



## **13<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of Lewes Rugby Football Club Ltd (78th Meeting of Lewes RFC)**

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2017  
Held at the Clubhouse, Stanley Turner Ground, Lewes**

### **Present:**

Chairman, Secretary, Directors, and 14 members.

### **Apologies:**

Roger Meyer, Phil Beale, Chris Durrant, Mike Francis, Ben Wright, Tony Spencer, Nick Rourke, Andy Kipling, Aidan Byrne & Daniel Wade.

### **Apporoval of Previous Minutes. 2015:**

Having been previously circulated, the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 22nd June 2016 were and were approved by those present as being a true record.

### **Matters arising:**

There was a request from Dereck Wade for an update on the redevelopment of the changing rooms. He was assured this was going to be covered in the Facilities Report.

### **Chairman's Report – Nick Page:**

We couldn't quite live up to the prior season's successes, and, I know that finishing 5<sup>th</sup> in LSE3 was not what the guys wanted. But injuries and availability took its toll along with a lack of blue kit! I know the boys are keen to rectify the situation next season.

Like most clubs, it's not easy dipping into the apparently smaller and smaller pool of players out there. We just need to ensure we make Lewes an attractive club to come and play rugby. But we hopefully will be welcoming some new and old faces back to replace those that have moved on.

Touch rugby is well underway and preseason training is coming. With good preparation and attitude we hope to make a good start to the coming campaign.

We have, sadly, said goodbye to Mike Stubbs. We thank him for his contribution to the club over his 2 seasons – I know he enjoyed his time with us. We wish him well in his new adventures abroad and he knows he is always welcome to come and see us when he returns.

But Chris Roberts has been recruited for the coming season. He has a wealth of experience coaching a variety of teams including Samurai Bulldogs and England Counties U18s, and is keen to get going. Join me in welcoming him to Lewes.

A sterling job was made by Aiden Byrne to get a 2s side out by hook or by crook. The aim next season is to try and establish a fuller squad, and enable a 2s side that will align closely with the 1st



team, providing competition for places and supporting them when needed. That will hopefully leave a 3s side available for regular but maybe slightly more occasional run outs.

The Ladies went from strength to strength under the coaching of Owen Jones and, latterly, the support of Rob Williams. 2nd in their league, promotion and a National Cup to boot - a great achievement and one which sets them up for a challenging season to come.

The ladies held a very successful RFU sponsored Inner Warrior day. 50 or so players and potential players attended, off the back of which they hope to have a 2nd team set up for the coming season. Well done to them all and let's hope the momentum being built up is sustained through the whole season.

The change in operation of the Bar and having members from South Street Bonfire Society in to help, I believe, worked well. We have been able to offer lower pricing to entice people to stay whilst also providing another Lewes community based organisation access to facilities that would otherwise go unused.

We have again had to make some hard choices and we have changed kit supplier. We went to market and asked a number of suppliers to present a proposal, this included Intersport. We subsequently decided that the offer from Samurai was a good one. A lot of effort has gone into the designs of new shirts and some great work raising sponsorship means all of the Senior teams and the junior sides (to U12) will have the same look match shirts with the same sponsors throughout.

After a long and extensive effort by a determined few, we are pleased to announce that Lewes RFC have become an RFU accredited club.

This scheme is based upon the six Key Drivers identified as crucial to a strong club:

1. Retaining & Developing Players
2. Recruiting New Players
3. Recruiting & Retaining High Quality Coaches, Volunteers & Referees
4. Effective & Efficient Facilities
5. Effective & Efficient Management and Governance
6. Integration with the Local Community

The RFU recognize that each of these key drivers represent the component parts of a strong, sustainable club. We have action plans in place, with the aim of addressing the items where we may need to do a bit more over the next couple of years and these will be regularly reviewed alongside our local RFU rep. Mal Chumbley.

To end I want to thank everyone, the committee, Coaches and helpers in all parts of the club that have contributed their own time over the last season to make Lewes RFC a great place to play rugby. Your support, as always, is appreciated and if you do have some time available please offer your services.

I hope you'll agree that the club appears to be in a good place and we hope, with everyone's help that will get even better over the coming season.

### **Treasure's Report – Rob Williams, pp. Andy Kipling:**

The unaudited financial statements for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> April 2017 were circulated. Andy Kipling was unable to be present owing to a recent accident and the meeting sent their well wishes for his continued recovery. In his absence, Rob Williams ran through the Profit and Loss Account and the Balance Sheet.

He explained that now that the club had taken over the management of the bar and catering in the clubhouse, there was an improved turnover that has enabled more monies to be passed on to support the playing side.

