



Olney Rugby Football Club

Secretary's Report 2018 -2019

For much of the year the main (Executive) committee has worked well with a reduced more manageable size, resulting in at least some of the meetings being shorter. A wider membership has been involved in the sub committees, where much of the best and more detailed work has been done. Reports of these sub committees are provided separately. Other points to note, not covered by the sub committees, include:-

International Tickets

Following concerns expressed at last year's AGM a new policy for the distribution of international tickets was set up. This seems to have worked well but may need a review in due course. From the Autumn internationals next year the allocation of tickets the club receives may change as it will be based on the numbers of games played this season and next and not on numbers of members in the club. The games that count are for the U'14s and upwards and some work has been undertaken to ensure games have been entered on the GMS system. Thank you to **Dan Cooke** for his continuing work in dealing with the International tickets during this last year.

Disciplinary Matters

There have been no disciplinary hearings this season.

Olney Football Clubhouse

With the demise of the Football Club last year and the clubhouse becoming vacant formal approaches were made to the Town Council to take over the building lease. This was seen as a good opportunity to alleviate and improve the issues relating to our poor changing room and gym facilities. The club corresponded and attended meetings with the Council throughout the year but withdrew our interest in order to give preference to the Colts Football Club as we felt they should be the natural successors of the clubhouse. In the event the Town Council decided otherwise granting the lease to a commercial concern (Body Force). This decision does call into question of how much we can trust the Council to value and look after the interests of the town's amateur sports clubs and the large numbers of volunteers and participants that make up these clubs.

Clubhouse Lease

The club house is on land currently leased from the Town Council. The original lease was for 99 years and runs out in September 2085. An approach has been made to the Council to buy the freehold of the site. There is a reluctance to further invest in the building without first acquiring the freehold and there is an aspiration to secure the building for future generations of Olney rugby players. Discussions are ongoing and it remains to be seen if this is a viable option.

Safeguarding

Ross Knapper took over as the Safeguarding Officer at the beginning of last season. As part of his work he revised the club's policy which has now been adopted. Thank you to Ross for his work and advice in this essential aspect of the club. During the previous season and the early part of this last season administration of DBS checks for coaches and first aiders in the M&J section had fallen way behind. Thank you to **Siobhan Trott** for bailing us out and getting us organised and back on track.

Club Constitution

The current constitution was last updated in 2008 and those revisions appear to have been solely to bring it into line with CASC regulations at the time. An updated constitution has been prepared and discussed at recent committee meetings and recommended for adoption. Revisions takes into account:

- Revised CASC regulations 2015
- RFU checklist for club constitutions and Sport England models
- Fills in some procedural gaps to safeguard the club
- Reflects current club practice
- Includes an updated membership structure that includes M&J membership (missing from current constitution)

For comparison the current constitution can be found on the club website.

100 Club

The running of the 100 Club has now been taken back to be run by the committee with Paul James being the lead. Thank you to **Debbie Warn** who previously administered the 100 Club. A thank you must also go to the members of the 100 Club as it is a vital income stream to fund the playing activities of the club. New members are always welcome.

Life Member

In March **Alan Williams** was appointed as a new Honorary Life Member in recognition of his involvement and contribution to the club over many years. Congratulations Wilbur.

Thank You

Kath Middleditch will be standing down as our Publicity and Media Officer in September. Over the last 3 years Kath has taken this role to another level and given the club a great deal of quality promotion and exposure. There are now over a 1,000 followers on each of our social media platforms! Thank you Kath, and good luck with your new role at Cranfield Uni and at the same time starting a master's degree.

Stuart Parkin, Bucks Rep, is also standing down after 6 years in the role. Thank you Stuart for keeping us in touch with our Constituent Body for all this time. If anyone would like a scenic drive to Aylesbury once a month for what I am sure will be exciting meetings, then please let me know.

Dave Middleditch's work as our Club Fixture Secretary and Referee Liaison is a vital but largely unnoticed role (unless something goes wrong!). Thank you Cherry for continuing with this role and your work as Secretary of the Northamptonshire & District Rugby Alliance.

Congratulations to **Bob Taylor** who has been President of the Northamptonshire & District Rugby Alliance this year. We understand that you have handled a lot of balls!

Thank you and congratulations to **Karen Smith and Ali** who organised the Ladies Lunch and raising over £4,500 for the MK Breast Cancer Clinic in the process.

A special mention to **Marcus Trott** who has been involved in raising the game off the pitch in terms of organising such events as Foodie Friday's, Olney 7s and much more. Thank you Marcus.

Tom Winter
Secretary Olney RFC