

Annual General Meeting - GRUFC Meeting Minutes: -

Date: 12 June 2023 – 7pm - GRUFC.

Committee Present:- Phil Haigh (PH), Rob Stewart (RS), Hannah James (HJ), Jan Kenworthy (JK), Neil Pearson (NP), David Seaborn (DS), Peter Thompson (PT), Katie Quinlan (KQ), James Gradwell-Spencer (JGS).

<u>POINTS</u>	<u>MINUTES</u>			
<u>1</u>	Apologies: - Hayden Jones, Rob Jones, Emmanuel Lioux & Graham Collier. A list of all attendees is available.			
<u>2</u>	<p>Minutes of previous minutes – 24 June 22. The previous minutes were offered up for discussion by DS, but no issues were raised.</p> <p>Stella Jones raised query as to whether the AGM could be done earlier in the year. Neil Pearson responded to say that the AGM had been put back slightly because of the extension with the league season and cup fixtures. Unsure as to when the next AGM will take place as this may be dependent on the fixtures again.</p> <p>Minutes from 24 June 22 were proposed by Richard Tamplin & Seconded by Stella Jones.</p>			
<u>3</u>	Presidents Report: - PT – Thanked all the players from all teams who represent the club. Also referenced appreciation to all members and the Amazones and the enjoyment watching all teams. Also referred to the M&J's and great support and likewise the colts and thanks to all the coaches from all areas. Stated that all members at GRUFC are welcome. PT also showed appreciation to all the sponsors and likewise to all the volunteers across all areas. PT also thanked all the members of the committee and also referenced the great work done with the Mixed Ability rugby plus with the association and relationship which is being reviewed/considered with Glossopdale School.			
<u>4</u>	General Committee Chairs Report: - PH referred to the role and responsibilities of the Chair of a Club. In addition, referred to the roles and responsibilities of the General Committee. Referred to a typical week of a committee member over the past 7 days. In			

	<p>particular the great deal of time and hours spent to keep the club running and safe. PH stated that the club is now a small business and that there is a need for others to step forward. Referred to the fact as to how difficult the last 12 months has been with a number of sensitive issues that have had to be dealt with. PH made refence to the trip to the IOM and the fact that we won there for the first time. Also, how great it was that the club have fielded 3 teams on all but one occasion. Some other clubs have struggled to get 2 teams out every week. Referred to 5-star rating in the kitchen plus the great work with mental health. In addition, the cup final of the colts and how well they did. Thanked Toby Colbourne for Mixed Ability. Great improvements at the club, both internally and externally with furnishings and the external grounds. PH also referenced Jean Seaborn and how important JS is to the club and the great work done on a number of sensitive issues plus fantastic work done with Hannah James on the DBS's etc. Also, PH also showed his appreciation to Martin Lindsey for helping the club and Jack Makepiece and William Thompson who help with the pitches and flags etc. PH also made referenced to the Blazeratti and thanks was given to Phil Lowe on H&S and JGS (who has decided not to stand again) for all his work on M&J's and as Treasurer.</p>			
<u>5</u>	<p>Treasurers Report: - JGS published accounts last week. No questions raised. Spent £20,000 more than last year, but this accounts for additional expenditure on the refurbishment of the club, pitches (£18,000), utility and transport costs. Things have now stabilised. We are not carrying forward some costs such as the coaching and bar managers expense. Confident energy costs will reduce and that we are in a strong position. Questions – What are the overheads. Maintenance of clubhouse, repair of fridges, new cooker in response. Stella – Fundraising is less than last year. What does that cover? (Ascot day etc for example that is not rugby related).</p>			
<u>6</u>	<p>Director of Rugby: - NP – Covered the fact that we had 2 new captains in Cole and Damian plus referred to the input and engagement of Liam as a coach. Also referred to other changes such as the new secretary, chairman. Despite all this we still fielded 3 teams with the exception of 1 game being conceded for the 3s against Ashton. Referred to a considerable number of serious injuries. 47 players played for the first team this season. The first team finished 9th this season. One win away from finishing 7th. The 2nd team finished 4th and were 2 points off finishing 2nd in the league. The 3s finished 6 but were pushing for 3rd in the last game of the season and reached a semi-final against Widnes. The Colts reached a cup final. Had a great season. NP read Emmanuel's statement covering all their achievements.</p>			

