

Old Caterhamians Rugby Football Club

AGM Minutes

Monday 27th June 2017

Held at the Clubhouse 7.30pm.

Present: President, Chairman, Secretary and 19 members who signed the register.

Apologies: Mike Briant, Simon Crumpton, Steve Dalglish, Kevin Eldershaw, Andrew Manly, Barry Myland, Lesley Myland, Martin Newlan, Sam Stanley, Aaron Stevens, Chloe Sutlieff, Steve Williams

Item	Detail
1	Apologies for absence
2	Adoption of Minutes of 2016 AGM – George Williams Minutes from the last meeting agreed and signed off.
3	Matters Arising – George Williams/Bill Broadhead a) Update on New Pavilion Plans Bill Broadhead reported that the roof is on and the drainage is going on for the car park. All the utilities are now in and the internal work is on-going. A new storage facility will be going in to take the place of the previous garage, container and shed. This will be 25% bigger than the existing facility. The works are on schedule for completion in early September. A formal opening is planned for November, this is being organised by Caterham School. b) Hamberg The Hamberg is complete and was played on at the 'Goodbye to the Clubhouse' event. The pitch will be reserved for club training and will be the main 1XV pitch. c) Volunteers The club is non profit-making and there are a number of volunteer positions that need filling. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact George Williams.
4	Chairman's Report – George Williams Back in 1963 Bob Dylan wrote an iconic song called "The Times They Are A Changin' " and for OCRFC last season we saw a number of dramatic changes and as we head into next season there will be many more to come. However, with change will come operational issues and the committee would ask all players, managers, coaches, volunteers and supporters to work together so that we find solutions to the issues we will be faced with. Last season as a club we had a number of highs, but also some devastating lows. From a social perspective we had some great events, however from a playing perspective we had a mixed array of success and failure. Next season brings yet again a number of challenges for the playing sides and a new management team to develop the senior sides. Two years ago when I took over as Chairman I had a number of key strategies that I laid down in a five year plan for the club. Throughout this report I will comment on what progress has been made on each of these initiatives. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transition to the new Clubhouse• Integration of all sections into one club• One image across the club

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- Migration of Youth teams through to Senior sides
- Closer liaison with Caterham and local schools
- Raise funding through commercial sponsors

Last season saw us say Goodbye to the old clubhouse and celebrate the many memories, current and old members had, with a festival of rugby, integrating players from the club and Caterham school. These links with the school are important to grow for the future development of the playing sides and have to thank both Rob Clarke and Dan Richards for all their support and keen interest in making this collaboration work. There were also two very well attended VP lunches and numerous successful Youth and Mini events.

We have been working closely with the school to ensure that our transition to the new clubhouse will provide us with all of our key requirements. This is an on-going project, which will be managed by Bill and myself throughout the summer and into next season. The build of the clubhouse is on schedule and will be ready for us to use from the second week in September.

The Hamberg pitch has been levelled and drainage laid by the school and was available for us to showcase at the "Goodbye Clubhouse" event and will now be available for games next season. I have also been assured by the school that the Hamberg will be available, weather permitting for all of the Senior sides home games.

From a playing perspective it has been a disappointing year for the 1st XV and I am sad to report that we have been relegated to Surrey 3 for next season. There are many reasons why this happened, but when you consider that we had 50+ players represent the team over the season, you start to see that players' commitment was one of the major reasons for the wide ranging set of results achieved. From not being able to field a side one week, to convincingly beating two of the top sides in the league later in the season. We were unable to field a consistent side, but when we did it was clear the talent that was available and played rugby of a Surrey 1 standard. If we are to succeed next season with the talented set of players we can field, players must find that commitment to the club that was definitely missing last season. Special thanks must however go to Reece Williams our Head Coach, who not only provided training every Tuesday, but was at every game and due to lack of players, played in more games than the majority of players.

On a very positive note, the Youth and Mini sections of the club are prospering and producing not only great results but attracting players from a wide range of schools. From a transition perspective the Under 18s had a great season and many of the players represented the senior sides in games at the end of the season and must thank Matt for managing and supporting this side all of the way through the Youth section. Thanks must also go to Tony Christian for his tireless work with both Youth and local schools, Paul Davies for his work with the Minis and Martin Corbett for his commitment to the Academy side, that will now see players progressing to the senior sides

Paul Davies has also stepped up into taking on the role of managing the Ladies side into next season. The Ladies started well last season, but due to limited player availability we were unable to complete our fixtures. Recruitment is underway and it is now hoped we can produce a side to fulfil next seasons fixtures.

