



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES 2016

DATE: 14th June, 2016

TIME: 7.30pm

VENUE: Community Centre, Ellon

CHAIR: Paul Vavangas

RECORDER: Terri Brown

PRESENT: P. Vavangas (Chair), G. Kemp, S. Jakeman, T. Brown, J. Clark, R. Hamilton, G. Jack, B. Gray, A. Quirke, J. Stewart, G. Heath, D. Heath, P. McCartin, J. Dickie, J. Verity, S. Brown, D. Shaw, K. Backland Shaw, G. Scott, G. Campbell, S. Craib, G. Chegwyn, M. Pearce, V. Taylor, C. Godsman, K. Whyte, G. Ritchie, D. Notton, P. Young, J. Young, S. Munro, D. Forbes, S. Cochrane, M. Mannion, J. Mannion

APOLOGIES: A. Hagan, D. Gray, B. Smith, N. Scott, C. Tennant, C. Arthur, R. Falconer, C. Allborough, S. Notton, K. Pearce, J. Keith, S. Reynolds

1. Committee Annual Reports

Junior Convenors Report 2015-16

This season saw the introduction of the Youth section committee which meant that the Junior Section now covers players from Rascals up to P7.

We welcomed Peter our DO who has been busy helping out at training, away matches and home events. We would like to thank him for all of his work throughout the season.

The committee continue to meet every fortnight to discuss the running of the junior section and hope you have found our minutes posted on the webpage and continue to see updates on Facebook.

Numbers remain healthy within the junior section. We have had a steady flow of new members throughout the season and this is still continuing with new players joining us into the last stage of the season. This is mainly at the Rascals and Mini sections but a few have been joining the older age bands also. To date we have approx. 150 players covering Rascals to P7.



Fundraising has been fairly steady this season with our Tournament being our biggest fundraiser of the season. We received a contribution from Shell of £350 which is part of an employee Action Grant. Steve Anderson received this for his volunteering within the club. We are continuing to use Rugby Plus for our training gear which is another way of the club to earn commission on all online sales.

As a junior section the coaches have been busy behind the scenes this season. Firstly, at the start of the season all coaches had to complete an online course Rugby Right, covering safety and the basics of rugby. Secondly, I would like to congratulate all our coaches who attended their course and passed their CC level 1. Also congratulations to our P4 Head Coach Alistair also received his UK CC Level 1 advanced certificate and more recently obtaining his CC level 2. It is a great commitment for coaches to complete these courses so I would like to thank them for their hard work and drive to ensure Ellon Rugby is the best qualified that it can be.

The Junior Section has had a busy and successful season thanks to all the hard work of the players, coaches who voluntarily give up their time each week to coach the children. There are too many people to thank and without their contribution no matter how small, it is a credit to the club.

Emma Kemp

Junior Convenor

ERC Junior Section Treasurers Report June 2016

Accounts attached cover the period from 18 May 2015 to 14th June 2016. This seasons substantial income generation is from the match fees and Thursday pitch fees which raised £5,457.95 and the June 2015 Fun Run sponsorship day at Aden Country Park raised £2,720.00. Other good income generation to mention is the second hand and new kit stall which generated £583.80 so thank you to the ladies who help out with this valued task. I will also mention the great efforts by the BBQ team who work tirelessly at events and have help raise £4,292.26. Finally on income generation it is worth mentioning the charitable donations from shell because I suck up to the right people for money, totalling £1,350.



Total Income this period: £19,100.83

Expenditure this season has been fairly substantial with the largest expense being the New Junior Kit that was bought at the start of the season totalling £5,889.86. Other major expenditure items are supporting funding for the Youth Section on start-up, £3,981.48 and hire of buses for travel to events is another major expenditure item and during this period £4,810 has been spent on Simpsons Coaches. Money well spent this season was £325.00 on course fees to allow the junior coaches to attend SRU coach education courses. This has allowed the coaches to gain various qualifications including the UKCC Level 2 Rugby Coaching Qualification.

Total Expenditure this period: £21,603.81

The current Junior Accounts balance stands at a very healthy £8,748.41.

To conclude, this has been another successful season for the club with income allowing a build-up of funds to enable the major items of expenditure listed above. Further income is expected to be generated from this year's sponsored Fun Run which was in June, total amount raised to be confirmed.

