

## **Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2010 at Brighton FC (RFU) at 7.30pm**

**09/114 Present** – R. Edmondson (President)(RCE), P. Silk (Secretary)(PSk), R. Hopkins (Treasurer)(RH), G. Thompson (RFU), P. Bailey, G. Howorth, A. Croucher, P. Atthis, G. Jones. M. Chumbley (RDO) (for P. Macaulay) P. Sealey (Minutes).

**09/115 Apologies** –P. Macaulay, R. Siggs, K. Nichols

**09/116 – Minutes** of the Executive meeting of 24<sup>th</sup> November, were approved, adopted and signed. Minutes of the General meeting of 30<sup>th</sup> November, were considered and approved for adoption at the next General meeting.

### **09/117 – Matters arising –**

09/72 - The excellent S.A. tour report had been circulated, and although results were not as good as hoped, it was otherwise very successful and a credit to the Management team. Tour accounts were not yet available due to the serious illness of Ian Duffell. Secretary was asked to write and advise that if Ian was not available, they must be passed to another Manager, and a final deadline of 28<sup>th</sup> February 2010 for submission to the RFU via the CB would be given.

09/77 – Rye RFC – matters progressing well and new procedures were in place and being followed. Some Junior activity was taking place. More help from PSk, GPT was available if required.

09/80 – RFU visit – GPT reported that there would be a Q/A session at Seaford on Friday, lunch at Lewes on Saturday followed by Lewes v Hove, or other matches. A formal dinner would be held on Saturday evening – venue t.b.a. – Sunday, Junior League Finals – venues Seaford RFC. Approved.

09/86 – Now accepted for 23-25<sup>th</sup> April, to play Belgium U25/U23's. Andy Turner to select and coach. Executive would be invited to participate. The Secretary was asked to get RFU Tour permission.

09/104 – RDO/County Office at Dallington House, University of Brighton, was now operational – Tel,

**01273 623030** – Broadband to be installed this week. D. Fisher will produce a Contract with University arranging Rental etc. Some costs would be reduced by moving out of Hove (no car parking charges).

### **09/118 – Presidents Report.** (Circulated)

The nomination of **G. Thompson as RFU rep for 2010/2011** by the Executive was confirmed.

Under the new structure, adopted in 09/78, the President did not have a vote. After discussion, it was agreed that they should be entitled to vote during their term of Office. When the votes are tied, the Chairman will have the casting vote.

**CB Action Plan** – Agreed that A. Croucher should have overall responsibility until the new Executive Chairman was appointed at the AGM. G. Thompson congratulated the authors and noted that the report would have to set CB targets matching RFU targets. Another plan would be required in September for 2012/13. The Regional CB Conference was confirmed at Dorking (not Blackheath) on 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb.

Agreed that London RFU was not the place for inter-CB CBRDP meetings, but liaison between the SE CB's would be very welcome.

The composition of next year's Executive was discussed, and members were asked to advise the Secretary if they were not available next year. Clubs would be asked for nominations for vacant posts.

### **09/119 – Treasurer’s Report -**

The Google Checkout was now in place on the website Shop, following some delay. Sponsorship had been agreed with the Army for the U20’s. R. Siggs and N. Silk to meet Treasurer/P. Sealey to discuss shirt signage, and the tender for SRFU kit. Shop said they would not be able to attend the Mini festivals as they had a stock shortage of small sizes, due to restrictions on purchases. Treasurer was not aware of any specific restrictions, other than to limit overall stock exposure.

Submissions for IT equipment should be made via Treasurer to RFU in the next few days.

RFU wanted an up to date Club list of Incorporation status. RH asked to send a copy to MC.

About 10 Clubs had still not paid their Subscription and a considerable number had not yet submitted accounts – RH to send list to GPT and the Treasurer will write to Clubs.

### **09/120 RFU Representative – Report submitted -**

Chichester RFC had now obtained the £10m PL cover required. RFU IT teacher Max Burton, could arrange sessions for Groups/clubs – names to Dina.

Clubs should be aware that RFU Insurance does not cover visits to Channel Islands, Isle of Man USA and Canada. Information to be sent to PS for Website.

A Student Representative should be on the CBRDP Committee – AC said all in hand.

### **09/121 – Secretary –**

Agreed that it was the Secretary’s responsibility to maintain control over the Website and all other methods of communications between the CB, the RFU and Clubs. To this end he would hold a series of meetings with P. Sealey, N.Silk and other parties to plan the way forward.

Website – following the resignation of P. Sealey as Webmaster, he would arrange meetings to determine the management of the SRFU Website and draw up a job description.

Newsletter – A single version, incorporating General Information, RDO matters, and Sponsors news would be published 4 times annually on fixed dates.

