

Madras Rugby Club Annual General Meeting 5 June 2018
MINUTES

1. Apologies for Absence (Received)

R Smart; A Whiteford; S McArthur; B Seago; T Seago; G Smith; B Rodger; S Russell; C Russell; C Bones; S Hughes; C Bates; R Christie; S Christie; R Steven; C Carstairs

2. Members Present

L Christie; C Steven; C McAdam; J O'Riordan; D Bates; S Mercer; J Ballantyne; M Methven; P Smilie; E Dunstan; M Stirling; N Mifsud; S Herd;

3. Welcome from Club President

Colin welcomed everyone to the 2018 AGM. He thanked Storm and Graham for taking over the club's facebook page, noting that they had made a real difference disseminating information on the whole clubs' activities to a wider audience than the web page reaches.

4. Madrascals Update (Jonathan O'Riordan) [including Madrascals office bearers for 2018-2019]

- The Madrascals AGM was held on 25 May 2018.
- It had been a mixed year mainly due to weather conditions forcing the cancellation of lost of fixtures, which were eventually rescheduled for the end of the season.
- There was no P7 year group
- Good year for social events: Burns supper, end of season prizegiving
- Most of this years committee will stay on for one further year at least, however Magnus Bell is looking for someone to shadow him for the next year with a view to taking over at the end of the 2018/19 season
- Next year there will be teams at P7,6,5,4,and 3, although the P3 and P4 numbers will be low.
- Pete Bennett is now on board as the sponsorship convenor and is keen to speak to the club committee to take sponsorship club wide
- Plans for the 2018/19 season include reducing the Edinburgh commitments as they have just come off the back of 3 away matches to Edinburgh in a row, the aim being to have many more local matches instead.
- The season will begin again on the 25 August
- Strips will remain the same as last season as they are only a year old and there is no need to change them again
- As Claire and Stewart Russell are leaving the club is also losing their P2 coach, but there are coaches for all year groups.
- Kit and balls are required for next season – and numbers will be submitted to the club for purchase
- No issues to report

5. Blues Update (Claire Bates) [including Blues office bearers for 2018-2019]

- The Blues had quite a successful season. All fixtures of the SRU organises Tier 4 conference were fulfilled.
- We could only be in tier 4 as we couldn't put out teams at every age group, but have now been raised to tier 3 so need to put out more teams next season. This will be

achieved with the continuing collaboration with St Leonards School. Huge numbers at U18; U16s struggling but Andrew Turnbull will take on this group; healthy at U15 and U14; U13 numbers getting there but having to work at it as there are no P7s coming up

- Trying to make Madras Blues as appealing as possible to persuade players to come back to us from other clubs
- 2 teams at U18 and U16 entered the Caledonia Cup, both sides making it to the semi – finals so congratulations to all. The fixtures for both ages worked against them both by distance and repitition
- Hosted 2 touring team at U18 – from Argentina and Australia
- The U16s were runners up at Lathallan in their first ever 7's tournament and were also runners up at our own 7s.
- Successfully hosted another set of Caledonia Cup finals although these will be the last the club will be hosting for a while.
- Stephen Mercer and Ed Dunstan were thanked for the incredible amount of work that had been put into setting up the Madras St Leonards collaboration and for their work throughout the season. Permission was sought from the Club Committee to formalise the collaboration and this was approved
- Coaches are in place for all year groups, although some team managers have yet to be found
- A meeting will be held at St Leonards School on 20th June to better inform parents of the collaboration and Colin will be going to represent the Club

6. 1st IV Update (Graham Smith)

- The team took promotion this season and recruited lots of players, but still struggled with team continuity and fulfilling pre Christmas fixtures. There were also lots of injuries. Post Christmas was a lot better
- Still not known if we are staying in the same tier or are getting demoted – this will depend on decisions made for the tier below. Player retention is improving.
- Storm Hughes will be the new match day captain with Graham Smith being the senior club captain as he cannot play due to surgery
- Still do not have a coach for next season so Colin will pick this up in the interim
- As the University now has Scott Lawson as their Director of Rugby we may get help from them if we need players and access to coaches, training facilities etc. Colin will lead the talks with the University.

