



Colchester Rugby Football Club

Clubhouse: Mill Road Colchester CO4 5JF: Tel: 01206 851610

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date and time of meeting: Thursday 25th April 2013 at 7:30

Welcome: Given by Martin Pratley (President)

1. **Apologies for absence:** Bill Anslow, James Hill, Andy Cryne, Ian Smith
2. **Minutes of the previous AGM,** held on Thursday 26th April 2012. These were proposed by Ross Cowie and seconded by Dave Wright.
3. **Annual Officers' Reports:** These were received by the meeting from the principal officers of the Club namely: Senior Rugby Chairman whose comments were given by John Powell. Youth Chairman: Ross Cowie, Mini Chairman: Brian Borges, Treasurer: Alan Line, Chairman: John Powell (final report) and President: Martin Pratley
Full reports will be available on the website
A vote of thanks was proposed by Keith Rawlings and seconded by David Low
Jim Crowley proposed a vote of thanks for all the work that John Powell had put in as Chairman of the Club for the last 8 years. Seconded by all attendees.
4. **Election of Officers:**
The following were elected as officers of the Club, President: Andy Wadling, Chairman: Karl O'Brien, Hon Sec: Bill Anslow, Treasurer: Norman Gould, Senior Rugby Chairman: Andy Cryne, Youth Chairman: Ross Cowie, Mini Chairman: (Vacant), Facilities Chairman: Pat Duffy, Asst. Sec. Maggie Whiteman
5. **Annual Subscriptions for 2012 - 2013:** These were discussed and adopted: proposed by Stuart Pritchard and seconded by Norman Gould.
6. **Nominations for Life Membership** were agreed: proposed by Dave Wright and seconded by Tim Wright
7. **Any Other Business:** (i) Jim Crowley proposed that the 200 Club should be amalgamated with the DCC. (ii) Charging on the gate for non-members at 1st team matches was discussed. Both of these items will be further considered by the Executive Committee
8. **Date & Time of next AGM:** 24th April 2014 at 7:30 for 8:00 p.m.

AGM Chairman's Report April 25th 2013

This is my 7th and final report as Chairman .I will not dwell too much on the ground covered by others except to thank them and their bands of helpers for all they do

As I said last year I think that the membership should be very proud of this Club. I am - although a couple of occasions in the year have left me less so!

The Club is in good shape and we continue to try to move forwards. As well as the achievements outlined previously you will all recall that last year we said we would put great emphasis on 3 or 4 other priorities.

1 Try to clarify what this Club is about/what it stands for /how it is organised/where it is going.

This is still work in progress tho' more and more people talk the same language. The key words which crop up time and time again are...inclusive, well governed, sustainable, 1 club, a Community Club, grow our own . We aim to publish a Statement of Purpose setting it all out by next season.

2 Coaching

This is a major priority for a 'grow your own club' such as us if we are to remain competitive at 1st XV level

The appointments we made last year have borne fruit.

The Colts Head Coach –Andre Beukas has improved the skill level of that age group to an extent that 2 of them have now played 1st XV rugby and the team won the North London Colts Plate and is in the semi- final of the EC Cup.

Keith Green is our Club Coach Co-ordinator focusing on providing support via cpd's etc and mentoring of coaches in the U13-U16 age groups.

We intend to set funds aside to provide fees for more cpd and Level 1 and 2 courses....

3 Organization Development

We said we needed more people with the right skills doing work to which they are suited and to provide the basics for proper succession planning [so I could give up].

We have made progress to clarify Exec Committee roles and responsibilities, to boost our Commercial team to generate significantly more sustainable income.

We have made a concerted effort to re-energize our Exec Comm and are fortunate indeed to have 3 newcomers of the calibre of Karl, Norman and Pat.

We still need to find ways to enroll more people in understanding how the Club works so we can reach out to the vast array of talent in the membership and continue to put succession plans in place for key roles.

4 Facilities – again we are making progress – and there is much to be done. We will shortly get the opportunity to discuss the proposed long term move which is very much a live project in the 3 to 5 year time frame.

We have spent a lot of energy on deciding how we can provide extra changing room space and extra toilets [particularly ladies] upstairs. Progress is slow as we look for the best option for a project with a limited life span. We have options and I feel confident that we will have something in place in the next 12 months .

