

SUSSEX RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

Sussex Rugby Club Development Partnership – South Area

MINUTES of the Meeting held at Hove RFC on 10th March 2010.

PRESENT: Gary Howorth (South RDP Chairman); Adam Tunesi (Hove RFC); Claire Byrne (South Sussex Barbarians/Girls' Rugby); Paul Apps (Shoreham RFC); Tom Le Mehaute (Community Rugby Coach); Tim Loadman (Old Brightonians RFC); Mal Chumbley (Rugby Development Officer); David Beglan (Secretary).

1. Welcome and Apologies. The Chairman welcomed those present. Apologies had been received from Mike Morton-George (Newick RFC) and Nick Page (Lewes RFC) whose emailed apology was received after the meeting.

2. The Minutes of the meeting of 19th January had been circulated and these were approved.

3. Matter arising. Adam Tunesi mentioned that a "Rugby Ready" Course is scheduled for Monday, 26th April at Hove RFC.

4. Activity Report from Tom Le Mehaute (Community Rugby Coach). Tom produced printed copies of his previous month's activities, which included the following:

Club coaching – Sussex Men's and Women's, Sussex Medics, Uckfield

Meetings – Competition managers, Hove RFC, Teachers at Hove Park, Varndean and Dorothy Stringer. UCTC, Lewes Ladies, Hove Ladies, CRCs

Secondary School Coaching – Varndean, UCTC, Ringmer, Peacehaven,

MLD Coaching – Meridian Multi Sports,

Festivals – 7,8,9,10,11 – Development Shield, Sussex 7s,

Girls' Rugby – After school club Dorothy Stringer, Hove Park School,

Coach Education – 1 HSLA, 1 CSLA – Young Leaders.

Key Education Sector Activities included 16+ at Sussex University, Brighton University, Sussex Medics and Varndean College. "Coach the Coaches" activities were held at Uckfield RFC and Hove RFC and Girls' Rugby was promoted at Peacehaven. Tom had coached Men's and Women's Rugby and lectured on the Fundamentals of Rugby and had been involved in coaching at Uckfield, Peacehaven and Ringmer. He had promoted Girls' Rugby at Hove Park School and Dorothy Stringer.

There were no planned activities for the immediate future as Tom is leaving for pastures new in Australia. Mal Chumbley announced that interviewing for Tom's replacement as CRC is likely to take place in late April, with an appointment to be made in time for the new CRC to take up the post in late June.

The "Service Level Agreement" (SLA) for the new CRC would be the main item on the Agenda for the next Partnership Meeting (12th May). It is important the Club Representatives consult with their Clubs and let the Partnership know what are their requirements in this respect. Mal pointed out that a co-ordinated approach to the SLA would be the best way. It is no good Clubs complaining about paying for the services of the CRC if they have failed to give prior notice of their requirements. Claire Byrne asked if the South Sussex Barbarians Girls could come into the system as a group, rather than piecemeal per club. Mal replied that this would be of use and more practical value. He said that the Sussex Constituent Body was to be applauded for its financial support and general commitment to Girls' Rugby (unlike some other counties). He mentioned that there are many little projects coming along that he and the CRCs could be involved with and which may bring funding opportunities.

/Continued

/Continuation of South RCDP Minutes – 10-3-10.

5. Seal of Approval. Mal reported that our Partnership was progressing well with Shoreham, Brighton and Lewes having their “health checks” and Uckfield nearly being there. The County was on schedule for being just three SOAs short of 100% in the County. There had been a softening in the attitude to Clubs that failed to complete their SOA in the required time and any sanction against such Clubs could involve their ticket allocation for internationals rather than penalising young players. There is now available a “Whole Club Accreditation” pack.

6. Volunteers’ Evening. Paul Apps stated that the group from Shoreham RFC had enjoyed a wonderful evening. Gary Howorth thanked Hove RFC for providing excellent food and contributing to the success of the event. Claire suggested that the South Sussex Barbarians could come as a group in future and Gary said that this was a sensible idea. Adam asked if the venue was convenient and Gary replied that Hove RFC seemed to be suitable for the clubs across the county. An alternative suggestion of Worthing RFC would appear to be too far west for the likes of Rye and Hastings.

7. Girls’ Rugby. Claire reported that there had been a School Tournament at Longhill School. Her group would be involved in the Preston Park “Take Part” event on 16th June, as part of a week long City Council organised initiative. Six Under 15s and three Under 18s had gained Inter-region representation. Claire is trying to recruit at schools, with varying success. Numbers are growing encouragingly and there may come a time when decisions will need to be made on whether the SSB cluster is still the most appropriate way to run Girls’ Rugby in this area.

8. Other business.

a). Tim Loadman reported that Old Brightonians are being taken over and funded by Brighton College, which might help with recruitment and possibly build up strength of numbers to allow OBs to return to League competition.

b). Gary mentioned that RFU dignitaries would be visiting Sussex over the weekend of 26th – 28th March and an email has been circulated by the County Secretary with details of the programme.

c). There would be a “County Curry Night” on 11th May. (Enquiries regarding venue and time to Gary on gary.Howorth@ntlworld.com)

d). Gary thanked Tom for his contribution as CRC and wished him good luck for the future in Adelaide, with which the meeting concurred.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8-45 p.m.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday, 12th May at Hove RFC at 7-30 p.m.

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