

# MINUTES OF MEETING

## 2017 MAFPRFC Annual General Meeting

DATE 20.06.17  
LOCATION Clubrooms, Redcloak Pitches, Slug Road, Stonehaven  
CHAired BY N. Foster – President  
MINUTED BY L. Brown – Secretary  
DISTRIBUTION Notice Board / Committee / Email

### AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Adoption of 2016 AGM Minutes
3. Captain's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Mini Section Report
6. Youth Section Report
7. Mammoths Report
8. President's Report
9. Election of 2017/18 Office Bearers
10. AOCB
11. Date of next Executive Committee meeting

### Attendees

N. Foster, L. Brown, H. Begg, A. Venters, J. Sadio, J. Kelly, E. Lindsay, R.C.C. Richmond, J. Dale, N. MacKay, A. Mitchell, C. Mair, H. Ramsay, D. Gerrard, L. Venters, M. Foster, C. Gray, R. Gray, H. Sherriffs, A. Kelly, K. Mair, F. Stewart, D. Garden, M. Coull, D. Dobbie, W. Craig, S Peddie and C. Dreelan.

Meeting brought to order at 19:05hrs by President Neil Foster.

### 1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from the following members

R.Mellis, M. Kelly, K. Westland, C. Vaughan, W. Garden, K. Black and J. Daniels

### 2. Adoption of Minutes of 2016 AGM

The minutes for 2016 AGM were approved unchanged.

Proposed Bob Richmond  
Seconded Andrew Mitchell

### 3. Captain's Report

See attached report for full details

Ross Gray read out the report written by Club Captain for Season 16/17 Rory Mellis.

The report was generally downbeat highlighting the issues experienced during the past season which proved difficult and trying for all involved.

- Won 0 Lost 19 – finished bottom in Caledonia 1 and were duly relegated
- 46 players used in 18 league games – lack of consistency
- Lost in opening round of BT Shield but did manage to field a team so participation funding was not lost unlike last season
- Again there was no 2<sup>nd</sup> XV fielded by the Club
- Caledonia 2 North will be a very tough league and the current squad really need to knuckle down as the trips to Shetland (opening day fixture), Stornoway and Ross Sutherland will require a great deal of commitment to ensure a competitive Mackie team can be fielded
- Rory has decided to step down as Captain and wishes his successor the best of luck going forward

Proposed      Colin Mair  
Seconded     Ross Gray

### 4. Treasurer's Report

See attached report for full detail.

Main points raised were:

- Some exceptional payments from beneficiaries who wish to remain anonymous have greatly assisted with balancing the books this year
- Backdated Development Officer funding successfully applied for and received from SRU
- Large outlay for materials and works completed at the new changing facilities
- Lease of 3G pitches is of major concern given the perceived lack of benefit. £9k for the year when we only really need the facility from end of Tattie holidays until beginning of Easter holidays. Agreed that no full contact certification on 3G and late Senior slots at 3G had contributed to the teams poor performances this year. Not really enough room for all Mini/Yout sections to utilise on a Wednesday - several groups have already relocated Only one team continue to use the 3G on a Saturday morning. Effectively pay for 12months when we only use 6months as the Amateur Football teams want the pitch 70% of the time in their early/late season on the Wednesday night slot. Agreed unanimously that the situation was untenable going forward. Following discussion, it was agreed that the new 2017/18 Committee would meet with DO to discuss plan for next year.
- SRU still paying for basic insurance costs – Club uplifts this to maximum cover levels available under SRU Negotiated Policy at minimal charge
- Sale of International Tickets continues to be successful and all monies were received and banked promptly – pretty much broke breaking even despite a significant Sponsors commitment due to prior agreements which had to be honoured. Only real shortfall in ticket coverage was for England game at Twickenham for which the Club was only allocated 8 tickets - a number that could have been sold 10 times over!

