

## **ELLON RUGBY SCIO - AGM**

### **Minutes of meeting held on 21st May 2018**

Chair: Geoff Heath      Recorder: Laurelle Hanton

Venue: Kirk Centre      Time: 7.30pm  
Ellon

#### **Present**

Graham Ritchie	John Keith	Stephen Brown
Matt Pearce	Nic Dinnie	Terri Brown
Richard Hamilton	Jonathan Munro	Joyce Mannion
Elaine Munro	Daisy Mitchell	Mel Mannion
John McLuskey	Sean Reynolds	Darren Hanton
Alistair Hagen	Jason Stewart	Steve Anderson
Julie Chalk	Rab Chalk	Doug Yeats
Peter Young	Dean Notton	Scott Munro
Diane Heath	Peter McCullagh	Peter McCartin
Andy Gordon	Vince Taylor	Paul Vavangas
Mark Andrew		

#### **Apologies**

Sam Mountain	Gareth Kemp	Susan Cochrane
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#### **Matters arising from last Minutes**

No matters arising

#### **Chairmans Report - Geoff Heath**

Welcome to the Ellon Rugby SCIO AGM 2018.

Please welcome our current trustees, myself Geoff Heath, Laurelle Hanton, Richard Hamilton, Graham Ritchie, Matt Pearce, John Keith and Nic Dinnie. I would like to thank them all for their support and focus over the last 8 months since we all came on board.

Since taking over as Chair in September last year, it was important to me to make contact with the SRU regarding our facilities as this is one area which I feel needs to be changed the most in the club. This is an ongoing development area and we have support from the SRU as they also recognise what a force Ellon Rugby is in the NE.

*We started the season with Alistair Hagen and a team of volunteers updating the facilities in the Piggery and this is a formal thank you to them all and the sponsors involved for all of their time donated along with materials needed. I am sure that those using the Piggery will all agree it's a much better space.*

*In this vein, I would also like to formally thank all of the volunteers for the club who I'm sure you will agree that without them the club would not be as successful as it is. A thank you to all of those who help with catering on match days, to ensuring that the players are fed after games, who bake and our CPO who has the hardest job of all. The convenors of both Youth and Juniors are always looking for help, so please continue to "put your hands up" and join in the fun.*

*A special mention to all of the coaches who tirelessly give up their time every week, not just pitch side but also in the planning, travelling with their squads and making sure the players are being given the opportunity to enjoy this wonderful game to the maximum. It is honourable that as a club all of our coaches are UKCC 1 and UKCC 2 trained and are willing to show that level of commitment. Thank you to you all on behalf of the trust and the players.*

*You will be hearing more regarding the achievements of all of our sections in the club later, but I think you will all agree that we've had an amazingly successful year in rugby and it is my aim that we continue to move forward and improve.*

*As I travel up and down the country, whether it's with the juniors, youth or the senior squad, Ellon Rugby has become a noticeable name from the NE.*

*Our junior numbers seem to rise year on year and every little blade of grass at The Meadows and Deer Park are being utilised to the max.*

*The Youth squads continue to perform well, having achieved great placings in the Lancer Conference and being involved in Caley Cup day – you will hear more about that in depth later on.*

*Our girls squad under the guidance of John McCluskey has gone from strength to strength and numbers are very healthy. Our young ladies play a big part in the Grampian Girls squad and are showing more and more enthusiasm to play more games and compete. This season coming Ellon Rugby will continue to support these ladies in whichever way is needed. A big "well done" to them all for the commitment they show in the miles travelled just in order to play a game.*

*The First XV have been the flagship for our club this season. I watched early pre-season training and was pleased to see the numbers taking part. The players have been committed all season, which in turn has given us the results and their style of play attracting more and more of our members to come and support them on match days.*

*It is with sadness that I advise you that Sam Mountain will be leaving us as Senior Head Coach this season to move onto pastures new. I would like to thank him for all of his hard work and time given to Ellon Rugby over the last 2 seasons and I'm sure the lads will miss him. Please don't be a stranger Sam, you are welcome anytime.*

*Sam, Scott and Darren have been the nucleus of the club, which filters down to the other sections and creates a positive environment on which to build. Scott and Darren will be staying on and I'm sure will continue to work across the sections to keep the club as one.*

*It's great to see the Seniors coming down to help at Junior and Youth training and I hope that this will continue in the future season.*

*We are in the midst of some quite exciting times with trying to improve our facilities. The Piggery is going to get an extension and we are hoping that planning permission will be given imminently. This will provide us with extra space and although ear-marked for a soft seating social area for match days, this may change to an S&C suite to benefit every section across the club. I will issue updates on this but once planning and a warrant is passed, we need all hands on deck. Even 10 minutes of your time will be valuable.*