Youth Convener report

> Below is a brief summary of the 2015/2016 season for the Youth Section.

> The season started pretty much soon after it finished last year.

> We had the creation of the new youth section to organise. A new committee was put together. Quite a few meetings were had, to organise the new youth section. Bank accounts, positions on the committee etc were organised. I would like to take this opportunity now to thank the committee for all the exceptionally hard work they have done throughout this season.

> A new Facebook page was created to aid with communication. This will never be perfect, but we all try our utmost to make sure everybody is aware of everything that goes on.

> Pre-season training went very well for all teams utilising the Deer Park. Some great work put in by the players.



> We started back training at the Meadows in mid-August.

At this moment, I would like to thank Pauline and Sean Reynolds for the extremely hard work they put in, collating and creating the membership lists for the whole club. Thank you.

> In late August we travelled to Orkney. Everybody had a great time. We had S1 and S2 combined along with the U15s and u18s. Unfortunately Orkney couldn't field an under U16 team. The trip went very well, we had quite a few comments from members of public saying how well behaved and excellent the boys were. Well done all and thank you to Gareth Kemp for organising the trip.

> The red conference started in earnest in September with regular fixtures, with games being played virtually every week. During the mid red conference break, we played friendlies against Highland, Caithness and Robert Gordon's at different age bands. Some great rugby was played in these friendlies.

The red conference was a steep learning curve for nearly all the age groups taking part. Regular games and deep squads were required for the games.

I think the red conference was a major success and we all look forward to taking part in it again next season.

> A come and try day was arranged by Peter in September. This was a great success with the 1st XV helping. The younger members of the club really look up to the senior players.

> In October we had our fun day. A great time had by all. Especially the 'soak the coach' station, that is always a favourite.

> In mid November the U18 squad had a quiz night fundraiser. This was extremely successful and a great fun evening. £750 was raised. A big thank you to Steve Martin and Kate Martin for organising the questions / scoring on the evening, and of course Scott for arranging the evening.

> In mid December the executive committee finalised their Application for SCIO status. 11 trustees were created from the existing elected office bearing positions.



> The second half of our season started on 9 January 2016 for some.

> At this time you will all remember the challenges we faced with the very wet and windy weather. As always, we pushed on regardless.

> The Ellon Rugby Academy trials were held in February. We had an excellent turn out, despite the atrocious weather. A big thank you to Peter for organising it and to the coaches who gave up their time to help it run.

The Ellon Rugby Academy is a new way forward for ERC. I think it will prove to be a great way to improve our young talented players. It will also bring on / push every single player in the club.

> In March the S1/S2 travelled for a game against Boroughmuir. S1 triumphed with a great win. S2 learned a lot from the experience and left a stronger team. After this we all went to support Scotland at Murrayfield. A magnificent victory for Scotland, and a game / day the boys will hold in their memories for a long time.

> We had our club event Bag pack again in March at Morrisons, Peterhead. We raised a fantastic £1,116. Many thanks to the generosity of the people of Peterhead and everyone who helped pack on the day.

> The Aberdeenshire Sports Awards were held in mid March. The Ellon Rugby Youth Section triumphed in the 'club of the year' category, winning the prestigious accolade. Very well done to everyone involved. Dedication and hard work by all, made Ellon Rugby Club a fantastic place to be.

> Super Saturday was the climax to the six nations this year. We had over 80 club members watch the last two games at the Victoria Hall. It was a great evening and a great result, well, depending on your point of view :) a big thank you to Alistair and Pauline Hagan for organising the evening.

> In early April the S1s and eligible S2s travelled to Wales for a tournament. They had a fantastic time and really enjoyed their tour. The players learnt a lot and really benefited from



the experience. A big thank you to Gareth Kemp for organising the tour. Also a big thank you to Brian, Graham, Doug, Alistair and Paul for travelling with the squad.

> After the red conference finished all age groups had a few friendly fixtures. Some excellent performances by our teams in these games.

> Caley finals day was in April. The U15 and U18 squads took part. Both teams gave it their all but unfortunately we just fell short. Huge congratulations to all for making it to the finals day, a great achievement.

> The Middleton Trust quiz was held in May this year. We kept up our excellent historic record by coming 1st and 2nd. Fantastic performances from the girls and U15 boys this year. Well done.

