

# **Minutes of The 2021 Annual General Meeting of Alton Rugby Football Club (ARFC)**

**Held Online via Zoom Meeting Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021 at 19.30**

Agenda

**1. Apologies for absence:** 22 people attended with apologies for absence from:

Kynakos Markianos

**2. Meeting Chairman's Welcome:**

Difficult year with Covid lockdown proving a challenge for both the playing side and clubhouse management

Club is in good shape financially coming through the lockdown

Look forward to 2024 and the Clubs centenary which we must start planning to celebrate in a suitable manor

Ambitious new strategy that was discussed with 22 people on 17/5/21 and sub committees will be developed to move this forward with club involvement as it develops

Vital ingredient is people and the club cannot operate without volunteers

**3. Minutes of the 2020 AGM:**

Accepted as a true reflection

**4. Chairman's Report: Tom Gaynor**

A clubs vital ingredient is its people and the club can not operate without volunteers

Its our club be as big a part of the club as you can

Big thank you to Tom Mills who is stepping down as President after years of service and holding every office of the club

Online training keeping the senior squad together during lockdown and hope to see a return on the investment with some great performance in the coming season

**Director of Rugby's Report: Steve Jenkins.**

Senior Rugby

There is little to report on other than the season ahead! The seniors have continued to train during the pandemic (when allowed under the covid restrictions) and have attracted new players and retained good numbers from the last active rugby in March 2020. The Seniors will return to rugby on 1st July 2021 with the commencement of preseason at Anstey Park. All players over the age of 18 are welcome. Start time 1900. The senior coaching staff for this season will be:

Director of Rugby – Steve Jenkins  
Head Coach – Andy Tart  
Assistant Coach – James Youell  
Assistant Coach – Tony Hopkin  
Player Coach – Jez Powell  
Player Coach – Joe Gwyther  
Player Coach – Josh Smith  
Team Manager – Jamie Legg.  
1st XV Captain – Tom Smethurst  
Club Captain – Adam Hoxey.

Physio and Sport therapist support will be available at all training and match days. There will also be full match day support for the second team to include a coach from the team, and first aid cover.

The first team will be playing in London SW3 (following promotion in the 2019/20 season) with games spread across Hampshire and Surrey including some good local rivalries being renewed against Petersfield and Basingstoke! The fixtures have been updated on the website and there will be the usual pre match lunches for home games and all club members are encouraged to take part. The league fixtures start on 18th September but there will be a number of preseason fixtures during Late August and early September.

We are still waiting on the finalised fixture list for the second team and this will be published as soon as we receive the details.

The ladies section (Now known as the Ravens) also continues to grow and has developed from a touch rugby side to a full contact team that is planning great things for the new season. If you are interested in playing please contact Kathleen Digby or turn up at Anstey Park on a Tuesday (full details will be on the website).

Other forms of rugby are also being encouraged at Alton RFC. Chris Sparkes is getting an active walking rugby section together on Thursday nights. This is a great way to remain active and playing the game but without the bumps, knocks and aches the next day (well almost without!)

### Junior Rugby

Junior rugby at Alton continues to thrive at Alton RFC. Despite the restrictions of Covid over the last season we have seen the usual excitement and enthusiasm across Anstey Park on a Sunday morning with some competitive games across the month of May. We look forward to returning in September and experiencing the same sort of success in the older age groups that we have seen in the previous couple of seasons with our 15 a side teams all having highly successful seasons and topping Hampshire league tables.

The Colts have continued to be a great source of ready senior players with 2 recently making their senior debut against Haslemere. The Colts section is an essential part of any rugby club and the valiant efforts of the coaching team led by Ashley Hamer have got a well proven track record of preparing competitive teams over a number of seasons reaching the quarter finals of the national cup in their last full match.

The kids first section teams are also proving to be successful if the laughter and smiles that can be seen on a Sunday morning can be used as a success measure! These are the players that we need to continue to nurture to enjoy the great sport of rugby and eventually (in many years' time) become the players, coaches, administrators and supporters of Alton RFC

Volunteers – Coaches, Team managers, First aiders, Referees...

