets sponsors because people like sponsoring. They don't get anything from sponsoring really. This will just penalize clubs getting money in.

Colin – Money makes a club successful. Players will leave clubs for money.

Banbury – Limiting to one paid coach is also too low. Can't develop existing players without paying a coaching team.

Pete – this is stagnating rugby.

Vincent – this discourages development and encourages non-compliance. The cap also includes other staff (bar staff, cleaners etc.) – its crazy.

Tony – How does this affect Colleges? They are government funded, how will the budget be worked out?

Key Points

- Amounts too low
- It will penalize developments on the broader side
- If funding and facilities are not allocated to higher clubs we would like to see the money go to lower clubs.
- No payment @ level six is unfair. Lower levels also need to be able to pay if they can afford to.

CB Priorities and Vision

We talked about this at the SGM.

Priorities highlighted were referees retention and recruitment and U14s recruitment and retention.

At the next Executive meeting in December we will formalize what priorities there are. Clubs let us know your key issues. And priorities. We collate a list and link them to PFR.

Clubs - Let us know if anyone wants to come on to Executive / CB – we are interested to here.

RFU leadership academy – there is a good pool going through. Lets tap in to expertise, always looking for volunteers.

The Executive wants to get closer to clubs – if you have any concerns or questions send them to Karen or Chris.

4. AOB

Q. Richard – There is a lack of rugby in state schools. We are hoping to make gradual improvements but we need recruitment of youngsters from state schools. Is there a way we can pressurizes secondary schools to introduce rugby?

A.

Chris – There is an 'All Schools' programme, we will find out and feedback what schools this goes in to.

Richard – Rather hit and miss how it is currently done. We need more fixtures. Schools have fixtures against each other. We need them to stay local and play at the clubs.

Kevin – Yet to see the report from Dave Larham re. 'All Schools' programme.

Chris – AP – Chris to obtain report from Dave Larham to circulate.

Kevin – The Schools Union is very much alive and fixtures are in place. It is disjointed between Schools Union and RDO which needs to be resolved. Communication should then become clearer. Clubs can have a schools liaison officer. We rely on the School Union and Cup Competitions to put together a fixture

list.

Chris – RDO and Schools Union need to link. AP – Chris to speak to RDO.

Q. Gosford – Football / rugby clashes from age 11. We are losing a lot of players to football. Can we communicate with FA at all to try and stop clashes?

A.

Chris – I will speak to Dave Larham, the question can be asked but will probably be a challenge. We need to focus on making rugby more appealing at grass roots. We need to identify where we can target.

Richard – The emphasis is on those who already like rugby but how can we encourage the remainder? Can someone go in to schools to focus on younger ages as well and secondary?

Chris – There is nothing stopping us. Perhaps clubs could make initial contact with local schools? RDOs could then take over.

Banbury – We have been hosting the competition between local secondary schools finals at the club. This does promote the club. We need to target the PE teachers.

5. County Presentations

Value Volunteer: Becky Warner – Banbury – Scarf (Not present – given to Banbury to take)

Value Volunteer: Peter Ramsdale (Not present)

Value Volunteer: Nick Orton (Not present)

Nick Cole – Life Member (Not present)

Meeting closes at 8.55pm