

Bristol Bisons RFC AGM 24th August 2011

In attendance

David Aird
Jeremy Bull
Frank Colzie
Mark Fletcher
Iain Gibson
Tom Hawkins
Steve Hopkins
Ashley-Richard Longman
Luke Macfadyen
Rhys Owen
Michalis Sanidas
Stuart Shardelow
Paul Shepherd
Dale Sheppard
Przemyslaw Szczodry
Ben Wainwright
James Wilson
And guest members:
Mark Donaghy
Richard Pryce-Williams
Shaun Mcgall

Minutes

1. Apologies were received from Dean Chapman, Keir Gravil, Andrew Pearson, Lee Penfold, Glen Townsend, Ian Watkins, Nick William-Jones, Mark Bradshaw

2. Proposed changes to the constitution. MS proposed amendments to section 3.1 to include "gender identity" and to section 5.1 to allow the Social Secretary as well as the Treasurer and Membership Secretary to be posts open to open to full and associate members. The proposal was confirmed by TH and LM and adopted by the meeting.

3. Chairmans report - the full report is available in the AGM pack.
No questions asked

4. Rugby Manager's report. The full report is available in the AGM pack. RO discussed plans to look for an external coach whilst keeping an internal rugby team as well. Upcoming fixtures and the need to play more games as a team of 15 were discussed. RO explained plans to introduce a new team management and communications tool teamer.net. This system will enable the team management to contact players for fixtures by text message and email. Players can respond by texting a Y or and N back to say "Yes" or "No".

TH said that the fixture for Sunday 4th September is cancelled due to late notice and a lack of players. Whilst acknowledging the need for notice where possible the committment of players was discussed as TH pointed out Bristol is a small town and all the teams know each other. If we are unable to field a decent team to fixtures this year it might effect next season's fixtures. Communication from the team to the management was highlighted as important to this.

5. Treasurer's report - explained by MS as KG away. Accounts in the pack are provisional due to missing moneys from the auction at Goldbrick House and from the theft at the vicarage. JW explained that if he is given a crime number by KG he can claim for the money stolen less excess from his insurance policy.

MS - an updated statement of account will be sent to all members once figures are finalised.

6. Election of committee. Existing committee stood down.

Uncontested posts were all unanimously elected by show of hands. Michalis Sanidas, Chairman. Rhys Owen, Rugby Manager. Mark Fletcher, Secretary. Luke Macfadyen, Treasurer. David Aird, Membership Secretary.

The Social Secretary was elected by secret ballot including proxy votes of members not present as requested by Jay Buridge, Ian Watkins, Mark Bradshaw, Lee Penfold, Glenn Townsend and Nick William-Jones. Standing were Ashley-Richard Longman, Dale Sheppard and Stuart Shardelow, but Ashley-Richard Longman withdrew citing change of personal circumstances.

The vote duly returned Stuart Shardelow as Social Secretary.

Dale Sheppard was thanked for his work over the last year.

7. Appointment of Captain.

RO explained that only one person had asked to be captain and explained that it was general practice for the club to appoint a captain at the AGM. As it is not constitutionally the case that the captain needs to be nominated and voted for, other approaches were asked for during the meeting but Tom Hawkins remained the only candidate and was duly confirmed as our captain for 2011/12 season.

Disciplinary Committee: RO explained that under the constitution we appoint a disciplinary committee at the AGM on which the Captain and Rugby Manager sit, TH and RO respectively. 3 other members had put themselves forward in advance - DA, JW and DS. All were duly appointed by the meeting.

8. Union Cup 2013. MS briefly outlined plans for the Bisons committee to appoint members on a separate committee for the Union Cup 2013. It was proposed by JW and confirmed by MS and LM that the Union Cup 2013 would have separate accounts.

9. Membership Fees for 2011/12. MS discussed the need to put the club on a firmer financial footing and that as the club grows and expands so do costs. The committee via MS proposed that fees should be £50 for players and £25 for supporters for the forthcoming season, with match fees on top to cover catering, laundry and referees. The group discussed and were in general agreement that the costs should increase and that £50 was still cheap at £1 per week. Context was provided by S. Mcgall who said the Manchester Spartans fees are £100 per annum plus match fees. JW suggested that membership for supporters was low and he would be happy to pay £30. This was agreed by the other supporters present.

Match fees were discussed in more detail and it was explained that when we have travelled to other clubs they have provided us with some refreshments, physiotherapists and the referee (who usually charges £20). We would be expected to return this hospitality to other visiting clubs and therefore a small home game fee would need to be applied to players. £3 was discussed as a minimum but this fee might also be revised.

BW raised student concessions and it was agreed that a £10 discount on Full or Supporter membership could be offered to students and those on benefits. A discretionary distance concession was proposed and adopted, at the discretion of the committee.

Fees for 2011 were therefore set at £50 full members, £30 associate members, with £10 discount for concessions. Match fees of a minimum of £3 per player will also apply.

10. Development Plan. LM outlined the development plan and together with DA explained that it was the result of a questionnaire and development day the team had and was therefore representative of the views of the team, not the committee. It was explained that this plan would be an outline for this committee and future committees on the road to giving our team a stable foundation.

Shaun Mcgall suggested that 6 monthly updates on progress with the plan to the team would be a good idea to check progress. This was accepted.

11. No other business was proposed.