



## **OXFORDSHIRE RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION LIMITED**

*Oxfordshire Rugby Football Union Limited is a registered society under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014. Registered Office: Woodstock Accountancy, 3A Market Place, Woodstock OX20 1SY*

### **DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**2020/21 Season**

HELD VIRTUALLY DUE TO COVID 19

on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at 7pm

#### **AGM Agenda is set out below:**

1. Apologies
2. Approval of the Minutes from the 2020 Virtual AGM.
3. Matters Arising from the Minutes
4. Election of Executive Officers: President and Chair of Rugby Development
5. Ratification of the proposed Executive Members (Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary and all Chair positions on the Executive Board)
6. 2020/21 Season's Achievements.
7. 2021/22 Priorities and Focus.
8. County Reports (Finance, President and RFU Council Representative).
9. Clubs Feedback and 'Questions to the Board'.
10. Any Other Business.

#### **1. Apologies for absence:**

Mark Boland (Banbury), Dave Hipkiss (Gosford All Blacks), Matt Rushton (Harwell), Simon Vickers (Chinnor), Tim Stevens Littlemore), Jamie Metcalfe-Tarren (CB) Al Awcock, Dave Walkden, Life Members:- Colin Baldwin, Ken Bumpass, Paul Murphy, Vince Murphy

## **Attendees:**

**Executive Board:** – Pete Bramley (President & Chair), Karen East (Retiring Secretary), Doug Humphries (Hon Sec) Andrew Tacon (Treasurer) Rob Walsh (RFU Council Rep), Gina Overton, Jenny Bosley, Doug Bosley, Jane and Paul Weaver

**Other CB Committee Members:-** Jamie Goddard, Chris White.

**Life Members:-** Kevin Robinson, Nick Cole (Jenny Bosley and Doug Bosley above)

## **Club Representatives. ALL voting clubs were represented as follows:-**

Nick McKeown & Patrick Sweeney (Abingdon), Chris White (Banbury), Keith Upton (Bicester), Pete Conway (Chinnor), Patrick Neale (Chipping Norton) Paul Levell (Didcot), Dave Norris (Faringdon), Mark Gardner (Gosford All Blacks), Chris McCarthy (Grove), Doug Bosley (Harwell), Aubrey Doran (Henley), Lee Gillett & Dave Rudman (Littlemore), John Brodley (Oxford), Neil Hopper & Ron McDonald (Oxford Harlequins), Richard Payne (Wallingford), Pete Ramsdale (Wheatley), Bob Fisk (Witney)

**Others:-** Stuart Mount (Candidate for President), Becca O’Neil (RFU Rep)

The CB has received via email in advance of this meeting, authorisation from their Club Committees for the following to have delegated permission to cast a vote on behalf of their Clubs

Mark Gardner (Gosford All Blacks), Chris White (Banbury), Doug Bosley (Harwell)  
Pete Conway (Chinnor)

Pete Bramley (Chair) opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

## **2. Acceptance of the last minutes dated June 2020.**

**Amendments:** Change season from 2020/2021 to 2019/2021,

Awards: Matt Mountford- change team manager from Witney 1<sup>st</sup> XV to Chinnor 1<sup>st</sup> XV

The amended Minutes were accepted.  **Proposed** by Bob Fisk, **Seconded** Pete Ramsdale

## **3. No Matters arising from those minutes**

#### **4. Election of Officers:- President and Chair of Rugby Development**

All candidates have provided supporting documents for their candidacy which had been sent in advance to all with voting rights. In addition candidates were allowed to give a brief presentation followed by questions. Becca O'Neil, the independent RFU Rep counted the votes.

##### **President**

Pete Bramley outlined why he wanted to continue in this role and was questioned about the possible conflict of interests of being both Chairman and President.

Stuart Mount explained how he wanted to promote rugby throughout the county and was questioned about the roles he has undertaken in his various Clubs.

Following the vote count Pete Bramley was duly elected as President,

##### **Chair of Rugby Development**

Neither of the two candidates, Al Awcock and Dave Walkden were present so Doug H (Sec) read out their supporting statements.

Following the vote Dave Walkden was duly elected

Kevin Robinson proposed that the Executive Board consider introducing the role of Junior Vice President, as in the RFU model, so that candidates like Stuart, could apply, and use this a route to the Presidency. Likewise Al Awcock should be considered for a role within the Rugby Development Sub Committee. **Proposed** by Kevin Robinson, **Seconded** Chris McCarthy. All in favour with none Against.

#### **5. Ratification of the Proposed Officers of the County**

Appointments were accepted and ratified as per the below list.

There were no additional nominations submitted.

Chair - Pete Bramley

Treasurer - Andy Tacon

Secretary - Doug Humphries

RFU Council Rep, Chair of Governance and Safeguarding - Rob Walsh

Safeguarding Manager and Discipline Secretary – Jenny Bosley

Chair of Male Representative Rugby – Doug Bosley

Chair of Female Representative Rugby – Chris White

Chair of Marketing & Communications – Gina Overton

Co Chairs of Diversity & Inclusion – Gina Overton & Jamie Metcalfe-Tarren

Co Chairs of Competitions – Paul & Jane Weaver

They were collectively **Proposed** by Chris McCarthy, **Seconded** by Paul Upton. All in favour with none Against.

## **6 & 8 2020/2021 Achievements and Officers' Reports**

Pete Bramley stated that the Covid pandemic had affected the playing achievements and used a Powerpoint presentation to demonstrate achievements and progress in other areas.

**Competitions:** Paul and Jane have worked with the RFU on future competitions' strategies and have prepared for a fully integrated girls'/women's county framework.

