

Royston rugby club AGM

Held at Heath Club 22/5 14 at 7.30pm.

- ≡ Previous minutes agreed and seconded by Ollie and Rabs.
- ≡ Matters Arising, a vote was taken and it was agreed that the 2nd team would play in the Herts /Middlesex league next season.
- ≡ CHAIRMANS REPORT,
- ≡ Colin thanked the committee for all the work they do and thanked Jamie for all he had done for the club over many years as President. He acknowledged how the club was growing in every area from minis to 1st team.
- ≡ As Colin is stepping down as Chairman he closed with one wish that all levels would continue to respect the club and look after it from shirts to pitches.

≡ **TREASURER REPORT,**

- ≡ In terms of the numbers, subs are pretty much in line with last year. We are pushing to get more people onto standing order and I am implementing a new system for collecting subs for the next season using our website. We can use our website for people to pay through either by a one off payment or monthly direct debit. This will generate system emails to all those that haven't paid and list for each team (youth and senior) can be printed to show who has signed up and paid and who still needs to pay. I believe this will give tighter control over the payments of subscriptions.
- ≡ I need to stress the importance of giving me a written up list of what the money is for. We are writing a new handbook with rules to this effect. I will be giving duplicate books for each team.
- ≡ Donations/Grants – we were given a match funding grant of £4500 to purchase floodlights, you can see the £9500 paid out in kit/equipment for these.

≡ Sponsorship – this is the major area we are down this year. We lost our biggest sponsor who gave us £3000 in 2012-13. We lost him as we were not prepared to give him as many free international tickets as he wanted as it was not cost effective for us, therefore this year you will see that ticket receipts are more in line with ticket payments. Two of the sponsors for last year were on a two year deal, we would be looking for them to renew next season. Last year we received £2000 shop dividends from The Uniform Store and £500 in sponsorship, the shop has closed down so we no longer have this revenue stream and are using a different supplier for kit which we still get a dividend for.

≡

≡ Functions and fundraising, we have held various small events through the year and then the auction of promises at the end of the year where most payments for the lots were made through Just Giving so we get the gift aid benefit on these. We are still expecting about £1000 in from this which I am chasing to get in.

≡ In terms of payments there is a huge increase in pitch maintenance. It was decided at the end of last season/beginning of this one that we would heavily invest in the pitches to bring them up to a good state. We pay John O'Connor a monthly fee to maintain the pitches and then additional invoices for major works on the pitches. We have just signed up to use them for another year and have asked them to undertake some major work in July.

≡ **YOUTH CHAIRMAN REPORT,**

≡ It has been a great season for our Midi, Mini and junior sides, and has seen our numbers grow by 12% from last season, across the squads. As with last season we have had a great run of winning silverware and this season is no different. In total I believe we hold 2 league titles, over 6 trophies and various compliments for other clubs.

Therefore, I would like to thank the volunteer coaches who turn up each week and train the players, without you there is no Youth Section. I would also like to add in to this mix the team admins, first aiders, match reporters, stats persons, photographers etc.

I have asked each age group to provide a brief overview of their season so here they are,

This season the U6's have gone from strength to strength so much so that we had to split the age groups into U6 and U5. The U6 being led by Sarah Hill and the U5 by myself. So therefore my report is about the U5 group. We now have up to 25 children in this age group and numbers rising even at this late stage in the season which bodes well for the future of the club in 15 years time. The children have made excellent progress and I think have enjoyed their weekly sessions even if the weather was sometimes a bit wet and cold. At this early age the main aim of our sessions is fun and learning skills through games etc. the biggest skill the children have learnt is listening to instructions which I think many parents will agree was pretty non existent back in September. their catching, tagging and movement are now at a level where we can play small games. One thing I have learnt is never play games of tag the day after England have played as we seem to go into full contact.

I would like to say a massive thank you to Simon who has come on board as a coach and who will be here next season. also Neil for helping and Sarah who is a Royston rugby club young ambassador who has been coaching with us this season, also a big thank you to Nina Kelly for becoming team manager

We have 29 U6 players who come to training on a Sunday. This season we have focused on running forward in straight lines, attacking the space, supporting the ball carrier and maintaining the defence line, as well as the basic skills of passing, tagging and movement skills. This has been coached through fun games.