> Also in May some of the coaches appeared on the TV programme Eggheads. It was a great experience. We tried our best but the Eggheads were too good. Ultimately though, the club won with the exposure it generated. This was our main goal.

> Awards Day. We had our awards days on 4th June for the older youth age groups, and on 11th June for S1 and S2 at Aden Park. All the hard work and commitment put in by players, coaches and helpers was recognised with these awards. A big thank you to Wayne Clarke who very kindly engraved all the club trophies free of charge.

As just mentioned we were at Aden Park again. We had our now annual sponsored fun run. A fantastic day to bring the whole club together. Thank you everyone for your continued support.

> A big thank you to the ladies who run the second hand kit stall. A huge amount of money is raised for the club this way. Your tireless efforts are greatly appreciated.

> Also a big thank you to Susan Notton and the other volunteers for organising and running the BBQ again this season. Again this money raised goes directly back into the club. Many thanks.

> Lastly thank you to the parents, players, coaches and other committee members. Without you guys and all the hard work you put in, we wouldn't have the great club that we have. That being said, it takes a team to win, so everyone should be proud of themselves to be part the fantastic Ellon Rugby Club culture.



Here's to next season. Already looking forward to it.

Yours,

Dean Notton

Youth Conveynor

ERC Youth Section Treasurers Report June 2016

Accounts attached cover the period from 1 July 2015 to 8 June 2016. This was the first season for the new restructured Youth Section of Ellon Rugby Club. A new bank account was opened with a share of funds from the Junior Account worked out on a percentage basis of boys transferring from the Juniors to the Youth Section, ie S1 and S2 age groups. The account opened with a balance of £3,651.48.

The season raised £13,258.70 of match fees and pitch fees not to be confused with Membership fees, the majority of which were paid into the overall club account, however there were some fees collected from late payers and new members totalling £985 which was paid into the Youth Account.

New Akuma Kit funds were raised, £6,500 was paid into the Youth Section, £5,500 from Juniors and £1,000 contribution from the summer ball funds to help pay for the new Akuma Kit from P4 to U16 for the whole club. £1,500 was also donated by U15 Kit sponsor Paul Williamson towards the Kit fund.

£5,035 was raised for the S1/S2 Wales Trip which included two very generous anonymous donations of £1,000 each which helped fund the trip. Other substantial income generation was £2,095 from the summer ball fund raiser and £1,116.95 from the Morrisons Bag Pack in Peterhead

Other good income generation to mention is the second hand and new kit stall which generated £1,144.10 so thank you to the ladies who help out with this valued task. I will also mention the great efforts by the Bar- B-Que team who work tirelessly at events and have help raise £591.87 for the Youth Account. (This does not include the £743.00 raised at the Fun Run



Presentation day). Lastly worthy of mention is the U18 Quiz night which raised £765.00 and the Middleton Trust Quiz Night where the Ellon Rugby Youth teams raised £220.00.

Total Income this period: £39,417.10

Expenditure this season has been substantial with the largest expense being the new Akuma Kit totalling £9,198.15 for the P4 to U16 kit. Hire of buses for travel to events is another major expenditure item and during this period £8,570.00 has been spent on Simpsons Coaches and £1,973.75 spent on food for the youth teams after rugby matches at the Meadows. Wales Trip expenditure came to £5,102.83. Coaching course fees spent were £538.32 to allow the Youth coaches to attend SRU coach education courses this season. Finally £1,850 was transferred to the Cash Passport which allowed for committee members to purchase various items such as BBQ burgers, buns, gas, juice, petrol expenses, other coach course costs and £850 towards the Wales Trip mini bus (included within the £5,102.83 expenditure)

Total Expenditure this period: £36,188.55

The current Youth Accounts balance stands at a healthy £3,238.55.

Future income still awaiting payment into the Youth Account is:

- £3,750 SRU Orkney Trip Funding currently sitting in Senior Club Account
- £2,490 made up from 83 x £30 mid week fees currently sitting in Senior Club Account
- £2,500 SRU Red Conference contribution awaiting payment by SRU

Therefore to conclude this has been another successful season for the club with income allowing a build-up of funds to allow for the major items of expenditure listed above. Further income is expected to be generated from this years sponsored Fun Run in June which currently stands at £2,165.00

Graham Ritchie

ERC Youth Treasurer



EDSDT SCIO – Report **ERFC AGM 14th June 2016**

- Ellon District Sports Development Trust (The Meadows) became a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) in August 2015.
- The organisation is established for charitable purposes only:

