



Cambourne Exiles Rugby Football Club

Minutes

23rd April 2009

7:30pm, The Monkfield Arms, Cambourne.

Attending. Mark Lisher (Chairman), Neil Ingham (Hon. Secretary), Mark Griffiths (Treasurer), Peter Simpson (Fixtures Secretary), Dan Sundler, Bob Cox, Keith Robinson, David Hatrick.

1. Apologies

Received in advance from Steve Brudenell, Paul Greaves, Stephen Keerie, Tom Henshaw, Darren Macey.

2. To review the minutes from the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th March 2009 were passed as a true record of the meeting.

3. Matters arising

No issues raised.

4. Chairman

ML thanked the efforts and commitment of those turning out during recent weeks and in particular those players who've been asked to play out of position. First half performances have often been disappointing but the team has settled down after the break and second half performances have been much improved.

5. Secretary

NI reported that the club has bought some ruck/maul upgrade pads for the scrum machine using a fund provided by Eastern Counties RU. Those present agreed that the club should proceed with the application for Whole Club Seal of Approval. **NI** will lead this application with the help of others. **BC** outlined some ideas for the development plan needed for the application.

DS reported that the clubs training balls and junior-sized rugby balls appear to have been stolen from the MUGA kit-store. **NI** will ask the club if anyone has borrowed the balls and then, if necessary approach Cambourne Parish Council. (In subsequent discussion with CPC, it was confirmed that the lock on the store has been destroyed and that there is much confusion about the temporary padlock system now in place. Some clubs – Exiles included – have not been informed of anything and other clubs appear to leave the padlock open after use. **NI** has reported to CPC that the club considers the situation unacceptable and more appropriate arrangements to secure the expensive equipment stored in the lock-up should be made asap.)

6. Treasurer

MG reported that the club remains in a healthy financial position having now obtained much of the outstanding funds owed to the club by members. **MG** reported that invoices for pitch-hire are still outstanding from CPC.

7. Fixtures Secretary

PS reported that the coming weekends' game marks the 20th match of the season and reiterated that the aim to play 2 weekends in 3 has not worked well during the season. Players availabilities are often governed by other factors, not the fixture list. **MG** expressed a disappointment at criticism and comments in some recent emails when matches have been cancelled due to lack of players. Such messages should be more constructive to avoid turning players away from the club. Discussion turned again to player availability, squad depth and recruitment. **ML** will explore

options to encourage friends and other players to turn out for the Exiles, in friendlies etc, if they're not already playing on those weekends.

PS suggested that next season, the aim should be to schedule weekly matches through the whole season, that the club focus should be on league & cup matches, that the captain (and vice-captain) should determine player availability by each **Monday** evening (or delegate this task to ensure it is done in time) and that the fixtures secretary should be informed by **Tuesday** evening at the latest whether a team will be available for the coming weekend. Those present agreed to this scheme. **PS** also reiterated that the fixtures secretary should be informed of match results immediately to ensure the league can be informed in a timely fashion. [Results should also be sent to the webmaster at the same time – **NI**]

ML expressed grateful thanks on behalf of the club to **PS** for his considerable efforts throughout the season, often under tricky circumstances.

11. A.O.B.

GK League AGM. May 5th 2009. **PS** expressed concern that St Neots RUFC club policy concerning players and selection for league matches is in clear contradiction of the rules of the GK Merit League. Whilst many clubs seem happy to field players of considerably higher ability, it is very demoralizing for a small club to face such teams and suffer heavy defeats week-in week-out. **PS** will raise these concerns at the GK AGM and ask for it to be noted in the minutes and the GK committee to respond.

Sponsorship. **NI** will contact Chris Elderfield to explore progress with potential sponsorship opportunities discussed previously. **MG** reported that Cambourne Vehicle Services remain interested in supporting the club.

Match Kit. The club is committed to providing a high quality match kit from a reputable manufacturer. The current status of shirts being provided by the club and shorts being provided by each individual player will be retained. The idea of "communal" shorts proposed by **PG** was described by **PS** as "a shit idea" (!!!!!!!), supported by **MG**, who added that despite this, it's great to have Greavsie back in the Exiles fold ☺.

[Youth Update. Whilst not discussed at this meeting, a decision had been taken following the previous meeting that youth rugby would be suspended indefinitely. Turnouts had been disappointing low since the 2009 restart and the effort was deemed unsustainable by those running the sessions. The decision was taken with the support of the club and the club remains committed to the long-term establishment of mini, midi and colts rugby should the demand arise in the future. **NI**]

Next Meeting. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. Date & venue to be confirmed

Minutes for this meeting prepared by **NI** (2.5.09)