

## **Minutes for the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting**

**Held on Tues 17<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at Layham Road Sports Ground  
starting at 7:30pm**

### **1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies received from Ben Romer-Lee, Matthew Short, Ronan Connolly, Ian Bodsworth, John Halls, Robin Ransom.

### **2. Minutes of the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held May 6th 2015**

*Acceptance of the minutes as a true record of the meeting*

Proposer: Jim Hammond

Seconder: John Squirrel

### **3. Matters arising from the minutes**

No matters arising.

### **4. Chairman's report (previously circulated)**

So its been an eventful year. The World Cup came and went and for the majority of us it was a painful experience. We did our bit to celebrate and embrace the RFU's 'Get Behind' campaign, but if I am honest this last year has been more about our own progress ...and in particular developments back stage, performances on stage and engagement front of house.

Over the course of this last year we have:

1. significantly stepped up our commitment to developing our club and securing our long term future (more about that in a bit!)
2. continued to invest in the fabric of our club and in both our youth and senior squads
3. achieved on the park and in particular across our growing youth and minis sections
4. recruited and engaged with our community, but we now need to do more in this area
5. not done quite enough for our senior teams and in particular more to help our senior youth and young adult players (16-24 year olds)

1. Securing our future as a vibrant community club is of paramount importance, and there is now an urgent need for us to be able to shape and manage our own development. The urgency has come about because we are quickly becoming a victim of our own success. As more and more kids head down to LRSG, it is clear we have out grown our ground and facilities. More acreage, better facilities and long term tenure are now critical facets of our growth plan and without which we are more likely to be drafting a survival plan.

We simply cannot continue to operate effectively, safely and without tension from Layham Road. With this in mind I am delighted to announce to you all today that the Committee recently to the decision to throw our support behind a wholesale move to a new site at Hook Lane. Jim will tell you more about this in a few minutes. But I can tell you now, that whilst we remain sober about the opportunity we are nonetheless extremely excited and optimistic that a move is likely within three years. In the meantime, we will continue to work with HTC to improve the facilities at LRSG.

2. Like last year, we have invested time, money and considerable effort in the fabric of this club. We have improved the bar area, brought in match day physio support and weekly clinics for the 1<sup>st</sup> XV and Colts, funded 1<sup>st</sup> Aid training and coach development, and subsidised, funded and supported various other activities and kit purchases. Our junior club remains strong and is rightly now one of the largest junior sections in East Anglia. That doesn't just happen to a club like Hadleigh particularly when you are surrounded by larger towns with their own clubs. So we must be doing something right and I want, here, to thank

our hard working coaches and their willing and very supportive parents and helpers/managers for everything they do to attract and retain players and generally make sure the rugby is first and foremost fun at Hadleigh.

I would also like to extend a big thank you to Matthew Short our 1<sup>st</sup> XV coach and to Ben Romer-Lee our 2<sup>nd</sup> XV Captain. It has not been easy at times this season, disagreements on and off the park between coaches, committee and players have made the business of playing rugby ...frankly hard at times. But we have come through the difficult times, put in place some standards – A Code of Conduct (signed by all squad members), selected an excellent new team captain in Oli Beckerlegge and agreed a plan for the future which we have begun to implement. We are still on the hunt for an experienced coach to assist Matthew for next season, but we are please to retain Matthews services for another year. We are also excited to have more Colts joining senior rugby once again. Over the next few seasons we believe this migration will start to impact on our performance levels and our progression (1<sup>st</sup> XV 4<sup>th</sup> EC2, 2<sup>nd</sup> XV 3<sup>rd</sup> EC4). Jonathan Moore SS, Neil Crisp CC thank you.

3. This season our youth competed in national (4<sup>th</sup> round), regional and county cups. every age group participated in festivals, friendlies and (unfortunately) one or two not so friendlies. We won our fair share of silverware and more importantly were once again a force to be reckoned with. I would like to mention here - the U16s (Tim). We also staged what we believe might be the largest festival of its kind in Europe - The Hadleigh Tag ...a huge thank you to Mick, Marcus, Richard and the whole team (which I am delighted to say included players and parent volunteers from across the youth section pitching in to help out). The good news is it's only going to get bigger next year!

