

Ellon Rugby SCIO - AGM

Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th May 2017

Present

Peter McCaltin	Jeff Mountain	Jon Addy
Dean Notton	Ian Cochrane	Peter McCullagh
Stephen Brown	Donna Forbes	Graeme Chegwyn
Terri Brown	Gareth Kemp	Richard Hamilton
Scott Munro	Sam Mountain	Bryce Peterson
Elaine Munro	Elaine Milligan	Mike Connell
Jonathan Munro	Nicola Barron	Diane Heath
Joyce Mannion	Geoff Paxton	James Noble
Graham Ritchie	John Keith	Rab Cusik
Janet Vavangas	Sean Reynolds	Jamie Cusuc
Geoff Heath	Alistair Hagen	Didier Orus
Matt Pearce	Jason Stewart	Shane Jakeman
V Taylor	Helen Singer	Susan Cochrane
Steve Anderson		

Apologies

Willie Milligan
Catriona Arthur
Sue Notton

Agenda

- Matters Arising
- Reports
- Voting rules
- Annual accounts
- Proposed amendments to the constitution
- AOB
 - Single vote
 - constitution

Matters arising from previous minutes

Last year's minutes summarised and agreed. No matters arising.

Chairman's Report – P. Vavangas

It is with pleasure that I welcome you all to Ellon Rugby Club (SCIO) annual general meeting 2017, it's 40th year, which I now declare Open.

For anyone who doesn't know I am Paul Vavangas current chair of the club, this is Judith Clark Secretary who will be recording minutes and I would like to thank you for taking the time and trouble to come down this evening and would like to remind you all of the agenda and voting rules. As previously stated all trustees step down and may, if they choose to, offer themselves for re-election. After 2 years I have decided that this is the right time for me to hand over the baton and allow a fresh pair of legs with renewed vision to take the club forward. As such I will not be standing for re-election which has given me a new perspective when reflecting on the season as a whole.

It has been an incredible year for the club and one which I am very proud to have been part of and I sincerely hope you all are too.

Although we are enjoying our 40th year as a club it is only our first full season as a registered charity, while this will bring many benefits, it has of course also brought with it fresh challenges which have at times tested us.

While we must all recognise that the job is not done and there is plenty to improve, we must always keep in perspective how much has been achieved and that this is done as volunteers. Indeed it is not just Ellon Rugby Club (SCIO) which faces the challenge of change, it is the sport as a whole. It faces challenges from new sports, political pressures, arguably one-sided reports on the dangers of participating in contact sport and of course keeping people active in general when instant entertainment is only ever a wifi signal away.

We have seen several local club mergers over the last couple of years as individual clubs have been unable to field teams. We are quite unique in having been able to avoid this and are bucking the trend as we continue to grow.

One thing that never changes is that there is always change, the club will always need to adapt, to evolve and to continue to strive to be better. It is the strength of the club as a whole and its individual members that we are able to stay on this journey.

To this end, I would like to formally thank everyone who has volunteered their time, who has given themselves for the benefit of the club and other members.

In particular to all the coaches, who turn up at least two or three times a week, every week, in the snow, the rain, the wind and I believe there was even one occasion when it was sunny, to coach, for matches, for festivals and to develop and encourage their players. And of course each session or match doesn't happen by accident, behind every session there is hours of planning.

I'd also like to formally thank all the trust and committee members who give their time, some of whom are also coaches, to make sure the club is as healthy off the field as it is on it.

And of course thanks to all those who give their time to events, to junior festivals, to youth matches, to first team matches and bbq's, to fund raisers and of course to the Scottish Golden Oldies festival held last weekend. Hugely successful throughout the year and simply could not happen without the hard work of everyone involved. I ask that you continue to do so and hope that many more of you can give even a small amount of your time to help.

And it was during the recent golden oldies festival, or at least during the socialising afterward that I had the opportunity to chat with former club presidents and players and to a founder member of the club all 40 years ago.

To learn more about the history, the highs and the lows of the club over the last 40 years and to fully appreciate all that has gone in to it over its life.

Now, don't worry, I'm not about to go off on one.

But it is relevant in keeping perspective, to appreciate that we do still have things to do, but the reality is, this is an outstanding club, with great values and a tremendous player base.

I don't want to take anything away from the following reports but I would like to very briefly share one or two of my own thoughts on the different sections;

The Junior section continues to thrive, you can't help but be amazed that a single sport can attract so many kids to one place on a Saturday morning. Numbers continue to grow, so much so that we really are running out of blades of grass to train on. To grow our numbers more we clearly have no option but to find more facilities to use.

The Youth section also continues to do well, some age groups performed very well in the Red Conference and great performances and results in the 7's. A focus on developing players for longer term success and for me, the greatest success is seeing U18's making the transition to the first team squad. We will hopefully have even more next season. The girls numbers are growing too and the standard of rugby ever increasing.