It is probably not right that I set out the new Exec Com priorities but I will be surprised if coaching in the junior age groups, developing our financial position to be able to provide more for our members, improving facilities and enrolling members in the 1Club philosophy are not on the list

I will close with some very important Thank Yous

THANK YOU

Good clubs and Organisations depend on the commitment ,the skills and the attitude of the people who lead them .I have been very fortunate to work alongside many such people across the last 7 years. So THANK YOU to

- The 70 or so coaches/managers/parent reps who turn up week in week out to help with junior rugby
- to our Sponsors and Patrons without whom we would struggle financially
- to the 30 or so other volunteers who are relatively unknown but who do work which enables people to play and the Club to function
- to our employees and partners - some visible [physios, coaches, Gary, Tony ,Rocky, and Clair ,] and some not such as Antoinette.
- to the Exec Committee who have devoted countless hours to the functioning of the Club and who now constitute one of the most able group of leaders in any Amateur Sports Clubs in the area and who should be immensely proud of the work they do. A big thank you to Martin ,Alan, Mike and Brian who step down

But I do have to single out some folk who have been around for the whole or most of my tenure and who have been fantastic in their commitment to making things better and with whom it has been great fun to work

The Presidents [Jim, Len, Wilf and Martin] and Mike Geaves , Alan Line, Tim Slaven, Stuart Pritchard and Ross Cowie who have been around for all or most of that 7 years. Thanks guys!

Finally it has been a privilege to be Chairman of this Club .I guess when we do these things we are stewards for while and all we try to do is leave things in a bit better state then when we took over.

So best wishes to Karl and the new regime. It is a very exciting time with lots of things going for us and lots of things to do to get even better. Good luck.

COLCHESTER RFC - REPORT 2012/13 SEASON - YOUTH SECTION

It is hard to believe that we are at the end of the season, which has been so badly disrupted by the weather. Nevertheless, much has been achieved. Whilst results may not have been as outstanding as the past, much great development has been achieved in a brilliant and positive environment.

As a club, we always have a great set of volunteers, but I must say that this season's group of managers, coaches, and other helpers, is probably the best with which I have had the privilege of working; they are really positive, and the atmosphere here at Mill Road each Sunday is just brilliant.

We have introduced a number of Coaching and Development sessions on Sundays, supported by senior coaches and players; these have been popular. Thanks to Greenie, Danny and 1st XV for adding new dimensions.

Including the Colts (are they part of the youth section ?; they are certainly part of Sunday), we have been running 10 teams this season; we believe that we are the largest section in both Eastern Counties and Essex. My biggest problem this season has been the necessity of rearranging an average of over 33% of fixtures each week. Despite a full fixture list, and a Structured Season, there have been many reasons for opposition to cry off – including weather rearranged opposition league and cup games, and opposition availability issues. Colts - Newly appointed Head Coach, Andre Beukes (brilliantly supported by exceptional manager, Bill Rhys-Jones) has transformed this group of players, who have had a great season, losing only to 2 exceptional sides, Winchester in the 4th round of the National Cup, and Westcliff in the LV Cup. Last week, they won the LV Plate, and this Sunday, they take on Cambridge in the semi final of the Eastern Counties Cup.

U17s – with a number of boys earning Academy places at Saints, and others earning scholarships to rugby playing schools, last season's exceptional U16 side fell apart, with 5 other boys transferring to other clubs. All U17s who have been playing have contributed in full to the Colts squad; Their cup games were handled by the Under 16s, who, although not winning, have gained much in terms of development and experience for next season.

U16s, managed by Wadders, have, until the last few weeks, been able to field 2 XVs each week; they are now ready for Andre's magic next year.

U15s – under the happy and efficient style of Paul Mills, are also able to field 2 XVs. They lost out in the Suffolk Cup, with injuries to key backs – but this enabled the opportunity for others to be developed; much improved with the addition of the experienced Dave Edwards to the coaching team.

U14s – what an extraordinary age group ! – this is the largest group – 70+ strong – that the club has ever experienced. Under the exceptional head coach, Nick Murray, and brilliantly managed by new boy, Simon Fenning, they can easily field 3 sides each week. The first XV won the Suffolk Cup, and lost out only to Cambridge in a close match, which gave pointers to future development. Many boys had first XV experience, but Joe Ward's B and Nigel Tillet's C sides have had effective, enjoyable, and happy seasons, with much development gained.

U13s – managed by Ian Smith – have seen a massive development. Although smaller than some opposition, have been playing some great skilful rugby, and the B team is not short of skill either. A poor match at Bury scuppered Suffolk Cup hopes, but they achieved a very creditable 15-15 draw against larger and more physical, eventual winners, Ipswich YM. Smithy has been great fun to work with.

U15s and U14s reported excellent tours to Surrey and South Wales, and the U13s travel to Benetton Treviso tournament in Italy in 2 weeks time.