4. Our relationship with the local community is strong and getting stronger and I believe our new out-reach programme for local schools 'In-Touch' will have a very positive impact on our community links. As it will do on recruitment, which despite our size is a very important facet of our day to day activities especially for certain key age groups and for the senior club where squad sizes are small. Thank you to Mick, Dale, Jonathan and Marcus for your hard work here.

Big events help to cement our place in the local Community and this year's Beer Festival will no doubt remind the community ag. Thank you Jim. Our relationships with local business could be better and to be honest we have not made much progress on this front this season. That is changing now, and we are excited to be once again reaching out to local companies to ask for their support. Again a big thank you to Jonathan Moore for this

We rely on our volunteers and we are hugely grateful to all that our volunteers put into the club, helping behind the bar, with membership, DIY, Festivals, social activities. We have a really strong group at Hadleigh and I want you to continue to support us and encourage others to join you.

Finally, I would like to say a very big thank you to my wife and to all of you for giving me the mandate to oversee the hard work of others without whose efforts we would not be experiencing the successes and growing pains we are! It is a labour of love - yes - but it's very satisfying and its an absolute privilege to have held the reigns for another year. Not least, because of all of you are much better at your jobs than I could ever be!

## **5. Treasurer's report (Audited annual accounts previously circulated)**

Doug Finbow tabled a Financial updated and shared copies of the Annual Accounts.

Proposer: Jim Hammond

Seconder: Marcus Gallagher

## 6. Development

Jim Hammond gave the meeting an overview of his role as development officer. He reported that the Committee has been looking at two possible sites for development. The first site is at Hook Lane. The land at Hook Lane is owned by Paul Price and Suffolk County Council (SCC). Paul is planning a new housing development and is willing to gift us a piece of land for a new clubhouse with playing fields and car park to support his housing proposal. He will gift the club a freehold with an uplift clause on 8 - 12 acres and arrange for a long term lease on a further 8 - 12 acres with SCC. We were also approached by The Aldham Common Charity Trustees about another plot of land on Aldham Common (leasehold).

The committee have undertaken a feasibility assessment of these two possible sites. This study carried out by independent planning consultants and KLH came down in favour of the Hook Lane site. The Hook Lane site would be the home to 4 Rugby pitches, 2 training areas, a club house, a MUGA and parking for up to 350 vehicles. We expect to involve other sports in our plan.

On behalf of the committee JH and CW have met with the Town Council and Babergh District Council. JH explained that the next step is a public consultation at the Town Hall on 17th and 18th June. JH encouraged everyone at the meeting to attend and bring along as many local residents as possible. JH reported that he would be forming a sub committee to move the relocation plan forward and is looking for members who have expertise in surveying, marketing, fundraising, etc.

Johnathan Moore gave a vote of thanks to CW and JH for all their hard work in making such extraordinary progress, which was seconded by Mick Collins.

## 7. Election of officers and committee members

Office	Nominee	Proposed by	Seconded by
Chairman	Charles Warburton	Marcus Gallagher	Tiffany Ransom
Youth Chairman	Marcus Gallagher	Richard Braybooke	Mick Collins
Club Secretary	Kate Warburton	Charles Warburton	Alison Kavannagh
Club Captain	Neil Crisp	Kate Warburton	Marcus Gallagher
Club development officer	Jim Hammond	Charlie Warburton	Neil Crisp
Social Secretary	Jonathon Moore	Mick Collins	Charles Westwell
Strategy Officer	Richard Braybrooke	Marcus Gallagher	Mick Collins
Fixtures Secretary	Mick Collins	Marcus Gallagher	Roddy Lloyd
Coaching Co-ordinator	Mick Collins	Richard Braybrooke	Sharon Clements
School Liaison Officer	Dale Spooner	Mick Collins	Tiffany Ransom
Safeguarding Officer	Marcus Gallagher	Mick Collins	Richard Braybrooke
Press Officer	Jonathon Moore and Mick Collins	Neil Crisp	Nikki Galagher

Doug Finbow resigned his position as Treasurer. He agreed to continue in his role until the end of the financial year. Charlie Warburton proposed a vote of thanks for all of DF's hard work over the last 13 years. He reported that the club had experienced huge change in that time and nearly folded a few times. DF has worked tirelessly throughout to get this club in the fiscally strong position we see today. DF is an incredibly valued member and supporter of the club and we hope he will continue to be part of our exciting future.

