

NEWARK RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB

1, Mill Gate,
Newark.

May, 2011

Dear Member,

The 93rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Club will be held at the Clubhouse, Kelham Road, Newark on Monday 11th July at 7.30pm.

Reports are enclosed/below.

A welcome will be extended to any prospective new players and I look forward to seeing as many existing members as possible in attendance.

Yours sincerely,

Anthony Aspbury
HON. SECRETARY.

OFFICERS 2010/2011

PRESIDENT **Mr. A.M. Clay**

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS T.H. Grocock, D.J. Harris, B.J.B. Fisher,
W.H. Hare, J.R. Wilkinson, Mrs. J. Hunter. P. Butler, G. Macfarlane, R.A. Marshall, R.B. Thompson., A.P. Rose, J Coles

CLUB TRUSTEES B.J.B. Fisher, J.R. Wilkinson, A. Fearn

VICE-PRESIDENTS: A.P.Aspbury, D.C.Barker, J.B.Beddoe, R.Benbow, G.Brown, E. Brummitt D.A.Burgin, Mr. R. Byrom, D. Carrington A.R.Chubb, J.R.Coles, A.P.Colton, R.Cope, R.A.Crowe, M. Davison, H.Daybell, R.I.Derry, L.Dukes, N. Edley, H.Emerson, A. Fearn, S.Glass, D.F.Godfrey, J.P.Graveney, P. Hall A. Handley, R.P.Haslam, J.Hayes, E.B.Hine, H.C.W.Hine, R.D.Hughes, A.Hutchinson D.Jackson, D.Johnson, Mrs.J.Lawrence, J.J.Lees, M. Lenton, R. Liversidge, P.A. Loftus, R. Macfarlane, N.J.P. Maltby, Mrs. J. Marshall, P.A. Mason, O. Mathias, P. Moore, G. Newton, A.J. Orman, Mrs. J. Orrey, A. Overland, Mrs. J. Overland, J.A. Perkins, J. Peters, D. Pick, G. Pulfrey, T. Pykett, M. Rand, I.H.C. Robson, H.W. Russell, D. Saxelby, N. Scott, M. Self, J.G. Shackleton, M. Shea, P.L. Spawton, R. Speir, G. Staniforth, A. Statham, P. Strudwick, A. Swain, R. Swain, D.M.Taylor, B. Vidler R.Walker, C.P.Waddington, J.Whitelaw, R.Wildman, Mrs S Williams, G.C. Windsor.

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|----------------------------------|---|
| Chairman | C.P. Waddington |
| Vice Chairman | A. Statham |
| Honorary Secretary | A. Aspbury |
| Honorary Treasurer | P. Moore |
| 1st XV Captain | Mr I Tomlinson |
| Club Coaches | R. Fowkes & R. Nashed |
| Chairman of Facilities | G. Macfarlane |
| Chairman of Playing | B Fowkes |
| Chairman of Youth | D Gourley |
| Chairman of Junior | M Barton |
| Chairman of Mini | D Thompson |
| COMMITTEE 2010/2011 | H Pick, R Dunning, J Ward, G Harness, M Brown |

Auditors Stephenson Nuttall & Co.

THE 93rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF NEWARK RUGBY UNION
FOOTBALL CLUB TO BE HELD AT THE CLUB HEADQUARTERS, KELHAM ROAD, NEWARK ON
TRENT
ON MONDAY 11TH JULY 2011 7.30PM

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. To confirm minutes from 92nd AGM
3. Matters arising.
4. Amendment to Resolution made 21st February 2011
5. Value Statement
6. To receive the Honorary Secretary's Report
7. To receive the Honorary Treasurer's Report
8. Election of Officers of the 2011/2012 Season
The following have been nominated to the Honorary Secretary in accordance with rules 6(b) to serve as Vice-President for the 2010/2011 season :
A P Asbury, DC Barker, J B Beddoe, R Benbow, G Brown, E Brummitt D A Burgin, R Byrom, D Carrington, A R Chubb, A Clay, J R Cole, A P Colton, R Cope, R A Crowe, M Davison, H Daybell, R I Derry, L Dukes, N Edley, S Glass, H Emerson, A Fearn, D F Godfrey, J P Graveney, P Hall, A Handley, R P Haslam, J Hayes, E B Hine, H W C Hine, R D Hughes, A Hutchinson, D Jackson, D Johnson, Mrs J Lawrence, J J Lees, M Lenton, R Liversidge, P A Loftus, R Macfarlane, NJP Maltby, Mrs J Marshall, P A Mason, O Mathias, P Moore, G Newton, A J Orman, Mrs J Orrey, A Overland, Mrs J Overland, J A Perkins, J Peters, D Pick, G Pulfrey, T Pykett, M Rand, IHC Robson, HW Russell, D Saxelby, N Scott, M Self, J G Shakleton, M Shea, P L Spawton., R Speir, G Staniforth, A Statham, P Strudwick, A Swain, R Swain, DM Taylor, B Vidler, CP Waddington, R Walker, J Whitelaw, R Wildman, S Williams, G C Windsor **and new nominations : John Wells & Alex Jackson**
9. Subscriptions 2011/2012
10. Any Other Business
11. Time date and place of next committee meeting

Minutes of the 92nd Annual General Meeting of
Newark Rugby Football Club
Held at Kelham Road Newark On 3rd July 2010

Present

Mr A Clay, Mr C Waddington, Mr A Aspbury, Mr A Statham, Mr P Moore, Mrs J Overland, Mrs D Robinson, Mr M Brown, Mr R A Marshall, Mr P Hall, Mrs J Lawrence, Mr J Coles, Mr D Coen, Mr D Thompson, Mr A Doran, Mr S Fowkes, Mr F Tatham, Mr I Tomlinson, Mr B Nashed, Mr H Pick, Mr T Pykett, Mr A Cotton, Mr C Johnson, Mr A Russell-Webster, Mr I Gilchrist, M J Butcher, Mrs J Hunter, Mr N Newman, Mr O Spencer, Mr JJ Beddoe, Mr R Dunning, Mr M Staines, Mr R B Thompson, Mr R Crowe, Mr D C Barker, Mr G Hobbs, Mr J Coen, Mr B Fowkes, Mr J Ward, Mr J Cook, M R Staniforth, Mr S Bell, Mr C Bates, Mr P Caudwell, Mrs J Newman, Mr B Vidler, Mr A Overland

Apologies for absence

Mr P Spawton, Mr B Benbow, Mr C Packer, Mr G Macfarlane, Mr G Harness, Mr M Barton, Mr D Pick, Mr G Mollart, Mrs J Marshall, Mr O Mathias, Mr D Godfrey, Mr J Gelsthorpe

The minutes of the 91st AGM approved save for an amendment relating to appointment of honorary Life Member Mr W B Thompson – Mr Brian Fisher proposed the appointment and Mr Tom Grocock seconded.

