

Guernsey Rugby Football Club

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GUERNSEY RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

(Registered Number 53279)

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Guernsey Rugby Football Club Limited
held at The Rugby Clubhouse, Footes Lane, on Wednesday 21st July 2021 at 19:00 pm

Present: Andrea Harris, Charles Mc Hugh, Adrian Le Page, Paul Wright, Sadie Merrien, Chris Gnapp, Steve Evans, Malcolm Barnes, Graham Skuse, Craig Platt, Mike Webber, Paul Sykes, Wes Williams, Steve Melbourne.

- 1. Apologies:** Martin Belcher, Jordan Reynolds, Rachel Merrien, Colin Ferbrache, Jo de Garis, Alistair Carey, Mandy Webber.
- 2. Approval of previous AGM Minutes:** Andrea Harris approved the previous AGM minutes, Charles McHugh seconded.
- 3. Matters arising from the previous minutes:** There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.
- 4. Quorum:** The meeting was declared to be quorate in accordance with the Company's Memorandum & Articles.
- 5. Chair's Annual Report – Guernsey RFC - Season 2020/2021:**

In my first season as Joint Chair, alongside Charles McHugh, and with help from our Management Committee and Board, we continued to face unprecedented challenges. At the last AGM we reported that there were several fundamental uncertainties surrounding the start date for the 2020/21 season. As we know now, there was no season. In fact, the UK were only able to recommence full contact training on Monday this week.

First and foremost, I must say a huge thank you to the members of the Management Committee and Board, along with our volunteers who continue to support #OURCLUB. Between the Raiders and its Academy, we have over 160 volunteers, including Committee members, referees, assistant referees, club facilities managers, team managers, coaches and supporters. Through such uncertain times, we have still managed to keep the Club alive, hold events for our members, and raise much needed revenue.



Accredited Club



Guernsey Raiders

In the season that should have seen the Raiders back in National 2 South, competing to hopefully consolidate and hold a spot in that league, the Raiders hosted Douglas Rugby Club from the Isle of Man at Footes Lane, which saw our biggest ever crowd, outside of a Siam Cup match. The Raiders also played some internal club fixtures, including the 3-match test series between the Buccaneers and the Corsairs, which included 53 players across 3 matches from the Raiders and St Jacques Vikings involved. During the “non-season” time has been taken to develop the squad through the technical, tactical and mental aspects of the game. We have also run CPD session for players and coaches around game planning and creating optimal trainings for high level learning.

The Raiders also turned their hand to a T20 fixture against Guernsey FC, which they won and helped raise over £1,000 for Guernsey Mind.

A big thanks to our Director of Rugby and Raiders Head Coach Jordan Reynolds for his work throughout the non-COVID season. Further, thanks to the Raiders Captain, Lewis Hillier, and Team Manager, Megan Jones.

Guernsey Raiders Ladies

In an effort to ensure the #OURCLUB message was being relayed, the Ladies were renamed to “Guernsey Raiders Ladies” (or GRL) from their previous name of Guernsey Ladies Rugby (GLR). A slight change, but an important one! During lockdown, weekly zoom meetings were held to view clips of footage to progress understanding of the game and develop knowledge.

GRL were lucky enough to travel to the Isle of Man in September 2020 to take on the Vagabonds, and played some in-house 10s games under the guise of the Valkyries and Amazons. This also included some players from Alderney who travelled over to join these games. Despite the lack of external fixtures, the numbers of players at training sessions were encouraging, and some alternative trainings such as gymnastics and trampolining were enjoyed. GRL also played an extremely competitive match against an experienced Vets side and there is a lot of talent from the Under 18s training with the Ladies, which makes for a bright future for GRL.

I would like to thank head coach, Steve Evans, for all his hard work and success as the GRL coach this season. Further, grateful thanks go to GRL Captain Tanya Scholtz and GRL Team Manager Justeen Baker.



Academy

With the unfortunate passing of Peter Webber, Andy Creber as Vice Chair has overseen the running of the Academy. Whilst not being able to join in any mainland fixtures for the season, training and internal fixtures were held where over 300 children were involved in rugby, from tots right up to Colts.

Big thanks go to Andy Creber, vice Chair, and Joanne De Garis, GRA Safeguarding Officer. Big thanks also to all the Academy Committee and the volunteer coaches who turn out each Sunday morning.

Diary date. Summer Rugby Camp 23rd to 27th of August 2020 and closing date for applications is the 31st of July 2021. Please contact Steve Melbourne for more information.

Membership, Match Days and Gate

The Raiders senior membership consists of approximately 500 members.