The Junior Girls section has linked with Warlingham this season and thanks to Steve Dalgleish and Karen Wimble for their work in developing this section, as it will lead to a well-needed feed into the women's senior side.

Sadly we have to say farewell to Steve Williams our Director of Rugby who is currently in the process of moving to the West Country. Thanks must go to Steve for his dedication and time he has given to this role ensuring that the playing sides across the club are managed and developed.

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As we move forward to next season I can see both great opportunities for the club and the many challenges that we must face together and find practical solutions to. We all know what we are aiming for and we just need to work together, communicate and keep a positive view on issues that are thrown our way.

Next season will see us rehoused in the new clubhouse, playing our rugby on the new levelled Hamberg and all sides wearing the same club shirt. For me the image of the club is important and to have a consistent playing shirt across the club will help identify us as a consolidated, integrated and committed club.

This could not have been achieved without the support of a number of sponsors that have committed their funds to the development of the club. Their generosity has funded shirts for sides across the whole club, ensuring my strategic goal of creating a single integrated club image.

In my recent club communication I announced the new playing management team who will need to continue the excellent work already being developed in the Youth and Mini sections and trust this will change the fortunes of the senior sides. Paul Loader returns to the club as DoR after gaining experience at London and National clubs, while Steve Wagstaff is appointed Club Coach. Steve has a great coaching background gained at National club level, while still coaching our extremely successful under 17 side, who he has been with since they were U12's. Next season as U18's they will be integrating with the academy and senior sides when appropriate.

This season also sees the return to the club management team of Andrew Mackie who will be the clubs senior playing manager and responsible for rebuilding the heart back into the senior sides. Players are already responding to his unique management approach and if he delivers what he promises, combined with the coaching skills of Steve and direction from Paul, we can look forward to a very exciting season.

One of the concerns that I have identified from last season is players subscriptions, following an analysis I had done by Ali Bonus, I was appalled to discover that out of the 50+ players representing the 1st XV last year less than 12 were paying regular subs. This is not acceptable and has to be addressed, as not only is it unfair to those players that do pay, but without the financial support of the bar, we will now not be able to financially operate without subscriptions being collected from all players. Therefore next season from October, we will be introducing a no pay, no play policy. So captains, managers, and coaches please ensure your players are registered and paying subs in September.

I know David Falkner is going to baffle us all with his numbers very shortly, that is if any of you can stay awake that long. However, before he does it is on a particular sad note that I have to report that David is stepping down from his role of Club treasurer. Firstly I have to take this opportunity to thank David for his massive contributions to the club over the last eight years and secondly my thanks for the personal support he has given me in making some tough decisions at the club. As reported last year, Ali Bonus has been assisting Dave with the clubs financial matters and am pleased to announce that he will be taking over from David next season.

I would personally just like to thank all of the back room staff who give up their time week in week out, in rain, snow and wind to provide both the facilities, training and services that make OCRFC a great club. We always have to remember that we are a small club, however as one of our ex Chairmen once stated, "We are the best kept secret in Caterham", but with the new facilities, playing management team, players and volunteers I believe we can make this into one of the best known clubs in the area.

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To end with, I would just like to thank the committee for the support and understanding that it has shown me over the year, especially Bill and Jill who do so much work across the club, that it allows me to keep focused on the long term strategy. As I enter my final year as Chairman, I look forward to working with all of the newly elected officers, players and volunteers and wish them a relaxing summer. To all of the different sections and year groups good luck for next season and enjoy our wonderful sport of Rugby.

President's Report – Bill Broadhead

Bill Broadhead reported that the record for the club's senior sides for 2016-17 was as follows:-

Team	Played*	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points For	Points Against
1 st XV	20	7	0	13	339	573
'A' XV	16	8	0	8	318	202
'B' XV	0					
Womens' XV	5	2	0	3	97	128
Recent Leavers XV	1	1	0	0	24	7

*As in recent years, the record includes League and Friendly games and walkovers where appropriate as these were counted in the formal league results. The Remembrance Day XV is traditionally counted under the 1st XV.

The 'B' XV played no games.