More recently we have focused on 4v4 match play so we are ready for competition next season. The boys and girls, as well as the coaching team, are all really excited at the prospect of playing matches against other teams.

U7

We had an 'ok' season. One of the four teams we took to the Wendens Ambo festival got into the final, but were beaten, which is not bad. I guess on a general point, attendance is solid - we have around 20 kids turn up each week and have managed to field four sides with subs most times we've played away.

U8

We began the season with a confident group of players,

The children have progressed dramatically over the season and their reading of the game and their ability to manage themselves during game time to put themselves in 2 on 1 situation is simply outstanding

They have been a great bunch winning with decency and taking the rare defeat with dignity

Over the course of the season we have won far more than we have lost through the 4 squads and our records at festivals has been good –

Saracens festival 2 teams entered, one team played exceptionally well and qualified for the finals, the other team got a few draws and a win and missed out on qualification on trys scored - 1 team through to finals day who played admirably well but unfortunately lost out to the overall winners

Cambs cup – only allowed to enter 1 side – played 3, scored 21 trys conceded 9 but lost a game by the tightest margin so we could not defend our title

Unfortunately the Saracens festival and the cambs cup were on the same weekend so our squad was split up

Wendons festival – 4 teams entered, 2 teams to the cup finals, Royston awesome won their final, Royston cool narrowly lost the other final, with both Royston brilliants playing incredibly drawing 3 winning 1 and losing 1 to just miss out in the group and Royston dudes finishing a creditable 3rd in their group

Herts. tag was made uncompetitive at the last minute so we can only report our overall playing record – played 14 matches – won 8, drew 4 lost 2 with some incredible results Royston rockets who won every match in their group and the Royston rascals who were playing against the top tier of some of the biggest clubs in the county and got some very creditable draws, whilst the raiders gained some huge wins from seemingly impossible situations

We have built our squad up through the season to 28 and have enjoyed watching them develop into a great group, and we have had a great laugh with them along the way, our parent support has been in valuable and some great friendships are being made on the sidelines as well as on the pitch which we hope to continue into the seasons to come

U9

U9's have made an excellent transition in to contact rugby this year with all of them improving in all their skills. They are bonding together as a team and we have seen good attendance at training and matches.

We have only lost a few friendly matches this season which has shown us that the squad is working together well.

Our tournament summary this year:

U9 Qualified for Saracens Tournament finals day on May 3rd 2014 by winning all of our pool matches.

U9 Qualified again in the first round on finals day at Saracens Tournament and played in a semi-final. Narrowly lost against Datchworth 3 tries to 2. Team showed some real spirit and good team play. We were only beaten in the entire tournament by the two finalists, Huntingdon and Datchworth, both by narrow score margins!

U9 Semi Finalists at Cambs Cup 2014

U9 Herts Contact Quarter finalists in Shield Comp 2014.

U10

This season with the new rules, we introduced uncontested scrums, ruck's & mauls which the players took to easily. Our first test was in the North Herts Festival last October, we came runners up to Datchworth with a single try in it. Through out the season we have been evenly matched with our opponents either drawing the fixtures or winning/losing by single tries. We entered the Cambs and Herts Festivals at the end of the season, but unfortunately we didn't get out of the pool stages but we played some great rugby and once again only single tries separated us from the rest.

Next season we hope to improve our finishing especially with the introduction of kicking into the game.

U13

We began the season with a basic 15-18 players and having entered the Herts/Middlesex Saracens Junior League. We were placed in Division 5 with a number of 'B' sides; Wasps, Ealing and Bishops Stortford and also Watford and Barnet 'A' teams.

Our numbers grew with several new players joining us at training on Thursday's and Sundays taking us up to a squad size of approximately 25 players.

We beat every side in the league quite convincingly conceding only two tries throughout this campaign.