Big thanks to Tanya Scholtz our Membership secretary for a highly efficient collection of our subscriptions, issuing of members cards and membership records. Total Club membership subscriptions in 2020/21 were c£27,000 – a near increase of 15% on the 2019/20 membership revenue. Quite an achievement and shows the support from our local community.

Standard membership fees for the 2021/22 season remain at £90.

As we were unable to host mainland teams, we were only able to take a gate on a handful of occasions in the 2020/21 season.

Big thanks to Mike Webber and Colin Ferbrache for coordinating the gate, and for their help in various other areas around the club during 2020/21.

Again, our match day lunches were not able to proceed due to no match days. We look forward to welcoming them back in 2021/22 with a number of bookings already made for the season ahead as many look forward to some “normality”. The match day experience for our corporate supporters, presidents and vice presidents will continue to improve into the coming season.

Presidents and Vice Presidents – Capital Projects

Between the generosity of the Club Presidents and Vice-Presidents £18,150 has been raised and ring-fenced to carry out improvements to the Club’s facilities. We have completed the drainage project and continue to maintain this to enable our squads to train on the Club Pitch year round, and remove the



expense of having to hire the 3G pitch at the KGV for winter sessions. We have also undertaken a project to install new floodlights to assist with year round training. In total, we have spent approximately £65,000 in 2020/21 on capital projects, funded by our Presidents and Vice Presidents, and the 15 year RFU interest free loan granted in 2019/20.

As a reminder, the Club holds a leasehold interest in the Club Pitch by way of a lease from the States of Guernsey dated 30th August 2012 for a term of 40 years that was due to expire on 31st December 2052. The rent chargeable in the lease is £1 per year. States Property Services extended the term of this lease to 31st December 2075, or a further 52 years.

Big thanks to all our Presidents and Vice Presidents for help with these improvements and to Justeen Baker and Simon Perry for co-ordinating this fund raising and organising the pre-match tables for our VPs and Ps.

Corporate Sponsors

In what has been unprecedented times for local businesses, we have been overwhelmed by the support we have received from our corporate sponsors, who in a year where we haven't been able to partake in an external leagues, have contributed £193,100. Without their support, we would not be sat here today. Our main Club sponsor is Babbe who have been a stalwart now to the Club for over 10 years. Other significant sponsors for the 2020/21 season were Polygon, Leapfrog, Christies, Doyle Motors, KRyS Global, Neon Sapphire, Praxis IFM, Betway, Fletcher Sports, Daub Alderney, MSF, FNB, Fresh Dental and Raven Russia. I would like to thank each and every sponsor for all their contributions, both big and small and for their loyalty and generosity in supporting the Raiders.

Chris Gnapp continues to do a fantastic job in organising our corporate sponsorship packages be it signboards, player sponsors, or Club sponsors. He works tirelessly to keep sponsors engaged and provide value for the much needed funding they provide. While thanking Chris for his hardwork as sponsorship Director, I would also like to thank him for being the Club's firework sponsor again this year, a fantastic community event as well as a Club fundraiser.

Financial Challenges for 2021/22 Season

You will no doubt recall from last year's AGM that we were put on notice by the RFU that no Club will be receiving any RFU travel funding for one season. In the 2019/20 season we directly received £96,000 from the RFU for this purpose. The RFU recently announced that all mainland teams (men and women) travelling to Guernsey will each receive a £2,000 grant towards their travel. This will be co-ordinated by the Raiders, who will liaise with Aurigny regarding flight bookings. Any additional costs above the



£2,000 will need to be funded by the visiting team. No such funding has been granted to Guernsey for travel to the mainland.

We have completed an application under the RFU's "Needs Based Travel Funding" scheme, and are hopeful to get at least some contribution towards the approximately £60,000 in flight costs to fulfil the fixtures for both the men's and ladies' teams.

Charles reported last year that we were seeking external help with regard to the anticipated shortfall for the 2020/21 season. We are pleased to report that we received a grant from the Social Investment Fund, and also from the RFU, as a result of applications made.

We held a Virtual Celebrity Dinner which was attended by some 140 people and was a great success both socially and financially. We have also been grateful for the support of our Siam Cup Centenary Shirt campaign, which raised much needed funds to help towards our travel funding gap for the 2021/22 season.

Charles was due to step down at the last AGM after his three-year tenure completed, and I was to stand as his replacement. Charles very kindly agreed to stand as Joint Chair with me to help me in my new role and see the club through the difficult 2020/21 season. I would like to thank Charles for his guidance, hard work and commitment he has shown to me and the Club, not just for the past 12 months, but for the many years he has been involved with the Club and the Academy. The amount of hours, blood, sweat and tears that Charles has sacrificed for Guernsey Rugby over a number of years has been fundamental in our success. Charles will be stepping down as Joint Chair this evening and will remain on the Committee as a Director and President. Thank you for your endless commitment to the Club and our cause, and for your support in me transitioning to Chair.