And very well done to Sam, Scott and Darren who have led the first team squad from strength to strength. In results, winning 7 out of their 8 league fixtures after the mid-season split and the one blemish being by the narrowest of margins. In terms of individual development of players with a couple involved with the regional set up, in terms of coach development, let us bear in mind this is Sam's first season coaching!

But most importantly for me, in terms of enjoying this sport. Each home game sees more people and more people turning out to watch them, because the play is entertaining and the lads are enjoying what they do.

And of course the old boys, perhaps a little past our prime but always willing to be involved with the club.

The development officer has been hugely active in the community, raising awareness of the sport and club across primary and secondary schools and attracting new players at key age groups.

I believe communication is a key area for future focus as we further develop our 'One Club' philosophy. It is something that I personally didn't get right this year but also appreciate that with so many different ways to communicate and of course so many different sources pouring information at you it is hard to catch everything. It is not an easy thing to get entirely right, but am sure it can progress in future years.

Off the field the trustees have worked hard to develop and produce more structured guidance on different areas to support and assist future incumbents of key roles. To ensure the long term, sustainability of the club and to support good financial control and governance.

I am delighted to have had the opportunity to have been as involved with the club as I have and would encourage anyone thinking about getting involved to do so, it is a great experience and I sincerely hope you enjoy it as much as I have.

Formal motion – Terri

To adopt report -

Treasurer's Report – G. Ritchie

Report read through and approved.

Treasurer's report and figures available upon written request.

Junior Conveyors report – D. Heath

This season saw the introduction of the new charitable status of the club being implemented which negated the need for lots of meetings at junior level.

Our Child Protection officer, Jane, has worked very hard throughout the year ensuring that all PVG documents for coaches are up to date and we thank her for her hard work. Jane will also be stepping down this year and I am sure you will all join me in thanking her for her hard work and dedication to Ellon Rugby.

Numbers remain healthy within the junior section. Peter has been working hard in the community and because of this we have had a good rise in numbers at some age groups. This is still work in progress and we will support him with continuing this for the new season ahead.

Emma has reported a healthy increase in numbers at Rascals level, so much so that she now has a waiting list for children ready to start.

Fundraising has been fairly steady this season with our Tournament once again being our biggest fundraiser of the season. The tournament was a well attended and successful day (despite it being Mothering Sunday but I think the sunshine helped) and we have received positive feedback from all of the other teams. A kind donation from The Store meant that the day raised a good amount of cash for the club. A big thank you to all of the coaches and parents for volunteering and helping make the day such a big success.

The P5, P6 and P7 age groups had a very successful tour down to Cumbria which was enjoyed by players, coaches and parents. A big thank you to all of those who helped in the organisation and a big thank you to the children who behaved impeccably both on and off the pitch and were good ambassadors for Ellon Rugby Club. Feedback shows that the teams have bonded more as a result of the tour and this will hopefully help them to move into the next season together. A big thank you to all of our sponsors for the tour, without whom it would not have been possible and they have all been thanked individually.

The younger age groups can now look forward to touring in the future.

Two big fundraisers for the junior section towards the tour were the car wash (in the rain) and the sponsored kicking event. A big thank you to Terri for organising and co-ordinating the car wash event and a big thank you to Jake Jakeman for organising the sponsored kicking event for both the junior and youth sections, which raised an amazing amount of over £2000!

Alistair Hagan – Proposed

J. Keith – Formal motion to accept

Stephen Brown.

Youth report – G. Kemp

- Huge thanks to the coaches who have worked really hard this season, both coaching and planning, but also on UKCC qualifications and CPDs.
- Rugby Played from U13 – U18, full squads at each age band although a couple could do with more numbers to boost squad.
- Two girls age bands U15 and U18
- S&C for U14 up
- Rugby Academy for those who have been improving and pushing forward
- An extended preseason for the upper age bands put players in a good place for the start of the season.
- Ellon Girls joined other girls in the region as Grampian Girls. They played training games together and then in the National Cup, reaching the Semi finals.
- Boys participated in the Red Conference.
- U18 Finished 4th
- U16 finished 5th
- U15 finished 3rd
- U14 and U13 don't have recorded placings.

- Over all Ellon finished 5th. A little disappointing for a club with such a good set of players and coaches.
- Caledonia Cup was entered at U18, U16 and U15.
- U18 made the Shield Final and U16 the Plate Final. Both missed out.
- Won U15 7s. Second in U14 7s and won the U13 7s.
- Performed excellently in friendlies against Presidents conference teams.
- Been working with P7 players at the end of the season to give a few the experience of U13 rugby.
- Individual player development has improved.
- We have a good number of players in the U18 and U17 Caledonia Regional Training Centres.
- Three players just joined the RTC at U16 as it was set up. There are a couple players we feel should be there also and will be working on their feedback to ensure they get another chance to attend.
- One of the players in the U16 has been placed immediately into Caledonia U16 A squad and another into the B squad.
- A 2 year assessment of age banding at Ellon was completed. After meeting with all head coaches it was decided that as a club we should realign players to their correct age band, and have those playing up that fit the criteria.
- At the moment we have 34% playing up. Will be about 5-8 %
- The realign will benefit the player's skill development, their confidence when playing, boost the player and team performance and able to compete with other clubs at a similar level.
- In line with SRU age banding, player welfare, same as all the clubs in our Conference. Same as clubs in Presidents Conference.