Proposed      John Kelly  
Seconded     Eric Lindsay

## 5. Mini Section Reports

Lorenz Nehring was not present but submitted a written report which was read out by President Neil Foster

See attached reports for full details

Main Points raised were:

- Around 165 members
- Successful P7 Tour but no opposition could be found for a competitive game
- Thanks to all volunteers, parents and senior squad helpers
- IT was communicated that the Micro section would extend down to P2 as of next year with a healthy uptake of places expected - ex-Deeside coaching team will be joining Club to facilitate the expansion
- Confirmed that Ross Anderson had agreed to take up Mini Coordinator position vacated by Lorenz Nehring who has stepped down and is currently working towards refereeing qualifications so he can officiate next season

Proposed Steve Peddie

Seconded James Sadio

## 6. Youth Section Reports

Richard Cochrane was not present and no written report was submitted for the AGM

Main points raised were:

- Won the SRU Caledonia Red Conference
- S1 successful season
- S2 successful season
- U15 beaten by eventual winners Hawick in Semi Final of BT Cup - winning at half-time but ran out of steam but were complimented on their contribution to a very competitive fixture
- U16 beat Ross Sutherland to win Caledonia Shield at St Andrews
- U18 struggled to raise a team early season and an agreement with Grammar was reached for pre-Christmas games but when the Granite City initiative kicked in they were forced to teamed up with Deeside (who had been similarly let down by Aberdeen Wanderers) in order to compete in the post-Christmas Cup Competition This was a step forward from previous years U18 situation but there is still a lot to work on to support this group better especially given the strength of the current U16 who will be coming up next season
- On this subject concerns were voiced over plans for U18 squad for next season - James confirmed that the final planning/allocation of coaches was underway with a meeting planned for Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2017
- **ACTION** - James Sadio will issue notice to parents/players following Saturdays meetings to confirm coaching allocation and Pre-Season arrangements
- Concerns voiced that Granite City had been approaching this seasons U16 Mackie players voicing untruths and actively trying to get them to move away from Mackie
- On a more positive note there is now a very good relationship with Stathallan Private School and the Gym Master **Scott(?)** - looks like this will pay dividends in the long run with U18s teams being able to assist each other for mid-week and weekend games whilst avoiding unnecessary clashes - this will assist the Pathway squad members who need to rack up game time

- Confirmed that Eric Lindsay had agreed to take up Youth Coordinator position vacated by Richard Cochrane who has stepped down due to increased work and family commitments

Proposed      Ross Gray  
 Seconded     Steve Peddie

The President thanked all of the Youth Coaching team members for their efforts over the past season.

The President repeated his vote of thanks to Richard Cochrane for his effort as the Clubs Youth Coordinator.

## **7. Mammoth's Report**

Neil Leitch was not present and no written report was submitted for the AGM

On following up, Neil provided a report which is duly attached to these Minutes

- Not many subscription payments from Mammoth membership this year - mainly coach membership and occasional Family membership but lack of numbers has been a problem all season for many veterans Clubs with only a handful fixtures fulfilled
- Golden Oldies Festival at Ellon in May - retained the Best Supported Club Award
- Buttercup Trophy a great success with 3 visiting teams but clashed with Feein' Market so not a big crowd - Carnoustie wrestled the trophy away from the Mammoths
- Tour organised for last weekend in August 2017 to a Veterans Tens Tournament in Holland - expect 20-25 to travel - these people should all be paid-up members for Season 17/18 and that will hopefully kick start a much more active 2017/18 Season

