



Twomeads, Camperdown Road, Salcombe, Devon, TQ8 8AX

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2021

Held on Thursday 22 July at 7.00 pm at Twomeads,
Camperdown Road, Salcombe

1. Apologies

Gordon McCormack, John Sprague, Stuart Read, Vanessa & Graham Jacobs, Ollie Masters

2. Minutes of last AGM

The Minutes were approved unanimously
(Nominated: Chris Drew, 2nded: Sam Long)

3. President's report

Paul Roberts addressed the meeting.

"I would like to welcome members, players, committee and board members to the meeting this year after a lot of problems to overcome. We must all admit it has been a very trying time due to the pandemic. Hopefully we can return to some sense of normality in the next season.

"I would like to thank all including Jamie, Martin, Mark P. & Mark L. that have worked tirelessly to keep us solvent, obtaining grants and reopening the bar - essential for all members.

"I see that on the fixture sheet we play Buckfastleigh as the first major fixture and I thanks the players for their continued support. Let's hope for a win to kickstart our season.

"I also hope that all our social members will continue to support us, the juniors section and the first XV and enjoy the club."

There were no follow up questions.

4. Chairman's report

"Welcome to everyone for the 2021 AGM of Salcombe RFC & Limited Company.

"I would like to start by personally thanking the Board and the Committee for the support they have shown me as Chairman, during what has been, yet again, a most trying year in these continuing difficult times. I would also like to thank everyone who has helped and given their time during the last year, your continued support to the club is always appreciated.

"I would also like to mention the staff who have always made themselves available to work in these most unprecedented times.

"I would like to thank all the members who generously renewed their membership for the last year, in light of the fact that at the last AGM I mentioned that we may have periods of time when we may have to close due to Coronavirus.

"As a rugby club this has been a really difficult period, especially when you consider that rugby was the last sport to be allowed to return to play. As you will know, the players pay the highest membership of £80.00 and when asked to renew their memberships in September they all agreed, not knowing what the season may

hold. As it happens, we ended up playing only 5 matches. To their credit, not one player moaned about the situation

“As always, I would also like to thank the players for all their efforts in playing for the club, as I know a lot of players make a lot of sacrifices and travel long distances to represent the club. Without this continued commitment there would be no SRFC.

“As anticipated, the club has made a loss during the last Financial Year and the Treasurer will cover this in more detail during his address.

“Without the income generated from the Annual Beer Festival and The Beauty Lounge Rent along with no Easter revenue for two years and Boxing Day revenue, this was always going to be a really difficult year financially.

“The club made the rugby decision to re-join Devon 1 and the RFU league structure for the 2020/21 season. Unfortunately, the league season was abandoned without a fixture being played due to Coronavirus and as I mention previously, we only played 5 friendly fixtures.

“The captain for the coming season will be Toby Woods and I would like to thanks James Cooper who is standing down as captain after 2 seasons, for his support to the team.

“This season, the club as pleased to announce we will have Eoghan Grace leading the training and match day preparations. Eoghan has a wealth of rugby background having played professionally.

“Rugby CV:

- *Bred in Conmel, Tipperary in the very South of Ireland in the province of Munster*
- *Product of the Munster Academy*
- *All Ireland league winner with Shannon RFC (Limerick)*
- *U20's Munster*
- *U20's Six Nations Grand Slam Winner*
- *Munster 1st Squad*
- *Selected Irish 7's European & World Cup squad - played in Hanover and World Cup finals in Dubai*
- *Exeter Chiefs – Prem*
- *Connacht Rugby - Pro 14 & Heineken Cup*
- *Plymouth Albion*
- *Ealing Trailfinders*
- *Coventry RFC”*

Eoghan said a few words.

“The Juniors have been well attended at training on a Friday evening and also the Little Nippers (age range 3-5) on a Sunday morning. For me personally, this was an enlightening experience, as I volunteered to undertake the Little Nippers training on a Sunday morning and with the support of Nikki Hawtin as my administrator, we gained an average following of between 10 – 20 children at each session.

“As a result of these Sunday morning sessions, we will now have an under 6 age group for this season, with healthy numbers and also other children from the group adding to our numbers in the under 7 & 8's. We will also be running age groups at under 9's and 10's.

“The good news from a coaching perspective, is we now have more than enough coaches to cover these age groups, as a result of parents coming forward to volunteer their services.