Next season:

- All coaches to be UKCC L2 or working towards it.
- Minimum 3 coaches every age band
- All Age bands have 2 UKCC L2 coaches.
- Girls now have dedicated lead coach and 2 hopefully coming onboard.
- Good squad sizes at every age band.
- Need to take a more forward view of a winning mentality. Play to win, but not at all costs.
- Academy to continue and work on specialist skills and game play. Looking to develop players for Caley and build to adult rugby.
- Build towards the (ex) Presidents conference.
- Continue to develop players for the Ellon First XV. Work close with First XV coaches at U18.
- Our Conference is now the Lancer Conference.
- Work towards a more in depth Ellon Way, aligning the club in a more progressive and similar way.
- Spend more time coaching and assisting P7 to build for U13 rugby.

Formal motion to adopt –

Thanks to Emma Kemp for rascals.

Motion to adopt report – Sean

Accepted – Diane Heath

Development Officers report

Motion to adopt report – E Milligan

Accepted – J Noble

Questions Raised:

- James Noble – Feedback from players and where coming from? E.g. Primary Schools? PV added – schools perhaps have engaged more with Peter and rugby. Which schools participating? Peter said we have details of schools as on membership forms.
- Donna Forbes – Would it not be better at start of season? Primary targeted post-Christmas as away from conference. Plus?
- Jeff Mountain – How is age group targeted? Age group short of numbers was looked at.
- PV added – SRU figures help to regarding funding.
- Jeff Mountain – Anything from SRU that we can compare us to? (our stats). Nothing at moment. Question should be asked of SRU.

ACTION: Peter to look for stats as has to be beneficial.

- Shane Jakeman:-
1st team: report to be emailed
Motion: PV proposed
P McCartain accepted.
- Graham Ritchie – Financial report
Steve Anderson (Junior) R. Hamilton Susan Cochrane seconded

Floor opened for members questions.

Paul – Charitable status. All figures for membership are pre-gift aid. Can claim three years back dated.

James Noble – Is there a limit to how much you can hold in the account?

Paul – No limit, as non-profit organisation.

D. Heath – Query Cumbria tour figures.

Jeff Mountain – Accounts to be signed off by whom and when?

OSCR – Doesn't need to be chartered accountant.

This year reporting will be at year end (June).

Any form of budgeting in place? – fixed expenditure can be forecasted on broad scale.

Proposed amendments to Constitution

Diane advised that 2/3rd of members must agree and changes can be made as long as agreed at AGM.

Section 36: to be amended due to data protection members opted to not share – Unanimous.

Section 54: Quorum for meeting is 5 trustees – Unanimous

Section 57: Leave

Section 74.3: Exercising function of charity trustees can't be connected, e.g. Husband and wife. – Unanimous.

Section 83: Quorum of 5 not 4 – Unanimous.

Section 90: members can participate in meeting and vote – To be looked at! Needs to be considered further.

Constitution – Timescale as to how long before any trustee that has been removed can re-apply – 3 years. Voted at SCIO to be three years. Jeff Mountain – Case by Case? Paul explained what was discussed.

Caveat creates a grey area.

Vote – put in three-year clause.

In favour – 33

Against – some abstained.

Election of Trustees

All current have stood down, can be re-elected.

Chair: (Paul not standing for re-election). **Jon Addy** – member since 2007.

In favour - majority

Vice Chair:

Nominated:

Seconded:

Secretary: (standing down)

Vote in – no one forward!

DOR: Jake Jakeman

Nominated:

Seconded: James Noble

Terri asked – Is he away a lot? What time does he have to give? He explained. Get Assistant DOR
For 31 – motion carried.

Treasurer: Graham Ritchie (Final year)

Voted – no one else for treasure. Voted in.

Need 7 trustees.

Trustees for current season.

Sean Reynolds – majority

Donna Forbes – majority

John Keith – for vice chair

Terri Brown – majority

Geoff Heath – majority

Matt Pearce – majority

Secretary to be re-advertised.

Alistair – to be trustee.

Motions for AGM – none put forward.

AOB

Susan Cochrane – 2 reps from Meadows. 2 challenges. 1 building income being sourced. Closed
kitchens – area underutilised, not financially viable to leave for clubs. Football wanted 3G pitch help
with training. Meadows trust looking for secretary.

Susan

Deer Park – Castle Gardens trust to transfer land.

Alistair Hagan – brought up Piggery. Needs to be brought up between rugby trust and Meadows.

Current CPO – Jane Verity – Stepping down. Joyce mannion voted in.

Thank you everyone. Wish John and new trustees success.

What happens if no secretary?

<p>THE NEXT SCIO MEETING IS 26th June 2017, 7.00pm Venue: Portacabin at Meadows.</p>
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