#### Questions from the floor:

Dereck Wade enquired about income from the 100 Club. It was agreed that monies had been lying dormant (and is accounted for under "Fundraising and Miscellaneous income"), but there is the intention to renew the membership and plan some fund raising activities during the coming season.

### **Secretary's Report – Paul Nicholl**

I would like to thank Andy Kipling for giving me a smooth transition into this role and for his helpful support which has enabled me to make it through this first year. One of the issues that he passed on to me was getting the club accredited by the RFU. He did most of the groundwork for it and it was left to me to get us over the line, which was achieved at the beginning of this month

We have identified key areas within the club that require action plans, and progress in these areas will be monitored over the coming season.

The Key Action Plans are:

1. Increase the number of male Adults to strengthen the 2<sup>nd</sup> XV and restore the 3<sup>rd</sup> XV
2. Develop a closer relationship with Brighton University Rugby Club
3. Increase the number of girls playing
4. Put together a programme of appropriate CPD's to facilitate coach education

### **Junior Chair's Report – Pete Barron, pp. Ben Wright:**

In the absence of Ben Wight, Pete Barron made some remarks about the previous season.

- Russell Dean was thanked for all his hard work in coaching the Colts over recent years which as he is stepping down from this role.
- Pete highlighted the under 13's, under 14's, under 15's and under 16's squads as they had particularly successful seasons.
- He finished by praising the vibrant nature of the Junior and Minis sections who field around 300 players down the age groups each Sunday.

### **Rugby Report – Nick Page:**

Player recruitment and retention is a challenging issue across the club and a number of initiatives are being put into place to improve this, one of which is seeking closer links with both neighbouring universities.

### **Facilities Report – Rob Williams:**

There have been a number of improvements in the facilities this year. The new heating system for the clubhouse has been very welcome. The agreement with South Street Juvenile Bonfire Society for them to run the bar at a cost of £7 per hour has been mutually beneficial to both organisations.

We have been trying to reduce costs, regarding the catering and new ideas will be tried out. We are looking at getting sponsorship on the catering side by the Hearth Pizza Company. Matt Ridley has been approached regarding the catering for our more formal meals, such as pre-match lunches and evening occasions.

Some reorganisation (such as creating a yoga studio) of the clubhouse will be explored, via the Sports Club, in order to facilitate better letting opportunities. Meanwhile the project for improving the changing facilities is going ahead with the ceilings on the ground floor being replaced next week. This will include the removal of asbestos that will enable future work to go ahead safely. There is £195K available for the changing rooms project, and the planning application will go in during the next couple of months. Meanwhile we are also in the process of seeking grants to update the floodlights.

#### Questions from the floor:

Terry Powell asked about the time scale for the project and would it affect us during the season. It is likely to be around six months, but it is only the upstairs that is being refurbished and so won't affect the downstairs – so these facilities will still be in use.

Ray King asked what leverage we have with the council.

The council asked for five tenders and we are working with them to keep the costs within budget.

Terry Powell asked about getting money for the toilets to be redone.

Rob will see what can be done about this, but it will be a Sports Club matter.

#### **Election of Officers:**

The following committee members were happy to stand again for election. They were nominated and seconded as follows, and there being no other nominations received, these were all elected unanimously

<b>Role</b>	<b>Officer</b>	<b>Proposer</b>	<b>Seconded</b>
Chairman	Nick Page	Steve Cole	Rob Lockyer
Secretary	Paul Nicholl	Nick Page	Terry Powell
Treasurer	Andy Kipling	Nick Rawson	Dewi Vaughan
Juniors Chairman	Ben Wright	Steve Cole	Rob Moore

#### **Subscriptions for 2017/2018:**

The budget for next season has not been finalised yet, so after it has been established, further discussion will take place concerning subscriptions and match fees.

#### **Election of Reporting Accountants:**

It was agreed that Knill James should be re-appointed as Reporting Accountants.

#### **A.O.B.**

Dereck Wade asked if the fixtures for next year could be put on the club website, and this will be done as soon as possible.

Richard Crew asked about the light in the understore cupboard that needs fixing. He also mentioned that there is too much equipment stored there and perhaps the post pads could find another home.

Justin Brown asked if coaching courses could be held at the STG.

This request was noted, but dates and locations for courses have not been organised yet.

Dereck Wade raised the important matter of player recruitment.

Chris Roberts said that the link with the universities is not a long term solution, but “word of mouth” - bring back “lapsed” players should be the responsibility of every member regarding their individual contacts.

**Meeting closed at 8.50 pm**

**Our next AGM will take place on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2018**