The Under 14 Festival, with 13 visitors joining our 3 teams, was an outstanding and joyful occasion - great rugby, brilliant touch lines, efficiently run – with our A XV drawing 7-7 with exceptional opponents Sevenoaks in the final of The John Motum Plate. U15 Festival, also with 13 visitors, takes place this coming Sunday.

Thanks to Nicola, for keeping the committee in order, to Greenie for mentoring the coaching, to Martin for Safeguarding advice, to our exceptional set of in house Referees, to our Physios, to Gary for feeding, to Tony for selling the sherbert, to the club's executive for their support, and to all the volunteers involved, for a happy season, where the key watchword has been development.

Ross Cowie – 25/04/2013

Financial Update for the CRFC AGM 25th April 2013

I reported at the financial AGM on the 24th November 2012 that we showed a loss of £ 3,333, after the payment of the interest on our RFU Loan for the year ending 31st May 2012

During this financial year that ends on the 31st May 2013, we have continued with our policy of keeping our expenditure in check, as far as possible, whilst facing ever increasing costs for the provision of rugby.

Our income streams have again held up and we are forecasting a breakeven year after the payment of the RFU loan instalment

Sponsorship

We have collected sponsorship revenues £ 38,500ytd against a budget of £38,250. With £2,000 still to collect, it is pleasing that this revenue has held up so well for the past few years. We want to publicly, thank all our sponsors who not only give generously of their money but also of their time, they give to support the club during the season.

The newly formed Commercial Group will be raising an extra £25,000 in revenues to help finance the development of the club both on and off the pitch. This will be mainly from Sponsorship from the business sector, this is still very much work in progress but we are making headway. If you feel you are able to contribute your time to this group we would love to see you.

Membership

To the end of March collected £ 46,841 in membership revenues which represents a decrease of £ 1.2k over 2011/12.

Bar

Bar turnover is on track to beat last year and stands at £98.5k (net) at the end of March against a full year budget of £ 106.2k (net) which after all expenses will return us a profit of approx £ 40,000 for the full year.

Shop

Turnover will show a small decrease on last season at £22,000, after a full stock take at the end of May we expect to maintain the same profit margin of around £ 7k.

DCC/RFU Raffle

Nicola Ashley co-ordinated the RFU Grand Draw this season and we managed to raise from £ 2,111 and we want thank her for her efforts

Again, we failed to maximise our potential return with the Double Centurion Club. Therefore, we urge everyone to think about joining this important fund raising activity and I am sure Maggie Whiteman will be pleased to supply you with the necessary forms.

The Future

We have managed to keep our expenses under control and mainly on budget and whilst we are forecasting a breakeven year. Following last year's loss, increasing costs in utility supplies and pitch hire we will need to raise our baseline revenue in order to maintain our reserves.

The club is in a good financial position but only by continuing to build our sustainable income will it remain that way.



Colchester RFC Mini / Midi Section

AGM Report

Season 2012/13

Introduction

This season the club attracted 330 mini rugby players of which 91 were new to the club. This is a slight decrease of 16 from the previous season. This is an incredibly large amount of players to facilitate and it is testament to the club that we can continue to run such a large mini section.

The following report outlines key aspects from the 2012/13 season.

Management Structure

Brian Borges continued as Chairman of Operations and Richard Pugh as Chairman of Playing and Coaching. Delivering rugby for 5-12 year olds in a safe environment adhering to the Core Values of rugby and the Rugby Continuum is our primary goal.

Brian Borges is standing down from his role which leaves a vacancy for the Mini Chairman of Operations which includes a place on the Exec Committee. It has been agreed that to assist the mini chairmen additional volunteers are being sought to fulfil the following roles.

- Fixtures and Match Day Coordination
- Mini Festival Organiser

Individual Age Groups had in place the same management structure from the previous year which has provided good continuity for the club, parents and players. Changes in next season's management structure will be required as our current U7 and U11 managers are standing down, however, we are confident that these roles will be filled. Our U6's are already recruiting a new team of volunteers to cover both the U6's and U7's requirements which bodes well.

Playing and Coaching

The section is very healthy with the number of coaches in each age group at the right ratio's of around 8-10 children per coach.

18 Colchester people attended Rugby Ready this season though only half this number to actually use it as a progression ups the coaching qualifications.

The under 12's now move into Junior Rugby again with no level 2 coach in the age group but this now leaves the mini section with the new Under 12, 11, and 10 all with a level 2 as head coach which is a healthy situation.

