



# Cambourne Exiles Rugby Football Club

## MINUTES

Annual General Meeting

12<sup>th</sup> May 2010

8:00pm, The Hub, Cambourne.

1. **Opening of the AGM – Welcome from the President.**

Alec Motts called everyone to order and opened the 2010 AGM.

2. **Apologies for Absence.** Received from Ross McEwan, Dave Hatrick, Nev Macknish, Howard Smith, Georg Steffes, Andy Soer, James Cooper, Alex Skingley, Scott Conway

**Attending:** Alec Motts (President), Mark Lisher (Chairman), Neil Ingham (Hon. Secretary), Mark Griffiths (Treasurer), Steve Brudenell (Fixtures Secretary), Chris Wallis, Peter Simpson, George Harrison, Bob Cox, Bob Conway, Darren Macey, Dan Sundler, Ben Yeats, Will Charter, Paul Greaves, Keith Robinson.

3. **To consider and approve the minutes from the 2009 AGM**

The minutes of the 2009 AGM, proposed by **NI** and seconded by **BY**, were passed as a true record of the meeting. There were no matters arising.

4. **Officer Reports for the 2009-10 season**

**Chairman (Mark Lisher)**

**ML** summarised the playing season. After some weather problems and early-season organisational issues it had been a very good season, with most games eventually being played. Several new players have been recruited over the year. Coaching is improved. Team performances continue to improve. Match day organisation of equipment has been much improved as has been turnouts for post-match hospitality at the pub. Off the pitch, **ML** noted that the club continues to push ahead, with presence at county meetings and now at ECRU level with **SB** taking on a volunteer coordinator role here. Facilities remain an issue and the club continue to try to improve the situation. Recruitment of new players and members remains the key to the future development of the club.

**Hon. Secretary (Neil Ingham)**

I'd like to thank many members of the club for their support and friendship during the last year. I'd like to extend a personal welcome to Alec Motts to the club as our first President.

- **County.** Mark Lisher & myself continue to represent the club at Cambridgeshire committee meetings. I'd like to congratulate Steve Brudenell, now acting as Cambs sub-county Volunteer Coordinator for ECRU.
- **Whole Club Seal of Approval.** The application has proved somewhat more complex to complete than anticipated. This will be my "admin" focus for the summer months. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help with various roles.
- **Sports Centre / Clubhouse.** Mark Lisher, Mark Griffiths and myself continue to represent the club at sports meetings with Leisure & Amenities committee members of Cambourne Parish Council. A new sports centre plan is proceeding, due for delivery by the end of 2011. The plans submitted by the MCA Cambourne Consortium to SCDC appear significantly lacking in needed facilities. We are continuing to push forward with a proposal to project manage and develop the Great Cambourne Pavilion independently of the MCA Cambourne Consortium. There will be a meeting between MCA, SCDC, CPC and the sports clubs on May 25<sup>th</sup> and further discussion with CPC on June 14<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to the various club members who offered to help with this very challenging project.
- **Kit & Equipment.** Club kit is now being obtained directly from Samurai, for all training, match and leisure clothing. Rhino Rugby remains the preferred equipment supplier. Gilbert balls are obtained via Hobbs of Cambridge. I await a date from CPC when the storage container will be moved to its' permanent location. **AM** enquired about discounts with Hobbs. **NI** confirmed that a 10%-20% discount is received depending on the order value.
- **Membership.** The club has active people in place for each of the RFU's "Golden Roles" and this has improved our allocation of international tickets. I regularly maintain and update the clubs entries on RugbyFirst, the RFU database. I'd like to stress the importance of members providing up to date contact

information to the club, not only for insurance purposes, but also so that the club can contact you about matches / events, etc. and allow me to maintain RugbyFirst effectively.

- **Website.** The club website continues to be popular, with around 10500 hits since the last AGM. Any content contributions are always welcome. Several enquires have been made via the website and we continue to recruit players via this route. Suggestions for new features for the website are welcomed.

### Treasurer (Mark Griffiths)

During the last year, Cambourne Exiles RFC has been operating funded by club subscriptions, match fees and sponsorship.

