



# Lymm RFC

## Minutes of Annual General Meeting

### 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2018

#### Present

Lionel Cockayne	Rob Sparkes	David Simpson	Mark Hesketh
Dave Newton	Len Davies	Jim Knowles	Kerry Anderson
Alan Cummins	John Cartwright	Tom Hyland	Adam Halford
Kate Newton	Peter Cornelia	Steve Ashall	John Case
Adam Fletcher	Lynne Pyman	Colette Cartwright	Stuart Prendergast
Dave Dickinson	Neil Kelly	John Hopkinson	Olly Brown
Adam Bray	Will Hind	Alan Gibson	Simon Plumb
Alan Wilkinson	Steve Rule	Neil Allen	Danny McNicoll
Chris Askew	Malcolm Pritchard	Tony Wright	Roger Atherton
Chris Rule	Paul Maguire	Martin Tompsett	Andrew Currie
Neil Anderson			

And others who didn't/couldn't sign in or whose name was illegible.

#### Apologies

None Received			
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#### Welcome and Introduction

John Cartwright welcomed everyone and explained the agenda for the meeting.

A minute's silence was held before formal proceedings for the victims of the Manchester Bombing and to mark the recent deaths of valued members; David Millachip and Neil Fergusson.

President Dave Newton outlined the new governance structures for the club and explained this would be the last AGM of the old Lymm Rugby Club and the first AGM of Lymm RFC (company limited by guarantee) and Lymm Beechwood (the trading company).

The officers of the new company were confirmed as John Cartwright, Neil Allen, Alan Gibson, David Simpson, Andy Leach, Tony Wright and Mal Pritchard. These would be elected each year at the AGM. The officers of the Management Committee (old Exec) were in the process of being confirmed given various changes and aspirations of current incumbents to stand down and potential new posts being created e.g. Dave Linton as marketing and events officer. The new arrangements were proposed by Neil Kelly and seconded by Lionel Cockayne.

#### Previous Minutes

The minutes from the previous AGM were accepted. (Proposed by Jim Knowles, seconded by Will Hind).

## Chairman's Report

John Cartwright welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting for season 2017/18. He commented as follows:

Following my usual form I want to start my AGM report by once again offering my personal thanks to all our volunteers, sponsors and members who have supported the club throughout the past year. We are blessed with a group of very committed volunteers who are dedicated to ensuring the sustainability of our club and who will turn out in all kinds of weather and for a variety of different reasons to support our activities.

We are most definitely a members club and without the hard work and involvement of a great many people we would not be able to achieve what we do today. However, as I mentioned in my report last year the growth, restructuring to a Charity and development of our club brings with it many new and exciting challenges and we will require more volunteers if we are to overcome these challenges.

Being part of a members club is not a one way agreement, as members we have to give and take in equal measure if we are to guarantee long term success. By your very presence here tonight, I know I am speaking to the converted, but how do we create the same sense of place and belonging for the rest of our membership and future members so that they will actively engage and support the ongoing development of Lymm Rugby club, for themselves, their families and for the membership of the future.

Following tonight's AGM we will be looking to answer this question by engaging with a smaller group of committed members to discuss and understand what Lymm RFC will look like in the future and how we can create long term sustainability and engagement. If you are interested in contributing to this discussion and to creating the future vision of Lymm RFC please let me know.

For now, I would like to acknowledge the hard work and commitment of a number of groups of volunteers, whilst at the same time running the risk of missing someone out, so my apologies if I do.

- Thank you to our **executive committee** who have once again worked tirelessly over the past 12 months in supporting the effective running of our club and supporting me in my role as Chairman.
- Thank you to **Rick and his staff** who have once again served and supported our members and guests at a great many different events within the club house, the halfway house and the Marquee during the summer events.
- Thank you to our **Old Forkers**, ably led by Jim, who have once again managed to keep our pitches in excellent form in some of the worst weather conditions during the season for many years.
- Thank you to **all our sponsors** who continue to provide a much needed income stream, without your invaluable support we would not be able to achieve everything we do achieve. The Dental Academy were our main kit sponsor last year and will continue as our main sponsor next season, it is great to see their logo on kit at all age groups. - Thank you to the Dental Academy and all of our sponsors!
- Thank you to **all our volunteers** who give up their time to support and manage the club. Individually this group is too numerous to mention but you are a fantastic group of people please continue to support the club in the way that you do.
- Thank you to our **playing membership**, to all players who turned out to represent our teams; Senior 15-a-side rugby - 4 teams throughout the year - which is amazing when many clubs we meet in our 1st team games are struggling to field 2 senior sides, all our M&J Rugby teams, players from Touch Rugby section, our squash players and our Hockey players - well done to each and every player who has turned out for their respective team. Sportsmanship and the playing of sport remain at the very heart of what we are all about.