RugbyFirst – There was confusion as to who was responsible for what – and how the database could be used to contact and inform Clubs. As a preliminary step, it would be vital that all Clubs listed their Officers and Contacts on their own RugbyFirst pages. Dina Lewis had already been contacting Clubs. Only 2 proposals had been received for the RFU President’s Awards.

### **09/122 – Community Rugby – Minutes circulated**

RDP Chairs had expressed great concern about the continued lack of progress towards SOA by **Haywards Heath, Midhurst, Pulborough, Rye, Seaford, Uckfield, Eastbourne (renewal)**. They confirmed their support for sanctions to be taken against Clubs if the issue was not resolved by September 1st 2010. The Executive committee backed this stance. It was noted that Pulborough had received RFU funding on the condition of SOA status.

**Volunteer’s dinner** at Hove RFC on **5<sup>th</sup> March** – Executive welcome.

A paper entitled ‘Club Links – Schools Partnerships’ had been circulated.

### **09/123 – CBRDP –**

There had been a very poor response from Clubs to the Forums survey about where Rugby should be in

the next 5 years. General view was that as long as it was competitive – they did not care. AC would try again, via Club Junior Chairs, and thence to Senior Club Officers. There had been a suggestion that U13, U14's should only play friendly matches together with Sunday Coaching Sessions but S. Searle – Competition Organiser had disagreed. MC noted that U17, U18's were suffering because Clubs were spending financial resources on recruiting and retaining First XV players from outside the Club and not nurturing home-grown talent. P. Bailey agreed – Eastbourne had a large majority of ex-Junior players in their First XV, which was trying unsuccessfully to compete against better, older and paid opposition. G. Jones said although some 17/18's could compete at First XV level, there were many who could not, and playing in lower XV's exposed them to older players too soon. Although Academy players had to be assessed and specifically authorised at a high level to play Senior Rugby, at Clubs, it was down to a Coach may be under pressure due to player shortage. They were considering an U19 series based on Partnerships. AC said this was a prime subject for discussion at an inter CB CBRDP conference. G. Jones –said Playing & Coaching had been disrupted by Coach withdrawals in the early season, but that thanks to Mark Pascoe and Tudor Ellis and their team - the U15's programme was now underway. The U14's had also experienced problems but that thanks to the 4 CRC's and John May, the District programme had now started with 3 regional Development Squads. The U16's had not had a very good season, 12 players were trialed but only two players had gone forward to London Development. The U17's 'filtering process' had enabled a few selected players to play in the U 18's who also had a mixed season, with 2 players being selected in the London U18 Squad. R. Siggs had confirmed that he would continue as Lead Coach for next Season. The 'mentoring programme' was on hold, but J. Bates was trying to recruit mentors for next season. The priorities were to recruit more young coaches and J. Bates was helping trial a Tracker guide to assess Club Coaching needs, which had proved successful elsewhere. The County Girls Team had only Level 1 Coaches.

#### **09/124 – Changing Role of the RDO -**

M. Chumbley said that it would be wise to wait for the meeting at Dorking on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, when the RFU would present their plans. The RDO's had made submission to the RFU. The CRC's had experienced problems due to poor weather, but were now returning to normal. Agreed that the 'whereabouts' documents needed to be revised and more care taken in their completion in order to give an accurate view of the CRC's activities.

#### **09/125 – Competitions -**

A Competitions forum had been held and items considered included, instituting a 4-level Knock-out Cup Competition to include Worthing and Haywards Heath First XV's, a Vets League and possible Vets Cup, and requesting London DOC to permit Worthing III XV to be promoted to London IIISE if they won Sussex 1. The Competitions organisers were confident that postponed League and Cup matches could be caught up, if necessary by playing twice in a weekend, double headers, or midweek under floodlights. Hastings RFC had requested a President's level 9 XV on 18<sup>th</sup> April.

#### **09/126 – Data Protection –**

P. Atthis was congratulated on producing a DP document. Agreed it would be placed on the Website.

**09/127 – Any Other Business -**

G. Thompson advised dates of U20 County XV – Friendly v Hampshire at Chichester 31 Jan, away to Middlesex - 7 Feb, Herts – 14 Feb and home to Essex at Pulborough on 28th Feb, (not 21<sup>st</sup> as previously circulated) and asked that P. Colley circulate these to all members.

P. Atthis referred to the Task Group who had produced Job Descriptions for the RFU Rep – which had not yet been discussed, and that the CBRDP and Community Rugby had agreed to collaborate to produce theirs.

P. Atthis had been notified that the design of the Community Rugby Shirts had changed and it was agreed to continue to use existing models to the end of the Season.

*Meeting ended at 10.02 pm.*