To provide and organise recreational facilities with the object of improving the conditions of life for the persons for whom the facilities or activities are primarily intended, namely the residents of Ellon and the surrounding areas by:

1. Maintaining, managing and administering the Meadows Sports Centre and adjoining car park located at Ellon and on lease from Aberdeenshire Council at reasonable cost. 2. Managing and administering sports facilities located at Ellon on behalf of or in partnership with Aberdeenshire Council. 3. Providing a range of community learning, sporting and leisure based opportunities to individuals and community groups, based within the area of Ellon and surrounding areas, at reasonable cost. 4. To be non-party-political and non-sectarian in all its activities.

- The charity is largely self-funded. Annual accounts balance, however cash flow is challenging and at times advance payments are required to pay wages and taxes.

- Income (circa £250k)

o Fitness suite and hall lets generate 60% of the charity's income, field lets account for 10% of income, astroturf 8%, afterschool clubs 4%, squash 3% with catering franchise and social lets making up the bulk of the rest. Astroturf lets are outperforming expectations.

o 8% comes from local authority in the form of a sustainability grant. This grant is not guaranteed and the subject of annual negotiation on a declining curve.

o Bar income (3% of total) is declining year on year. REMINDER:- Social membership of The Meadows is required by all club members wishing to use the Meadows bar. A list of over 18's wishing to use the bar and associated £1 per person is required from each club.



- Expenditure (circa £250k)

- o 60% on staff costs (wages and associated taxes)

- o 25% on daily running costs (utilities, clubhouse running costs, grounds maintenance)

- o 15% on vat and insurance

- The Meadows employs a full time management team of 2 plus an additional 3 full time staff and 11 part time staff. • The Meadows management team are fully focused on running the facility 'day to day' 7 days a week, as a result there is a gap when it comes to the longer term 'strategic planning' aspects of running the centre. This gap is currently being filled by the Chair of the Trust.

- Currently 13 people sit on the board of trustees for the charity. Trustees are generally affiliated to a club (Ellon RFC has two reps) and participation tends to be bias towards clubs interest.

- A reduction in sustainability grant and increase in staff costs (mandatory pension costs) required a review of costs for centre use.

- An increase in fees (attached) was proposed by Meadows management and approved by the Board of Trustees. Those increases of specific interest to Rugby are:

- o General increase in pitch fees of approx. 5% seniors (U16 - 6.7%) o Pitch lighting increase of circa 40% seniors (U16 - 12%)

- Other income generation ideas have been discussed. A primary focus area is the fitness suite which is currently the largest source of income for the centre. Ways to increase fitness suite membership by increasing the size of the gym have been considered and one option proposed is to change the use of and upgrade the currently underutilised social area (bar). Rugby representatives on the Meadows Board have made the case for maintaining the area as is for use by clubs, particularly Rugby during tournaments etc. Other centre clubs have indicated a low interest in maintaining a social area meaning Rugby needs to increase use of the facility to guarantee continued availability. No decisions have been taken but further discussion is required with the Rugby Club Committee on the topic.



- Additional funding streams are being explored however traditional sources of funding tend to have a preference for new sport development supporting a fresh initiative to introduce sport to an area. An already established centre like the Meadows struggles to find a sympathetic ear when requesting support to fund major maintenance projects.
- Meadows maintenance is managed on a priority repair basis. There is no finance provision to cover upgrades or to fund 'capital spend' projects....ie pitch and astroturf maintenance equipment, changing room shower upgrades, pitch drainage, storage unit for machinery, ramp access to pitches.....(list attached).
- The centre relies on volunteers to assist where possible for day to day maintenance and upgrades where materials have been gifted to the charity ie installation of internal roof tiles and carpets. Calls for assistance are circulated regularly on facebook and the website.
- A recent application has been submitted for Community Asset Transfer of 'Deer Park' to The Meadows. Aim is to secure that area as green space under the umbrella of 'Ellon District Sports Development' so that it can be preserved, managed and if required developed as an area focused on the advancement of sport in the area.
- Several other upgrade or development projects are being discussed focused on improving sporting facilities in Ellon.

