



Devizes RFC Facility Ltd AGM Report

As you are hopefully all aware, the decision was taken last year following EGM's of the 'Sports Club' and subsequent meetings of its constituent member bodies to look at the set up and running of the 'club' and how best the long term future of the property could be secured.

The outcome of these discussions lead to the realization that Devizes RFC were the only real contender for being able to take on the building for the longer term due to the nature of our sport and the reliance of the 'clubhouse' as being able to run a successful club from.

We have worked closely with Devizes Cricket Club (DCC) and Devizes Tennis Club (DTC) over the past year to be able to reach an amicable and workable agreement going forward so that we can ensure sport in Devizes can continue to flourish.

From this, in August 2022 we formed 'Devizes RFC Facility Ltd' (DRFL) to be the company that would take the lease of the building for a 35 year period from the 'Landlords' (DRFC and DCC), this is a wholly owned subsidiary of DRFC. The financial mechanics and reasoning behind this have already been covered with the Treasurers report so I won't repeat what is already published.

From this point we have looked to move towards a position where we can get into a position where the Facility can be very much a self-supporting business that provides the long term home for our rugby playing activities.

The full running of the 'club' by DRFL has officially been in operation since 1 January 2023 although we have managed the building almost in its entirety since the changeover of the Cricket to Rugby season back in September.

Over this period we have looked to make a number of investments in the club that unfortunately came without a sinking fund for the long term repair and maintenance of the 'bricks and mortar'

We are still very much in the infancy stage of this next chapter of the club and we are looking at ways of how to generate revenue to both invest into the building alongside supporting the rugby activities. Efficiencies such as behind the bar with the purchase of additional bottle fridges to reduce wastage on low consumption days to replacement of lighting within main areas of the building to LED fittings are all ways to help reduce the running costs and drive profitability.

Over the 'closed' season, we will be continuing to make further improvements both inside and outside the building and try where possible to not let DCC pour any more 'monolithic concrete structures' in the surrounding area. Although I hear shares in Wiltshire concrete doubled briefly back in March!!





We are a club that relies heavily of the volunteering contribution and to that every report you will read this evening is written by one of them. We are not asking for people to give up every weekend or hours upon hours. However if everyone could spare even a few hours per season to help out with jobs around the club then collectively that becomes hundreds of hours which go to make not only a difference, but also to give you all a sense of ownership and its actually quite rewarding. Please come and speak to us if you have some spare time and would like to get involved, whether behind the bar, within the kitchens, on the grounds or with a paint brush in hand. There are lots of plans that we want to try and implement to make your and our visitors experience of watching our beautiful game all the more enjoyable.

I'll finish by re-iterating that this is the start of our next chapter of rugby in Devizes and we are formulating plans for what we think will benefit us most over the next 5 to 10 year period. We would love to hear any thoughts you have.

As for many of us,

'you don't choose your club, you inherit it!!! One club, one community, Devizes Rugby

On behalf of the

Directors of Devizes RFC Facility Ltd

Del Poole
Niall Maclean
Julian Roberts