Matters Arising

None

Value Statement

The Club's Value Statement was read out by the President.

Secretary's Report

The report had been previously circulated. No comments were made.

Treasurer's Report

The report and accounts had been previously circulated.

The Treasurer was pleased that things had been turned around – it looks as though the Club will make a surplus this year despite income being down on the previous years. The surplus is due to reduced expenditure on playing which is down by over £20,000.

Income :-

Bar profit should be £19 - £20,000 which is up £2-£3,000

Shop – this is an area which needs to be tackled. Someone needs to be found to run the shop. Income was projected at £10,000 now going to be around £3,500 which may be optimistic.

Subs – up £2,500 on last year.

Catering – should be £3,500 profit due to the new regime.

Advertising Boards – chasing 3 outstanding invoices, 2 should be paid. £15,750 received to date which is £1,500 up on projection.

Newark Show - £7,000 - £7,500 profit.

RFU Support is down as we had previously received a payment for winning the 3 Counties Cup and the travel involved.

Golf – received £4,900. Profit will be £1,500.

Sponsorship – increased projected income – some money has been taken out of catering and put into sponsorship – should produce £10,500 which is £3,000 up on projected income.

Team fundraising - £10,500 + which is £5,400 in excess of £1,000 / team as some teams raised more than £1,000. This has been transferred into a separate account and will be paid back to individual teams.

Another £6,000 of income is due for this year which will give an income of around £143,000 cf £147,000 last year.

Expenditure :-

Playing has been reduced to £47,000 cf £68,000 previously. Coaching was £8,000 less, players travel costs £5,500 less – the players claimed a lot less due to the financial situation in the Club. Physio and meal costs down due to the bad weather – less games played. Costs could be less than the £47,000 currently being projected.

Facilities – Budget is £51,000. Clubhouse maintenance currently £4,500 but the cladding needs to be done and £5,000 has been allowed for that.

Finance/Admin – Wendy will be working longer hours due to the amount of work needed.

Total expenditure - £133,000 which is £21,400 less than last year. There is therefore a £8,000 - £10,000 profit/surplus. The cash profit will be about £14,000.

A big change – credit has to be given to the players & employees for managing their costs.

There are two capital items of expenditure – a new tractor for £7,000 and the replacement of the boilers as they will not be certified again, which will cost £10 - £12,000. There is sufficient cash to pay for it and still be reasonably comfortable. Need to continue to manage things as we have done so far this year.

David Duddles asked about Newark Show figures – the workers thought that they had “earned” £8,200. Peter confirmed that there are some costs involved with the show such as providing food, for managing what we do at the Show and to rent a marquee for the stand & made a donation to the Hockey Club of £400 – £500.

David Duddles queried how the stock write down for the shop works – Peter confirmed that the policy he uses is that all stock which is readily available for sale is written down by 30% as a contingency. Slow moving stock is written down by 50% and anything which has been there for years is valued at nil.

R Marshall asked how the card machine was working out. He commented that if Sheila Williams was still running the shop the profit probably would have been better and sale had been affected by the bad weather. It was confirmed that the card machine was also used behind the bar and for paying subs. Around 50% of sales in the shop were paid for with a card and it was currently costing around £45 a month in bank charges.

B Thompson – the cost savings are a great achievement but there would not have been a surplus if the teams had not raised further funds – should it be repeated next season ? Peter confirm that income needs to be looked at for next year – the heads of all expenditure areas need to put forward their budgets and then we can look at income levels and how to generate the income required. Andy Clay confirmed that the mini & youth section had voted to increase their subs and were committed to continue to hold fundraising events to raise money – 50% of which would come into Club funds and 50% would be used for the teams who raised the money. Barry thought that senior teams should also continue with fundraising – a good opportunity for team building. Malcolm Davison commented that the senior players had only claimed £500 in expenses saving £5,500 which was a good effort from the players. Brian Fisher commented that it had long been agreed that all funds raised by the Club should go into club funds but he could understand why the junior teams wanted to retain 50% of the money they raise.

John Beddoe stated that he had worked on a bar team twice in the previous season and there was only one team at home - need to get more games at home to raise bar revenue. Peter Moore commented that there had been a lot of last minute cry offs. Martin Brown advised that when the fixtures are put out at the beginning of the season we do try to get at least 2 homes games a week but teams cry off, we go into the pool – changes the fixtures. The weather had also been a problem this year.

Spencer Bell – queried if someone could be paid to run the shop. Peter Moore advised that there were lots of things which need to be looked at re the shop.

Honorary Life Member

It was proposed by Brian Fisher and seconded by Barry Thompson that John Coles be elected as a Honorary Life Member. Agreed unanimously

Proposed Rule Change

It was proposed by Richard Staniforth that a new rule be added to the Club Rules to allow the Club to be dissolved as part of incorporation. Seconded by Chris Waddington. Agreed by majority.

Election of Officers

Bob Fowkes and Bob Nashed advised that they wanted there to be a Club Captain – a captain of the senior Club and a 1st XV captain – split the roles. They nominated Harry Pick as Club Captain.

Harry Pick confirmed that he was prepared to help out with coaching in the youth section (U14 upwards), he realises that the senior teams are not going enough to raise money and wants to work on that.

Brian Fisher asked for clarification – is this an off the field role ? Bob Fowkes clarified that they want someone who can lead the playing members of the Club and be a voice for the players – to communicate between the players and Committee. It does not necessarily have to be the same person who leads the players on the pitch – the 1st XV Captain should concentrate on players.

Ben Vidler - this discussion should have taken place before names were put forward – should have had a discussion on splitting the role of Club Captain and 1st XV Captain. David Duddles commented it had been brought up by Adam Overland at the last AGM. Paul Cauldwell agreed that there needs to be a link between players and min & youth section – needs someone senior to do that in an ambassadorial role.

R Marshall – the 1st XV Captain's role it is an onerous task to lead the players now, do need someone in the role of Club Captain to help with social side, fundraising etc.

Jacqui Hunter commented that once the new company was formed there would be a players representative on the Board – who would be “Club Captain” – it may just be the name that is an issue.

John Beddoe – Mansfield have done this – it’s a good idea as it may be too big a role for one person.

Mark Staines – he thinks a job spec is needed to outline the role. Bob Fowkes stated that discussion had taken place – they need a group of people to sit down to decide on the role which they will done once the person is in place.

Gary Hobbs suggested we vote first on whether or not happy to have “Club Captain” separate from 1st XV Captain and then vote on the person.