Jonathan Moore asked for a group of volunteers to come forward to help with social planning and organising. Ray Seager offered his help.

There were no nominees for Sponsorship Secretary, Fundraising Secretary and the proposed position of Legal Counsel.

#### **8. Vote of thanks to the Committee** (*Neil Farrow*)

Neil Farrow proposed a vote of confidence in the committee. He commented on what a tough job it can be and thanked the Committee for all their hard work over the current season and going forward into the next season. Seconded by Ray Seager.

#### **9. Meeting closed at 8.35pm.**

#### **10. Any other business**

##### **Awards**

John Squirrell gave value member badges to Mick Collins, Jonathan Moore, Alison Kavanagh, Charles Westwell and Tiffany Ransom. He awarded a Club Blazer for long service and hard work to Marcus Gallagher. John Squirrell invited Neil Farrow to take over from him as Club President and Neil Farrow accepted. Charlie Warburton gave a vote of thanks to John Squirrell for his role as President over the last 3 years and Marcus Gallagher seconded this.

##### **Senior Team**

Jordan Robertson asked for clarification regarding the team coach and plans for the first team next season. Charlie Warburton said that we have been trying to find a coach to support Matthew Short for next season. We need someone with grassroots coaching experience and the ability to complement the existing team. He reported that a Code of Conduct, which has been signed by all the players, was now in place. The goal moving forward was to improve the numbers at training and there were various initiatives to try and attract new players. Some of the Colts are looking to step up to senior rugby. There will be a Touch Rugby Festival at the Beer Festival this year which we hope will be an opportunity for recruitment.

Ray Seager wanted to point out that the senior team did really well finishing 4th in the league, only just being pipped by Sudbury for 3<sup>rd</sup> and Six of the 1<sup>st</sup> XV represented Hadleigh in The Suffolk Squad. There are lots of positives to take away from the season. We also now have the largest Colts squad we have ever had, which we expect to help us going forward. Mick Collins added that in his role as fixtures secretary he hears from other clubs that we punch above our weight as a small club. Other clubs comment on how well we run our youth and that we are known for being the friendly club.

##### **Girls Rugby**

Alison Kavanagh asked about how serious we are about Girls Rugby. Charlie Warburton confirmed it will happen, next season but at present we are not sure of the age groups we will support. There are 12 – 13 year olds and upwards interested and there will be a meeting in the next week with the RFU to discuss how we move forward. The lack of changing facilities is a problem we need to overcome.

## **Development**

Tiffany Ransom asked for information to be spread far and wide to our whole membership to make sure we get the support we need for the possible move to Hook Lane. She suggested the Hadleigh news, the membership, word of mouth, specific letters to those who are not receiving information, i.e. ex VP's, former VP's, old clubmen. Charlie Warburton encouraged those attending to spread the word.

## **Social**

Jonathan Moore asked those attending to give him some ideas of what events they would like the social secretary to be putting on. Charlie Warburton reported that there is an emerging plan to hold another Club Ball next summer.

## **Hadleigh Logo**

Charlie Warburton asked those attending, whether we should create a brand and logo that is Hadleigh Rugby Club. Neil Farrow felt now is the time to do it and others agreed.

## **Membership**

Ray Seager brought up the difficulty in securing membership from senior members. Charles Warburton reported that we are thinking about incentives for next year. The membership has improved in the 1<sup>st</sup> XV but is poor in the 2<sup>nd</sup> XV. We are looking at how other clubs are doing it. We have to find a way for membership to be attractive to 2<sup>nd</sup> team players who may not play more than 2 or 3 games a year. Tim Kerr said if the 2nds pay the same subs as the 1<sup>st</sup> then they need a team medic/physio. Neil Crisp said there is a physio clinic available to all seniors. On behalf of Ben Romer Lee, Marcus Gallagher asked the membership for a second team manager to help Ben.