With 6 walkovers included in the above 42 fixtures, only 36 senior games were played in the season, the lowest number since I started keeping a full record on becoming Chairman in 1972 and a far cry from our record season of 113 games. This means that the withdrawal of the Hamberg pitch for levelling and drainage did not present us with any difficulty accommodating home fixtures. Much improved maintenance of Queens Park through the season and the availability of Hill 4 after Christmas coped with all our needs.

Although the number of home games was similar to the previous season, the bizarre requirement of the authorities to have 1st and 2nd teams either both at home or both away, had a more serious effect on the bar than the combined efforts of the weather and the Rugby World Cup in 2015-16. With the new clubhouse well advanced, many are determined that the Club will benefit from the incentive that the magnificent facilities give us to stimulate enthusiasm and commitment for next season and confidence that the vibrancy of our club will be regenerated. Form, or lack of it, is temporary but class is permanent and there's no classier outfit at our level of the game or, with good fortune, at the higher levels to come!

Treasurer's Report – David Falkner

The club secured several multi-year sponsorship deals which have significantly aided our bottom line and leave us in a strong position to continue to reinvest in our players over the coming seasons.

When these items are removed, OCRFC posted a very marginal net profit in FY16/17.

Financial highlights stem particularly from the strength of the non-playing base. We continue to enjoy a strong non-playing subs collection rate, which is gathered from a very active and committed social membership, who also contribute at the bar and via the various social functions the club has hosted through the year. We're very much hoping to build on the excitement of the new clubhouse to further boost these revenues in FY17/18.

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Like all amateur sports clubs, maintaining playing membership continues to be a struggle, and playing subs revenues are, once again, down year on year. Walkover games, cancelled fixtures and the weather have once again played a part and, as a club, one of our biggest challenges in the forthcoming year will be ensuring we can continue to offer the number of games all involved want to play in.

Whilst the Bar Accounts will, once again, be reviewed in depth at the OCSC AGM, Club Members should be aware that the number of games played has influenced these numbers as well, which will mean the Sports Club's debt to us has again risen. A line of sight exists to recover this debt, which will be partially mitigated from final balance payments from utility companies who have historically overcharged us.

Overall, however, the club is all about the players and, once more, we've been able to spend several thousand pounds on supporting our teams with training and playing equipment, great match teas and enthusiastically-quaffed MOTM pints – essentially, the very things that make this great club The Old Cats.

Dave also outlined that the club faces the major issue of a further drop in playing subscriptions which are currently at the lowest ever level. The club needs to undergo a culture change to address this. There has been a major contribution from sponsorship. Andy Rhodes asked how much difference it would make if all players paid and it was agreed this would be significant. Tony Christian queried an anomaly on capitation which was clarified by Dave.

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Section Reports

Club Captain – Ben Davidson

The Senior men's side was looking in good stead after a resounding win against Chipstead in a pre-season win who were the league above. As the season went on however availabilities dropped dramatically which in turn had dramatic effects on results for both the 1's and 2's sides. The 1's had a couple of good wins against Worth Old Boys and Streatham & Croydon at home. The 2's had a good couple of wins against Sutton and Epsom and managed to beat Reigations with only 13 players. The 2's would often struggle for numbers too but Dan believed with a consistent team, promotion was on the cards. The shining light has been the integration with the U18's into the 2's, with a fair few plying their trade in senior rugby. This needs to continue to groom the younger players into the senior sides when ready.

Onto the 1's, rarely did the 1st XV manage to get together a full 18 for a Saturday match day. Training was bit part and often in the weeks leading up to Christmas there were less than double figures in attendance. A home walkover for Cranleigh in the last game before Christmas ultimately sealed our fate. It was an uphill struggle from there after being docked points and a few injuries and key unavailability's it was always going to be a hard task to stay up from there. Reece and I would often be running around on Thursday/Friday looking for players which isn't right for this established club. I have to thank Reece for his efforts in both coaching and stepping in more often than not to make up the numbers and it is a shame he has chosen not to continue coaching.

The early signs are good for next season with the introduction of two highly skilled personnel in Paul Loader and Steve Wagstaff, who will hopefully bring commitment and stability to a club in transition. Having spoken to some of the current players and with the work Mackie and Rhodesy have put in; the signs look good for a successful season.