Sport Scotland have replied to a query about funding for a 4G pitch. Given the location, proximity of other all-weather pitches, number of clubs using Meadows and age groups attending it is highly likely that capital funding would be made available, possibly even at 100%. After discussion and agreement with principal pitch users a business plan would be required with buy in from Associations (SFA/SRU). Some challenges already identified:

- o Maintenance - funds already constrained.
- o Priority - How do you assign priority for pitch use.
- o Design - Where would it go, what pitch do you replace.
- o Security - additional space required for a fence etc
- o Does a single club own this as a project

Susan Cochrane (Senior Rep and Meadows Chair) – Alan Quirke (Youth/Junior Rep)



2. Rugby Reports

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW-G. Kemp

POSITIVE COACHING SCOTLAND (PCS):

Almost four years ago Ellon became the 6th club in Scotland to become an Accredited Positive Coaching Scotland club. This came about after 8 months of hard work by a dedicated team from Ellon Rugby.

This is just a quick update on how things have gone in the last year.

PCS has rapidly developed across Scotland and there are over 30 clubs Accredited now. However, the SRU PCS manager leaving, and a restructure, things have been slow this year. They are now up and running but in a different format and the PCS ethos is being incorporated into everything the SRU does now.

We continue to be a leading club in the PCS and youth development and are highly thought of by the SRU. Because of this we have assisted other clubs with their development in PCS and Junior/ Youth sections. We did not attend the annual PCS workshop at Murrayfield this season, but did have feedback sent in and our club report sent in.

Gordon Lyons, originally from RHC Cougars, is the PCS leader now, along with his other SRU roles.

The PCS incentive has really brought players to the club, and has helped keep players in the system. Parents rave about the initiative and from that talk, more come to the club. The Development Team did notice though that we have almost become too PCS, and moved away a little from winning. "Winning" is not a dirty word in PCS, but we should "Play to Win, but not at all costs". As a club we aim to even the balance out a little more, but pushing the players more to develop a winning mentality.

We will have a coach's review/ meeting at the start of the season and another parent's day along with a players day.

Ellon still leads the way in the North of Scotland.



There was no PCS rugby festival this season.

We are looking for a coach/parent to take on the PCS Club Managers role going forward.

DEVELOPMENT TEAM:

Ross left at the end of last season and Gareth Kemp led the way in the recruitment process of potential replacements. Peter McCartin was brought in as our new DO, and has been in place for the entire season.

It was decided to expand the Development aspect to become a team. This consisted of Garth Kemp as the Development Manager, Peter McCartin as the Development Officer and Sean Reynolds as the Club Coach Co-ordinator and Development Assistant. We had hoped for a Modern Apprentice, but there were none in our area.

The Development Officer's remit included, assisting in the coaching of the U18 team, developing the players and the coaches at the club, working in the community within Ellon catchment area and assisting the SRU with coaching and development.+

Separate to this and out with his club role, Peter also ran the First XV.

His work in the U18 squad is covered in the Youth report.

Working hard in the local community Peter, has increased numbers at the club and run sessions with Ellon Academy that have boosted ability and interest.

As a large proportion of the funding comes from the SRU, Peter assists with coaching courses, events and has a large role to play in developing the SRU side of rugby in the NE, teaching at

- UKCC Courses

- Regional Skills Camps

- SRU age-grade events Figures for the season:

Working in Primary schools, Peter has run 136 sessions with 3,460 attendees. Secondary schools is 127 sessions with 2,6001 attendees. He has run 184 club sessions for 2,500



attendees. 35 Coach education sessions for 535 attendees. Camps consisted of KNT camps, Active school's camps and club camps, this was 11 camps for 250 attendees.

We are aiming to continue to develop Rugby here at Ellon at the upper age band of the club for the next few years. At the moment rugby is going well and running smoothly in the Junior Section, we need more emphasis on the Youth and Senior sides. With this in mind we hope Peter will continue to develop coaches and players alike. His primary role will be working in Primary schools and Academies to bring players to the club, but aside from that we expect Peter to continue with the Senior and U18 players, developing the coaches at all levels of the club (better coaching means better players), and building the S1-U16 players for KNT camps and player development.

The Development Officer role is a great asset to the club, something we need to work hard to ensure it is maintained. Without a Sponsor for the Development team, we may not be able to continue these roles, so it is vital we try and find a sponsor, and money to cover the £15,000 a year this costs Ellon Rugby.