Alton continues to encourage all volunteers to be as well prepared as possible to provide the experience that our players need and want to improve themselves. With this in mind Alton is keen to encourage all volunteers to take advantage of courses and training to keep them up to date with the latest processes and behaviours. During the last 6 months Matt Arrowsmith has taken over the role of Coaching Co-ordinator. We are endeavouring to put courses on at Alton RFC as often as possible but where this is not possible we will signpost you to the nearest venue with suitable courses. Courses and how to book them will be regularly updated on the website.

Alton Way

As part of the new Alton RFC strategy I am developing a document called 'The Alton Way'.

This document will be designed to be an easy to reference document that gives you all the necessary information needed to get the most out of your experience at Alton RFC. For example there will be sections covering:

Joining and Registration – Everything you need (including easy to follow guides) to navigate GMS and Pitchero to apply to be a member, register children etc.

What to expect at Alton RFC:

1. As a player
2. As a parent/carer/guardian
3. As a volunteer
4. As a supporter

What Alton RFC expects of its members :

1. As a Player
2. As a parent/carer/guardian
3. As a volunteer
4. As a supporter

Rugby Curriculum at different ages – A framework of the expected skills each age will be introduced to, how many training sessions to expect, how many games there will be.

The above is not exhaustive. There will be sections including Terms of reference for different volunteer roles and expected time commitments to help people understand how they can help this club drive forward and provide even higher levels of coaching and support for our players of all ages (and all members in general)

I would like to finish by encouraging you all to be as big a part of this club as you can. As we move forward towards the club Centenary in 4 years time there are lots of opportunities to be a part of a great, inclusive rugby club.

I am now looking forward to a return to Rugby for the 2021/22 season.

### **Treasurer's Report: Steve Carter**

2021 has been an unusual year to say the least but, with the help of EDC grants and furlough support, the club's finances remain healthy, finishing the year with a surplus of about £10k

As you would expect, subscriptions are down this year but I would like to say a big thank you to the members who have continued to support the club with their subscription payments despite the reduced playing time and limited opening of the club.

Sponsorship income was, understandably nearly non-existent and with the kitchen being closed for the whole period and the bar being closed for most of the year. our trading income was very significantly reduced.

On the income side of the equation, we were propped up with EDC grants and furlough payments to the tune of nearly £40k, but overall the drop in income was still about £90k for the year (about 55% down).

Fortunately, the cost or sales / expenditure side of the equation was also a lot lower than a normal season. down to about £70k from about £150k the previous year (percentage-wise, a very similar reduction to the income side).

More specifically on the expenditure side of things, we continued to pay the salaries for permanent bar and cleaning staff (offset to a large extent by the furlough payments). Playing-related costs were down, as you'd expect, save for coaching costs, where this year's figure includes the costs of the online fitness programme that was provided to players. ATC gave us a 50% reduction on rent and we had payment holidays from BT and Sky.

Looking forwards, the day-to-day bookkeeping is now in the hands of Styles & Associates, with my oversight, giving me time to focus on the strategic side of the club's finances, ensuring that we remain financially strong and able to invest in the club's future.

I would like to finish with a big thank you to Beth Mills for her long service as Club Treasurer and for her support in the handover of the Treasurers role to me and Styles and Associates.

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### **2020 Accounts were accepted by a majority vote**

#### **5. Election of Club Executive Officers:**

Vote was taken by those attending and the following were elected by majority

1. President; Malcolm Osborne
2. Chairman; Tom Gaynor
3. Secretary; Vacant.

Tom Mills to continue in situ. Tom Gaynor to discuss candidates and appoint a Secretary as soon as possible.

4. Treasurer. Steve Carter

**6. Election of Committee Members:** ARFC Club Rule 13.1 states that the Club's Executive Committee ("the EC") should also include a number of elected members.

The following people were elected by majority vote to join the EC

1. Steve Jenks
2. Kathleen Digby
3. Kynakos Markianos
4. Rupert Vitoria
5. Lewis New
6. John Ford

7.Eloise Shrimpton

**7.Election of Vice Presidents (VPs) / Confirmation of Honorary Members:** No VPs were nominate for election at this AGM

**8.Additions or Alterations to Club Rules:** None proposed.

**9. Any Other Business** The AGM will consider relevant any other business of which due notice is given (or take this for consideration by the EC) as detailed under Club Rule 8.1.11.