<u>7</u>	<p>Chair of Women's Rugby: - KQ – A successful season for the Amazonas. Finished 2nd in the league. A big recruitment drive. Currently have about 27 players. Increased from about 23 at the start of the season. Katie thanked the committee and all the support from everyone. Also, KQ stated the appreciation for the coaches who have stood down (James and Beast). New Head Coach in Kerry. Thanked all the players and sub-committee. Staying in the same league for next season. Referred to the girl's section and age group to replace current senior players.</p>			
<u>8</u>	<p>Chair of M&J's – HJ – A successful year. Swop box and boots donating still going strong and has been helping out many families. Likewise bring a buddy day. 27 new players trying the game. 125 games played this season. 28% increase on the games played. 2,050 match meals served. 71% increase on last year. Numerous festivals attended. U14,15 & 16S teams disbanded. Girls rugby now have 3 coaches. Dan Taylor, Lucy Williams and Phoebe Campbell. DBS and improvement on training requirements for coaching staff. Summer club was a huge success. 160 places filled over 3 days. Trying to instigate training for M&J's by senior men and women players from the club. Thank You to Carlie (fixture secretary) who has recently started within this role.</p> <p>Stella Jones raised a question as to whether the monies received from the M&J's summer camps would or could be retained within the M&J's. PH reaffirmed that this decision had already been communicated to Rob and Chas. Detailed discussion with Chas and JGS regarding this matter. JGS and PH confirmed that any money raised by the Summer club will go into the club generally.</p>			
<u>9</u>	<p>Chair of House & Grounds: - RS – Difficult year dealing with sensitive issues. Very time consuming for the committee. Looking to improve constantly with the pitches and the conservatory which needs upgrading. Thanked all bar and kitchen staff. Pikes lane – Utilities are in a poor condition at the site, so this has put back this development and in particular the building/structure on the site.</p>			
<u>10</u>	<p>Chair of Sponsorship, Fundraising & Social: - JK – Have retained all existing sponsors whilst also attracting new ones including Gallagher Brokers, Forte Financial Services. We have had 54 general club sponsors and 53 player sponsors. 9 match day sponsors. 8 match ball sponsors. 4 function sponsors. Also sponsor for playing kits across the club. Papyrus. Generous 3-year sponsorship deal. Had various sponsors lunches. Successful Christmas fun day. Irish band and St Patricks day plus successful Ascot day. 200 club is growing. JK feels that this position should be separated now because of the work involved. Sponsorship and fundraising has increased this year from £39,906 to £54,618. A successful year.</p>			

<u>11</u>	Election of Club Officers: DS went through each of the roles advertised and nominations and all were voted in place with the exception of the Club Secretary, Membership Secretary and First Team Vice Captain.	Please see sheet of elected club officers for 23/24 season which is provided on the club website.		
<u>13</u>	<p>AOB: Richard Tamplin spoke about membership fees and that the club were looking to increase fees. This will all be automated. Justified by cost of living. Increase takes place from 1st Sept. RT ran through each amendment. Details also provided on the night in an attachment. £1,078 additional amount each year if club member numbers remain the same.</p> <p>Player remuneration – Neil Pearson ran through this and referred to the various options available and discussed previously. Players left because worried about getting injured. The club are looking to take out insurance to protect players wages if they get injured. DS – The club can't provide a definitive answer on player remuneration at present and how the club will proceed with this, but this will be baby steps rather than looking to over commit and to start something that is not sustainable. Tom Benbow – Can the club afford this. This will be reviewed by the committee and is work in progress on how any money is expended.</p> <p>Club member (Charlie) raised a concern about the Bowden RUFC model as to how they “pay” players and the issue that this creates in that they are only paid if they are in the match day squad. Bowden only currently have 2 teams. It was agreed that this was the “model” and set up that Glossop didn't want to follow and copy because it was felt by all and stated by NP that we would not look to mirror this structure/format. Charlie also stated that if we get relegated then “that's life” and if some players leave, then let's keep in touch with them on the basis that if any move doesn't work out for them, then they will hopefully return back to Glossop RUFC. The club have learnt by some mistakes made previously, by way of players/coaches getting paid. NP - Bowden have recently paid 2 coaches £13,000 each. NP stated that the pool of players has been depleted since Covid 19 from 350,000 to circa 160,000.</p>			

	<p>Tom Benbow also stated that Waterloo had serious issues and had to sell off land in the past to survive and to avoid going bankrupt or into administration. DS assured all that the club were not looking to over commit and that there may not be signs of considerable change initially next year because it will take time to get things set up correctly and that there may only be 3-4 players who come in next year; the intention is perhaps to build on that the following season. Stan raised a question as to whether the committee would withdraw any financial commitment if there was any risk to the club. DS confirmed that in his personal opinion this would happen. Likewise the committee.</p> <p>Rob Stewart – covered the potential budget and said that the savings achieved this coming year would contribute perhaps 80% towards the suggested budget that is currently being proposed/considered. Dan Clark raised some concerns about still being able to support the M&J's if we over commit. John Openshaw also referred to the same concern/s and the sustainability of player remuneration and referred to Manchester who had problems by over committing themselves. It was reiterated again that the club were not trying to follow other clubs and to over commit. Gino – concerned about the commitment of the current players and also about the league we have been placed in. Also stated that we should looking to leave the current league/s and leave Derbyshire and the RFU.</p> <p>RT – Looking to set up a Vets team next season.</p> <p>Stella Jones asked about the recruitment and retention committee. Asked if we could place posters in every local pub to recruit. This is likely to just attract more social players.</p> <p>Geoff Williams made a statement to Thank all the committee for all the hard work done.</p> <hr/>			