Proposed      Leslie Brown  
 Seconded     Neil Foster

## **8. President's Report**

Neil Foster presented his Presidents Report for Season 2016/2017

See attached report for full detail

- Successful year of major facility improvements off the field
- Big effort to get the Changing Rooms up and running - more work than expected - mainly done by a core crew which were well supported by the Seniors corralled by Rory Mellis/Kirsty Westland
- New Clubrooms have proved a great success - Colin Mair thanked again for his tireless efforts in realising this facility which will be a huge benefit to the Club for many years to come
- Difficult year on the field as previously highlighted by Rory
- Colin Mair stepped down as 1<sup>st</sup> XV Coach mid-season
- Thanks to all the coaches who work so hard to make sure the kids enjoy their rugby
- Thanks to outgoing Captain Rory Mellis
- Thanks to Richard Cochrane who managed to bring in East Coast Viners as a new Sponsor of the 1<sup>st</sup> XV

Proposed      Bob Richmond  
 Seconded     John Kelly

## 8. Election of Office Bearers

The President stood down and handed the meeting over to the Club Secretary Leslie Brown to facilitate the election of the Club President for Season 2017/18.

Neil Foster was nominated as President elect by Ross Gray and seconded by Hugh Ramsay – Neil accepted the nomination and with no further nominations forthcoming was duly re-elected as Club President.

Neil Foster, the President presided over the election of the remaining office bearers for Season 2017/18

<b>POSITION</b>	<b>ELECTED</b>	<b>PROPOSED</b>	<b>SECONDED</b>
Vice President	A Venters	N Foster	J Kelly
Treasurer	H Begg	N Foster	S Peddie
Secretary	L Brown	N Foster	RCC Richmond
Captain	M Kelly	R Gray	D Garden
Vice Captain	R Gray	J Sadio	M Coull

Senior Fixture Secretary - Hugh Ramsay was in attendance and indicated he was happy to continue in this role.

Youth Fixture Secretary - Keith Stewart who was not in attendance but had previously intimated to Neil Foster he was happy to continue in this role

Fund Raising Coordinator - Kirsty Westland has done a tremendous job in the last year and will continue to fill this important role and it is the Committees hope that Kirsty will be supported even further by representatives from ALL Sections in the season ahead

Club Ambassador/Sponsorship Coordinator - Andrew Mitchell

Membership/Subscription Secretary - tbc

House and Grounds - Dod Thomson

### **Coaching**

Club Development Officer - James Sadio will continue in the role and was again praised for his efforts throughout the season

James Sadio has also assumed the role of head coach for the Club since Colin Mair stepped down - this is done in his own spare time and the players have appreciated the diverse sessions that James has planned and delivered so far

The MAFPRFC Academy continues to grow and build on the foundations laid by James - the U18 team should start to benefit from this next season

A short discussion was held on whether the Academy should attract an additional fee from the players/parents but it was unanimously agreed by those present that the Academy should continue to be solely merit based and open to all

James encouraged greater attendance at SRU Coaching Updates by Club Coaches from ALL sections.

The Tartan Touch sessions have proved popular with good numbers/mix in attendance, although participation by the fairer sex has dropped off James is keen to reverse this trend. In fact, the only disappointing area has been the drop off in numbers of female participation but with the introduction of Kim <no surname> (new area Girls DO) who will be assisting James in securing more female playing involvement in the Club. The two girls graduating from P7 can continue to train with the boys in S1 but can no longer play games so Kim will also help build this section or ensure the girls are given the opportunity to continue playing until Mackie are in a position to get them competitive girls rugby within the Club

Coach Coordinator - James Sadio

Section Coaching Leads

- Mini – Ross Anderson
- Youth - Eric Lindsay
- Mammoths - Neil Leitch
- Ladies - Kirsty Westland
- Tartan Touch - currently James Sadio

## 9. Fees/Subscriptions

After quite a long indepth discussion linked to the funding shortage caused by lack of sponsors it was agreed that a **£10 increase** in fees should be applied across all Membership areas - it was agreed that this still represented very good value for money compared to comparable rugby clubs and other youth organisations in the area

This will assist in bridging the funding gap the Club currently has for leases, Development Officer funding and utility costs at the expanded Redcloak facilities but the Committee will continue to monitor the situation and re-visit next year once running costs have stabilised

