

# SUSSEX RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

## RUGBY CLUB DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP – SOUTH AREA

MINUTES of the Meeting held at Hove RFC on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2011.

PRESENT: Gary Howorth (Chairman); Tim Holgate (Community Rugby Coach); Tim Loadsman (Old Brightonians RFC); Nick Page (Lewes RFC); Adam Tunesi (Hove RFC); David Beglan (Secretary).

1). The Chairman welcomed those present and good wishes for the New Year were exchanged. Apologies had been received (either directly to the Secretary or via other Representatives at the Meeting) from Paul Apps (Shoreham RFC); Stewart Davies (Shoreham RFC); Robbie Cannon (Uckfield RFC); Claire Byrne (South Sussex Barbarians/Girls' Rugby); Neil Thomas (Brighton RFC).

2). The Minutes of the Meeting of 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2010 had been circulated and these were approved.

3). There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

4). Service Level Agreements. Tim Holgate reported that Youth Leaders are being trained to assist with his work as CRC. Tim mentioned that he had not received the SLAs from Brighton or Uckfield. Gary said that he had been told that the SLA for Brighton had been sent to Mal Chumbley and that Robbie Cannon was chasing the SLA for Uckfield. Adam Tunesi presented the SLA for Hove at the Meeting. Tim Loadsman reported that, despite getting a team out for the New Year fixture against Old Hurstjohnnians (which OBs won handsomely), it was unlikely that numbers would permit a return to the League. Tim hoped that the Club would tick over with three or four matches per season. David Beglan said that there seemed to be very few genuine Old Boys' sides left, many becoming general clubs, even if retaining the old name. He suggested that, perhaps, OBs could follow this route and open up the Club to players other than former pupils of Brighton College. Tim wondered if the College would approve of this but he agreed with David that a subtle name change to "Brightonians" might solve any problems.

5). Seal of Approval. Gary was pleased to announce that all the Clubs in our Area had achieved their SOAs.

6). Girls' Rugby. In her email of apology for absence (owing to illness), Claire had announced that she would be stepping down from Rugby altogether at the end of this season. She is looking for a successor(s) and has some ideas. There is little to report, except that Claire is intending to enter the Under 15s into the National 7s again this year. She requested that Tim (Holgate) contact her with regard to plans for school visits. The Meeting was sorry to hear about Claire's decision and expressed their thanks for all her work with Ladies' Rugby.

7). Other business.

a). Tim Holgate said that Accreditation Forms for Clubs/Schools are to be made available. Coaching Courses are being arranged on Partnership basis.

b). David suggested that the balance of the South Partnership seems to be unwieldy. There is a divergence of the style of Clubs with Hove, Brighton, Lewes and Uckfield seeming to be the larger Clubs in the South RCDP, with the rest being smaller and probably more "social" Clubs. Gary said that the idea of the Partnerships (Clusters) was for the larger Clubs to help their smaller neighbours, although it was not always easy to see how this could best be achieved.

c). Gary said that, at the CB General meeting in December, some of those present had displayed a degree of ignorance about the Partnerships. It seemed that information from Partnership meetings was not getting back to the appropriate people at Clubs.

d). The County Action Plan for 2011/12 has been finalised and Gary would be sending this round for comment.

e). Gary and David are to work on a new "themed" Agenda for Partnership meetings.

f). The Volunteers' Dinner will take place on 25<sup>th</sup> March at Hove RFC.

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South RCDP Minutes – 4-1-11.

7) Other Business (continued).

g). Shortage of Referees. Gary referred to the Community Rugby Referees scheme, pioneered by Peter Atthis. Despite this initiative, there is still a shortage of Referees and the time would soon come where it would be impossible for Sussex Society to guarantee a referee for every match that the Society would expect to cover. Ideally, Clubs should provide Referees in relation to the number of teams that they field. If Clubs that fielded five teams on a Saturday were to provide, from their members, five Society Referees, the problems would be alleviated.

8). The date of the next Meeting was arranged for Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March at Hove RFC at 7-30 p.m.

There being no other business, the Meeting closed at 8-35 p.m., with thanks to Hove RFC for their hospitality.

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