The Development Manager spent time analysing the players within the youth section. This showed up inconsistencies in the ages of our players at age bands. When players move from P7 to S1, then S1 to S2 there is a mix of two age bands in each school year. As these players move up they move up as a school year and age bands have a number of players who are actually aged to play the year below. So in reality we have a number of players at every age band playing "up" when it would be ideal for them to play their correct age band. As a youth section there are 29 players playing up in S1-U16, usually within a club of this size, there would be 3 or 4, those deemed as a strong talent who would benefit from playing up. Off the back of this the club agreed to the Development Teams proposal to slowly realign the age bands. From next season S1 and S2 will be named U13 and U14. Everyone in the youth will be written to by the club to advise of the situation, and those that are playing above their age band will be advised they have a choice to make in discussion with their parents and coaches. They may move to the correct age band for them, or remain with the age band they are training with. The second option is ok up to U16, where they must remain until of age to play U18. All new players into the Youth Section will be placed at their correct age bands. Those coming in from P7 will consist of both U12 and U13 players due to the ages coming from Primary to secondary school. Those



U12 players will be advised they are U13 to two seasons, unless deemed suitable to “play up”. This will occur over the next month.

Finally, this season Peter set up Ellon Rugby Academy. Players were assessed and 30 selected to undergo extra training at the club. Being set up at the end of the season and during a busy period, things went well, but with areas to improve on. As training continues over the summer the review of the academy will be done, to be implemented for the new season. So far it has been a great success and players are developing well.

1XV Report -Matthew Pearce

We found ourselves in Caledonian Div2 North for this season after relegation from Div 1 last season. This league brings its own challenges with games in Shetland, Stornoway and Fort William. With games this far away, it can pose its own challenge of raising a team to travel as the trips to the islands often involve a night away, or very expensive flights.

In total we used 52 players throughout the season with 9 coming from dual registered clubs, of the remaining 15 of those played less than 5 games and 13 players 10 or more. Using this many players can pose its own challenge in team consistency.

In total we played 17 league games for 5 wins, one of which was later wiped as Kinloss pulled out of the league. Most of these came after the New Year break where we had more squad strength and consistent selection, and a change in game plan. There were also notable improvements in performances against some of the top teams during this period.

We had a couple of potential loss of points with the Caledonia committee with NCR's but managed to avoid any with timely replies and justified responses.

Next season, Caledonian Div2 is having a slight restructure. There are now 12 teams, which is classed as too many, so have split it into two pools of six, NE and NW. Each play each other home and away. Then the top 3 of each pool and the bottom 3 of each pool then play the other teams home away carrying over the points they earned with the other two teams from their



pool. It makes for total amount games of 16 down from 18. Season starts on the 27th August with a home against Shetland, and a bowl game v Stornoway at home on the 17th September.

Thank you to Bears players helping out to make up numbers and the Under 18 for stepping up towards the end of the season and making a difference. Also a big thankyou to the Physio team of Kerry and Terri from Ellon Physiotherapy, for doing match day treatment and any repairs during the week.

Youth Head Coaches Report

This season saw the youth section of the club play in the red conference, were clubs that have five teams across the board from S1- u18 play one an other over a weekend. The red conference consisted of six teams which were Ellon, Mackie, Deeside Wanderers, Gordonstoun, Aberdeen Rugby and Perthshire the youth section played all of these teams twice were we had success over Mackie, Gourdonstoun and Deeside wanders to name a few. On a whole the club underperformed in the red conference by finishing fifth in the overall club standing.

Please see below for specific age group reports on there season.

S1 season report

S1 season started with a bang! From P7 rugby on small pitches to full size with 13/15 players was a huge jump. Add to that the Red Conference intensity and it was a huge jump for both Players and Coaches alike.

There was not really a proper pre-season, except for a friendly game away to Orkney, which was a combined S1/2 game, which although it was fun, the players didn't learn much as a team. However, the boys that travelled to Orkney had a great time, behaved brilliantly and gave a physical and old Orkney team a close game.

Then the Red Conference began. It was the first season of the Red Conference and we did not really know what to expect. With 5 teams to play both home and away it at least gave us high quality regular games in a very competitive environment. First up was Aberdeen Grammar where we took a huge beating, 46 – 0 at home. This was the point the players realised that



teams are really up for the conference and not just in it to develop. We as a coaching team had to develop a strategy to not only develop players, but to compete as well. We introduced rules to get selected for games, including, turning up for training, effort levels and technical ability. These formed the core of the team, while others were rotated to get games, while they developed and tried to get to a level to move into the core.