Committee

Big thanks to all the Committee members who are serving on the Committee this year for their continued hard work and commitment.

Thanks to those stepping down from various roles on the Committee next year (that I have not already mentioned or thanked in the foregoing) and welcome to their replacements.

Particular thanks to Paul Wright for his Treasurer's contribution during a complicated period of budgetary changes.

Additional thanks to Sadie Merrien as the Club secretary for all her dedicated hard work on the minutes and getting everyone motivated to be where they are meant to be, doing what they ought to be doing.



Further thanks to Katherine Daunt our retiring bar manager, and all the bar staff for their hard work during the events that have been held. We hope that the appointment of Robert McKenzie as the new Bar and Catering Manager will maximise the use of the Clubs facilities and sales.

Siam Cup

May 2020 should have seen the 100th anniversary of the Siam Cup played at Footes Lane. It was agreed by both islands to postpone this fixture until 28 August 2021 and we look forward to hosting what should be a fantastic event at Footes Lane next month. To enable the fixtures to be “caught up”, we also agreed to play 2 fixtures in May 2022; the first in Jersey, and the second in Guernsey. This will provide much needed revenue for each club, and we look forward to getting the fierce rivalry back on track.

Rocky the Raider

Grateful thanks to our dear Rocky for his dedication to the brand and for encouraging our crowds time and time again.

RDO & CRCs

Big thanks for all the work being done in schools and colleges. The work being carried out in all the Island’s schools and with other sports in increasing our membership and the interest in the game of rugby. The continued implementation and progression of the Player Development Pathway is giving young talent an opportunity to develop and thrive and could not be run without the commitment from the RDO, CRCs and the Guernsey Rugby Association. This is giving us a bright future to look forward to for both boys and girls wishing to play for the Raiders.

Conclusion

For a season that wasn’t a season, we have been incredibly lucky to have some competitive internal rugby fixtures, and provide events at the Club for our community. We are a truly community club, and are forever grateful for the support of our players, members, committee, volunteers and all involved who continue to make our club a success. I feel privileged to hold the position of Chair of a rugby club with over 100 years of history, and am excited for the season ahead and the challenges we are facing. We look forward to welcoming rugby back to Guernsey for the 2021/22 season and appreciate your continued support.

A Harris - Joint Chair
2020/21 Season



6. Paul Wright Treasurer 2020/2021 Report:

Paul Wright presented a presentation on the financial performance for the 2020/21 season.

Paul thanked Annie Le Page and Megan Jones for their help with the club administration and Craig Platt for his work as the club's bookkeeper. Paul also thanked Katie Daunt for her work as bar manager over the last two years. Once again, thanks to Craig's hard work, we were able to present the draft financial statements only 21 days past our year end.

2020/21 – Results/Highlights

- Profit of £12k – this is a tremendous result given the COVID impacted year and could not have been achieved without the support of our members and sponsors.

Salient details below:

- Gross sponsorship income £193k – all but two of our sponsors paid full commitment despite no season. We have provided for a 50% repayment to our sponsors if the COVID impact continues as we expect a refund request if limited home games this season.
- Membership income £27.5k – 15% increase on previous year.
- Grant of £3.5k received from the Social Investment Fund to assist the club during COVID.
- £30k loan from NatWest Bank repayable over 6 years – assisted with cash flow during COVID.
- Additional £66k in capital spent to complete the lighting and drainage project on the club pitch (supported by £18k in funds from the Presidents & VP's).
- Long term interest free loan of £90K from the RFU to support the lighting and drainage project.

2021/22 – Challenges

- Possible cash loss of £60k if the Santander Siam Cup is not staged in August.
- Loss of travel funding from RFU – applied for funding via the RFU's Needs Based Travel Fund and awaiting response.



- Sponsorship level as per prior years – still awaiting a few sponsors to sign up but 85% have committed and paid to date.
- Loss of home games – hopefully ‘lost’ games at the start of the season will all be recovered depending on the state of COVID.

The accounts will be audited by Kemp Le Tissier Limited and would then be available on request.

7. Election of officers for 2021/22: The following were elected as proposed by Andrea Harris and seconded by Charles McHugh. The vote was carried forward.

