



OXFORDSHIRE RUGBY UNION

MINUTES OF THE FINANCIAL AGM FOR THE 2021/22 SEASON & CLUBS OPEN FORUM

Tuesday 8TH NOVEMBER 2022 at Oxford RFC

(The CB's Financial Accounts were circulated to all Clubs ahead of this meeting)

Present:

CB members: Stuart Mount (Meeting Chair) Rob Walsh (RFU Council), Andy Tacon (Treasurer), Doug Humphries (Secretary), Jane & Paul Weaver, Chris White, Jamie Metcalfe-Tarren, Doug & Jenny Bosley, Dave Walkden, Gina Overton

Club Reps: Nick McKeown (Abingdon), Paul Handley (Banbury), Keith Upton & Granville Williams (Bicester), Patrick Neale (Chipping Norton), Dave Norris & Chris Bruce (Faringdon), Mark Gardner & Phillippe Peirsegaele (Gosford), Mark Prestidge (Grove), Doug Bosley (Harwell), Mike Thomas (Henley), Tim Stevens (Littlemore & OU), Neil Hopper & Daisy Hopkins (Quins), John Brodley (Oxford), Pete Ramsdale (Wheatley), Bob Fisk & Francis Grant (Witney), Rob Cross (Ref's Soc)

1. Apologies for Absence:

Pete Bramley, Sarah Blizzard, Kevin Robinson (Life Members) Dave Larham & Nicola McCombe (RFU), Mark Boland (Banbury) Pete Conway (Chinnor) Paul Levell (Didcot)

2. Minutes of last FAGM:

The minutes of the last Financial AGM were approved with no matters arising. Proposed by Kevith Upton, Seconded by Chris White

3. Approval of the Annual Accounts for the period ending 30th June 2022

AT explained that there was a slight surplus as

- there were no U/20 XV fixtures to fund and
- the W&G section was underspent.
- Our over heads were low (thanks to Clubs for hosting our meetings)

We therefore accrued a surplus of £16k and have reserves around £69k.

The Accounts were approved at this meeting. Prop: by Paul Weaver, Sec: by Pete Ramsdale.

Last season's RFU grant of £400 per club to do Risk Assessments was not all used, so this year up to 10 Clubs can claim £200 each for completing their Risk Assessments.

We have 6 vouchers to cover the cost of Referee Training courses for YMO and Seniors.

Rob Cross urged people to get involved to help cover Cup and AGR Games. Recently no School games could be covered by the Refs Soc.

The CB is offering 4 x grants of up to £500 to improve Women's officials' changing rooms. This season we will be using about £15k of our reserves to support Rugby within the CB
RW thanked AT for getting the County's finances in order

4. The CB's 3 Year Strategic Plan 2022 – 2025

A summary was presented based on both the CB's priority plus the Clubs' Needs, Priorities and Challenges raised at our AGM in July. The focus was to develop the best experience for players as well as further developing and growing the game. This has 5 key objectives:-

- The Retention & Recruitment of both Players and Volunteers
- Creating quality Coaching/Refereeing opportunities plus coaching & refereeing support systems.
- Game For All - promoting the full range of playing opportunities
- Women & Girls' Rugby – to continue to develop this across the Counties Clubs
- Financial Stability – to increase income at a time of reduced RFU funding and rising costs.

This will be backed up by a 5 page document showing how each Strategic Objective will be achieved, when, Costs involved. DH showed an example relating to Coaching & Refereeing which also includes the Success Criteria to be achieved for each action.

Mark Gardner expressed concern about the RFU taking over the DPP from Wasps as the former can adopt an elitist approach, yet this should be inclusive for all young players.

Action: Do let Dave Walkden (AGR Lead) if any concerns arise when the RFU take over.