#### Club Income

- **Subscriptions.** A slight decrease of £10 despite a growth in numbers
- **Match Fees.** An increase in match fees of just over £416 due to increased player numbers towards the end of the season.
- **Sponsorship.** During the 2009-10 season, we have attracted significant sponsorship and this was used to purchase and replace the club kit. We must ensure there is a continued effort to ensure the clubs profile increases in order to gain an alternative revenue stream and thus allow further growth and purchase of new kit moving forward.
- **Awards for All.** We still have £1240.21 available for training and kit and it is hoped that this money can be used this year for increasing the profile of the club through advertising and providing training.

#### 2009-10 Expenditure.

- The club was in deficit at the end of the year having to rely on reserves. This was in part due to rising costs and replacement of essential kit such as balls and first aid equipment and an ongoing programme of club development.
- The club now has a NatWest current account for day-to-day running of the club. The main reserve account will remain with the Cambridge Building Society.
- Pitch fees have again seen a significant rise on previous seasons largely due to the club being charged for all home games and training. Pitch fees will rise to approx. £1960 for the 2010-11 season.
- It cost £3487.29 to run Cambourne Exiles in the 2009-10 season.
- In order to cover costs and ensure that we are not eating further into club reserves which may hinder future growth, we need to increase club subscriptions.
- As a club, we need to ensure prompt payment of both match fees and subscriptions. Players who have been long term absent due to injury are not charged subscriptions and I will continue this policy.
- Our main activity has been the facilitation, growth and consolidation of the club in its 6<sup>th</sup> year. It is important that new avenues of sponsorship are obtained in order to promote our continued development. We cannot sit back and hope that someone writes us a blank cheque.
- We currently have £7029.79 in the bank. However, £956 is ring-fenced for international ticket allocations for 2010-11. The club is currently in a strong financial position for the end of year. We currently have no outstanding obligations and so will start the new year strongly.

#### Statement of Financial Activities

**2009/10**

£

#### Receipts

Donations	0.00
Fund Raising	66.00
Sponsorship	1,200.00
Kit	433.00
Sports Grants	400.00
Christmas Dinner	300.00
Training	0.00
International Tickets	1,331.00
Subscriptions	1,145.00
Match Fees	1,623.50
Merchandise	0.00
End of Season	0.00
Fines	0.00
Bank Interest	5.65

#### **Total**

**6,504.15**

#### Payments

Fundraising	0.00
Equipment	861.52
Administration	242.50
Christmas Dinner	400.00
Equipment AFA	42.98
Fees	532.83
Kit (Clothing)	2,092.92
Mileage	206.10
International Ticket	1,447.00
Catering	17.75
Hospitality	48.50
Pitch Fees	980.00
Merchandise	0.00
Training Costs	120.15
Depreciation	0.00
End of Season	34.96

#### **Total**

**7,027.21**

#### **Income/(Deficit)**

**(523.06)**

#### Balance Sheet

Fixed Assets	0.00
Current Account	2,113.38
Savings Account	4,574.70
Petty Cash	341.71

#### **Total**

**7,029.79**

Profit & Loss Account	(523.06)
Debtors	956.00
Creditors	
Awards for all	1,240.31
P/L B/F	5,356.54

#### **Total**

**7,029.79**

## Fixtures Secretary (Steve Brudenell)

Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points For	Against	Difference
20	6	14	0	337	517	-180

- The 2009-10 season was easy year to organize, due to the many games in league and cup competitions. Snowfalls made the Xmas and New Year parts of the season very quiet as we always knew by midweek that games were off. Only one league and one cup match were lost due to player shortage, and the league match should have been played but for poor communication thro the vice-captain. Most postponed games from early in the season were caught up later on
- I would like to thank Bob Cox for all his help and look forward to the incoming Captain to maintaining this good work. Also, a big thanks to the Monkfield Arms staff for helping to provide some hospitality to opposition teams while our other facilities are lacking.
- It's looking likely that the Greene King Premier and Deuxieme Merit Tables will be merged into one big Deuxieme division for next season. A north / south split probably centered on Cambridge will likely leave Cambourne in North table, facing some ex-Premier teams such as March Bears, St Ives 2, Mildenhall. Wendens Ambo will be joining the Deux division, but are likely to be in the South table. The extended size of the league – perhaps 13/14 clubs per division – will mean an extended season, starting earlier and finishing later. **SB** also stressed the need to maintain RugbyFirst regularly, at risk of loosing some of the ticket allocation.

