

**Minutes of the SERDP Meeting
Eastbourne RFC
4 January 2009**

The Chairman convened the meeting at 7.25pm

Agenda:

[Attached]

Present:

David Jenkins (DJ) – SERDP Chairman, Eastbourne RFC
Jeremy Nobbs (JN) – CRC
Peter Bailey (PB) – Chairman Eastbourne RFC
Peter Silk (PS) - Cinque Ports RFC, Sussex RFU Honorary Secretary
Sean Taylor (ST) – Youth Chairman Crowborough RFC
Marcus Davies (MD) – Chairman Cinque Ports RFC
Steve Dabbs (SD) – Hellingly RFC
Mike Chapman (MDC) – Youth Chairman Eastbourne RFC
Fraser Brooks – Eastbourne RFC

Apologies:

Mal Chumbley – RDO, Sussex RFU
Robin Gale – Heathfield & Waldron RFC
David Hirst
Stuart Feist - both Hastings & Bexhill RFC
Gary Howorth – Chairman Community Rugby

Matters Arising:

DJ commented that he did not have a full contact list including email addresses for SERDP members. PS suggested that MC would be able to provide or Dina Nolan.

There being no other matters the minutes of the previous meeting held at Seaford RFC on 2 November 2009 were taken as read.

CRC Report:

[To be read in conjunction with JN written report attached]

Matters discussed outside written report:

- Re school delivery it was noted that the visit to Hellingly had initially been successful with 20 participants but due to cancellations the numbers had fallen away. 6 players from the initiative do however continue to train at the club.

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- Emphasis of work in the New Year will be with the schools – particularly the western end of the SERDP region. JN to inform the clubs shortly of the intended programme.
- Decision still to be made as to venue for the Sussex schools festival.
- Had been frustrations over the U14 County programme but each CRC now has a district programme with same content but different timings. Programme for SE:

Sun 10 Jan 1-4pm

Fri 22 Jan 7-9pm

Sun 31 Jan 1-4pm

Fri 5 Feb 7-9pm

Fri 12 Feb 7-9pm

Wed 17 Feb 7-9pm

All 4 districts playing on Sunday 21 February

- JN checked the U14 nominations with the SERDP members present.

The Chairman thanked JN for his work and stressed importance of Club representatives applying to use CRC resource.

Training, Coaching & Other Courses

- PB gave details of a safeguarding course to be held at Eastbourne RFC on 18 January.
- Additionally at ERFC 3 x Master Classes, Lineout, Scrummage & Ruck. Organised through Jon Bates at RFU. Dates to be confirmed.
- DJ gave details of courses to be organised by Gary Howorth:

Equity in Coaching – Eastbourne RFC

Club for All – Crowborough RFC

PB reminded members that it was a condition of the Seal of Approval that the clubs have someone who has attended these courses.

- ST stated that there was a 1st Aid course at CRFC with 13 attendees. A further 1st Aid course to be held at Seaford RFC and CRFC could arrange further.
- SD discussed entry level refereeing course to be held at Hellingly RFC. PB keen that a number of Eastbourne Colts attend the entry level course to be ready to referee at the minis festival at ERFC in March. Colts would need to be CRB checked.

School Links

[Off agenda discussion]

CRC will make contact with John Elmes of Crowborough.

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Volunteer Nominations

Volunteer dinner scheduled at Hove RFC on 5 March 2010. Award nominations and indication of attendees from each club required.

PS requires table of 10 for Cinque Ports RFC

PB requires table of 10 for Eastbourne RFC

Guest speaker is yet to be finalised. Nominations not yet received but at least 2 from each club required.

Partnership Projects

Girls Rugby

CRC commented that the fortunes of girl's rugby in the region had been mixed. There was a structure in place but no development strategy. The fear was that after the current Sussex girls' teams there was no obvious succession.

MD opened a debate on the future of the women's game. From conversations that he had had with UK and overseas coaches he was now firmly of the opinion that the separation of the girls' from the boys' game should start at the first year of contact, U9, and not U13 as is currently the case.

CRC stated that there were historic reasons for the split at U13 and this was enshrined in the RFUW rules. A local initiative alone would not change national arrangements. The current set-up saw girls' teams at U15 and U18 level.

SD commented that girls at Hellingly RFC were sorry that they had to finish playing the game at 12 but that this was almost inevitable because there isn't the required critical mass for the girls' game to prosper at any one club. Was there not an argument for there to be a 'cluster club' in the region which girls could join at 13?

There had been a discussion at County level for such a grouping at '3H' (Heathfield, Hellingly and Hastings) and Sonya da Silva (new head of Sussex WRFU) with Mal Chumbley should be up to speed on the concept. CRC commented that the idea of a cluster club would require great commitment to travel on the part of parents and players.

MD continued by saying that there seemed to be no equity in the game where girls' rugby was concerned. For there to be parity, there would need to be a greater number of female coaches and for the mothers of players to become engaged in the sport. It was hoped that Sonya da Silva's strategic development plan would cover these points and lead to an increase in the numbers of women playing rugby in the county. MD hoped that the points raised at SERDP would be taken further at the full RDP meeting to be held shortly.

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Club Development

The next youth forum meeting is to be held at Hastings RFC where the structure of the youth leagues to be discussed. West and East forum minutes are posted on the Sussex RFU website.

Any Other Business

CRC mentioned the programme of club support visits and the recent continuity session at Hellingly RFC was discussed.

PS reminded those present of the RFU open evening to be held at Seaford RFC on Friday 26 March. Francis Baron and others from the RFU national hierarchy would be attending and would give those involved in the grass roots of the game the opportunity to air their views. Start time of the visit to be confirmed.

Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for 7.15pm Monday March 1st 2010 at Hellingly RFC.

Subsequent meetings:

Rye RFC – 10 May

Crowborough RFC – 12 July

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

MDC – January 2010