5. Clubs' Open Forum

a) Rob Fisk raised concerns about the new league's structure/fixtures etc. Could 2nd & 3rd XVs be at home together rather than 1st and 3rd XVs. 2nd XV replacements could support the 3rd XV if short of players. Also all of their home fixtures finish on 18th February so no bar takings with the smaller leagues and shorter season. Various Clubs also expressed concern about the 'early' start to the season, not just because of the hard grounds but players and volunteers without school children going on cheaper holidays throughout Sept.

Rob Cross also mentioned about the many cancellations and venue swaps making referee allocation difficult.

Action: Inform Rob Walsh of all concerns related to the new league/season format and he will take Rob F to an RFU Council meeting to share these concerns.

(NB The start of season was also raised at a National CB Zoom meeting on Thurs evening)

b) End of season (post 11th March) Cup Competitions (R Fisk) The RFU's National Papa John's Cup arrangements have recently been distributed affecting most 1st XVs. J&P Weaver have organised an Oxon Bowl competition for most Clubs' 2nd & 3rd XVs. There may be 2 Pools due to the difference strengths between various clubs/teams. Some AGR Festivals may be moved forward to avoid clashes with their Cup competitions
(NB Gloucester CB have noted an increase in Tour applications for the March/April period)

c) Update on Oxon Merit Table (Pete Ramsdale) The structure is in place for the 7 teams to organise each fixture over a 2 week period. Not all are being fulfilled due to getting a team out. Perhaps we should give a 3 or 4 week slot to arrange each fixture.
Chipping Norton enjoyed their game with ex Colts making up the numbers.

Action: Teams to use the BBO WhatsApp Group **and** the Merit Table group to get players.

d) SOS Kit Aid Mike Thomas appealed for any playing kit, tackle bags, balls etc for AGR and Adults. which clubs can donate to be 'recycled to Developing Countries including Easter Europe. Part sets of shirts acceptable. Mike will arrange collection.

Action: Delve into those deepest corners and contact Mike on mike@mikekt.co.uk or 07595 729771 or 01865 880418

e) Feedback on Game Development Strategic Plan (previously circulated) Granville Williams is on this Sub committee and would like any feedback, positive or negative, by email, phone etc.

Action: Gina O will create an MS form to complete and put on the CB Facebook page or email directly to key Club Board/Committee members.

f) RFU CB November Update in Nicola McCombe's absence

Her presentation showed that Youth/AGR affiliations had increased by 25% on last year's numbers as parents get used to the system. (Nationally a 30% increase) *Table attached*

An RFU Webinar is on next Wednesday at 7pm on Energy Saving.

Chinnor Chipping N Littlemore & Wallingford have completed the RFU Safeguarding Audit

Action: The other Clubs have until 31st December to complete this.

In GMS, if parents paid/signed up late in the season they have difficulty in enrolling now!

AOB

1. Bicester RFC Concerns: Granville reassured the meeting that these had been resolved:-

The W&G section has a new Coach for the rest of the season;

The U/14s now have 18 players plus Admin support;

Their pitches, not the school's, can now be used by the Youth section with the recent rainfall

2. Referee Confirmation Rob C – a reminder to confirm referees 48 hours prior to the game.

Check that contact details are correct on 'Who is the Ref.com' add/delete team contacts

3. Webmaster contact details are not up to date at the start of the season. **Action** in future.

4. Abingdon would like to send some keen parents on some basic/Level 1 coaching courses

Action Dave Walkden – can you investigate and support?

5. Oxford University events Tim Stevens invited all to a Women in Sport evening/Match on 25th November. Details have been sent to Clubs W&G leads

Major Stanley Mens & Womens matches, Wed 30th Nov. Ticket offers to Clubs.

Recommend to Tim any players who would be good enough to play in either of Major Stanley's teams.

6. First Aid provision next season Gina reminded everyone that Senior teams will also require First aiders next season, **Action:** Clubs to ensure Training is organised this season.

7. These Minutes will be amended, if needs be, and approved at the next CB meeting on December 13th, **Action:** so please inform Doug H of any errors, omissions etc. before then Meeting closed at 20.15

Next Clubs' meeting is Tuesday 14th March at Oxford Rugby Club