**AM** was very encouraged by the development of the club on and off the pitch.

### 5. Nomination / Election of Executive Committee Officers

<i>Position</i>	<i>Nominee</i>	
Chairman	Mark Lisher	unopposed & elected
Hon Secretary	Neil Ingham	unopposed & elected
Hon Treasurer	Mark Griffiths	unopposed & elected
Fixtures Secretary	Peter Simpson	unopposed & elected

As part of the clubs succession policy, it was proposed to introduce a new role :-

President-Elect                  Ross McEwan                  Proposed by **NI**, Seconded by **SB**, Agreed by all.

### 6. Election of Club Captain for 10/11

*Proposal:* To use a new voting method.

- The election will be a vote over several rounds. The candidate with the fewest votes will drop out at the end of each round, to give a final round, between 2 candidates, to give a winner with an overall majority.
- If a candidate receives an overall majority (over 50% of the vote) in any round, he will be declared the winner.
- All club members are eligible to vote in all rounds. Members not attending who have submitted a proxy vote, will have their vote counted for as long as their candidate remains in the running.
- Votes will be cast by a blind ballot, by writing the name of your preferred candidate on paper and placing in the ballot box. Votes will be counted by the Secretary.
- In the event of a draw in any of the rounds, the Chairman would have the casting vote.

The new voting method was approved by the AGM and will be used henceforth.

The captains election was held earlier in the meeting (before section 4.) as one of the nominees had to leave the meeting early.

*Nominees:* Ben Yeats, George Harrison, Will Charter, Dan Sundler.

Using the above method, **Ben Yeats** received an overall majority in the second round of voting and was declared the winner and club captain for 2010/11. **[Action #1. BY to meet with the club committee to appoint a Vice-Captain]**

## 7. Nomination / Election of other roles.

The following club members agreed to take on, or continue with, the following roles :-

*Club Coaching Coordinator (CCC)* Darren Macey  
*Club Referee Coordinator (CRefC)* Ross McEwan  
*Coach* Alex Skingley, Darren Macey, Paul Greaves, Howard Smith  
*Welfare / Safeguarding Officer* Bob Cox  
*Advertising Officer* George Harrison  
*County Representative* Neil Ingham, Mark Lisher  
*First Aid Officer* Bob Conway  
*First Aider* Alex Skingley, Bob Conway, Neil Ingham, Howard Smith, Steve Brudenell, Scott Conway, Mark Kathro, Paul Greaves, Chris Wallis  
*Press Secretary* George Harrison  
*Recruitment Officer* Bob Cox & Bob Conway  
*Social Secretary* Chris Wallis & Bob Conway  
*Sponsorship Secretary* Paul Greaves  
*Volunteer Coordinator* Neil Ingham  
*Website Coordinator* Neil Ingham

New for 2010-11 :

*Club Liaison Officer (for WCSOA)* George Harrison

## 8. Membership / Annual Subscription

*Proposal:* To decide on a necessary increase in annual subs / match fees.

The following amendment to the annual membership fees was proposed and agreed by those present:

**Senior Membership** - for players.

*Annual Membership* - £84 – payable as a lump sum, or by monthly £7 standing order to the club.

*Match Fees* : £5 per game.

*Training* : FREE TO ALL!

*New players* : First game free!

## 9. Training / Coaching.

*Proposal:* To continue Off-Season training on Tuesday evening, and to maintain Pre-Season In-Season training twice a week on Tuesday and Thursdays.

It was decided to maintain the status quo as per the proposal. Should a change be made to revert to 1 night per week, GH suggested that this remains as either Tuesdays or Thursdays.

It was noted that coaching has undergone a significant improvement during the 2009/10 season with the addition of Alex Skingley as head coach, with significant improvement in match performances following on from this. **DS** suggested that training could be further improved by more coaching. **DM** will organise coach meetings to improve coaching focus, communication and to encourage feedback from players **[Action #2]**.

## 10. 2010/11 Committee Meetings

*Proposal:* To hold committee meetings on the first Wednesday on each month throughout the year.

Committee meetings will now be held more regularly. **DM** suggested that all members are notified of decisions taken at meetings. **NI** commented that all meeting minutes are posted to the club website and will in future, undertake to email minutes to all members **[Action #3]**

## 11. Any Other Business

**BCw** enquired about kitting out the storage container with additional shelving and lighting. It was suggested that this be postponed until the container is relocated to keep it's weight to a minimum for the relocation.

## Close of Meeting.

**AM** closed the 2010 AGM and thanked all those attending for their contributions.