“We need to continue to support the youth section, as they are the future of the club. As always, the Juniors need people to offer their support in the kitchen on a

Friday night training session and on Sunday match days. So, if you are able to assist, please speak to Martin.

"The NatWest Working Party Day 2020 (£500.00) which was due to be held in July was cancelled due to Coronavirus. But did happen on Saturday 5th September. So, thank you to everyone who attended and lent their support towards the club on the day.

"NatWest have confirmed that they will not be holding a Working Party Day in 2021 but the club are going to arrange their own in-house Working Party Day. So please feel free to make yourselves available to assist, as there are plenty of jobs that need completing. The proposed date, if I am correct, is Saturday 31st July.

"Finally, I would like to say, that as a club we have to work together to achieve things and safeguard this club and the best way to do that, is to focus on a positive future for the club and not dwell on the past. This is an exciting period for the club, so let's all get on board and show our support.

"Too much time is spent on negativity towards the club and not enough time spent focussing on the good things that are being done.

Follow up questions:

- a) Brian Cooper asked about the difference of roles of the Board and Committee. The separation of the roles of the Board and Committee were explained. Reference to the recent publication of the Committee's individual roles and responsibilities was made along with the comment that a similar document for board members was in the pipeline.

5. Treasurer's report

"Headline figures

Overall down £4656 for the calendar year, unsurprising given the pandemic and ongoing costs of running the club.

Income down to £28207 vs £51933

This is chiefly made up of:

- *Subscriptions down almost £4k, thanks to the players and members for continuing to pay despite the unknown future at that time.*
- *Marketing and commercial almost 10k down. 3k of this would have been lost anyway due to hockey club income stopping, further £5.7k lost in sponsorship income, RFU told clubs we could not request sponsorship given the unknown playing climate. Thanks go to a couple of significant exceptions who effectively gifted the club their usual amounts.*
- *Bar profit down £18.3k - no income from Easter or Boxing day. However significant savings on wage cost vs previous years despite Covid precautions requiring 2 staff members during the times we have been open.*
- *Other receipts up £14k due to government/ council/RFU support.*

Expenses also down £32863 vs £47494

- *Playing expense much reduced (-£3k) although insurance still required (£1250). £1.6k of kit expenses is included in the total which was covered by business donations earmarked for this use.*
- *Maintenance down £6.5k, still high due to statutory work carried out and ongoing club costs.*
- *Legal fees of £3.5k due to ongoing legal action*

GP percentage of the bar down to 50% due to ongoing staff costs, covid costs and JRS. This should be improved next financial year.

Present forecast leads to us expecting £5k profit next year although this is a tough climate to predict income in."

Follow up questions:

(via email)

- a) "Telephone £2044 against £1942 last year – what actually is this surely not telephone?"

This line item includes all communication technology and BT costs. It is what it is, though it should be noted that Martin has recently renegotiated a new deal for BT Sport, phones & broadband with a 30% cost reduction.

- b) "Advertising - £860 over £28 last year – where or why were you advertising when the club was shut?"

This was an Accountant's error in the draft accounts distributed before the AGM and has been corrected in the Accounts submitted to the meeting.

- c) "Legal & Professional Fees £3507 over £675 last year – what was the increase for?"

The increase was due to the board receiving a solicitor's letter during the year therefore the costs cover obligations in defending the club and the increased costs in using professionals for advice (eg. HR).

6. Approval of accounts

Proposed: Brian Cooper, 2nded: John Sprague

7. Appointment of Auditors

Cordings. Carried.

8. Election of Officers

There being no contests after the nomination process, the following were automatically elected: Chairman - Mark Lidstone, Secretary - Martin Gautier, Treasurer - Jamie Laban, Vice Chairman - Mark Parnowski, President - Paul Roberts.

9. Election of Directors

There being no contests after the nomination process, the following were automatically elected: Paul Roberts, Mark Lidstone (Chair), Sam Long, James Cooper, Brian Cooper, Martin Gautier, Emma Woods, Mark Parnowski, Jamie Laban, John Sprague

(A late nomination was received from Dale Came. It was agreed the board would meet at a later date to review co-opting him in line with our constitution)

10. Player Memberships review

It was proposed that player memberships be raised from £80 to £100 to help fund future plans for the playing side. The proposal was carried unanimously.

11. Any other business

There was no AOB

The meeting closed at 7.35pm