Jane Overland suggested that for now (until incorporation) Harry Pick is voted onto the Committee as a playing committee member and then when the Club is incorporated Happy has a role as the Players Representative on the Board – that role is akin to “Club Captain”

The following Officers were elected

| | | |
|----------------------------|---|---------------|
| President | Andrew Clay | |
| Vice Presidents | Re-elected en bloc plus Mrs S Williams | |
| Chairman | Chris Waddington | |
| Vice-Chairman | Andy Statham | |
| Secretary | Tony Aspbury | |
| Ass Secretary | Jane Overland | |
| Treasurer | Peter Moore | |
| Ass Treasurer | Richard Staniforth | |
| 1 st XV Captain | Ian Tomlinson | |
| 2 nd XV Captain | Deferred to Playing Committee | |
| 3 rd XV Captain | Craig Johnson | |
| 4 th XV Captain | Sam Booth | |
| Women’s Section | Deferred (until know if got a Women’s section!) | |
| Club Coaches | Bob Fowkes & Bob Nashed (ratified) | |
| Chair of Playing | Bob Fowkes | |
| Chair of Facilities | Graham Macfarlane | |
| Mini Section | Dave Thompson (ratified) | |
| Junior Section | Mick Barton (ratified) | |
| Senior Youth | Darren Gourley | |
| Bar Chairman | Gary Hobbs | |
| Sponsorship | John Cook | |
| Social | Jane Overland | |
| Membership | Hugh Daybell | |
| Shop | TBC | |
| Fixtures | Ernie Brummitt | |
| Committee | Harry Pick | Rob Dunning |
| | Graeme Harness | Jonathan Ward |
| | Martin Brown | |
| Club Auditor | Stephenson Nutall. | |

Club Coaches – Adam Overland suggested that we have someone in place who is responsible for co-ordinating/over-seeing the coaching at the Club – B Fowkes confirmed that this was a role which could be taken on by the Chair of Playing

Subscriptions 2010/11

A sub-committee had met had looked at the subs which other Clubs paid – their report was provided.

Their recommendation was to ratify the Mini & Youth section’s vote at their AGM to increase their subs to £90 and for the Senior Club to raise non-playing member’s subs from £75 to £90. No change to the status of Patrons
Proposed by David Duddles, seconded by Andy Statham.

Barry Thompson queried if could have a differential between playing and non-playing members – is it allowed for in the Rules ? Rule 12 allows the AGM to set subs. There was a differential in the past as playing members paid match tax which is currently levied at £0.

Jean Lawrence confirmed that previously there had been two categories – patron and members with patrons having no voting rights.

Harry Pick suggested this be dealt with by non-playing members paying £90 and players paying a match tax but roll up the match tax and pay it up front – suggested and proposed by Harry Pick that £30 a season match tax be paid by players.

Tony Aspbury – the purpose of the differential was to reflect the different costs of different types of membership

Ben Vidler – mini & youth put a lot of effort into the Club – the senior Club needs to put in some effort – happy to propose £120 a year but pay by DD at £10 a month.

The Executive had proposed that playing membership increase to £120 a month with one payment of £120 or two payments of £60 by end of December or 8 payments (Sept – April) of £17 a month. Ben Vidler proposed an amendment to this so that 12 payments of £10 a month could be made, seconded by Barry Thompson.

Adam Overland agreed it was a better proposition to pay £10 a month – need to look at this as an opportunity to increase the membership of the Club and increase income to the Club. A lot of players may find £120 difficult to pay in one payment but people would be more likely to sign up for a DD payment at the beginning of the year – a lot less hassle than chasing people for subs.

David Duddles asked if the mini & youth section could spread their payments – confirmed that would be offered. Could be an administrative nightmare if the mini & youth were offered DD as there are a lot of payments – it was suggested that they are not given this opportunity but continue to pay up front as it works for the mini & youth section.

Brian Fisher asked how much more money would be raised – in round figures it would be another £10,000 a year.

Proposal – increase subs for the senior membership of the club to £120 with options of a single payment or 12 payments of £10 a month. Proposed by Ben Vidler and seconded by Barry Thompson.

Counter-Proposal by Peter Moore – Senior non-playing membership pay £90 a year as a single payment or two payments of £45 to be paid by end Dec. Playing members pay £120 including £30 match tax being paid up front. Seconded by Jacqui Hunter. No body was against – carried.

Agreed :-

Senior Playing Membership - £120 – to be paid in one payment of £120 or two payments of £60 by the end of December or 12 payments of £10 a month by direct debit with the first payment to be made by end of September.

Mini & Youth subs agreed to be increased to £90 per annum.

100 Club

No 20 – Andrew Fearn £250

AOB

Gary Hobbs – 12 June Family Fun Day 12.30pm start. The Red Arrows are coming at 12.24pm get there early.

Jean Lawrence – resurrecting the Bike Ride. Rob Wildman and Barry Thompson are organising. Will be on 22nd August.

Ben Vidler – Gary Hobbs owns a microbrewery – he needs to declare a pecuniary interest – we should stock his beer but someone else should be involved to protect Gary. Peter Moore agreed that there needs to be a process and confirmed that Steve Cassells would continue to oversee.

R Marshall – Golf Day – a good day thanks to all who took part. Club Dinner – 70-80 people attended. A good night. The “Club Captain” should organise next year with Barry Thompson.

Barry Thompson – not been through the playing report. Thanks to Touch Judges John Spence and Tony Wade. John Evans was 1st XV player of the year, Josh Jay the 2nd XV player of the year, Tom Hill 3rd XV player of the year and Craig Ellis 4th XV player of the year. Daley Edwards was the most improved player of the year.

Martin Brown – 4th XV came 2nd in the Pennant.

Tony Aspbury – members should encourage supporters to become members. He was delighted with the good turnout and advised that committee members need to attend meetings, it is important especially when dealing with incorporation.

Brian Fisher – There are two underlying issues which need to be addressed over the next 12 months – the pulling together of the Club to raise funds – need to get profits of £20 - £30,000 a year and efforts need to be re-focused.

David Duddles – where do girls’ section fit re subs. It was confirmed that if they come back next year they would pay the same as mini & youth.

Jean Lawrence – the John Lawrence trophy went to Billy Barker this year.

Next committee meeting – 12th July and will also be an EGM for incorporation.

AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION TO DISSOLVE CLUB/CREATE NEW INCORPORATED STRUCTURE

Amendment to Resolution passed on 21st February 2011.

Clause 2 of the Resolution passed on the 21st February 2011 be amended so as to read :-

“.....the Club would convey, transfer, assign and/or deliver with effect from a date to be agreed at a future EGM (“the Effective Date”).....”

So that the Effective Date is now a date to be agreed a future EGM.

AGM 2011 REPORTS

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

I am pleased to present my report to the AGM 2011.

Overall this has been a very long, difficult, frustrating and disappointing season for the Club and particularly for the Senior Section. It has been a season that has seen the relegation of the 1st XV from Midlands 1 East; another long break in mid-Season (November/December) due to bad weather with all the attendant disruption and loss of playing continuity and of income; the continuing delay in achieving Incorporation and, right at the end of the year, we have suffered an incursion by travellers and we have learnt that we may face a substantial Corporation Tax bill.

