

# Deal, Betteshanger & Walmer Rugby, Sports and Social Club

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 8th July 2019

Taking meeting: Dave Rose Snr. (President): Matt Curd (Chair): David Donachie. (Hon Sec) Karen Rice (Treasurer): Andy Bowes, David Storrie (Rugby): (Sponsorship: Richard Barker). Steve Castle (Website)

Apologies: Andrew Sapsford: Terry Laidlaw: Danny Vaughan.

Copies of the 2018 minutes were circulated both in hard copy and on the website. They were read, agreed and signed. There were no matters arising.

### **Annual Report: Chairman.**

Looking back it's been a complicated season, with the coach Gregor Dougal stepping down in January, a critical time. The decision was mutual it being agreed "he'd lost the changing room" but we must thank him for what he did for the Club and wish him well.

The spirit of the Club held up superbly – training numbers went from 15 to 50 - and the players at all levels have to be thanked for collectively stepping up to perform and put us in a good position at the end of the season.

In November we were hauled up before Kent RFU for disciplinary failings, which resulted in a £150 fine plus the threat of risking a 10 point, 2 year duration deduction for any further transgressions. Russell English, having taken responsibility, was obliged to give up his role as both a coach and director. Given the level of work he put into both, will be missed. He leaves a still strong youth section which needs to be constantly grown and will be by Andy Bowes, who has stepped up to take Russell's place as Director of Junior Rugby in addition to his role with the Minis.

Danny Vaughan has joined the Club as coach for next year. Very experienced at the highest level of Kent Rugby who likes the way we play as well as the atmosphere of the Club.

The 1<sup>st</sup> XV suffered some narrow losses so the end position of the season does not really reflect the style or the standard of play. The 2<sup>nd</sup> XV are a great bunch who finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in their league and thanks go to Luke Armstrong for the work he put in with them and especially to Andy Sapsford, the Captain.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> XV are a great social side in the tradition of rugby as it was, with Steve Castle praising the after game atmosphere. Are they the source of future directors?

The Under 17's are a credit to the Club for the way they play and behave, which posits a bright future for the Club.

The Ladies/girls section is being run single handed by Gary Simpson – he needs help to maintain and grow that important section.

Richard Barker was persuaded to keep raising money for another year and has once again exceeded expectation; but has now definitely stood down as Dir. of Sponsorship. The board is trying to collectively cover his role, but it this far from ideal, so a replacement must be found for what is one of the most important roles in the Club.

The running of the Club is falling on too few shoulders. Both those looking after House & Ground maintenance are over seventy, as is the Secretary and the Director of Rugby is over eighty. It's a recurring message every year, but it's now getting critical. It is essential younger rugby playing members and coaches take up some of the duties.

We do have volunteers who set up the pitch and make it ready for play, manage and oversee events, run the bar, maintain the stock and set up and man the Beer Festival, organise and oversee the Comedy Nights as well as Quiz Nights and they deserve thanks. Our gratitude also goes to those who liaise with referees and organise fixtures in both Senior and Junior sections, coach and travel with our Juniors, paint the Club in the close season, put up and take down the posts at the beginning and end of the season, raise and lower the nets before and after each game, man the kitchen and cook the meals, the boys who act as waiters and the teams who turn the Clubroom from a dining area to a drinking space every Saturday. If you've never taken part in any these activities, you should! Don't wait to be asked!

Points were raised about using the Club in a smarter way – for instance the car park as an under-utilised space and this was taken under consideration.

### **Presentation of the Accounts and Appointment of Auditors.**

Karen reported a trying year with several financial pinch points.  
Paid off two loans but the bar loan leaves the total owed higher.  
Possible need to pay Corporation Tax  
Richard Barker's sponsorship has effort has again made a huge difference.  
Our accountants Dynamix sponsor the Club to the tune of £1500.  
The move to Digital Tax submission mean more work for the Treasurer.  
The kitchen remains in profit and the bar is doing well.  
The board agree to hold memberships at the present level.  
It is recommended that the present auditors, Dynamix, be reappointed, which was proposed, seconded and passed unanimously.

Adrian Nelson doubted we would be subject to Corporation Tax.  
Need to pay off loans to reduce on-going costs.

### **Rugby Report**

**David Storrie.** He gave an overall view of the achievements of the teams at all levels, seconding the views of the Chair. He wished a special thanks should go to Robbie Scully for his work as 1st team manager, to Allison Squires and Mickey Parker, who has once more proved an excellent Fixtures Secretary.

**Andy Bowes** said the Junior Section is thriving but is suffering from a lack of space. He also needs more help, some of which will come from Danny Vaughan but others need to step up and help.

Owen asked about the school field, which is used for football, using Markwood or rotation in use of space. The subject needs to be addressed.

### **Elections.**

There were no nominations.  
Russell resignation confirmed.  
Karen re-elected unopposed.

## **Sponsorship**

Richard Barker submitted a written report which drew praise.  
Daryl Chaffey has offered to run a fund raising event.

## **Membership:**

As usual the cost of these was questioned and the reply is the same for both seniors and especially Juniors. We are the cheapest Club in Kent, even more so for our youngsters when compared to other sports.

Ricky Marler insisted memberships for Juniors should go up and substantially – quoted the cost of local football where they pay m/ship – match fees and have to buy kit and this should be driven home to parents. This was backed by Will Wilson.

Karen responded this is a subject raised every year and is never resolved.

Mickey then proposed it as a motion, which was seconded, voted on and defeated. For 2:  
Against 12: Abstained 2.

Dave Rose Jnr. thought if we don't need it, don't ask.

Ivor Lewis said in both the proposal and the reasons need to be put the parents.

## **Awards:**

Presented by **Dave Rose Snr.**

President's Award went to Robbie Scully

Vice President of the year was given to Ivor Lewis.

Clubman of the year went to Gareth Rice.

## **AOB:**

Dave Rose Jnr asked about the organisation of the Club for World Cup games. This should be decided well in advance and the information widely disseminated not only to members but to the town.

Andy Bowes raised the forthcoming Walmer Parish Council Summer Games which we should support.

Allison asked about Marines 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Memorial T-Shirt. Steve Castle showed the design – RM Badge – 30<sup>th</sup> – No 11 – D&B badge

Club will pay upfront cost and the shirt will be available to buy on the website.

Jason mentioned possible fixture overload, which was noted.

Mickey Parker asked in the Club was moving?

The Club had supported application by Quinn Estates to purchase more land and incorporate a rugby club but there was no indication of a move in the foreseeable future. Allison raised the question of ownership if it did happen which is one unknown among many.

Ricky Marler asked why we don't have a Club Shop.

It was pointed out we supply kit through Club suppliers and sponsors A Game.

It was responded to with the point it takes too long and is too expensive

DD pointed out it had been tried before and in different guises, none of which had worked and he spoke from experience. It needs people to commit to every Sunday and they won't, takes time to set up and restricts the room in the Clubhouse. There has to be oversight of takings too, for which a director must take responsibility and we have too many jobs already.

Ivor Lewis asked about the catching nets now the pitch is wider. Do we need extra posts? The general opinion was they were OK as they were.

Winter training was raised with use of the Astroturf at Goodwins. Has to be negotiated.

Dave Rose Snr asked for a vote of thanks for the directors which was forthcoming.

The meeting ended at 13.36

Matthew Curd (Chair).....Date.....