From there we went on to beat Gordonstoun midweek at home, Perthshire away was a good win next, followed by 2 losses to Deeside Wanderers and Mackie. At half way we played two friendlies, beating Highland and Caithness convincingly. The second half we lost two games, missed two due to weather and beat Perthshire at home.

The New Year saw us move into friendly games, arranged at different levels to develop our players. Highlights of these were wins over Highland and a fantastic game at Boroughmuir. We travelled to watch Scotland Play France at Murrayfield and played Boroughmuir beforehand. A very tough physical game, which Ellon took the lead and never lost it in a close game.

Easter saw an U13 team travel to North Wales for a festival. Again a great team bonding experience, both on and off the pitch. Although we lost the six games we played, 4 were by only 1 try. It taught the lads a lot about finishing games that you are dominating. It also was a slight wake up to the aggressive nature of the sport at this level in North Wales! One game was extremely aggressive and the Ellon lads really stepped up

to it. The final game, they defended their line for almost 8 minutes, holding back the attack each time, dragging mauls off the pitch, holding up two tries, before turning the ball over and clearing their lines.

Then came the S1 7s home tournament! The best rugby I have seen our lads play. A full team, and a team that merged with Garioch. With two key players in the middle of the park (Dylan and Logan) turning ball over and driving up field, then moving the ball wide to faster boys to work hard. Ryan Dickie also stepped up to play at this level and didn't look out of place. This saw Ellon win all their games and go into the Semifinals against Mackie! This was a very physical game and saw Ellon win with a penalty try in "Golden try" at the end. Although they lost to a good Aberdeen (Robert Gordons?) team in the final, the win over Mackie almost over shadowed the Silver medal!



Last up was Orkney's return game as they travelled down to Ellon. Now with a full S1 team it was a better game. Orkney had a clear player who was doing everything for them. Once Ellon worked this out, they man marked him and marked him out of the game. It was a fantastic game that finished with a 21 -20 win for Ellon.

Games like this season really teach them different ways to play rugby. It shows them that they need to be up for it, work for the whole game, use their team mates, and that it is more about developing than winning, but winning does count. We "Play to Win, but not at all cost".

S2 Season Report

No Review of Season given by Head Coach

U15 Season Report

The team had a mixed season which saw them face truly Competitive competition every week in the RedConference. A difficult start to the season was compounded by injury and the loss of a coach. Towards Christmas the team started to show improvements and had a hard fought win at Gordounstoun.

The new year saw further improvements and after a first round cup loss to Mackie, defeats of Ross Sutherland and Falkrik saw the team make the Plate Final at St Andrews. A hard fought first half saw us close but fitness gave out in the second to give Dunfermline a win. Two friendly wins against a big Orkeny side and a swift DUNDEE side brought a good end to the Season.

U16 Season Report

Disappointing season, finished bottom in the Red Conference, lost all our games in the Caley Cups. One plus for the season was convincing winners at the Banff 7s where we were unbeaten. Disappointing season was due to numbers at training, core of 10-12 at training but not all the same night.

U18 Season Report

Finished 3rd in Red Conference, which qualified us into the Scottish Cup. Lost to Highland in Scottish Cup (0-0) at half-time Made it through to the Caley Shield final, where we were convincingly beaten by a very strong Perthshire side. Somehow got through to Moray 7s final



after losing the first three games, beat an unbeaten Grammar in the Semi, lost to Gordonstoun in the Final

Girls Section

The girls section this year have had a very successful season this year with picking up new players at u18 and u15 level as well as competing in the national cup were they beat Caithness in the quarter final at home but sadly got beat by a strong murrayfield wanderers team in the Semi final. The girls who ever did compete in the bowl final at Bt Murrayfield were they play against the community school of Auchterarder but sadly got beaten, several of the girls were nominated to attend the Sainsbury schools 7s trials held at BT Murrayfield as well as attending the local Grampian hub.

Regards

Peter McCartin

Youth Head Coach

Junior Head Coach Report - 2016 (Sean Reynolds)

This season saw the Junior and Youth sections realigned with the Junior Section catering for children from Rugby Rascals through to P7.

PLAYER NUMBERS

Numbers continue to grow at the lower age bands, particularly at Rascals, Mini and Maxi sections.