- Section budgets (L. Brown)
- All members to fill in new registration form for coming season and complete audit in line with SRU request (H. Begg)
- Confirmed that Mini section had agreed at last years AGM that match fees in that section should be increased from £2/match to £3/match
- SRU SCRUMS system to replace existing SRU CDMS - training is scheduled to take place next on 28<sup>th</sup> June at SAC at Craibstone, Aberdeen

## Social Membership

Neil Foster suggested that the Club would be keen to expand the Clubrooms at Redcloak to a third prefabricated unit which would act as a Occasional Licensed bar area for 1<sup>st</sup> XV/Mammoth fixtures. In such an environment, the Club would need a mechanism to allow visitors and non-members to access the facilities under the license conditions and it was suggested that a Social Membership with a sign in/sign out policy should be introduced to cover this.

It was agreed that Social Membership could be introduced at a levy of £25 per person but policing would be difficult (N MacKay), it was suggested by L Brown that the Constitution already allowed for "Associate" membership and if Social was added the Constitution would have to be amended accordingly.

As there was no concrete plans for the third unit at this time, it was agreed that the final solution would have to be worked out using the appropriate advisory bodies so although agreed in principle the inclusion of Social Membership at this time was rejected

David Dobbie enquired what the difference was between the membership categories that had just been discussed as he wasn't seeing the difference in benefit against the relevant costs. It was explained that everyone is allowed to apply for 6N International Tickets except Associate members (and also Social if that membership class came into existence). Non Playing Membership is targeted at ex-players/coaches which gives them limited voting rights at the AGM and access to International Tickets.

### **100 Club**

- Leslie Brown now coordinating 100 Club and draws are now back on track
- Participation has increase from mid-70s to 87 during this season despite the large communication exercise with the membership to highlight the funding gaps and how the 100 Club could be used to simply fill the shortfall; it was agreed that the response had been very disappointing considering the Club has around 350 playing members
- **ACTION** - Ross Gray agreed to make sure that all Seniors were a member of the 100 Club - anyone not a member of the 100 Club will continue to pay weekly match fees
- Confirmed that a 100 Club Application Form should not be issued with all Membership forms as it would breach the SRU rules on promoting gambling to minors

### **10. AOCB**

**Communication** – Neil Foster said that one of the primary tasks of the new coordinators would be to get better Communication lines back up and running in the Club - there were several instances where important communications had been completely ignored and the Pitchero website was seen as an "unreliable" way of distributing information so the old cascade email would be introduced across the Club to ensure that every member was receiving the same messaging from the Executive Committee

#### **Twinning Opportunity**

Potential Twinning with Archeres a town on the outskirts of Paris which has a strong rugby presence and has a feeder club to the two major Top14 teams in Paris

#### **Redcloak Improvements**

There will be another concerted effort to get the Changing Facilities fully finished before the Season commences in late August early September 2017

- Finish disabled toilets kindly funded by Cairan Dreelan
- Finish renovations and painting of changing rooms
- New flooring throughout new changing rooms
- Completion of physio room in home dressing rooms

The roof of the Redcloak Clubhouse will also be re-felted to ensure the leaks caused by the lighting contractor are addressed so interior repainting can be done in advance of the new season.

#### **Redcloak Lease and Development Opportunities**

The committee confirmed that they continue to work with the Landlord (Rickarton Estates) and other local developers to identify a suitable long term home for the Club. This endeavour has been ongoing for the length of the Redcloak Lease and although there is constant activity there is no concrete news to share at this particular juncture.

FYI. The current lease at Redcloak expires in approximately 7.5years.

**Honorary Membership** – It was acknowledged that Andrew Mitchell was presented with an Honorary Life Membership at the Clubs 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner held at Ardoe House on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2017.

**Meeting Closed at 21:05h**

**11. Date of first meeting of New Executive Committee**

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2017 to be held at Redcloak Clubrooms commencing at 7PM