



Sussex Rugby Football Union
Community Rugby
Minutes
12 Jan
Red Lion Patcham 7.30pm



Those invited to attend:

Peter Bailey (PB) (CB President)
 Jackie Coleman (JC) Safeguarding manager
 Allan Butcher (AB) CB Chair
 Paul Harding (PH) (Chair CWCRDP),
 Mal Chumbley (MC) (RDO)
 Chris Keeley (CK) (Chair SWCRDP).
 David Jenkins (DJ) (Chair SERCDP).

David Fisher (DF)(Vice Chair Community
 Rugby)
 Sonia Desilva (SD) (Chairman of Girls
 Rugby)
 Peter Mercer (PM) (CB Facilities coordinator)
 Graham Thompson (GT) (RFU rep)
 Gary Howorth (GH) (Chair Community
 Rugby and SRCDP)

Item and minute	Action	Target date
<p>1. Apologies – Jackie Coleman, Peter Bailey, Paul Harding, David Fisher</p> <p>Minutes of the previous meeting had inadvertently been destroyed and apologies were given, however, only one action was noted and this was to be included in this meeting.</p> <p>Noted that Paul Chapman (Crawley) has been honoured by the RFU – for services to Community Rugby</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Action Plan, those present reviewed the proposed County Action plan for season 2011/12. It was agreed that the plan covered the requirements of those present. With regard to facilities Peter Mercer agreed to tidy up the facilities section as this included 'rogue' elements. 2. Presidents XV, with the imminent closure of this worthwhile annual event all chairs agreed to push out one last reminder to all participating Clubs. 3. First Aid training, Gary had made contact with a company to supply First aid training. Chairs agreed to get venues and proposed dates for Gary to move forward. Ideal month for delivery was targeted as March, urgent action required. 4. Volunteer Dinner, planned for 25 March at Hove, all Clubs to be urged to attend and return numbers and nominations asap. 5. Partnership feedback, in Paul's absence his e-mail was shared with those present and acted as a debating point. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SLAs – we agreed that May meeting would be an SLA for 2011/12 meeting. Clubs not represented or proposing SLA's will simply get the leftovers. <i>Agreed by those present for all RDPs to allow Mal and his CRCs to plan activities for the forth coming season</i> • Communication – there was a general feeling that communication via e-mail was being left to the last minute. This did not allow the clubs to react properly or organise a formal response. In particular the notification of courses appeared to be very late. While everyone recognised that they were probably on the web site(s) as one person said, I have better things to do than trawl web sites for courses etc. I think as a CB we need t think about this. Communication is everything and we can certainly improve. <i>Agreed by those present and noted at the County General meeting that communications were not always getting to the target audience in a timely manner.</i> • Referees – we are looking to get a partnership list of community refs together and share it. <i>Agreed by those present as an aid for all partnerships.</i> • Coaching CPD – concern expressed over the apparent lack of CPD courses in Sussex. No doubt this again a Catch 22 but again I believe the County needs to be proactive and help the clubs. <i>Agreed by those present to be discussed at next County meeting.</i> • Player Retention -A really good discussion on this and I suggest something the County needs to start to understand and assist the clubs in addressing. All the clubs present indicated that they were having problems retaining players. This issue seemed to cover all the clubs, from Haywards Heath through to Barns Green. The discussion highlighted a number of reasons for the decline in player numbers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Social relationships – partners and wives less likely to accept Saturday is rugby day. ○ Club expectation – the need to rise up the leagues, the requirement to train if you want to play, the commitment of two nights and a Saturday. ○ Leagues are not fun – we play the same sides over and over again – boring ○ Work commitments – players now more likely to have to work training nights/evening or weekends. ○ Injuries – Players are concerned about injuries and the potential impact time off work has on earning (self employed) or on job retention, given the current environment. ○ Within the Junior game – club were losing players to schools providing scholarships to good players. 	<p>PM</p> <p>All</p> <p>Gary</p> <p>All</p>	

- There was a feeling that the league structure at the lower end of the game was not helping. There was too much emphasis on the leagues and not enough on enjoying the game, playing sides from out of the area, meeting and playing new clubs etc. Clubs commented that they now played very few if any "cross county" games. Many of the traditional games between cross county sides now no longer existed because of the need to play league games.

THIS WAS FELT TO BE A REAL ISSUE THAT MUST BE DRAWN TO THE COUNTY EXEC'S ATTENTION. THE GENERAL FEELING WAS THAT PLAYER RETENTION IN THE GAME WAS THE BIGGEST ISSUE FACING THE GAME.

We looked at the RDP Terms of Reference – I suggest that others do. Interesting the emphasis between the RDP/club and County. Not too sure County understand it.

6. Agreed from discussions at previous meeting that RDPs may benefit from better attendance if the meetings have a theme or themes, are attended by guests that can engage with key Club members not just RDP reps. Target theme for March CVC and facilities.

AOB

1. Volunteer nominations, no nominations for U21 unfortunately, however nominations had been received and were reviewed.

Four nominations in the SERDP, winner Mick Ellis H & B tickets to England V Scotland

One nomination from SWRDP, winner Paul Johnson Pulborough tickets to England V France

Two nominations from SRDP, winner Paul Apps Shoreham tickets to England V Italy

2. Mal asked if Club contributions could be added to the agenda for next meeting