P4 and P6 numbers are healthy but this season saw the P5 and P7 sections struggle to make maximum squads at a number of festivals. This is something the Development Team is acutely aware of, with plans afoot to try and rectify this for the 2016/2017 season.



SEASON REPORT

The season was a bit of a mixed bag, with many festivals in the period leading up to Christmas falling victim to the weather. This was frustrating for the coaches who found it difficult to develop their players in a competitive environment.

We did however fair better in the second half of the season with the junior section travelling as far afield as St Andrews, Stirling, Tillicoultry and Inverness.

The various age groups competed well at all events with success coming at Highland where a combined P4/5 walked away with the silverware and the P4 squad winning at Deeside.

COACH DEVELOPMENT

The club continues to support all coaches who wish to attend either UKCC courses or CPD Workshops and this season saw all Head Coaches at P4 – P7 either UKCC 1 or 2 trained.

More recently a number of junior coaches attended and successfully completed a UKCC Level 1 Course held in Aberdeen.

A further Level 1 course is scheduled for Ellon on the 5th, 6th and 7th August 2016.

NEXT SEASON

The 2016/2017 season commences on the 17th August 2016, at the Meadows.

Coaches are in place for all age groups next season.

DEPARTING COACHES

The end of this season sees the departure from the Junior Section of Alistair Hagen and Donna Forbes. Alistair is moving to S1 and Donna will be spending more time with her husband on romantic strolls along Balmedie beach. I would like to take this opportunity to say a massive thanks to them both for their years of hard work, dedication and commitment they have shown over the years to the Junior Section.



3. Election of Office Bearers

Trustees: Scott Munro and Emma Kemp are stepping down as trustees. Terri Brown is stepping down as Hon. Secretary, but happy to remain a trustee. Nominations as follows:

		Nominate	Second
Chair	Paul Vavangas	S. Anderson	G. Kemp
Vice Chair	John Keith	P. Vavangas	G. Kemp
Hon Sec	Judith Clark	T. Brown	E. Kemp
Treasurer	Graham Ritchie	G. Kemp	S. Anderson
Trustee	Sean Reynolds	P. Vavangas	D. Notton
Trustee	Gareth Kemp	P. Vavangas	T. Brown
Trustee	Steve Anderson	P. Vavangas	E. Kemp
Trustee	Terri Brown	P. Vavangas	S. Anderson
Trustee	Dean Notton	G. Kemp	P. Vavangas
Trustee	Matt Pearce	P. Vavangas	T. Brown
Trustee	Vince Taylor	P. Vavangas	T. Brown

All positions were filled.

Diane Heath has agreed to act as Compliance Officer.



Youth Committee: Dean Notton is stepping down as Convener, and Judith Clark is stepping down as secretary. All positions open for nominations:

		Nominate	Second
Convener	Richard Hamilton	G. Kemp	D. Notton
Vice Conv	Vacant		
Secretary	Rachel Falconer	D. Notton	G. Kemp
Treasurer	Graham Ritchie	D. Notton	S. Anderson
Head Coach	Peter McCartin	G. Kemp	T. Brown
General	Dean Notton	P. Vavangas	G. Kemp
	Emma Kemp	D. Notton	T. Brown

Junior Committee: Emma Kemp is stepping down as Convener. All positions are open for nominations:

Convener	Diane Heath	P. Vavangas	G. Kemp
Vice Conv	Kerry Pearce	M Pearce	S. Anderson
Secretary	Terri Brown	D. Notton	E. Kemp
Treasurer	Steve Anderson	G. Kemp	P. Vavangas
Head Coach	Sean Reynolds	T. Brown	P. Vavangas
CPO	Jane Verity	P. Vavangas	T. Brown
Fundraising	Denise Quirke	T. Brown	E. Kemp
Membership	Pauline Reynolds	P. Vavangas	G. Kemp
Meadows Rep	Alan Quirke	T. Brown	E. Kemp



4. AOB

- Has the Ellon Way progressed in any way? A review will be happening in the near future, where it is proposed the Ellon Way will be broken down into age sections, and include player welfare and retention.
- Has the coaching set up for the seniors been confirmed for next season? This will be discussed in detail at the first IV meeting already arranged for later this week.

Paul Vavangas closed the meeting with thanks extended to all for taking the time to attend.