

Madras Rugby Club Annual General Meeting 21 May 2017
Minutes

1. Present:

Lynn Christie; Colin McAdam; Graham Smith; Mark Methevn; William Richmond; Jennifer Duncan; Jen Smart; Frank McArthur; Stephen Mercer; Hugh Gillan; Jonny Fraser; Ben Smart; Jonathan O'Riordan; Andrew Whiteford

2. Apologies for Absence:

Andrew Campbell; Alan Mansfield; Jonnie Adamson; Jack Sullivan-Webb; Mike Storrie; Kieran Williams; Ian Turnbull; Jordan Ward; Peter Wallace; Ewen Sparks; Bill Roger; Steve MacArthur; Craig Bones; Daniel Cooper; Robbie Stevens; Dave Bell; Nick Kinnear; Ross Methven; Craig Campbell Millar; Rosie Steven; Andy Brown; Andy Topping; Colin Carstairs;

3. Welcome from (interim) Club President Colin McAdam

Colin welcomed all members to the 2017 AGM noting the presence of representatives of most sections of the Club. He thanked these representatives for taking the time to come along and for the reports they have agreed to give during the AGM.

4. Opening Statement and Overview of the Season (interim Club President: Colin McAdam)

After the unexpected resignation of Craig Bones as president in November 2016 (effective immediately), Colin McAdam was asked to step in as interim President and has spent most of the last 5 months getting to grips with the current situation of the club. As such he could not give a full overview of the season that has just finished.

A few issues have been discovered and these are being dealt with, although may take a while yet to fully understand and resolve. Overall the club is in an ok position but some changes will be needed in the next season.

Finances will need to be more closely managed and a system put in place whereby decisions are not taken unilaterally but rather by committee.

Aside from finances, club house management, brewery contracts, bar staff management and the general management will need to be reviewed also.

He invited representatives of each sections to give a review of the past season.

5. Madrascals Update (Jonathan O'Riordan)

Jonathan reported that the Madrascals AGM had not yet been held and so was unable to give the list of office bearers for the 2017-2018 season.

However, he was able to report that it had been a good season for Madrascals. Membership numbers

had remained steady; sponsorship had been obtained for kits for all year groups; many of the teams had been successful at away tournaments as well as at home tournaments.

The number of P7s coming up to the Blues next season was healthy in numbers. However next year's P7 numbers would be very low and as such the small group would merge with the P6s and play combined age group rugby.

Funds had been generated for the club from the hosting of 3 home tournaments.

Communications issues between Madrascols and the main Club Committee had been highlighted and will be worked on to improve them for next season.

Integration of Madrascols into the main club remains another issue to resolve although it was noted that the Club very much saw Madrascols as a major part of the Club and expressed a desire to see more of them at club events especially summer touch rugby. A better method of communication is required. At present information is sent to the Madrascols Secretary and Convenor for onward distribution. This will be amended for the forthcoming season.

6. Blues Update (Ed Dunstan)

Whilst Ed could not be present he sent a recorded verbal report for the committee to listen to:

The Blues has had a fairly mixed year. The Blues were able to field teams at the U13/14 combined aged group; U15, U16 and U18.

Both the U15s and U16s reached the semi finals of the Caledonia Cup. However, as the 3rd and 4th place play-offs were dropped in April 2017 neither team came away with any silverware for the season.

Two individual players had an incredibly successful season, being chosen to play for the Scotland U16 squads. A third player was also successful in being selected for Scotland try outs and for playing for the West of Scotland.

The Blues hosted the Caledonia Cup finals on behalf of the SRU on 27th April 2017, for the 3rd year in a row. This helped generate much needed income for the club.

Lows of the season were losing several players to rival clubs as we were unable to provide competitive rugby pre Christmas, mainly in the S1 – S4 groups. The U18s bucked this trend with the return of a few players from Howe and Madras College to form a U18 team. The first in several years.

A solution has been proposed to overcome this issue of losing players for next season but this will be addressed by Stephen Mercer later in the meeting.

Ed thanked Lynn Christie, Jennifer Smart and all the other volunteers for providing catering and support for fixtures across the season.

7. 1st IV Update (Graham Smith)

The season has been a mixed one with the usual difficulty of fielding a team at the beginning of the season due to the nature of employment of a lot of the first team and we have had to pull out of

games. This led to sanctions from the SRU which were accepted.

However, the season ended on a high with promotion to the next tier. This was a great but hard won achievement as we lost our coach early on in the season when he moved abroad for work.

8. Vets Update (Robbie Steven)

Robbie was unable to attend the meeting and so no Vets update/report was provided.

9. Treasurer's Report (Hugh Gillan)

Hugh took over as treasurer from Andy Ramsay at the beginning of the season.

It has taken a while to identify and resolve club income and expenditure.

Members present at the AGM considered and approved the finances noting the very small surplus that the club had made up to June 2016.

Areas of potential savings and fund generating opportunities were identified including:

Changing brewery supplier

Not renewing leases on coffee machines

Ensuring all membership fees are paid in a timely manner

Ensuring all match subs are collected and paid in from every team in the club

Sourcing sponsorship for each team's strips

Promote the clubhouse as a social venue and ensure functions are properly priced

Ensure full costings are done for all club events and dinners to ensure losses are not incurred

Avoid unnecessary coach hire expenses

Go to community charities / trusts with applications for funding to refurbish the clubhouse

Members to use the clubhouse more to ensure bar takings are maximised

The accounts would now be sent for auditing.

10. Election of New Committee Members for 2017/18

The following people were proposed and accepted by all at the AGM

President: Colin McAdam

Vice President: Lynn Christie

Club Secretary: Lynn Christie

Club Treasurer : Andrew Whiteford

1st IV and Club Captain: Graham Smith

Director of Rugby: Stephen Mercer

Clubhouse Convener: Catriona Stephen

Child protection Danny Bates

Sponsorship Convener not filled

Coach training/compliance Officer not filled

11. Update for 2017/18 Season (Stephen Mercer)

There has been a lack of numbers to fulfil fixtures at both St Leonard's School and Madras Rugby Club.

In order to address this, and with the support of the SRU, talks have begun between these two to see if it is feasible to put out a combined team in a pre Christmas competitive conference.

To date talks have been very positive and have been warmly received by all involved. If this goes ahead next year will be a trial year to see how the logistics work out and to assess the level of commitment by players from both teams.

This will help stem the loss of players from the Club due to the lack of pre-christmas games and help St Leonard's fulfil their curriculum requirement for rugby.

It is hoped that the first weekend of the next season will be a combined first training session with a social (probably a BBQ) to welcome all to this new initiative.

The school is likely to take training on Tuesdays , the Club on Thursdays and a combined session on Saturdays.

If this is successful it is envisioned that teams at U13, U14, U16 and U18 can be sustained for the duration of the season.

12. AOCB

All members present were encouraged to provide assistance with the end of season club house and grounds cleaning operation taking place next week.