Personally, I cannot wait to get back on the field after a long injury lay off and hopefully take the 1st XV back to where they belong in Surrey 2. I actually think with the crop of players available the senior men's should be aiming for higher than that. I'd like to thank all the playing staff and coaches for their efforts this year which include Reece Williams, George Williams, Andy Rhodes, Kevin

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Galley and Jill Baker.

Women's Captain – Aimie Davies

Firstly, I would like to say that it is great to be back after my enforced absence. I take pride in being captain of the ladies section and now I am able to attend every training session and commit to playing an active role within the team I am hoping to have a motivated group of ladies this season.

Paul Davies has taken on the role as the women's coach alongside personal trainer Zoe Bright for fitness sessions on a Wednesday. We average 18-20 girls per week and everyone is extremely happy with training so far. Recently, we have introduced Sunday skills training and hope to have an equal amount of numbers for this session in the next coming weeks.

Our targets for this season:

- We are aiming to get all our fixtures played this season. We have been entered into a development league which means we have the opportunity to build a strong women's side. All players, experienced and new, will be able to train together and hopefully fulfil all of our fixtures.
- We are hoping to be an independent section within the club. Managing our own subs, costs, tours etc.
- We have been recruiting and will continue to do so. Paul Davies had a flyer made up which has contributed to the increase in numbers at training on a Wednesday evening.
- We are offering summer fitness for all, encouraging the girls to improve on strength and agility and therefore our overall aim is for those who take advantage of the rugby based fitness to join the team!
- We have attended events, such as the Caterham street party and Caterham carnival, in order to get word out that the ladies section is recruiting and offering summer fitness.
- We will be promoting the women's section, updating our ladies page on the pitchero website and using social media.

As integration of the club has been a big subject the past few months, we are hoping that training on a Sunday and myself and Lucie Warren helping out with coaching the minis on a Sunday will encourage the parents to stay and watch the ladies home fixtures.

So far, summer fitness has been extremely successful and enjoyable. We have a great group of ladies wanting to train. Having a consistent and enthusiastic coach has contributed a great deal to the teams morale and the ladies are looking forward to the new clubhouse and playing rugby this season.

Youth Report – Tony Christian

Under 12s

Under 12 have had a fantastic season culminating with the lifting of the Surrey Waterfall Cup, Chairman's Shield Competition.

Cats under 12 met Reeds Weybridge in a fiercely fought final with both teams fighting all the way to the last whistle.

Cats came out victorious, 45-15, score line that did not really represent how tough a match it was. This success comes after a great season for the Under 12's who started the season with just 9 players and have now increased their squad size to more than 20.

They are undefeated this season and only saw them knocked out of the Chairman's Cup competition when they drew at home against London Irish, with the away team going through on the away draw rule!!

Well done Cats U12s!

Under 13s

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Due to insufficient numbers to form a viable playing / training squad, Cats U13 players have, in the main, been "playing up" with the U14s. These young lads have been a great asset to the U14 squad allowing them some leeway in selection for matches.

Under14s

Under 14s came into this season at the start of the Waterfall Competition and were quite frankly misplaced by Surrey in their "graded" pool, resulting in a frustrating and somewhat demoralising competition. However, it must be remembered that when the U12 entered Junior rugby two seasons ago they had just 5 players for the Surrey festival which required 12 per team and they have ended this season with reserves, a fantastic team spirit and supportive parents.

They have made great progress though the season, beating a strong Reeds side in the last game, having lost to them at the start of the campaign.

However, outside the competition they have produced some fantastic flowing rugby ably assisted by the handful of U13 lads playing up.

Players are still needed with the ultimate aim of being able to separate out the two age groups

Under 15s

Cats U15 are still in the rebuilding process after they were decimated a couple of seasons ago. This last season has seen a lot of work being put in with Oasis Academy and de Stafford school to recruit players. As part of the All Schools program, England Rugby and in particular our own CCC Henry Birch have provided additional assistance. Old Cats have hosted 3 very successful round robin afternoons of rugby with Oasis, de Stafford and Warlingham schools which is starting to pay recruiting dividends. ER are also sponsoring 3 Cats players to become coaches for next season's U16s, this process is going well with Joe Wood already having attained his L2 coaching qualification and hopefully Dan Dolce and Conor Neary following on soon.

