

Deal, Betteshanger & Walmer Sports and Social Club

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 23rd July 2017

Serving Directors: Ted Schofield (Chair): David Donachie. (Hon Sec) Karen Rice.
(Treasurer): David Storrie: Richard Barker: Russell English; Terry Laidlaw: Steve Castle:
Matthew Curd.

President: Dave Rose Snr.

Copies of the 2016 minutes were circulated both in hard copy and on the website.
There being no Matters Arising they were agreed and signed.

The sad death of Brian Peace was noted.

Chairman's Address: Ted Schofield.

Ted gave a brief address bringing the members up to date with the year's events, thanking Dave Rose Snr for stepping into act as President in place of Paul Crook.
He was glad membership in both numbers and income had increased but reiterated there were still too many people not paying their dues – including players, also people setting up SO's then cancelling them.
He had also asked Andy Bowes to join the board and the offer had been accepted, with general approval from the meeting

From the floor;

Allison Squires asked about the level of fees, with Karen pointing out Junior membership was cheaper and compared to other sports a bargain. The question then arose about new kids enrolling only to drop out – should there not be a refund. This was accepted by the Board.
Gregor brought up player sponsorship. Ted responded players should pay then get reimbursed by their sponsor.

Adam Michael pointed out how easy sponsorship was for popular players but not everyone.
Robbie Scully suggested a denial of Physio treatment to players not paid up. Another suggestion was no kit to be issued until paid up. David Storrie pointed out they were not insured.

Ted then sat in the body of the hall and left the Hon Sec. to chair the meeting as an *ad hoc* stop gap. So if the notes are scrappy that's because it's impossible to do both jobs at once!

Rugby Report: David Storrie

David expressed thanks on behalf of the club to Dave Wiggins for his years of coaching and we wish him well. Gregor, too, brought his experience to bear so we won 8 out of twelve games.

The 1st XV had a mixed season due to lack of training. He also pointed out the strength of London South East 2 As a league. The team is short on reserves but as a club and town we still punch swell about our weight.

Our standard of play and club atmosphere are attractive to other teams, which encourages people to join D&B, such as the group from Ash, who were a real asset.

Thanks to sponsorship from Matt Ford and the work of Jane Willis the Thursday night training sessions were a great success.

The 2nd XV also won 8 out of 12 games and once more thanks go to Andrew Sapsford for his commitment and energy. They must nurture people to step up to 1st XV rugby.

The 3rd XV was short of players which led to matches being cancelled. Needs to be addressed.

Special thanks should go again to Robbie Scully for his work as 1st team manager as well as Allison Squires for her organising ability.

Ladies rugby is being actively promoted with high hopes for next season.

Touch Rugby on Thursdays was a great innovation and provide a good club evening.

Thanks to Jane Willis and Matt Lucas for sponsoring the Physio.

Thanks went to Matt Curd and Sarah for their work in organising the Presentation Dinner.

Mickey Parker has agreed to take up the job of Fixture Secretary.

Russell gave thanks to the Junior coaches, in particular, Andrew Sapsford who, even with no children of his own was always there on Sunday helping young players to improve.

New teams came into being at Mini level.

The Under 7's to Under 14's are low in numbers and there are no Under 15's

Training would continue throughout the closed season.

Regular matches are being played against Northbourne Park School.

The RFU all schools partnership is very welcome. It is a 4-year project with a £10K fund aimed at Goodwins Academy.

For the 2nd year the partnership to Saracens saw out Minis taken there to play.

Saracens Rugby Camp to run here.

D&B are an RFU accredited club.

Possible plans being laid for a youth tour

We were Runners-up as volunteers for Kent Youth Rugby.

From the floor:

Adam suggested perhaps 1st team players – 2 at a time could commit to helping on Sundays.

Also mixed training on the all-weather pitch.

We can't just be a Saturday – Sunday club.

Sponsorship: Richard Barker

The club now has a total of 40 sponsors – 8 shirt sponsors and many for the 1st XV.

There is also sponsorship for Polo shirts including the Bar Staff

Buzzlines give us a 13% discount on coaches.

Tamarisk is sponsoring the girls.

Mark Quinn has donated £4K for new tables and tills and £10K to provide storage.

The patio has garnered a total of £3K in sponsorship.

We get reduced membership on both of Deal's gyms and anyone can use it.

From the floor

Adam asked about the way to get sponsors. Richard suggested get a name and contact details then pass it on to him.

Treasurer's Report: Karen Rice

The report was shared with a representative from Dynamix, our accountants and sponsors. Cash flow is still a major concern – too often we're running with little to spare. Electricity bill are soaring and need to be monitored to find out why. Our present insurers require to be replaced. Then tills are close to being out of date. From the floor:

It was suggested wages need to be reduced. It was pointed out the retirement of Dave Wiggins should save money, though there would be on-going coaching costs. Physio is a huge expense and can be abused. K pointed out that the profits from the bar were not for such things. Ideas are required for events. We must make more use of the club to attract revenue and what we're doing has to be advertised. Many more things were discussed; (RS) Beer Festival/more choice; (DR Snr) Ad in the CAMRA Magazine: (JD) Do more on grants.

President:

Dave Rose Snr. made statement to quash suggestions that he had been driven from the office of president. He had stepped in to help when Paul Crook resigned and that term was now over. He also stated he had no desire to continue, he had done his best and it was time for another to take over

The board put forward Andrew Inglis to be Club President. An ex- Betteshanger player and long-time sponsor, Andrew expressed himself honoured and was happy to accept.

AOB:

Terry Hodson insisted the club need a County Representative. It was suggested this be combined with the Leadership Academy and Russell agree to take this forward.

Robbie Scully wished to drive home the point that we are not 2 clubs but one. That any residual allegiances should be laid aside. Jokes are one thing, malevolence another! He also asks to have more help in setting up for home games. JD recognised it as an old problem –too few volunteers and suggested involving the Juniors. He also wished to register thanks to the Juniors who serve at out lunches and do a great job. The proposed extension to the Parochial School was mentioned with a question as to whether this was detrimental to the club. It was generally felt it was too soon to say.

The meeting closed at 14.35

We, the undersigned hereby state that the minutes above are a true and fair record, dated on the 23rd July 2017.

Matthew Curd (Chair).....