- Once again thank you to **Adam Fletcher and the coaching/playing management** staff at all levels, without your continued support for the players we wouldn't have such a successful playing record.
- Thank you to our **non-playing membership**; Honorary's, Life-members, VP's, social members and all our partner members. Thank you for your continued support off the pitch, on the touch line, in the bar or at one or more of our social events.
- Thank you to the **wives/partners and Girl Friends of all players/volunteers** - an often forgotten group within our membership and I hope one where we will see a growth in their presence at the club. Your support for your husbands, partners and boyfriends is a factor very often missed, but is essential to our success.
- And thank you once again to **my wife and my family for their support and patience** - without which I would not be able to undertake my role as Chairman of Lymm Rugby Club.

I hope I have not forgotten any specific individuals or groups and thank you to each and every one of you!

I would now like to draw out a few highlights of 2017/18 which hopefully are relevant and will be of interest;

**Rugby** - Once again playing in the Northern division where our 1<sup>st</sup> Team demonstrated the level and quality of rugby that we can deliver on the pitch and their ability to enjoy themselves and carry the ethos that we hold as a club off the pitch. At one point in the season we were contemplating promotion and the challenges that a step up to the next level would bring. Unfortunately that was not to be but what a brilliant season we have had. I am once again immensely proud of what we have achieved on the pitch at all levels throughout the club but I will leave it to Adam and Will Hind to fill in the detail.

**Summer Events** - In 2017 we once again held a series of social events in a Marquee on Pitch 1. These events enabled us to generate a surplus of circa £30,000 to invest in our capital projects and included;

- Sportsman's Dinner
- Summer Ball
- Ladies Lunch
- Vaudeville evening
- M&J Awards day
- ... and a number of Corporate events

A very big thank you once again to David Newton, Colette Cartwright, Simon Plumb, Mal Pritchard and all the other volunteers who helped to make the 2017 summer events such a great success.

We are currently well under way with planning for the 2017 Marquee events which are due to commence on 7<sup>th</sup> June. This year we have;

- 7<sup>th</sup> June - Sportsman's Dinner
- 8<sup>th</sup> June - Warrington Business Awards - a welcome return to Beechwood
- 9<sup>th</sup> June - Deloitte family day
- 9<sup>th</sup> June - Posh Party on the Pitch
- 10<sup>th</sup> June - M&J Awards day



- 15<sup>th</sup> June - Ladies Lunch
- 15<sup>th</sup> June - Vaudeville Night
- 16<sup>th</sup> June - Deloitte Staff Summer Ball

Managing these events involves a lot of people and a lot of hard work. If you would like to be involved in the Summer Events please let me know, we are always looking for new volunteers. We would really welcome your help on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June if you are available. We use this day to move our equipment from the marquee to the club house in preparation for the Marquee being removed.

**Panto 2017** - Once again Simon, Hesky and the cast put on a fantastic Panto - "Beauty and Her Wee Beastie" - which raised a fantastic amount of much needed revenue, circa £26,000 for club funds. Many thanks to everybody involved for such a great effort. Long may it continue!

### ***Club House Development Activities***

It has taken a significantly longer period of time to finalise our planning application for the development of Beechwood than we expected. We attended the planning committee meeting in Feb 2017 and we are now in the final stages of getting everything signed and approved. The main issue has been the requirement for there to be substantive use of the new facilities prior to the sale of any of the properties that we need to fund the development. This has required us to re-phase the development so the AGP will be the first phase of the development.

In this respect, engagement with the RFU has progressed well and we are expecting the final decision regarding our AGP to be confirmed at a Development Committee meeting in September. This will trigger the final design processes and we would be hopeful to start work on site in March 2019.

Once we have the formal conformation from the RFU we can then start to plan in earnest for the clubhouse development phases of our programme.

The continued hard work of a few dedicated people has been critical to getting to where we are now with our development plans and I would like to once again place on record my personal thanks and thanks on behalf of the executive and membership for their continued hard work over the past 12 months - especially to Dave Simpson, Dave Newton and Andy Leach.

Our Vision and ambition is to see a sustainable rugby club here at Beechwood, a club that is at the very centre of our community and that is seen as a key contributor to the development of sport and other community related activities on a long term basis, is as strong as ever. We continue to do this in many ways and there is continued acknowledgement of the positive contribution that we do make to our local community here in Lymm and to the wider Rugby community by way of the example we provide to other clubs in the UK and further afield.