*We are presently talking with The Meadows regarding taking over the upstairs area as our own and becoming Ellon Rugby Clubs social and function base for the future. Once this has been agreed, we are hoping to decorate over the summer and put as many things in place for the new season as we can. Again, anyone who can volunteer any time at all is more than welcome.*

*The new season is not far away and I am very much looking forward to 2018/2019. Please continue to support the club in any way you can and as a trust we will continue to make the best decisions for the future.*

### **Development Officer Report - Peter McCartin**

*The development team met in the summer and put in place delivery programmes to increase participation in our local schools and to recruit players to our club.*

#### **Primary School Programme.**

*Ellon Rugby's primary school delivery was targeted at the primary 5 age group and was delivered through touch games and skill development. The main reason for working with this age band is to increase player numbers at the club. The Development team has delivered 50 primary sessions to 22 primary schools seeing 1800 pupils, I will be speaking with the primary 5 coaches to find out what the return rate has been as the deliver block has now finished. I will be deliver taster session to school in June through primary activity days and will be delivering in the Ellon, Mintlaw and Peterhead areas.*

## Secondary School Delivery

The development Team has been working in two secondary schools (Ellon & Meldrum Academy) delivering a variety of curricular and extra curricular sessions to pupils in S1 - S3, both Ellon and Meldrum Academy have played in the SRU Tier 4 Schools conference and have competed in regional events. The Development team has Delivered to date 227 session and seeing over 6060 pupils.

## Coach Education

The Development team has run over 50 coach education sessions to junior and youth coaches on a variety of workshops, we have also worked hard with the coaches in their own age groups doing one to one sessions with them by giving them individual feed back on on there sessions and how to make them better. Through out the session we have seen several coaches gain strength and conditioning certificates and there UkCC level 1,2 and 3 certificates which will help improve the quality of our talented players.

## Club Development

The team have delivered over 250 club sessions this year from junior to youth section linking in with the senior coaches to create a one club ethos. The 200 session have been made up of additional skill Sessions for the junior players to upskill them along with our Academy programme for the youth players.. The development team have also worked hard at creating a better link between u18 to senior rugby by doing joint session and helping with the transition from u18 rugby to senior where we have seen 10 of the current u18s transition in to adult rugby with 7 of them play for the first this year.

## Youth Head Coach Report - G. Kemp

### Summary of Youth Section 2017 – 2018 Season

- 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 U13 up
- Rugby Academy for those who have been improving and pushing forward kicked in after Christmas
- 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. They were prepared for Caley Cup, however other clubs pulled out and the Cup was abandoned.
- Boys participated in the Lancer Conference.
- U18 finished 2nd
- U16 finished 1<sup>st</sup>
- U15 finished 2<sup>nd</sup>
- U14 and U13 don't have recorded placings.

- Overall Ellon finished 2<sup>nd</sup>. It all came down to the last day away to Gordonstoun. Results went against Ellon at a Couple of age bands and Gordonstoun pipped it.
- Caledonia Cup was entered at U18, U16 and U15.
- U18 did not make finals day. U16 and U15 both into Plate final, but missed out. Both fourth overall in Caledonia.
- We held 7s tournaments, U15 came First and third winning Cup and Plate. Third in U14s and U13s winning the Plate.
- Performed excellently in friendlies against Shogun Conference teams.
- U16 toured to Newcastle and Hawick.
- A large number of U18 players have played and been developed for Adult rugby here at Ellon. Next season's First XV will have the largest amount of youth players moving up for a while.
- Individual player development has improved.
- We have a good number of players in the U18 and U17 Caledonia Regional Training Centres.
- We have had the highest number of players just joined the RTC at U16 as it was set up in May. This is the highest out of all NE clubs and highest ever from Ellon.
- Number of players at the RTC from Ellon are (Caley age bands): U16 10/37, U17 7/24, U18 4/17
- At the time of writing two players from Ellon have made the Caledonia U16 first cut of 64 players. Caley training next week will reduce this to 40. Hopefully the two Ellon boys will be a part of this.
- We have worked the last year with most playing their correct age band. There are still players playing up, but this has been reduced to players that are suitable and beneficial to the player. This will continue next season as a few more players are realigned.
- 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 Shogun Conference.
- We applied to move to the Shogun Conference, but were unsuccessful. Our application was very well received, but Scottish Rugby want to reshuffle the conferences and also felt they didn't advertise the criteria well enough. We are to remain in the Lancer Conference to stabilise that Conference.

