



# SUSSEX RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION LIMITED

Minutes of the General Meeting of Sussex RFU held at East Grinstead RFC  
on Monday 7 March 2011

**Present:** Peter Bailey (President); Peter Silk (Secretary), Messers Bowers, Bridges, Broadwell, Edmonds, Edmondson, Gordon, Hooker, Hopkins, Howorth, Jenkins, Mel Liley, Mitchell, Nichols, Richardson, Rogers, Sealey, Thompson G, Thompson J. Wade and Representatives from Bognor, Brighton, Burgess Hill, Cinque Ports, Crawley, Crowborough, Eastbourne, East Grinstead, Haywards Heath, Hellingly, Horsham, Lewes, Midhurst, Newick, Old Brightonians, Pulborough, Seaford, Shoreham, Uckfield and Worthing.

**10/103 Apologies for Absence:** Messrs Bailey (Barns Green), Butcher, Claire Cooper (RFUW), Coleman, Croucher, Sonya Da Silva, Doyle, Keeley, Mercer, N. Silk and Steele (Pulborough)

**10/104 Minutes of the General Meeting** on the 13th December 2010 were adopted and signed as a true record. Proposed: G. Howorth; Seconded. R. Thoms. Minutes of the Executive Meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> January were considered.

**10/105 Matters arising: None**

**10/106 President's Report:** He has watched U16 League match at Hove and Hove v Richmond Ladies since the last General Meeting and been a guest of Chichester, Seaford and Uckfield. He had presented medals at the U17 Final (Uckfield) and Salver and Plate Finals (Eastbourne) He has attended a Competitions Meeting, London Exiles and was in the Club Aid Visit to Uckfield.

**10/107 Chairman's Report:** Allan Butcher is ill - no report.

**10/108 Election of RFU Representative:**  
Graham Thompson Proposed: Uckfield Seconded: Lewes and Seaford.  
Passed unanimously.

**10/109 RFU Representative Report** – GT had circulated his report.

- He encouraged Clubs to look after their Youth Sections allowing them to purchase International tickets.
- Three Clubs had been warned about putting their tickets for sale on E-Bay
- No U17 player can play Senior Rugby and front row players must have reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday to play Senior Rugby.
- RFU Chief Executive looking at CRC employment conditions.

**10/110 Seriously Injured Players.** The President welcomed Dave Phillips (RFU Injured Players Welfare Officer).

- Dave gave an excellent presentation on how the RFU was helping the seriously injured player and the support being given to his family.
- Helps injured players with no movement from the neck downwards (spinal cord) and brain injuries.



- Stoke Mandeville and Salisbury are the nearest hospitals looking after players with spinal injuries – only 8 in the Country.
- Will contact families within 72 hours and hopefully in 24 hours.
- Will immediately support financially families to pay mortgage etc.
- Will support injured player financially with vehicle adoptions, house conversions, retraining courses, adapted sports equipment. Respite opportunities, laptops, iPods, etc
- Van bought for injured players.
- Help for life
- Free tickets for Twickenham – every home game 6/7 invited.
- Contact Graham Thompson immediately when a serious injury occurs – 01323 897483 or 07770 773871
- Average of 3 spinal injuries per year.
- 50% occur in the scrum – the rest in open play.
- This year, 4 players – one front row, 2 centres and a 2<sup>nd</sup> Row.

#### **10/111 Referee Recruitment Task Force:**

- Peter Bailey reported that he was heading a Task Group to look at ways of recruiting and retaining Referees. Clubs members will be asked to join the Task Group which will report to the AGM in June. Usually players perform at a higher level refereeing than at playing.
- Iain Mitchell reported that there was a referee audit last weekend (4/5<sup>th</sup> March). Each Club should report back to him:
  1. Which games were played at HOME on the Saturday and Sunday
  2. The name of the Referee
- IM asked all Clubs to look at their Referee Changing Facilities. On Sundays, Adults who need to shower must not be in contact with Juniors.
- CRefC – most clubs have now appointed one.
- Dave Maconachie is retiring at the end of the Season: He will be replaced by 3 volunteers:
  1. Appointment Officer
  2. Re-Appointment Officer
  3. Mid Week Appointment OfficerEach Club will know their appointed Referee electronically on the Wednesday and the Club should contact the Referee to confirm the arrangements.

#### **10/112 Rugby Development Partnerships.**

- Gary Howorth outlined the RFU Initiative that all Clubs should have 1 more team – Beach Rugby – Summer Sevens – Touch Rugby – Jersey have TAG Festivals in the centre park in the town – run by our club or get an outside company to run the event.
- CB Action Plan 2011-12 has been sent to Twickenham, analysed and sent back with recommendations and improvements. Will be on the website by 1<sup>st</sup> April.

#### **10/113 Coaching and Playing**

- In the absence of Geraint Jones and Alan Croucher, Roger Edmondson reported that Alan Croucher had circulated a summary of three Meetings that had been held to improve the quality of the Sussex CB teams from U14 to Seniors. Our County sides had a very poor record – Hadon Westerby has been appointed to Chair this group with the task of :
  1. Improve the quality of the coaching team



2. Set up a plan for all Team Coaching Squads ensuring quality coaching, quality selection, quality team preparation etc.
3. Improve the selection procedures so that the best players are selected.
4. No Coach should coach his son in a County Team.