GUERNSEY RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB COMMITTEE 2021/22 SEASON

DIRECTORS COMMITTEE:
Chair (Andrea Harris)
President (Charles McHugh)
President (Adrian Le Page)
President (Martin Belcher)
Treasurer (Paul Wright)
Honorary Secretary (Sadie Merrien)
Sponsorship Director (Chris Gnapp)
Commercial Director (Ian Endres)
Director (Malcolm Barnes)
Director of Rugby (Jordan Reynolds)
Corporate Compliance (Andrew Whittaker)

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chair (Andrea Harris)	Membership Secretary (Tanya Scholtz)
President (Charles McHugh)	Director of Rugby (Jordan Reynolds)
President (Adrian Le Page)	Rugby Development Officer (Steve Melbourne)
President (Martin Belcher)	Bar/Catering Manager (Robert McKenzie)
Treasurer (Paul Wright)	Volunteer Coordinator (Colin Ferbrache)
Secretary (Sadie Merrien)	Social Secretary (Kayleigh Oliver)
Sponsorship Director (Chris Gnapp)	Legal, Disciplinary Advisor (Carly Duchemin)
Commercial Director (Ian Endres)	
Director (Malcolm Barnes)	



FINANCE SUB COMMITTEE

Treasurer (Paul Wright)
Book Keeper (Craig Platt)
Payments (Annie Le Page)
Bar/Catering Manager (Robert McKenzie)

CORPORATE/MATCH DAY SUB COMMITTEE

Chairman (Andrea Harris)
President (Charles McHugh)
President (Martin Belcher)
President (Adrian Le Page)
Sponsorship Director (Chris Gnapp)
Bar/Catering Manager (Robert McKenzie)
Volunteer Coordinator (Colin Ferbrache)
Match Day Engagement (Colin Ferbrache/Mike Webber/Sadie Merrien)
Match Day Programme (Orchard PR)
Marketing/Media Officer (Andrea Harris)
Membership Secretary (Tanya Scholtz)
Merchandise/Fund Raising (Sadie Merrien)

MEMBERSHIP SUB COMMITTEE

Membership Secretary (Tanya Scholtz)
Sponsorship Director (Chris Gnapp)

SOCIAL SUB COMMITTEE

Social Secretary (Kayleigh Oliver)
Social Secretary Assistant (Sadie Merrien)
Facilities Booking Manager (Graham Skuse)
Volunteer Coordinator (Colin Ferbrache)
Volunteer (Sue Pratt)
Volunteer (Charles Mc Hugh)
Social Representative 1st XV (Megan Jones)
Social Representative Women (Fiona Power)
Social Representative Vets (Jim Elliott)
Social Representative Academy (Andy Creber)
Social Representative Vikings (Tor Ritchie-Bandy/Kieran Creber)



VOLUNTEER SUB COMMITTEE

Volunteer Coordinator (Colin Ferbrache)
Volunteer Manager Men (Megan Jones)
Volunteer Manager Women (Jodie Martel/Amy Fallaize)
Volunteer Manager Academy (REQUIRED)

PLAYING SUB COMMITTEE

Director of Rugby (Jordan Reynolds)
Lead coaches of GRL, Vikings and Colts

TEAM COACHES

1st XV (Jordan Reynolds/Malcolm Barnes/Luke Jones)
GRL (Steve Evans)
2nd XV Vikings (Ray Smart/Johnny Breedt/Cally Murdoch/Alec Bailey)
Ladies Vets (Chris Griffiths)
Vets (Jim Elliott)

TEAM MANAGERS

1ST XV (Megan Jones)
2nd XV Vikings (REQUIRED)
GRL (Justeen Baker)
Ladies Vets (Heidi Mahy)
Vets (Jim Elliott)

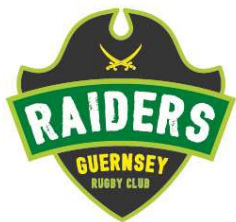
Club Coaching Coordinator (Steve Melbourne)

Club Ambassadors (Mike Marshall/Phil Daunt)

AOB:

Santander Siam Cup Saturday August 28th 2021 – AH has been in contact with Cliff Chipperfield Chair of the Jersey Reds Amateur team who advised not all their players may be vaccinated in time and eligible to play in the Siam Cup. Further discussions to take place and no decision has been made at this time.

Recruitment – AH advised Jo de Garis our Safeguarding Officer for the Academy and Main Club wished to step down from her role but would remain until a replacement had been found. Steve Evans our Rugbysafe Lead has also advised he will be stepping down when a replacement has been found.



Next Committee Meeting – Wednesday 11th August 2021 at 18:30 pm at the Rugby Clubhouse, Footes Lane.

AH thanked everyone for attending the AGM.

The meeting closed at 19:30 pm
Approved by Andrea Harris (Chair)

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Issued: 02.08.2021