A coaches meeting took place this week and proved to be a good springboard for some changes in 2013/14. The main concern this year has been the lack of development of the coaching staff through CPD courses. The general reason is that the CPD courses have been mid week and too far away. This is being addressed with several CPD courses to be run at CRFC next season.

The challenge for next season is to get some guidelines and session plans accessible for all age groups so we can ensure the basics are being covered. It has been noticeable that far too many overly complicated sessions were being run and therefore a lack of understanding from the players.

Next season our aim will be to use Lee Parry (RFU Community Coach) where possible to demonstrate building a session concentrating on one or two core skills only per session.

Festivals

Festivals attended this year were, Southend A, Southend B, Bishops Stortford Elite, Woodbridge Development, Diss Development, Bishops Stortford Development, Westcliff, Holt, Ipswich and Sudbury this coming Sunday. Unfortunately, this does not include our own festival which had to be cancelled due to the extreme weather conditions.

The spread of festivals gave our players lots of opportunity to pit their talents against clubs not normally played and gave our players and coaches a good idea of the levels of rugby we are striving to achieve.

We have had some great performances throughout the year which bodes very well for our future.

Tours

Our U12's have recently returned from a successful tour to Norfolk and our U11's are on tour next weekend in Chichester.

First Aid

A First Aid course was run at the club with 10 parents attending from throughout the section. This has resulted in the club being well represented by qualified first aiders with the necessary kits throughout ALL age groups. In addition we have numerous Doctors who help out when required which is greatly appreciated.

Kit

The club, again, invested funds at the beginning of the season into the mini section kit requirements. The provision of tackle tubes and contact tops amongst other things is a sign that the club are right behind the section and are prepared to provide the latest kit to help develop our players into stars of the future.

Fixtures

A full fixture list was in place; however, many fixtures had to be cancelled due to the bad weather we have experienced. Minor changes are being made next season but in general we believe the fixture list to be balanced and provide great challenges for our teams.

Car Parking

It seems that having some of the largest car parking facilities for any rugby club in the area is still not enough on Sunday mornings when both mini and youth team squads are all at home! The club is continually reviewing this situation but in the mean time the use of Rapid's car park will have to continue. Some of next season's fixtures will again be split with half of the age group home and half away to ease car parking congestion.

Sponsorship

McDonalds once again stepped up to be the Mini Sections only outright sponsor. We will be actively looking for new sponsors through the summer. Any ideas would be welcome!

Social Functions and Events

- Registration Fun Day with Giggle City was a big hit.
- The club held a very successful Christmas party primarily attended by the younger age groups.
- End of Season Awards combined with Army Community Day will take place on 6 May.
- Lots of functions arranged individually within the age groups.

Volunteers

The mini section could not run without the considerable support from an army of volunteers. Managers, coaches, first aiders, parent reps, car park attendants and many more all play a valuable role in creating a fun and safe environment for our young players to enjoy their rugby on a Sunday morning. A great big thank you to ALL volunteers.

Summary

Once again, we have had a very successful season with lots of great people putting in lots of hard work. We have some of the best facilities in the area and a dedicated team of coaches developing the rugby skills of our young players. Long may it continue!

Brian Borges – Mini Chairman of Operations

Richard Pugh – Mini Chairman of Playing and Coaching

Post meeting Discussion about the proposed move

Request for CRFC to agree the principles of the potential move

The Council is exploring the provision of new sport and leisure facilities on land it owns to the north of the A12 between Boxted Straight Road and Severalls Lane.

1. to secure use of this land as an important leisure resource for the growing population
2. to allow the Rugby Club to thrive in the medium term future and
3. to free up the open space at Mill Road for wider use by the local community.

The Rugby Club's Committee has made it clear that its constitution dictates that such a move would require approval from the club's membership.

The planning and implementation of this project will clearly require significant resourcesWhat we are seeking at this stage is an in-principle agreement, of the following high level **principles of the project.**

1 The new facilities provided will be at least as good as the current provision and the Council would be seeking to improve the provision in terms of quality and quantity.

2 The Council will lead on the project including the fundraising (albeit the Club will be expected to help with the fundraising)

3 The lease terms will be of a similar nature.

4 The Council are not viewing this project just as an opportunity to increase the income it generates through the Club, but the Club will be expected to pay charges that reflect the quality of the services offered and investment made in providing the new facilities.

5 The time required to complete the project means that it is likely to be between 3 and 5 years before the new ground is ready to be used.

6 The Council expects the ground to be used by a number different clubs and organisations, not just the Rugby Club, in order to improve the health and well-being of as many members of the local population as possible.