It is interesting to note that many Sussex players have played Representative Rugby:

1. Dylan Hartley Crowborough **England** hooker
2. Hugo Southwell Eastbourne C **Scotland** Fullback
3. Claire Purdy UC Chichester **England** Ladies
4. Emma Croker UC Chichester **England** Ladies
5. Ashley Rowlands UC Chichester **Wales** Ladies
6. Caroline Jade Colly Brighton U **Scotland** Ladies
7. Joe Marler Haywards H **England Saxons**
8. Billy Twelvetrees Weald School **England Saxons**
9. Charlie Matthews Hurstpierpoint **England U20**
10. Joe Lansbury Christ Hospital **England U20**
11. Rob Buchanan St. Bedes **England U20**
12. Keiran Lowe Chichester **England U20**
13. Sam Twomey Crawley **England U20** Squad
14. Harry Leonard Brighton Coll **Scotland U20**
15. James Tyas Brighton Coll **Scotland U20**
16. Amy Wilson Hardy Hove RFC **England U20** Ladies
17. Ollie Richards Brighton Coll **England U19**
18. Tom Bowen Lewes RFC **England U18**
19. James Chisholm Warden Park **England U16A**

### **10/114 Women & Girls – Mel Liley was welcomed to her first CB General Meeting have taken over from Geraldine Brown.**

Mel outlined the current state of Ladies Rugby in the County.

1. Senior Teams at Hove, Lewes, Worthing, Hastings and East Grinstead.
2. Girls Teams at Worthing, H3 (Hastings, Heathfield and Hellingly), Sussex Barbarians.
3. School teams at Millais, Angmering, Helenswood.
4. University Teams at UC Chichester, Brighton and Sussex University.
5. Working at developing teams at Barns Green, East Grinstead and St. Francis.
6. Girls start much later in rugby and can move to the top more quickly.
7. All Clubs should look at developing girls/ ladies teams.
8. Wendy Langley referees men's matches every Saturday very efficiently.
9. Mel Liley contact details:  
07729 983488 [mel\\_liley@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mel_liley@hotmail.co.uk)

### **10/115 Discipline**

Frank Edmonds reported on 2 Discipline Cases:

- A London 2 South match had been abandoned due to spectators entering the field of play. He recommended:
  1. Spectators should not enter the field of play...
  2. All Clubs should have their playing area roped off.
  3. All Clubs should have a playing area marked out for their coaches and substitutes.
  4. There should be Club Officials policing the touch lines.



- Maidstone had been deducted 50 points and fined £2000 for not identifying their player who eye gouged an opposition player. The Club were charged  
Frank reminded all Clubs that they had a responsibility for their players – they must manage their Club properly.
- Frank reported that Jacqui had informed him there were no developments in Child Welfare.

**10/116 Facilities** – no changes since December report. Updates are posted regularly to website.

**10/117 Volunteers Dinner** – Hove RFC – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March – 50 already attending – 110 Booked – Nominations through the four RDP's.

**10/118 Competitions** – Ken Nichols reported:

- Geraldine Brown replaced by Mel Liley as Ladies Secretary.
- Martin Doyle stepping down as Sussex 1 Secretary but remaining as London 2 South Sec.
- Simon Flint is the new Sussex 1 Secretary.
- Ken has circulated all 33 Clubs with the question:  
'Do you want League Rugby in 2011/12?'  
He had 25 replies – all 25 were in favour of Leagues.  
He then asked the IPP to read out an e-mail from Horley RFC stating very forcibly that the Sussex League system was brilliant – all fixtures organized by Sussex – brilliantly run by Mike Richardson.
- U17 Finals at Uckfield  
Final Brighton 13 Horsham 8  
3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Worthing 17 Uckfield 3
- Senior Plate Final at Eastbourne  
Plate Brighton University 39 Littlehampton 10  
Salver Worthing 5 74 Rye 10
- Shield Final at Lewes RFC on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2011.  
Vase Worthing 4 v Brighton 3  
Shield Burgess Hill v Newick
- A recommendation to remove RFU Cups at Level 7 and below will be placed before Council in April. To help partially fill the void, ways to promote CB Cup Competitions will be considered.
- Discussion took place about the London RFU Committee to whether it should be disbanded as recommended by GT.

**10/119 A.O.B.**

1. Wooden Spoon – Bob Rogers reported:  
Thanked all Clubs for supporting the Christmas Fish and Chips lunch  
They have raised £150000 for Sussex projects e.g. Chailey Heritage  
He asked for support at the following:
  1. Brighton Marathon Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> April – Gary Gordon running.
  2. Golf Tournament – 9<sup>th</sup> June
  3. Cricket Match – Sussex v Hampshire 13<sup>th</sup> July
  4. Fish & Chips Lunch 15<sup>th</sup> December.
2. Level 9 match; Sussex v Surrey at Pulborough RFC Sunday 17 April.
3. Treasurer asked for all Club Accounts. He also reminded them about PAYE procedures for players and that the payment of any expenses needs to be considered carefully.



4. Metal stakes are banned to hold ropes on touchlines.
5. **SUSSEX RFU CURRY EVENING**  
NEWICK TANDOORI  
TUESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2011  
Cost £19; First 120 applying and payment received will be attending.

**10/120 Date of Next Meeting & AGM Tuesday 14 June 2011 Brighton RFC 7.30pm.**

The meeting closed at 10.00pm.