Although the First XV finished the season in rousing form with excellent wins against Bedford Athletic and Matlock and gave some good individual performances at other times, overall the team struggled for most of the season and the late surge, although good for moral, was not enough to save us from the drop and Newark was relegated to Midlands 2 East (North)(Level 7). This hugely disappointing outcome was made virtually inevitable by Newark being fined 5 league points by the RFU MLOC for playing an unregistered player – the second time we have suffered such a penalty – a careless and avoidable mistake that cost us dear, coming as it did at the worst of times, when every league point counted. Performance by the other senior sides – the 2nds, 3rds and 4ths, also fell short of the Club's normal expectations.

As if relegation was not bad enough, the Club accumulated a record number of red cards – 8 - at the Senior and Senior Youth levels over the season. I and others of the Executive Committee were *twice* summoned by the NLD Disciplinary Committee to attend the Committee's sitting, on 14th February and 11 April. At the former (when we had reached 6 red cards), we received a formal warning that further sendings off would result in sanctions and, consequently, on 11 April, by which time the red card count had risen to 8, the Disciplinary Committee determined that the Club should be suspended at the Senior and Under 18 age group level with effect from Monday 18 April until the end of the 2011 Season. This suspension encompassed all senior and U18s rugby, relating to both home and away matches and tours. The abrupt termination of the season in this fashion was, and should have been, a source of embarrassment and frustration for all members. There can be no excuses, apologies or complaints about what happened. NLD's decision came as an inevitable consequence of a serious, sustained and wholly unacceptable lapse of discipline and self-control by players. This was all the more galling for a club like ours where we have long prided ourselves on our record of respect for the laws of the game and our sportsmanship. The Playing Committee has been instructed to address the situation as a matter of urgency and to put in place measures to ensure that there is absolutely no repeat of this situation in future. However, whatever the sanctions, internal or external to the Club, ultimately the solution to this problem lies in significantly improved self-discipline and self-control by individuals and in strong leadership on the pitch. It is to be hoped that this manifests itself in full measure next season and in subsequent seasons.

Perhaps the one piece of really good news on the pitch was the achievement of the U18s squad, who won the NLD Junior Cup. That result brought us some much-needed silverware and a hopeful sign for the future. Congratulations to all players, coaches, managers and parents on an outstanding performance. We all look forward to this talented squad of players now moving through to senior rugby at the Club where they will be made most welcome I am sure. The U16s squad also reached their age group final, but sadly were defeated 7 - 14 by a strong Lincoln side. Nevertheless, I congratulate them on their achievement in reaching the final and coming so close to success.

Once again, it has also been a mixed season for the Mini and Youth Section in terms of the narrow test of performance in competitions. Sadly, the absorption of the North Hykeham Girls' squad did not prove to be sustainable and the establishment of a Girl's Junior Section remains an elusive objective. That disappointment notwithstanding, the Mini and Youth Section remains strong and well run and the number of players participating has continued to grow, as has the number of qualified volunteer parent coaches. I continue to have every confidence that the Club's commitment to Mini and Youth Rugby will prove an excellent investment for the future, as well as an important and commendable contribution to the health and well-being of the local community.

For the second season running we suffered a major break in rugby due to bad weather, this time during November and December. I believe this was a contributory factor in our poor performance on the field (being followed by a long run of bad defeats). We seemed to be hit much harder than other clubs by the lay-off. Of course we also lost valuable income from sponsorship and at the bar.

Through careful financial management, led by our Treasurer Peter Moore, the Club has turned in a small profit this season as Peter will report. That piece of good news has to some extent been offset by the discovery that

we may be liable for a substantial Corporation Tax bill, based on rolled up unpaid tax over the last few years. Your Executive Committee will work hard to minimise this liability and its consequences.

In my 2010 Report I wrote that I expected it to be Newark's last year as a traditional membership club, anticipating that the Club would soon be incorporated. In the event, we have suffered a long series of frustrating delays, culminating in the latest postponement whilst the tax liability is investigated. The fundamental reasons for incorporating remain valid and it is to be hoped that we can complete the process in the very near future.

With the threat of losing the contract in future years hanging over us, leaving a huge hole in our annual income, members pulled out all the stops to turn out for Newark Show and it proved a very successful year for the Club. Under the energetic and inspiring leadership of Dave Pick we managed to put out enough people on the ground and to satisfy the exacting operating requirements of the N&NAS. We are optimistic that the Club will now retain the contract.

Only a couple of weeks ago the Club was the subject of a surprise invasion by travellers. The Club's officers reacted promptly and at the end of a frantic week, during which we secured a Possession Order through Andrew Fearn's practice, Langleys, we were able to bid farewell to these unwelcome visitors. Unfortunately our guests left a legacy of litter and mess as well as a smashed gate lock and some (fortunately not serious) damage to the pitches, resulting in further costs we could do without right now. We have put in hand measures to ensure that this unwelcome problem does not recur.

Once again I wish to extend my personal thanks to a few stalwart volunteers: our brilliant 'Webmasters', Messrs Perkins and Hughes; Jane Overland, Assistant Secretary, Social Secretary and occasional legal adviser; and, Rob Wildman, who volunteered to keep some of his responsibilities as immediate past Secretary. They have been very supportive to me and made my job much easier.

I would also like to thank all the Club's staff: our senior coaches, Bob Nashed and Darren Gourley; Wendy Boas, our Office Manager; David Roberts, our Bar Steward; John Fenton, our Groundsman; and Jill Davenport and her excellent Physio team. Thanks also to our caterer, Karen Roberts.

In conclusion it is my sad duty to record members who have passed on in the last year: Frank Pegg, a big man in every way, a long-term mini and youth coach and a stalwart player in several senior sides; and John Christian, quiet, but dependable and reliable as the sunrise, always willing to help out. Both were taken tragically before their time and have left families, to whom we extend our profound condolences and our warm hospitality whenever they come to the Club.

TONY ASPBURY Hon Secretary

07736 539832, secretary@newarkrugby.com or aspbury@btinternet.com.

Treasurers Report for 2011 AGM

Attached are the internally produced management accounts for the nine month period to 30 April 2011 plus a projection as to the full outturn for the financial year. The comparative figures for 2009/10 are also shown within these projections which have now been audited by the Club's accountants, Stephenson & Nuttall, without amendment to the internally produced figures and which were reported on the Club's website in September last.

It can be seen from the accounts that the financial performance of the Club is very much in line with the original budget. When taking into consideration the "non cash expense" of depreciation there is a positive cash surplus for the year of some £16,800 which will more than cover the reported capital expenditure of approx £14,600. Overall the results reflect a very satisfactory performance and importantly the Club's cash position remains strong.

Within the accounts the only area perhaps requiring comment is the Club shop where the profit contribution has reduced significantly since Sheila Williams' retirement from the position. Jonathan Ward has done an excellent job in sourcing stock items as has Florrie Duddles in dealing with sales. However, what is clearly needed is a small group of volunteers to manage sales so that the shop is open on a more regular basis and its full profit potential can be achieved.