**Communications:** A much improved website has been launched and we have been providing more content to our Twitter, Instagram and Facebook accounts.

**Volunteer Recognition:** Mitsubishi Volunteer recognition nominees announced. This year's Oxfordshire Volunteer finalists are Rhyanne & Tom Young (Witney)

**Diversity & Inclusion:** A new RFU requirement with a new team created. Gina O & Jamie M-T are building a team to create a policy for clubs to put into practice. They will be launching a survey to help assess current and future provision in this area.

**Rugby Safe:** We are identifying Mental Health providers' support offered. Need to prepare for First Aid provision changes next season, which become mandatory in 2022/23. The injury reporting App, 'ProActive' is now available to Clubs to buy and will be used by County teams.

**Girls Rugby:** There will be a new inter club County Cup competition, the same as the Boy's version, as well as an inter Counties Competition for U/15 and U/18 girls.

**Women's Rugby:** Plan to run an inter Club County competition as well as an Inter Counties Cup competition. There is a county plan to help clubs recruit and retain players. The profile of the female game will be increased on the new county website.

**Administration:** Worked with the RFU during the pandemic to ensure up to date information was available to all as well as providing clubs with sanitiser and Covid support. Worked with the RFU legal team to ensure the CB met with rules and compliance. Zoom meetings allowed the Board to meet regularly. Club Reps WhatsApp group set up to share concerns/answer queries and support. Organised a free Mental Health webinar for clubs to attend. Secured tickets and offered to Patrons to buy for the summer series. Secured AGP bookings for the County.

**Finance:** Made sure Clubs were aware of RFU grants and how to obtain them. Also we were in regular discussions with the RFU to get the best support possible for our clubs. Ensured that CB accounts/statements were up to date, filed and made the board aware of these. Successful in reducing annual Accountancy fees.

## **Questions about the Achievements & Reports topics**

Mark Gardner: Will our D&I team be influenced by the recent Euro's football abuse?  
Gina – Unlikely as we want to focus on D&I in rugby – what support clubs want: wheelchair rugby, women's rugby, walking rugby etc?

Pete Conway: Will the RFU introduce a D&I policy requirement into the Accreditation Process?

Rob Walsh- D&I is at the forefront of the RFU's work but not yet a part of the Accreditation process.

Dave Norris: Faringdon wants to offer Women's Rugby. What support can the CB give?

Chris White- not an easy task but improving as the media gives Women's Rugby a higher profile. Posters, use of local Facebook pages, and Taster sessions will all help. Chris is prepared to visit Faringdon to share ideas. Gina also mentioned the Inner Warrior programme.

Dave can use GMS to get contact details of clubs with a women's section. He would also like help with after school sessions. Chris W will investigate provision from an agency who use ex servicemen to take such sessions.

Patrick Sweeney: Abingdon 7s on 25<sup>th</sup> July only have two women's teams entered. Can Clubs enter a team otherwise they will have to cancel it?

Chris White is willing to visit any Club to discuss strategies to get Women's rugby started or improved.

Pete Bramley concluded this session with special thanks to Phillipe Peirsegaele for leading the Development Rugby section, but having to step down for personal reasons. Also a big thank you to Karen East who has worked tirelessly as secretary keeping the CB team in check as well as working with the RFU to keep us well informed and legal.

## **7. 2020/2021 Priorities and Focus**

The priority has to be the return to rugby for all. Fortunately, today, the RFU Update announced the key dates for contact training to begin before returning to full contact competitions in September.

We still need to support Women's and Girls' rugby. O2 are stopping support for Touch Rugby and are making Womens' Rugby their focus for sponsorship.

Consideration needs to be given to getting spectators back to the game without Covid restrictions.

The CB will be having a Strategy Away Day to see how we can best support our clubs.

## **9. Clubs' feedback and Questions for the Board**

Keith Upton thanked the Board for the international tickets for their bereaved family who had an excellent day out.

He asked if the Financial AGM could be before November as the Financial Year ends in June and accounts are uploaded before the AGM?. Andy T assured him that the accounts are uploaded after the AGM.

Keith also asked if we could supply a register of electors as new or special resolutions to our rules require 75% of the voters to support such changes? Doug H will do via the new website.

Rob Walsh asked if anyone could recommend a solicitor to help with our Rule amendments? Keith Upton will put us in contact with a parent who is a barrister.

Kevin Robinson stated that we are an Industrial Provident Company and are not governed by the Companies Act.

Keith Upton asked if the concerns over the election of the RFU Council Rep had been resolved? Yes it has, as the CB had operated correctly.

Mark Gardner expressed concern that their U/15 & U/18 girls had registered for the National Cup but needed ratification by the CB, and only one team is allowed. With two teams in each age group the CB has to rank them and approve them, which is not easy without knowing them. The CB will need to get more involved in the future.

## **10. Any Other Business**

Mark Gardner suggests that we need to promote the achievements of our Girls' who have gone on to represent National clubs and National teams to help drive the Girls' game forward.

Gina Overton has put those that she is informed about on Facebook. Do let her know of such players.

Rob Walsh asked that Becca O'Neil thanks the RFU for their grants and loans to our Clubs as these have helped them to survive and no club has 'failed'.

Rob has acquired a 1997 Lions team photo and signed Red Roses shirt to donate to Didcot RFC's charity auction in aid of Oxon Air Ambulance and Douglas & Helen House.

The President of the RFU, Hon Judge Blackett is doing a sponsored walk around Oxford on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November. Do let Rob know if you want to join in.

Pete Bramley thanked everyone for attending, especially Becca O'Neil from 'HQ'

***Pete Bramley (Chair) closed the meeting at 21:10***