We reached the semi final of the Cambs Cup. (We actually reached the final having beaten Cambridge)!!. However lost the replay despite dominating.

We began our matches in the Herts Plate defeating Chess Valley from Div 4 on route and also Barnet.

We also played matches against local sides including Ely and Biggleswade (Div 4) and again beat them both heavily.

We also played a friendly by travelling to Ruislip A from Division 3 and beat them too!

We travelled on tour to Coventry and took part in the Barkers Butts Festival. Here we defeated all sides in our age group including Stratford Upon Avon and Barkers Butts to collect the trophy for the second year running.

We recently contested the Herts Plate Final against Old Albanians B who were unbeaten all season and had won the division above us (Div 4), winning 12-21.

Seven (7) of the boys from the team are currently in the Eastern Counties U13's squad with two (2) selected for Northampton Saints development squad and one (1) with the Herts U13 squad following successful trials.

I think it's safe to say we have excelled this season and are fortunate to have such a talented group of players who have grown tighter together and have learnt to play as a team rather than individuals.

We will next season move up to Division 4 and hopefully progress facing a slightly sterner test in the league.

We have four coaches and a team manager who have all contributed and played a significant role in the success we have

enjoyed this season.

Season Review for U16's

The U16's achieved their best season so far. We were crowned Division winners of Herts Saracens Division 5 winning all games with an average of 42 point for and 12 against.

We were Cambridge County Cup Runners up going down 42-5 in the final against Cambridge.

We were Eastern Counties finalists also.

We were crowned Herts County Plate Champions also.

A stella year, which follows two previous years where we have been promoted every year, Division winners in 2011/12, Herts County Plate winners in 2013/2014.

1st XV report

After a very successful season last year (2012/2013) it was always going to be a challenging and unknown quantity up in Herts/Middlesex 1.

Weaner, Nick and I sat down at the beginning of the season and set realistic goals to be an established mid table H/M 1 club, have a good run in the National and Herts Cups.

Finished the season in 5th position, got through 4 rounds of the national cup and also made the final of the Herts cup. A season of nearlys, Narrowly lost to Newmarket in National cup, narrowly lost to Veralanians in Herts cup final, after playing league match the day before, and

lost 4/5 league games by less than 5 points in the dying seconds of the game. If these results had all gone our way we could have been finishing around third, and had better finishes in both cups.

Social side was also brilliant, senior XV supported all social events excellently and raised a lot of good funds for the club. This all culminated in 30 guys touring to Cologne. A real strengthened and tightened unit.

Onwards and upwards to next season now, highlighted fitness as a key area to work on, which will be progressed over the summer months with a 10 week fitness, strength and conditioning plan.

Trying to strengthen coaching by getting Saffa to do some coaching courses so as to help Weaner and also help with forwards.

Recruitment drive up at the barracks with the new Scots guards having been posted, also general advertisement around town, ie posters and local press.

All in all exciting times for the club, again next year if things click into place promotion could certainly be on the cards, and another good run in the national cup is a must. Also helping to develop the younger lads coming through into the 2s is a priority as it helps strengthen the 1s in future seasons.

GRANTS/ SPONSORSHIP REPORT

New Sponsorship Pack produced.
£4500 RFU Grant Match Funding which enabled us to get the lights.

Thanks to all of our sponsors for their support during the season.

New kit for the 1st Team thanks to our new team sponsor Ellgia (Steve Crook)

NatWest Rugby Force Weekend on Sunday 22nd June
-Painting posts, changing rooms etc.

FIXTURES REPORT A very good year across the whole club. League placing can be found on website.

SOCIAL SECRETARY REPORT.

Billy thanked everyone for all their hard work but took credit for the calendar which was a great success.

VP'S

Going from strength to strength with approx 60 members .New members always welcome.

Election of Chairman to take place at next committee meeting.

AOB

Rugby Force 22/6/14 all welcome.

A raffle prize has been given to Burns Road Hangout Centre.

All pitches in front of pavilion are now ours.

Fergus is working on new pitch layout for new season and will bring plan with him to next meeting.

Club manual is almost ready and Rob will present at next meeting.