

MINUTES OF THE 125th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SUSSEX RFU LTD. HELD ON TUESDAY 16th JUNE 2009 AT BRIGHTON FC (RFU) AT 7.30pm.

PRESENT; Roger Edmondson (President) Peter Silk, (Secretary), Richard Hopkins, (Treasurer), G. Thompson (RFU Representative) Messrs. Atthis, A. Butcher, A. Croucher, G. Howorth, F. Edmonds, M. Eley, Sealey, J. Thompson, M. Richardson, R. Rogers, K. Nichols, E. Bridges, A. Parker, N. Silk, J. Coleman and Representatives from Bognor, Brighton, Burgess Hill, Chichester, Cinque Ports, Crawley, Crowborough, Ditchling, Eastbourne, East Grinstead, Hastings/Bexhill, Haywards Heath, Horsham, Hove, Midhurst, Old Brightonians, Pulborough, Seaford, Shoreham and Worthing (20 clubs out of 41)

08/159 Apologies for absence: Messrs, D. Fisher, A. Sallows, K. Gordon, G. Brown, M. de St. Croix, M. Morton-George B. Vincent, R. Russell, Uckfield RFC,

08/160 Minutes: The minutes of the last AGM held on 17th June 2008 were approved as a true record on the proposal of E. Bridges and seconded by K. Nichols. They were signed by the President.

08/161 Matters arising – None.

08/162 President's Report: A full report had been circulated. Highlights of the year were the 125th anniversary celebrations game against Belgium and formal dinner. He had attended Hampshire RFU's 125th and Haywards Heath 50th Anniversary dinners. Next Season, St. Francis RFC would be 50 years old. On the playing side, it had been a good year, Brighton had excelled, in winning the RFU Junior Vase, Sussex Division One and the Sussex Shield, and Chichester has won London III SW. We had mixed fortunes in the U20 and Senior County Championships, good teams not performing well at critical times. Next year would see the 300th match for which County Caps were awarded. Former Schools players Turner Hall, Hartley and Southwell had International Caps, and 5 players had represented England at U 18's.

Despite poor weather, all the CB Competitions had been completed, thanks to the work of the organisers, K. Nichols and M. Richardson.

President then invited Officers to make brief comments –

K. Nichols said that Competition completions, had been largely due to Clubs' co-operation in changing dates, and playing at inconvenient times – a possible floodlit scheme was being considered. President's XV's at level 9 had been very successful and he hoped that they could be raised to play other CB's.

G. Howorth urged the decision-makers in Clubs to support the Regional Development Partnerships which were there to assist them. Over 20 First-Aiders and 30 Child Safeguarders had been trained, and many more volunteers been attracted.

F. Edmonds said generally Discipline had improved with the exception of Youth Players/Coaches and Spectators. Clubs' must be held responsible for inappropriate material appearing on Websites – even 'unofficial' sites if they brought the game into disrepute. He congratulated Jackie Coleman on a job well done in her first year as Safeguarding officer.

Jackie Coleman said that the introduction of the new Vetting & Barring regulations had been postponed until September 2010, but they would be going ahead with training 52 people for Club Child Safeguarding (*new term for Child welfare*) officers.

M. Eley thanked all concerned with the operation of the CBRDP, especially the Youth & Schools and Playing and Coaching committees. A slight change was being made to align our RDP's with educational areas.

N. Silk said that the new website www.sussexrugby.co.uk was online now, and thanked P. Sealey for his efforts in re-building. P. Sealey said that Clubs should be aware that details of Club Officers etc. would no longer be on-site – but links to Club web-sites and directions would remain. It would be vital for Club sites to provide easily accessible contact details. News, Errors and additions to be reported to him.

08/163 Hon. Treasurer's Report: R. Hopkins confirmed that the annual accounts for 2007-8 had been signed off, and the 2008-9 accounts would be completed and presented after the end of the financial year on the 30th June. The priorities had been continuing support for the CRC's (now secure) and running of the County Shop. It had been widely acknowledged that the appearance of all County Squads had been greatly improved, and congratulations were due to Karen and Richard Siggs for their efforts. The downside being the large amount of stock necessary, which was now being addressed.

He made the following proposals:

- (a) That subscriptions from Clubs for 2009-10 should remain unchanged
- (b) That the RDO Club levy should remain unchanged from last season
- (c) That the Auditors Messrs. Sykes Dalby & Truelove be re-appointed.

Proposed: Hopkins Seconded by Bridges and passed unanimously

08/164 Election of Executive Officers: The following officers having been duly proposed and seconded were elected unanimously

President:	R. Edmondson
Senior Vice President	P. Bailey
Co-ordinator, Policy & Strategy	P. Atthis
Hon. Secretary	P. Silk
Hon. Treasurer	Richard Hopkins
CBRDP (Playing) Chairman	A. Croucher
Community (People & Places) Chairman	G. Howorth:

08/165 – The President reported that he had received the following nominations.

Life Membership – J.M. Eley for work over many years for the Schools and Setting up and chairing the CBRDP.

Patron - J. Thompson for Chairing and membership of the CB Competitions Committee over many years.

Proposed P. Sealey, Seconded R. Edmondson – Carried nem.com.

08/166 There was no relevant other business and the meeting ended at 8.15pm