There are a number of capital projects that need to be completed during the next few 18/24 months of which the replacement of boilers is the most urgent. It is planned to carry out this work during the summer break. The cost will be approx £13K which with the present bank balances is comfortably affordable. As reported last year maintaining and increasing income levels is going to be a challenge during the next few years particularly in the current economic climate which I fear is going to be prevalent for a good many years to come. Managing costs (and expectations!) effectively therefore is crucial to ensure the Club's finances remain strong.

Peter Moore Hon Treasurer

| | | | | | | | |
|---|------------|-------|-------------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| NEWARK RUGBY CLUB | | | | | | | |
| INCOME/EXPENDITURE FOR THE 9M Period | | | | | | | |
| to 30 April 2011 | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | Annual | |
| | | | | | Annual | Projected | |
| INCOME | | | 30.04.2011 | Budget | Inc/Exp | | 2009/10 |
| Newark & Lammas Shows etc | | | 0 | 7000 | 8400 | | 7574 |
| Golf Day | | | 0 | 2000 | 1500 | | 2357 |
| Summer Ball | | | 0 | 2000 | 2000 | | 1331 |
| Fireworks Fiesta | | | 5767 | 6000 | 5767 | | 5816 |
| Sponsorship | | | 9313 | 10000 | 9313 | | 10468 |
| Advertising - Boards & Programmes | | | 19500 | 15650 | 19500 | | 15756 |
| Subscriptions - Main Club | | 11616 | | | | | |
| - Youth/Minis | | 26550 | 38166 | 40000 | 40000 | | 33258 |
| Weekly Raffle | | | 1462 | 1000 | 1500 | | 1124 |
| Xmas Draw | | | 1247 | 2500 | 1247 | | 2827 |
| Donations | | | 1670 | 5000 | 2000 | | 20733 |
| 100 Club - Estimate | | | 3000 | 4000 | 4000 | | 4200 |
| Lettings | | | 6945 | 9500 | 7500 | | 9332 |
| RFU Support | | | 1050 | 1000 | 1050 | | 1050 |
| Other Income | | | 220 | 2000 | 750 | | 2050 |
| Shop - Sales | | 15980 | | | | | |
| - Purchases | Est Profit | 11963 | 2500 | 4000 | 2500 | | 2304 |
| Bar - Sales | | 60862 | | | | | |
| - Purchases | | 25314 | | | | | |
| - Payroll | Est Profit | 13880 | 20000 | 25000 | 20000 | | 26156 |
| Catering Income | | | 3610 | 3000 | 4000 | | 3175 |
| Team Fundraising | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 10540 |
| Sportsmans Dinner | | | 5055 | 4000 | 5055 | | 3904 |
| Tax Refund | | | 1020 | 2000 | 2500 | | 2712 |
| Total Income | | | 120525 | 145650 | 138582 | | 166667 |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Debtors | | | 7430 | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Owing - Purchase Ledger | | | -3045 | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Bank Accounts | | | 70800 | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| RFU Loan Account | | | -18221 | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| CAPITAL EXPENDITURE | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| LADIES TOILETS | | | 10117 | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| EXTERNAL CLADDING TO CLUBHOUSE | | | 4456 | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL CAPEX | | | 14573 | | | | |

EXPENDITURE

| EXPENDITURE | | | | | | |
|--|-----|--|--|---------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| | | | | 31.1.2011 | ANNUAL BUDGET | Annual Projected Expend. |
| PLAYING COMMITTEE | | | | | | 2009/10 |
| Laundry | Est | | | 1557 | | 1557 |
| Player Travel | | | | 4452 | | 4352 |
| Fixture & Match Expenses | | | | 2952 | | 2952 |
| Meals | | | | 10830 | | 11500 |
| Physiotherapy | Est | | | 9322 | | 10500 |
| Kit & Equipment | | | | 2862 | | 2862 |
| Coaching | | | | 6340 | | 7500 |
| Trophies | | | | 0 | | 500 |
| St John's Ambulance | | | | 400 | | 400 |
| General Playing Expenses | | | | 1864 | | 2000 |
| Youth Dev Officer | | | | 0 | | 2000 |
| Total Costs | | | | 40579 | 50000 | 46123 |
| NB 2010/11 Kit & equipment expenditure excludes "elite kit" which cost £2952. | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| FACILITIES COMMITTEE | | | | | | |
| Clubhouse Maintenance | | | | 3712 | | 4400 |
| Fire Prot/Security | | | | 1452 | | 1800 |
| Grounds Maintenance | | | | 5508 | | 10000 |
| Wages | | | | 15600 | | 20500 |
| Refuse/Cleaning | | | | 5430 | | 6800 |
| Gas/Oil/Electricity | Est | | | 3690 | | 4700 |
| Rates & Water | | | | 2142 | | 2142 |
| Total Costs | | | | 37534 | 52500 | 50342 |
| FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION | | | | | | |
| Administrator's Salary | | | | 9685 | | 13000 |
| Printing, Postage & Advertising | | | | 980 | | 1500 |
| Telephone | | | | 1348 | | 1900 |
| Accountancy/Payroll | | | | 1050 | | 1300 |
| Licence Costs | | | | 224 | | 224 |
| Legal & Professional | | | | 0 | | 500 |
| Stocktaker | | | | 270 | | 450 |
| Insurance | | | | 1920 | | 2600 |
| General Admin/Sundry Expenditure | | | | 2260 | | 3000 |
| Barclaycard | | | | 590 | | 800 |
| Total Costs | | | | 18327 | 26500 | 25274 |
| Depreciation/Amortisation | | | | | | |
| Net Charge to Date | | | | 7500 | 10000 | 10000 |
| Total Costs For Year | | | | 103940 | 139000 | 131739 |
| | | | | | | |
| Surplus/Deficit | | | | 16585 | 6650 | 6843 |
| In 2008/9 the unutilised monies of £9,036 from the 2006 insurance claim was also added to reserves making the total surplus for the year to be £44,402. | | | | | | |

FACILITIES

Ground

Yet another very busy season with 106 games played, 42(40%) on pitch 1. There was a 6 week period between the 27th November and the 8th January when there were no games played because of the extreme weather conditions. I was surprised how well the grass withstood the very hard frosts.

We have reseeded all five pitches and but the dry conditions have delayed germination so we are hoping for some fairly rapid growth now that it has rained.

Clubhouse

The first phase of the project to improve the toilet facilities was completed in October with the new ladies toilet being built at the cost of £10000. The second phase which is to convert the 'old' ladies into a 'smart' gents is currently on hold until our finances improve.

Much time and effort needed to persuade National Grid to replace the governor on our gas supply to increase the pressure so that the new boilers could be installed. Negotiations commenced in July 2010 and were successfully concluded in January this year when they agreed to fit a new governor at no cost to the club when initially they wanted over £5000 to do the work. This was carried out in April.