We now have a fantastic opportunity to continue the positive progress of Lymm Rugby Club but it will require a lot more hard work, commitment and focus. I thank you all for your continued support in this respect but would emphasise the opening point that I made tonight regarding the development and increase in engagement with a wider and growing membership that actively engages and supports the development of their club.

As committed members and volunteers your help is needed more than ever to encourage others to take up the challenge and get involved.

A question from the floor was asked about progress with the 3g pitch. JC updated the meeting.

### **Treasurer's Update (Alan Gibson)**

Alan Gibson presented the separate consolidated accounts of Lymm Beechwood Limited and Lymm Rugby Club Limited. AG concluded that the adjusted 12-month position reflected a reasonable surplus of £60k.

The key challenge is the future cashflow given the impact of the Development costs and the future requirement to service both RFU and Handelsbank loans.

The cost of running the club is increasing and it is evident that we are becoming increasingly dependent on income from the summer events and panto for day to day running costs.

Alan commented that we need to find ways of increasing sponsorship and other fundraising activities.

Alan thanked JC for his support over the past four-years.

### **Senior Rugby (Adam Fletcher)**

- The 1st XV had their best season, finishing fourth in the league and recording their best ever points total. The end to the season had been disappointing but overall a very good season for the 1<sup>st</sup> XV.
- We had volunteered to transfer to the Midlands League but the request had been declined and not required by the RFU.
- Retention of players for the following season was looking positive and potential to recruit new additions was also been worked on.
- Mark Hesketh reflected the mood of the room by congratulating the players and coaching staff on an excellent season.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> XV had a superb season, winning their league in what had been a difficult format.
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> XV had survived but remain an on-going concern in terms of playing numbers.
- The 4<sup>th</sup> team had won their league using 60 players.

Debate was had around membership levels and the need to ensure the membership culture of the club was re-enforced and that all players should pay their membership fees, current levels of payment at all levels was poor. It was agreed that we had taken our eye of the ball and that efforts would be doubled to ensure all playing members paid their membership in future.

### **M&J (Will Hind)**

Will Hind was now the official M&J Chair. He thanked Andy Leach for all his hard work over the years in terms of the M&J section.

There were now 385 regular boys within the section. More parental involvement was required. The weather had impacted on the season.

The Junior Colts had won the League and the Cup. The Senior Colts had finished second in the League and had won the Cup. The under 16s had been a challenge throughout the year, with the Colts Academy re-forming to help.

The RFU continuum was changing emphasis, with a focus on retention of players in the game and promoting opportunity.

The AFYA coaching programme had been rolled out and was being well received.

Will gave thanks to John Case, Paul Wardle, Guy Larkin and Rick Condo.

Len Davies asked a question about the AFYA coaching programme and how it was being used and assessed. It was agreed that it would continue to be reviewed and that LD was welcome to be involved in these discussions off-line.

### Squash (Alan Wilkinson)

Alan Wilkinson addressed the meeting on behalf of the squash section. The key points from the presentation are set out below;

- The first team finished second in their division.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> team finished mid-table.
- Membership numbers were good.
- The squash Academy had taken off and was proving very popular with 20-25 boys and girls attending on Saturday morning.
- A key priority was to attract more women.

### Touch Rugby

- No report.

### Hockey (Lynn Pyman)

- The Hockey section had a mixed year.
- The men's first team had been promoted and were on the England Hockey men's team of the year shortlist.
- Other men's teams had been relegated along with the ladies 1<sup>st</sup> team.
- The other 4 ladies' teams had enjoyed a positive year.
- The junior section was thriving with around 200 members, with more girls than boys

### Election of Officers

Not applicable given changes in corporate structures, although the current Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer had agreed to continue to ensure continuity.

### AOB

Various issues were raised from the floor including:

- Dave Newton stressed the need for the club to start to look at new income streams, through events, membership and sponsorship etc.
- Dave Linton would be playing a new role for the coming year to drive income and events. The need was stressed for all members to play their part and support DL and new initiatives.
- Len Davies suggested consideration be given to increasing the prices of watching the 1<sup>st</sup> XV?
- It was agreed that collecting playing membership fees was a critical priority for the year.
- Will Hind reported that the M&J membership was under discussion, with consideration of including the kit in the costs.
- Simon Plumb thanked all the reporters who had contributed over the season.

Neil Allen  
Lymm RFC  
Honorary Secretary