

SUSSEX RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

Sussex Rugby Club Development Partnership – South Area

MINUTES of the Meeting held at Hove RFC on 8th September 2010.

PRESENT: Gary Howorth (Chairman); Claire Byrne (South Sussex Barbarians/Girls' Rugby); Tim Holgate (Community Rugby Coach); Stewart Davies (Shoreham RFC); Paul Apps (Shoreham RFC); Tim Loadsmen (Old Brightonians RFC); Nick Page (Lewes RFC); Robbie Cannon (Uckfield RFC); David Beglan (Secretary); Mal Chumbley (Rugby Development Officer) who arrived at 8-10 following an SOA meeting at Pulborough RFC.

1. Welcome and Apologies. The Chairman welcomed those present and in particular, Tim Holgate, our new CRC. Apologies had been received from Rebecca Willis (Lewes RFC) and Adam Tunesi (Hove RFC).

2. The Minutes of the meeting of 14th July had been circulated and these were approved.

3. There were no matters arising.

5. Seal of Approval update. Mal Chumbley had emailed details (1-9-10) about the following Clubs:

Brighton – waiting for a date to meet up and make progress towards their Whole Club SOA,

Hove - Mal still holds the SOA Certificate and is waiting for a date for presentation,

Lewes - successful health check in February of this year and awaiting progress to Whole Club SOA,

Shoreham – successful health check in February of this year and awaiting progress to Whole Club SOA,

Uckfield – awaiting date for meeting with most criteria demonstrated and a few final items to be reviewed. (When Mal arrived he confirmed 20th September as the date of his visit).

The Chairman advised that in the case of “problem” Clubs, no tours (incoming or outgoing), no festivals, no offers of International match tickets would be allowed until the position was resolved. This matter had been raised at the Clubs' Meeting on 7th September and those problem Clubs (none in our area) accepted the ruling, with mutterings.

6 Girls' Rugby update. Claire Byrne confirmed that South Sussex Barbarians have joined the South Coast League. Although this involves matches as far away as Swanage, it makes a change from going in the opposite direction to such places as Gravesend. Claire is struggling to keep her Under 18 squad together, losing a further five this week, owing mainly to A Level work. She has forged links with Youth Clubs but is finding that Sixth Forms are more difficult.

7. Other business.

a). Tim Loadsmen reported that Old Brightonians, still struggling for numbers, got into the semi finals of the Cronk Cunis Under 21 Tournament. Brighton College has taken over the running of the Old Boys' team and it is hoped that this will result in more successful recruitment.

b). Gary Howorth produced copies of the (draft) 2010/11 Sussex RFU Action Plan. He stated that the RFU would be changing its system of funding from next year. Funding is to be related to Constituent Bodies' Action Plans. In Sussex, we are trying to link our Action Plan to RFU requirements and objectives. Our Partnership Meetings would be mainly concerned with the “People and Places” section of the Plan. When the Plan has been approved, it will appear on the Sussex RFU website.

c). A series of Club Forum evenings (Rugby First) have been planned, for Volunteer Co-ordinators, Referee Co-ordinators and Coaching Co-ordinators. These will be held at Brighton University, Falmer Campus on four consecutive Mondays from 27th September.

/continued

/Continuation of South RCDP Minutes 8-9-10.

Further details are available from Mal and directions to the venue, with parking authorisation, will be sent upon registration.

d). New CRC. Although Tim Holgate had been introduced at the beginning of the meeting, Gary asked him to let us know his Rugby history and his hopes for his new job in Sussex. Tim mentioned that he was originally from Tring and had played for his hometown Club before moving to London Irish, London Welsh, back to Tring and now at London Scottish. He has been coaching for several years and is looking forward to his new post. The meeting was pleased to welcome Tim and it is hoped that he brings success to his and our endeavours.

e). Gary said that Volunteer Nomination forms (over 40s this time) should be in his hands by 22nd September.

4. Service Level Agreement for new CRC. (This item was deferred to the end of the meeting to allow Mal time to return from Pulborough). Mal stressed that it was important for Clubs to appreciate the "agreement" aspect of SLAs. There would be no point in a Club asking for everything that might be available, nor would it be sensible to ask for too little. Mal is willing to assist Clubs in arriving at a happy medium and it is to be hoped that Clubs will cooperate in this respect. It would be best if Clubs would arrange a common consensus of requirements from their members. Different Clubs have different requirements and face different problems. The main aim of Shoreham RFC was stated to be to establish links with secondary schools in Shoreham, Southwick and Lancing and with local primary schools to regenerate the Club's Youth and Mini section. Uckfield have problems with a Worthing RFC connection at Uckfield Community College, which makes it difficult to recruit from that source. Gary suggested that there was probably no point in flogging a dead horse in that respect but that teachers move on and the position might change. Claire asked whether SSB should submit a SLA in their own right or combine with that from Lewes RFC. Mal recommended the latter course but pointed out that the CB would be submitting an SLA of its own in due course.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8-30 p.m.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday, 3rd November 2010 at Hove RFC at 7-30 p.m.

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