After much persuasion and discussion, ER have finally agreed to signed contracts to engage Oasis Academy Coulsdon into the All Schools program with all of the benefits that it brings to all parties concerned. The headmaster and head of Sport at Oasis are committed to turning the Academy into a rugby school during the 3 year process and are extremely keen to work closely with Old Cats on this matter. Even before the official start of the process in September, the Oasis after-school rugby club has seen its number increase to 30+, which is no mean feat for a footballing school.

Russell Taylor, who already has close links with Oasis has been welcomed on board by ER and he too will become an All Schools coach.

The emphasis of the program will be the reinstatement of a full U15 side at Cats and encouraging September's batch of new pupils in Year 7 to come to join Cats.

This does not mean that other age groups will be overlooked and neither will the significant number of girls wanting to play. Rugby will be delivered into the school curricular sessions and after school clubs by several of the local CCC and current All Schools coaches.

Under 16s.

After their meteoric rise to Surrey U16 Division 1 at the start of the season, Cats U16 had a bit of a reality check. The step up from League 2 to League 1 is significant with Cats unable to play out their usual flowing and entertaining rugby against incredibly strong sides like London Irish, Guildford and KCS.

Nonetheless, outside the structured league system they had a very exciting season, posting significant and substantial victories against some of our BIG local rivals including Dorking. Player numbers at this age group are still very healthy with many games being played at Development level, enabling those lads not necessarily first choice to get plenty of game time.

Sadly, the end of the season saw Ed Heaver, their lead coach, retire from that position due to other

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commitments. Thanks to Ed for all of the effort that he has put in with this age group over the years.

Under 17s

Surrey League 2 winners, only lost 3 league games since U13, promoted every season!! What more can you say about these lads, absolutely fantastic performance again this season! Congratulations to all of the lads and their lead coach - Waggers.

Under 18s

A resounding final season as part of Old Cats Youth set up, this squad finished 2nd in Surrey League 2 against sides like Dorking, Farnham. Ironsides and Reigatians - only being beaten by run away winners Cranleigh. A truly fantastic performance against such opposition.

The icing on the cake for these lads was their performance and win over Old Cats 2nd XV during the End of Clubhouse event. This was a remarkable game to watch, in one instance pitting father against son and also sending out a clear message that there is some REAL talent coming through the junior ranks intent on making their mark in senior rugby at Cats. Many of these lads have already played U21 rugby, demonstrating that they are forces to be reckoned with, some already having even represented the club at senior level.

Well done to all of these lads and Matt Day their longstanding lead coach. Thanks to Matt for all of the work that he has put in with these lads over the years.

Tony also referred to Simon Blands work on creating a new database system which will hopefully give us a better system for communication to everyone.

Girls Report – Steve Dagleish

On the girls youth, we will need to do a lot of work on recruitment next season to move forward once we are back in the new clubhouse, the girls that remain with us will be playing under the joint Cats/ Warlingham banner and the 2 remaining under 18 girls will be put forward to Surrey and will be eligible to play senior rugby next year.

I would like to give my thanks to Steve Williams for his hard work as Director of Rugby over the past years and wish him a happy future in his next venture, whatever and wherever that is.

Also thanks to David Falkner in achieving clarity in what was a mess of accounts, I know this has not been easy for him, I hope the future is less stressful

My thanks and respect to Bill's endless efforts and input to the club. Lately 'smoothing' the move from clubhouse to clubhouse and ensuring a smooth transition in all aspects of this.

Academy –

There has been a great spirit amongst the Academy players and games have always been over-subscribed. Some of the boys played for the senior side at the 'Goodbye to the Clubhouse' event. This bodes well for the future of the senior club with players making the transition.

5	Election of Officers Steve Hanks proposed to elect officers en bloc. This was seconded by Roger Lambert and agreed by all present. There are still some outstanding roles which George Williams will be working towards filling during the season.
6	Confirmation of Old Caterhamians Sports Club Representatives They existing representatives were confirmed
7	Announcement of Awards

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	<p>The Awards which were made at the Annual Players Dinner were circulated. George Williams proposed Jill Baker as a Vice President, this was seconded by Bill Broadhead. Bill Broadhead proposed Alan Parkes as an Honorary Vice President, this was seconded by George Williams. These were voted in unanimously.</p>
8	<p>Any Other Business George Williams and Jill Baker took down the name plates in the old clubhouse. If anyone wants their plaque they can get these from George. He also has some other memorabilia which he will auction off over the course of the next season.</p>