#### Next season:

- We will be in the Lancer Conference U13-U18 boys. Against Gordonstoun, Muntly, Deeside/Garioch, Granite City, Mackie and Dundee Rugby.
- We will enter the Caledonia Cup at U15/16/18 and Girls as Grampian Girls.
- Hope to be situated well enough to move to the National Cup at U18 and U16. This will be decided on mid Conference results. Need to be top two at half way.
- All Head coaches and coaches to be UKCC L2 or working towards it.
- We have 1 coach working towards UKCC L3 in the youth section. This is a full year course.
- Minimum 3 coaches every age band
- Girls now have dedicated section with full training and S&C. 2 coaches in place and an S&C coach. Looking for another coach to assist.

- Girls will also continue to work with Grampian Girls to get games.
- Good squad sizes at U18, U14 and U13. Could do with a few more at U15 and U16.
- We have players coming from a distance now, as Ellon is recognised as developing their players exceptionally well.
- Need to take a more forward view of a winning mentality. Play to win, but not at all costs, whilst focusing on Long Term Player Development.
- Academy to continue, but with a slight restructure. Looking to develop players for Caley and build to adult rugby.
- Build towards the Shogun conference.
- Continue to develop players for the Ellon First XV. Work close with First XV coaches at U18.
- 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.

### **Junior Head Coach Report - Stephen Brown**

#### **REPORT 2017/18 SEASON**

*Firstly I would like to thank all the coaches through the Junior section for the time they give to coaching week in week out and for the time they give attending CPD events, courses and time spent taking their teams to away fixtures. It's this level of commitment to improving what we do as coaches and the experiences we aim to give all who attend which has a huge impact on how we develop the Boys and Girls that attend Ellon. And this is reflected in the numbers increasing in the junior section.*

*This season we had the best response from parents volunteering to help coach and this gave us 3-4 coaches at each age group. For next season we are finalising the coaching positions as some of the current coaches are moving up to the youth section or retiring from coaching. We have a few new volunteers but we still need a few more to fill some positions at Rascals, Maxi's and P4. If anyone is interested in finding out more about coaching, please get in touch with myself or Peter McCartin.*

*From a playing point of view, this season has seen the Junior section represented around the country. From friendlies in Perthshire and Howe of Fife to a P6 tour to Melrose and Hawick and the P5's reaching a final at Scotstoun playing in front of a sell out Glasgow Warriors crowd at half time, to Festivals and Tournaments where the P4's have won at Mackie and Grammar and P6 at Mackie, Grammar and Deeside and with reports of other Ellon teams playing well.*

*There has been a lot of traveling but once again we feel that this is what gives teams the experiences on and off the field to build them as squads and individuals and develop their rugby skills playing against some of the bigger teams around the country. It also promotes Ellon rugby and what we do in deepest darkest Aberdeenshire and builds relationships between ourselves and clubs we may not have played against before. This is something we will be aiming to do again next season.*

## **1st XV Report - Sam Mountain**

Good Evening All,

Firstly please accept my apologies for not being able to attend this evening.

I would like to start by saying that the past two years have been fantastic for me as a coach, but I will sadly not be coaching for a third term. Due to other commitments I have undertaken I will have less time to put towards the club. Firstly thank you to Gareth and Paul for letting a giddy Ellon boy take over and become head coach, a step up but enjoyable learning curve has been had. I am incredibly proud to have come through the section from micros, played for 2nd XV and the 1st XV when I was 17, and to now of coached Ellon I am unbelievably proud to be part of this club.

First pre season session I started we had 8 players, now twice weekly we have upwards of 20 players an 85 % increase over two years. With that playing personnel coming back has improved and in turn quality of play has seen an up turn. Coming second (TBC) this year is a great achievement, and I am immensely proud of the effort over the last two seasons these players have shown. The average age of the current squad is between 20-22 a fact for who ever takes over should be excited by, we have some of the best players in the region in the senior section, and I feel that coaches should tap into their knowledge more in order for us to move forward.

We have blooded well over 15 youngsters in two years, a fact of which I am very proud of, this is the league to develop young players and every one of them has managed. They will continue to be the back bone, but it is not forgotten that senior players still need support even when they leave Under 18 rugby. Also that Ellon Rugby club is a club from maxi's right through to seniors. Not to under 18 level. I would like to thank the elder statesman of the side, people who played under other coaches and stuck it out, when the easier thing to do would be to bail and leave, without these blokes going to Shetland with 11 and getting beat by wanderers by 70-80 points, there would be no senior section which is currently flourishing now.

More technical coaching is required at more senior youth levels, and I feel we have been left behind by many clubs in this fact. It is evident over the past two years we have been in finals at St Andrews and we have lost them all, losing out to more street wise and more technical sides.