I am very pleased to report the boilers are currently being fitted as I write this report and should be 'up and running' for the start of training in early July

No less than 10 burst water pipes due to the very cold weather in December and January.

Fortunately we escaped without too much collateral damage but insulation of the pipes and the roof space will have to be improved before next winter.

Lettings

A very busy schedule of lettings again this year. This is a very important source of income for the club so we need to encourage our own members and other organisations to make use of our facilities whenever possible. Many thanks to Wendy for looking after the lettings and organising the club diary so efficiently.

Catering

Karen Roberts 'Scrummy Catering' was appointed as the club caterers in August. I am pleased to report that this has resulted in a vast improvement in the quality and presentation of the pre match lunches, the food on offer to the players and the minis and juniors on Sunday mornings. A big thank you to Karen and all her staff.

My grateful thanks to John Fenton our Groundsman/Handyman for all the work and effort he has put in over the past year. He is very self motivated, always busy and not afraid to tackle most jobs. The ground and the clubhouse are a real credit to him and the envy of all visiting clubs.

Bar Report

The bar has had a good year in despite of the increased number of trading days lost due to adverse weather. The main ingredient to the success over the period has been the consistency and reliability of the Bar Manager Dave Roberts and his supporting staff. Bar sales were the highest since 2007/2008 and gross profit percentage was the highest on record.

The club bar is now a recognised and acknowledged LocAle venue as defined and accredited by CAMRA. During the recent six nations a series of events were organised to encourage use of the bar and it is intended that the club also organise similar events for the forthcoming World Cup.

It is believed that the balance between maximising profit, given the fundraising importance of the bar, and the provision of a service to the club have both been met during the year.

Graham Macfarlane
Chairman of facilities

Disciplinary Officer's Report

Although I have been the Club's Disciplinary Officer for some years now, I have not felt constrained to offer a report before this year. However, it has been an exceptional year for all the wrong reasons.

It is a fact that the Club has "enjoyed" the unenviable reputation for sometime now of being "difficult" to referee. In March 2010 the Chairman of Playing, Alan Swain, was summoned to the NLD Disciplinary Committee after five sending's off. In a round robin email Alan said "...I would like you to talk to the players in all the senior teams under your influence and stress the seriousness of this situation. As a general observation, I feel that Newark sides are too indisciplined, particularly with regard to talking back to referees and unnecessarily conceding ten yards. I would also like to stress that this discipline also has to be exhibited by all team managers, team coaches and age group co-ordinators. We, amongst others, are custodians of Newark's proud reputations at the Club and we must do everything to uphold this". At the time I endorsed that

message with a similar email, saying “As a Club we need to be far more pro-active about good behaviour....on and off the field”.

Unfortunately both those messages fell on deaf ears and this last season we have suffered a rash of red cards as follows:-

| <u>Side</u> | <u>Offence</u> |
|-------------|---------------------|
| First Team | Illegal use of head |
| First Team | Dangerous tackle |
| Under 18 | Punch or strike |
| First Team | 2 yellow cards |
| Under 16 | Kick |
| Under 18 | Punch or strike |
| Fourth Team | 2 yellow cards |
| Second Team | Stamp |

In addition, a Second Team player (believed to be Ben Ennals) was sent off but apparently the referee “rescinded” the red card after the game.

As a consequence of these sending’s off all senior sides in the Club were suspended for a period of 3 weeks by NLD.

The Club’s Disciplinary Committee has met in each instance and dealt with the offender in accordance with the RFU’s tariff for the respective offences. I should like to thank all those who have spent time sitting with me in disciplinary panels for their contributions and wisdom. In each case during the past season the NLD Disciplinary Committee has upheld the sentence handed down by the Club.

However robust our own disciplinary system maybe, it is self evident that the standards of corporate and individual discipline must improve (and dramatically at that). I fully understand that Rugby Union is a tough and physical game and it is absolutely inevitable that there will be some occasions when that physicality crosses the line. Having said that, almost every incident with which the Disciplinary Committee dealt with this last season arose out of a lack of individual self discipline. Clearly players have to take responsibility for their own actions but there is much that the Club can do to imbue all players and members with respect for the laws of the game and the referees who administer them. On the playing side, we seem to tolerate backchat to referees. Two of the senior players who appeared before the Disciplinary Committee were happy to admit that they are “in the ear of the referee”. How many times do we have to be marched back 10 metres before we learn our lesson? I have seen First Team games at Newark where this has happened on several occasions in a match. I do not understand why we cannot have a policy of players not speaking to the referee or commenting on decisions, allowing the captain to do his job properly. I know from my own refereeing experience that I am happy to find an excuse to reach for a card to dispose of a constant whinger.

One often hears voluble criticism of the referee from our own supporters which, at the least, is unfortunate. Not only is this a breach of our own code of respect for officials but it breeds indiscipline on the field where it is all too clearly heard. We must learn our lessons and put them into practice.

I also believe that there is a culture within the Club at senior levels which means that the referee is generally regarded as the 16th member of the opposition. It used to be the case that the Officer of the Day had the responsibility of welcoming the referee and ensuring that he or she had everything required and also that there were members of the Club prepared to speak to and entertain the referee after the game in the bar. This does not seem to happen any longer and it is regrettable. We could help ourselves across the board by engaging in a far more constructive way with referees. The process requires a little thought and a small amount of effort but I believe that the dividends could be substantial. I hope that the Club will give some of these ideas due weight and consideration before the start of the next season.

The unfortunate legacy of the last season is that opponents and officials will now come to Newark expecting indiscipline. It means that the hurdle which we have to overcome is higher than need be the case. However, that hurdle represents a challenge which we cannot shirk and which we must rise to meet.

Andrew Fearn 21 June 2011

Mini Reports

U7

Start the season with only one qualified coach (me) with 3 assistants that gradually got qualified over the season.

Started with around 18 players mostly from Multisports the year before but a few new ones. As the assistant coaches got qualified, we allowed more new players to begin but still had 10 on the waiting list at Xmas when we had brought the numbers up to 24 players.

When the season started, we seemed to play against a lot of teams that had clearly been playing tag from an earlier age, but the teams quickly got up to speed and in our first games (tournament at Kesteven) we won two out of our three games which was a pretty good achievement.

At the start of the season we were taking two teams plu subs to each fixture, but started to realise that the progression being made had slowed down as we were not spending enough time coaching and learning/practising new skills.

Halfway through the season we split the squad into two equal strength teams (Knights and Crusaders to avoid any arguments about 1st and 2nd teams !!) with two coaches aligned to each squad. This seemed to work really well as it meant each squad started to play half the number of games and could spend more time practising.

With a couple of months to go before season end, we opened up the waiting list and allowed more players to join us (for training and practise matches only). The reason behind this was that a) we wanted to let those on the waiting list know what the sessions/games entailed and give them a taster before joining next season and b) we are aware that when contact rugby begins we need to get the numbers up as there is likely to be a quite a large number of drop outs.

