

DEVIZES RUGBY CLUB

Affiliated member of
Dorset & Wilts. RFU



Member of the RFU
and England Rugby

MINUTES OF THE 2021-22 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1.1 ATTENDANCE

The President, Chris Jones, was attended by 19 other club members, so the meeting was quorate.

1.2 APOLOGIES and PROXIES

Apologies had been received from Charles Lucas, Aimi Dallyn and Sarah Levy. The Chairman of the meeting also held proxies from Will Nichols, David Sheppard, Mark Sheppard, Stevie Sheppard, Toby Woolrych and Joanna Childs.

1.3 Owing to the resignation of Chris Dyer for health reasons, it was necessary to elect a Chairman of the AGM. Proposed by Nick Dark, seconded by James Rapson, the President was elected to the chair for the meeting.

2. REPORTS

2.1 The President gave his own overview and proposed a formal vote of thanks to Julian Roberts for everything he had done to keep the Sports Club running during the last season. He also highlighted: -

- the successful re-branding of the Rugby Club, thanks to the efforts of James Rapson and Treasurer, Niall Maclean;
- while the sponsorship agreement with Wiltshire Concrete has come to an end, a series of new, longer-term sponsorship arrangements is now being put in place;
- the 1XV had won its league and has been promoted to Level 6;
- the 2XV finished second in its league and has been promoted to Level 8;
- while results have gone against them, the Ladies' section has successfully recruited many new players and is looking forward to the next season;
- the u11s will be going to Twickenham, which will cap the many other successes enjoyed in the Junior Section during the past season

The President noted how much the alickadoos and spectators had enjoyed watching the games throughout the season, as exemplified by a stunning first-half performance from the 1XV against Wimborne. The spirit of the game had also been typified when Avonvale cried off but the 2XV and Cricklade re-arranged their fixture at short notice and made sure there was a game to watch after the important lunch that had been arranged that day. Next season, the Club should aim to have a lunch before one of the Ladies' matches as well.

The Services Agreement with those particular providers had been terminated on 18 March; and, having learned a lot from it, the Club is actively looking to put alternative arrangements in place for the next season.

Chris Butler is stepping down as Chair of the Junior Section and Nick Dark is not standing as Club Secretary, although he will stay on as a non-executive director in the short term. The President emphasised that volunteers make the Club; and the last season had demonstrated that there are too few people having to do too much. So, the Club needs to re-appraise and re-allocate the burdens between more people.

Looking forward, we have the Men's end-of-season awards dinner on 17 June, followed the next day by the return of the Saddleback Music Festival supporting LottieFest and the Ataxia charity. The Club will have teams playing at Levels 6 and 8 in the league structure; the Ladies will see better results; and, all the while, the Junior Section continues to flourish and produce players to feed through into senior rugby.

- 2.2** The written Activity Report(s) for the last season had been sent out in advance. Joe Alford also spoke to his Report as Director of Rugby. His view is that we are a healthy community participation club; but, in order to sustain a place at Level 6, we may need to aim to become a high-performance amateur club and adopt the bullet points listed in his report. This would require more volunteer involvement and greater financial investment, as it will not happen by itself.

From the floor, Mark Hill praised the number of home-grown players in the senior teams, which reflects the success of the Club's retention and recruitment policies and its 'one-club' philosophy.

Keith Butler spoke to his report on the Ladies' Section. Last season, the main thing had been to keep going in a very hard league. Despite results, heads did not go down and the culture remains strong within the Ladies' Section, who will play whatever is in front of them. The numbers of girls in the Junior Section is continuing to grow; but the new age-grade banding next season will mean a lot of teaming up with other clubs in order to find/fulfil fixtures.

Proposed by James Rapson, seconded by Rick Kibby, the Activity Reports were accepted and particular congratulations to Joe Alford and James Gaiger were formally recorded.

- 2.3** Treasurer Niall Maclean took the meeting though the club accounts for the last financial year, noting that all teams had added value to the Club last season. We had returned to rugby after the coronavirus pandemic and the hibernation of the Sports Club. There was still no overall agreement between the three Constituent Clubs as to the operation of the Sports Club, which had been kept going from day to day largely through the singular efforts of Julian Roberts. The Rugby Club had faced a situation where it had 10 days before the start of the season to make the venue operational by entering into the Services Agreement with independent providers. Although not everything had been plain sailing, the Rugby Club had learned a lot for the future; and, to the outsider, the arrangement had generally met the Club's needs for a venue that had the right feel.

Numbers attending pre-match lunches had increased throughout the season, as supporters and sponsors came back to the Club. Overall, the Club had provided some 4,000 meals to players, members and others last season. Income from membership subscriptions and sponsorship had increased; and the Club benefited from value-for-money in coaching and

physiotherapy. A net surplus of some £21,000 had been generated, to go with the surplus from the previous season; and the loan to the Sports Club had largely been repaid by means of contra against moneys owed by the Rugby Club. This all represents a huge turnaround over the past 3 years.

The Club is in a strong financial position, but now needs to invest in assets and resources of all kinds. Furthermore, use and utility costs will be rising and the Club will probably have to spend some £70,000 during the next financial year. To help off-set that cost, we need more people to come forward and help by spreading the workload. Meanwhile, James Rapson has done a great job on re-branding and has also introduced two-year sponsorship deals, so the Club should be sure of at least the same amount of sponsorship income next season.

Chris Jones will now be leading the continued negotiations with the other Constituent Clubs, with a view to finding a viable long-term operating model for the Sports Club. Meanwhile, we need to fill the marquee for the end-of-season dinner on 17 June, so that the Club does more than just break even. The new one-club strip (which will be worn by all teams throughout every section of the Club for next season) should be on display that evening as well.

From the floor, Mike Gaiger thanked everyone for everything they have done this past season

Proposed by Derek Hill, seconded by Mark Hill, the Accounts were accepted and Phil Hendy was re-appointed as Club Accountant for 2022-23

3.1 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

As no positions are being contested, there was no need for any poll and the following were elected *en bloc*: -

<u>Directors</u>	President (as year two of his term)	CHRIS JONES
	Chairman	[vacant]
	Vice-chair	[vacant]
	Secretary	[vacant]
	Treasurer	NIALL MACLEAN
<u>Officers</u>	Director of Rugby	JOE ALFORD
)	Senior Men's Rugby	[vacant]
Chairs of)	Ladies' Section	SARAH LEVY
)	Junior Section	[vacant]
<u>Others</u>	Disciplinary Secretary	MARK SHEPPARD
	International Tickets	CHRIS JONES
	Sponsorship Manager	JAMES RAPSON
	NLC / Fixture Secretary	RYAN WALLBRIDGE
	Safeguarding	CHRIS BUTLER
	Coaching Co-ordinator	PAUL HARDING
	Referee Co-ordinator	[vacant]
	Volunteer Co-ordinator	[vacant]
	Membership Secretary	[vacant]

3.2 Vacancies can be filled by co-option. Team Captains and Managers will be elected / appointed separately by the players and others within their own sections.

4. A O B

4.1 No proposed alteration to the Club Constitution or other business had been brought before the AGM on notice.

4.2 In closing, the outgoing Secretary presented the Club with a hand-made box containing the Values of the Game and of the Club, which each President for the time-being could then hand over to his or her successor President in the future.

Certified a true copy

Signed

Club Chairman or Secretary