Support has been excellent none more so than the home match v Moray, this is what we should have every game and I stress to everyone to again get behind these lads next season as it will be more challenging in the shortened format.

Again I am sorry for not being there tonight to field any questions, and I am more than happy if you want to give them to Geoff and I will reply via phone call or email.

Lastly I would like to thank Scott, Singer and Matty Pearce, their support has been unwavering and without them I would of buckled at times so I am very grateful to all they have given and continue to give to this club. Thanks to all the presidents Jon, Paul and Geoff for their unyielding support also essentially giving me free reigns as a Head Coach has really helped me implement a style I want to play and I feel the players enjoy which is the most important.

Thank you all again and take care

## **Treasurer Report - Graham Ritchie**

*Report read through and discussed.*

*Figures available upon request, copy handed out to all who attended for their information.*

## **Questions from members ?**

*Questions regarding Financial figures :*

*A Hagen - Gift Aid ? Has this been claimed now  
G Ritchie - £1700 taken in*

*D Heath - International Tickets? Costs seems high  
Need to look into and discuss with S Cochrane*

*Question in reference to Development:*

*J McLuskey - Are we managing to get return of players from visits to schools  
P McCartin - To look into targeted children, find out what the return is if any!*

*J McLuskey - How if any is Ellon Rugby Club being promoted to schools, directed at  
Peter ?*

*P McCartin - Everything has to go through Active Schools, Flyers provided to  
supply to schools ?*

*P Vavangas - Delivery part going well with development, is there a way we can carry  
on from that at schools?  
Programs in future? Invite schools to Club, prospective children?*

*A Hagen - Can we use the Club for Active Schools events?  
Use the Club as a base? Can Active Schools come straight to Club  
rather than go through Meadows (Club covers costs?)*

*J McLuskey - Suggestion of an Engagement Officer? (to work alongside Peter?)  
Engage with parents and press etc?*

*V Taylor - Can we obtain info from Club to pass to other parents, parents talk  
to each other , word of mouth, try draw some other children to club*

## **John McLuskey- Coach Girls**

*Have 9 new players, have found that girls who have attended rugby since Primary school age are definitely the stronger players. Grampian Girls have had great play across season, have played various teams across the region. Next Challenge for new season , teams moving to Tier 4. Ellon is by far the biggest team at various games. Some of the older girls are now going on to play at University etc, but like everything this is the time when we lose a lot of players as they are moving away to College, University etc and are unable to continue*



*playing. Development and opportunities should also be pushed towards girls and not just boys at schools!*

*John himself is stepping down from Coaching*

### **AOB**

*S Munro - restrictions from SRU, will it affect Club, 1st XV in competitions etc*

*P McCartin - do not know answer yet, no knowledge at present, no response from SRU*

*D Notton - Pedal Car Race - would it be beneficial to try and obtain stall for ERC?  
7th July - Academy event- ERC have been invited along*

*Director of Rugby position? question asked again whether club needs one, has been discussed and decided most beneficial to have one, advertise position? or look in house for someone to step forward and take up position, look into further for start of next season !*

### **Election of Trustees**

*Need at least 5 trustees, all current trustees to stand down, can be re-elected if so wish*

*John Keith - standing down*

*Graham Ritchie - standing down*

**Chair - Geoff Heath (current)**

**Re-election - Majority vote - Yes**

**Vice Chair - Richard Hamilton**

**Majority vote - Yes**

**Treasurer - Graham Ritchie (current - standing down)**

**Standing - Richard Hamilton**

**Majority vote - Yes**

**Secretary - Laurelle Hanton**

**Re-election - Majority vote - Yes**

**Trustees - Nic Dinnie (current)**

**Re-election - Majority vote - Yes**

**Matt Pearce (current)**

**Re-election - Majority vote - Yes**

### **New Trustees**

**Daisy Mitchell Majority vote - Yes**

<b>Andy Gordon</b>	<b>Majority Vote - Yes</b>
<b>Mel Mannion</b>	<b>Majority Vote - Yes</b>
<b>Scott Munro</b>	<b>Majority Vote - Yes</b>

*Total trustees now - 9*

*John McLuskey has put himself forward to become a Trustee, although he sits on Board of Trustees at Meadows, Conflict of Interest ?*

*(To be discussed at closed Trustee Meeting)*

*Ellon Rugby Club will be staying at Meadows for foreseeable future, with continuation at Deer Park also, Doctors surgery to be knocked down. Academy pitches not available for next 2 Years.*

***Thankyou to everyone who has come along tonight, wish everyone success for the new season.***

*Welcome meeting for new Trustees Monday 28th May*