Overall, I'd say that we have had a very successful season winning far more games that we lost, but would suggest that whoever is going to coach the U7s next year, if they have not done this age group before that it would be really beneficial for them to have an hour or so with myself and/or the other U7 coaches prior to the season so that they can hit the ground running.

We are currently debating whether or not have to have slightly stronger squad and a slightly weaker squad next year. The reasoning is, in the equal squads, the stronger players tend to be the ones to support the ball carrier and be more spatially aware meaning the weaker players get less of an opportunity (mainly because they defer to the stronger players rather than the coaches not giving them a go).

I would also like to see tag teams get better tag belts (Velcro fastening rather than clips) and also some footspeed ladders, minihurdles and agility poles. Balls and cones only really restrict what you can do.

Charles Paley U7s 07739 245188

U8s

U8s started with 8 new starters and all but one from the previous year, with a regular 25 turning up until the weather turning in December, with 2 groups based on experience with the new additions playing the tag games and holding their own on most occasions, the weather played its part knocking out 6 weeks training/matches.

Post Christmas saw a change in direction for the more advanced group of players, with an introduction to ball presentation on the ground, left guard, right guard and positioning at the breakdown. The introduction of scrum hall passes and latterly touch rugby saw the players progress massively in terms of teamwork and core skills.

This gave the new arrivals chance to catch up in TAG focusing on passing and movement with a focus on passing whilst on the move rather than stop and turn, this enabled them after a few games towards the end of the year to step up to the "core"skills type training in preparation for next season and the introduction of contact from September.

Training – based around running lines, ball handling and presentation, drills each week with variations to suits numbers and abilities.

Coaches – level 1s attained for 3 and Head Coach currently on level 2.

Forms sent for registration to players in preparation for next season, indications are that we will maintain the same number as turnout was never below low 20s.

Equipment, tackle bags and new balls please !

Fixtures going forward Dan Coen to meet with Dave Godfrey on reducing fixtures to focus more on skills/prep.

Bring on September

Paul Bratton

U9s

Our first season of contact rugby – passive scrums and line outs but tackling and no more tags! This makes for a slower game but does actually reward good defensive play which was probably our strength this year. The emphasis very much remains on enjoyment and hopefully the boys had a lot of fun in both the training sessions and the actual games. We have had about 20 players on the books this year with a regular core of about 15. Some have taken to contact with gusto whilst others are more cautious but all the boys have become more confident as the season progressed. We benefitted from not entering as many tournaments this year which meant a lot more concentrated game time when we played other clubs. It also meant a lot less waiting around for both boys and parents!

Having said that our highlight was winning the NLD bowl competition this year- after losing our opening game we never lost again and the squad were rewarded with a trophy (confusingly for most of them not actually a bowl) and a shiny medal.

Thanks to the other 3 coaches – Shaine, Mark and Chris and for Lucy Tweedie who took on the onerous AGC role at Christmas with the departure of the Carley family to the states.

Richard Macfarlane

U10s

Enjoyable and successful yet not without its challenges, would be a fair summary of the Under 10's season. It was great to have so many new players join us this year but equally sad to have lost a couple. The new boys who had played rugby before fitted seamlessly in to the squad. Getting the ones who hadn't played before and catching up with boys now in their fourth year of rugby has been challenging but I think they have coped admirably well with our "in at the deep end" approach and it is a real credit to them how they performed and the standard they have reached.

Another challenge has been coaching 9 and 10 year old boys scrummaging, rucking and mauling when they haven't developed physically or mentally enough to cope with such levels of contact. Coaching this also takes us away from the core fundamentals of handling, support play and lines of running.

Even with this to contend with, the improvement in the players all round rugby skills and ability to play enjoyable, exciting and expansive rugby has been excellent and, at some points in certain games, totally sublime - a coaches dream!

Before every game we say three things to the boys: firstly, enjoy it and have fun! Secondly, play to the best of your ability - we can't ask them for more than that. And thirdly, don't worry whether you win, loose or draw as, if you do the first two, the results will look after themselves and become largely immaterial.

The boys clearly listened as that is the approach they've taken all season. And of course, the results followed. Most notably coming runners up in the Boston Festival and winning the NLD Shield Final (which involved both our teams playing each other in the semi final, with a 3-3 draw being the perfect result!).

One trophy we failed to win was the Prima Cup, played at Leicester Tigers after a 1st XV game. Having qualified with excellent victories over Paviers, Keyworth, Nottingham and Stamford, our 'big day' at Welford Road was against Wymondum from Norfolk. With a squad of 13, as always through substitutions, each player had exactly the same time on the pitch (a policy we have followed since Under 7's). Our opposition had the same sized squad; 3 of their subs were put on with only one or two minutes to go when the result was safe; one of their subs didn't get to play at all and never had his moment on the 1st team pitch at Welford Road. We may have lost the game but I believe we won in so many other respects.

Under 10 Season 2010/2011 Awards;

- Clubman of the Year - Dan Godfrey (Raiders) Elliot Garnett (Storm)
- Most Improved Player of the Year - Ben Mathais (Raiders) Jonathan Radford (Storm)
- Player of the Year - Dan Walker (Raiders) Jonnie Law (Storm)

Adam Doran

U11s

Coaches : Mark Jenkins (Head) Kevin Ridley . Parent Helpers – Matt Lockwood, Rob Burns, bob White, Jeff Osborne-Day, Logan Tweedie and John Rush.

AGC : Ellie Jenkins

Welfare Officer : Netty Ellison

Season Start

On registration day 30 players enrolled, all from the previous season with 4 added to the waiting list (of which 4 rolled over from the previous season).

Selection

The players were divided into two teams (Vipers and Cobras) based on a balance of skills and abilities across both teams ie no A/B teams, with 17 in each team.

In the initial few weeks a good deal of time was put into ensuring that both teams had fully trained back rows as this was their first season of 5 man scrums, for the vast majority of the season all development was based upon core skills development and some set play work.

Performance

Both teams had a good deal of success during the season winning in the order of 75% of the scheduled fixtures. Both teams qualified for the NLD final (one in the cup and one in the shield) neither progressed past the semi-finals. Entered an Elite Squad into the LandRover Cup in April, lost in the semi-finals.

Tour

Again this year the U11s toured this time to Gullivers Condover Hall/Telford Hornets Festival after Easter, this year 25 players and 17 parents attended. The players had a great time at the activity centre during the weekend and played great rugby at the Festival on the Sunday both teams played great team rugby and did the Club proud.

Season End

At the end of the season the squad number remained high with 32 players still enrolled going into the 2011/12 season it is expected that all players will return already we have 2 players on the waiting list and will be offered to join the squad.

U12s

We are pleased to have 32 players going through the hedge !!

Training went well during the season especially on Sundays, however numbers were low on some mid-week training sessions. Our U12s training pitch was excellent.