7. Vets Update (Robbie Steven)

- The vets have played only one game all season – Prague Old Boys match
- There has been no Vets tournament since the last president left and Robbie hasn't really had time to take on the lead for the vets, and also there is no appetite from the Vets to play.
- Whilst we still have the Vets connections it is on ice for now and will be revisited during the next season.

8. Tartan Touch

- With support from the SRU Madras will be one of several hubs for touch rugby over the summer – Tartan Touch
- Runs weekly and has since May with 40+ participants taking part each week.
- The Madrascals are actively being encouraged to participate
- Staffing for the BBQ has become an issue and volunteers are required

- First XV have been very active and a great source of help for organising and running this
- Everyone was thanked for their time and effort.

9. Treasurer's Report (Andrew Whiteford)

The finances have been turned around and are much healthier than they have been over the last 2 years, greatly aided by a change in personnel. However, we now need to pay for a clubhouse manager as it is almost a full time role with Catriona working at least 4 days out of every 7. The work that Catriona does facilitates the biggest income generation for the club and so is invaluable to us. Payment to Catriona will also include a retrospective payment for the work she did last season. The full membership present approved paying Catriona for the work she does with thanks from all.

Income improvements were also helped by moving payments for memberships away from Pitchero to being taken directly over the bar. But this can be improved further. We are incredibly good value for money compared to the membership fees charged by other clubs and the fees will be reviewed before the start of the next season.

As the club comprises Madrascales, Blues and the First XV a fixture card covering 11 will be printed for the coming season with the hope that it will encourage more members to come down and support all sections of the club thus increasing income over the bar.

10. Scotland Internationals: Ticket Allocation Policy (Ben Stuart)

There have been big issues with ticket allocations this year. There was a lot of disharmony about communications about tickets available and the method of allocation with some receiving none and others tickets for all games. Colin will speak to Ben about this to change things for next season.

11. Election of New Committee Members for 2018/19:

The current President (Colin McAdam) thanked all the outgoing committee members/volunteers for their sterling work in 2017/18 as well as all the players and coaches. Colin then thanked, in advance all those continuing on for the next season and those about to volunteer for committee positions. The ethos is great as is the volunteering mentality within the club, but we still need more.

- Club President: Colin McAdam offered to restand for a further year and this was approved unanimously by all members present.
- Club Secretary: Lynn Christie offered to restand for a further and final year and this was approved unanimously by all members present.
- Sponsorship Convener: Pete Bennett agreed to take on this role and this was approved unanimously by all members present.
- Club Treasurer: Andrew Whiteford offered to restand for a further year and this was approved unanimously by all members present. He is in the process of changing the accounting system
- Clubhouse Convener: Catriona Steven offered to restand for a further year and this was approved unanimously by all members present
- Vice President: It was agreed that a Vice President was not needed. In its stead a club captain was nominated and approved and Graham Smith will take on this role.
- Director of Rugby: This was Stephen Mercer but as he has taken on the role of Blues Convenor then he is standing down from this. Nick Mifsud (Coach Coordinator) agreed to

be this on paper only if it was required for paperwork.

- Coach training: Nick Mifsud agreed to take on this role and this was unanimously approved
- Compliance Officer : Danny Bates (for the Blues) and Magnus Bell (for Madrascals) will continue in these roles for one further season.

12. Update for 2018/19 Season

The club will be looking to change bar sponsorship away from Belhaven and will approach the St Andrews Bew Co. However we are not limited to one sponsor and so a lot of effort will be put into finding many sponsors for the club.

Thanks went to Scott Herd and Stove Co for their sponsorship over the last season and for agreeing to continue this sponsorship into the next season.

13. AOCB: Communications

- Improvement is needed in getting information out to all on one platform that the majority are likely to use.
- Weekly reports need to be submitted to the Citizen to cover both Blues and Madrascals and not just individual teams. The Seniors will submit their own reports
- The photos on the walls of the clubhouse need serious updating and so all teams are invited to get photos done and framed.
- GDPR needs to be added to all membership forms.

Lynn Christie
Club Secretary
5 July 2018