We had mixed results in games, especially early season, as we mixed teams and abilities with the aim to develop all the players in the squad. However at tournaments, we picked A and B teams on ability and enjoyed some good rugby for both teams.

Sept – U12s Kesteven Festival – finished 3rd behind Nottingham and Melbourne.

Oct – NLD qualifiers – we entered 2 teams. A's finished top of their group above West Bridgford and Southwell As and others. B's second in their group behind Nottingham but ahead of Paviers and Moderns A's and others. Both teams qualified for the Cup section of the NLD finals.

March – NLD finals – both teams finished 2nd in their groups. A's went on to the final of the plate. Played Kesteven and WON. B's unfortunately lost in the semi-final.

Land Rover Cup – Newark U12's went through to the final having won their group and a semi final against Burton. Lost to a strong Hinkley team in the final.

April – Scarborough Tour – 16 players along with parents went on a great weekend tour. Played 10 games won 6 drew 1 lost 3. Lost one to West Park Leeds and 2 to Manchester, the eventual winners and Lancashire champions for the last 2 years.

Glen Lever U12's coach.

Junior Chairman's Report 2010/11

It was with some uncertainty and trepidation that I agreed to accept the role of Junior Chair for last season after a couple of enjoyable years as AGC. That the beginning of the year I was keen to be 'seen' and become an active member of the clubs management structure, however a number personal and family issues made it almost impossible for me to give the commitment the role deserved.

To put it in words that some may use I have been a bit like Lord Lucan with regards to attendance of Management meetings, and for that I must apologise to the club for.

Here I must thank Mr David Duddles for his input, I know in his usual style he will have kept you informed on any issues relating to the section on my behalf. I would also like to thank him for his help and guidance throughout the year it has been very much appreciated.

Whilst I did have some plans to help develop the section clearly these have been put on hold due to my personnel circumstances, but in general this season has been fairly straightforward with no major issues in terms of the management of the section. I have the view, that if it isn't broke leave it alone; the coaching team has done a fantastic and professional job across every age group and I'm sure this will continue next season.

One change we have made for the forthcoming season to the playing structure of the junior section was to give the team managers the ability to arrange their own fixtures working to a strict playing programme taking account of NLD and RFU guidelines and competitions. The aim was to give each age group the options of selecting matches to suit ability and to avoid miss-matches based on the knowledge of experience gained year on year by the coaching staff and not a fixture secretary just trying to fill fixtures as in the past. At this stage appears that this process has gone quite smoothly with all fixtures, I believe being filled.

I would like to see a presentation day for the junior section, this is merely a suggestion at this stage but it is something that I believe should be progressed, what format that should take I'm not sure but I hope the club would consider supporting the idea.

I look forward to continuing being involved with the club.

Regards

Mick Barton

Coaches Reports

U13 –

No report received

U14 -

The under 14 had a fairly difficult year, squad number have been low throughout the season with only 22 players on the books, this linked with a number of key players been out due injury saw many games played with only 15-18 players. The NLD shield competition summed up the first half of the season with no wins.

Up to Christmas and the long winter break, results were poor however the squad remained committed and there was a good team spirit. The New Year brought an up turn in performance there was a marked improvement, which started at Doncaster and whilst not winning matches Newark were no longer a push over. The rest of the season still proved to be difficult but new players did join the squad and improvement in performance continued with Newark taking a couple of wins near the end.

The commitment of the squad on the field cannot be questioned they were a credit to the club they work hard and often they haven't had the results that they deserved.

Training sessions need to be better attended it is difficult to set up training sessions with only 10-12 players. The age group as it moves into U15 we are hopeful that numbers will be at least will be maintained but it would be great if additional players could be found, something that we are working on throughout the summer.

We are looking forward to next season with the hope of improving the overall performance and results.

U14 Coaching Staff.

U15 -

Another successful season for the U15's reaching their 4th NLD final in a row, only to be decimated by injuries to see us well beaten by Derby. May be next year!

We toured to Yorkshire and played Harrogate and Okley. Much fun had by all. We lost both narrowly.

The squad has gelled particularly well this season, and although we have lost a couple of players we have gained more.

We had 12 players in representative rugby. 3 in Leicester tigers red and green squads, four in Schools of rugby, the rest representing Notts county.

Things bode well for next season.

Cheers

Roger

One comment for the committee. What's happened to Coach development?

U16 -

A difficult year for the Under 16s with representative commitments pre Xmas and then the snow having a real impact on the squad.

4 players represented NLD Under 16s

5 Players involved in Leicester Elite Player Development Group.

Post Xmas injuries to several players meant we ended up playing the NLD semi-final with 17 fit and available in the squad.

Having said all of above we reached the NLD final and lost out to a good Lincoln side 14-7, who took their chances well.

Played 14 won 8, drew 2, lost 4.

Next year should begin with around low 20s for numbers.

Coaching team of 3 with Ben Ennals agreeing to support when needed.

Plan for next year will be to train Tuesday and Thursday and play league game for 17s/18s on a Sunday or when 17 years old play senior Saturday when no Sunday game. This will give them one rugby commitment each weekend and be actively encouraged to get involved with senior rugby.TBC.

Regards

Darren

MEMBERSHIP

Strong membership and impressive returns from the Mini and Junior Sections of the club and a much better response and commitment from playing members this last year - many thanks to captains and team managers. A peculiar difficulty has been reaching out to non-playing members and patrons and getting the message through that Newark Rugby Club needs their continued support and involvement. The subscription income levels from these membership groups has declined considerably over the last few years. This is an aspect of club membership maintenance and development we need to explore. Fortunately voluntary contributions from vice presidents and life members has increased. Membership fees make a considerable difference and have a fundamental impact on our Club's financial resources.

The new systems applied to membership/playing subscriptions are bedding in. Paying subscriptions by DD has increased and this helps club administrators. A considerable amount of time, however, is spent "chasing up". The annual plea - (actually why do we have to do this?!) - Please: subscriptions in early!

Similarly, having e-mail contact details helps all club officials to communicate and contact all members more efficiently - let's have them and any changes in early .. Thank you

Hugh Daybell

SOCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Annual Ball held on the 3rd July 2010. Numbers were even more disappointing than the previous year, with only 133 attending. A profit of over £1,000 was made though.

Thanks to all those who attended, especially those groups who come year after year – I know that everyone who attends always has a good time but I think the Ball has run its course for the time being, especially in the current economic climate.

I am instead organising, with the help of the Picks, a more casual Summer Party on the 9th July – this will be held at the Club and the Club will htereofre receive the bar profits as well. Please attend – there are limited numbers so get your tickets early.

I am aware that I have not organised any other events this year but I honestly don't think that there would be the support for them – however if anyone has any ideas I would be glad to put something on (hopefully with help !).

All members, players, supports, parents need to support the social side of the club – to raise much needed funds and to engender a good Club spirit.