



# Hendon RUGBY

**President** David Gershlick

## **Annual General Meeting - Hendon Rugby Football Club Ltd**

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2013

The meeting commenced at 14:00 with the following present:

T Gilbride, M Kupczak, M Shea, A Sheehan, S Choglay, J McCarthy, A McCarthy, J Shanahan, S Smith, L Donohoe, J Linale, L Linale, G O'Donoghue, B O'Regan, K Moriarty, L Murphy, K Okoko, D Cooper, M Blake, N Foley, M Watts, D Gershlick, D Connell, T Brownsell

Apologies for absence were received from:

M Harber, P Julian, J Fone, K Gent, C Jenkins, C Williams, I Lyall.

## **Minutes**

1. The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2012 were taken as read.

## **Treasurer's Report**

2. D Connell presented the club accounts. In summary, turnover was up substantially from £26,506 to £56,356. The main drivers for this were a bigger international ticket allocation and increased bar income. The 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner also contributed.
3. Annual subscriptions from players were similar to last season with a repeated pattern of non-payment from some members. Of the players who played 4 games or more this season, around 40% haven't paid annual subs.
4. Responding to a question from M Blake regarding the near doubling of referee's expenses, D Connell said that referees were travelling from further afield and so were seeking increased travel expenses.
5. At present the club's income is predominantly rugby related but the tax situation will change if Saracens' match days become the main source of income.
6. T Brownsell, International Ticket Coordinator, reminded the club that all tickets allocated to members are for member's personal use only and must not be sold on under any circumstances. This is stated clearly in a letter accompanying every ticket allocation. In February, a member sold tickets on eBay which was detected by the RFU. As a result of these actions, the club's ticket allocation has been reduced. Having access to international tickets is intrinsic to the club's financial security and fortunately the RFU's sanction has been suspended for 1 year. However, next time we will not be so lucky.

**PLAYING RUGBY IN HENDON SINCE 1932**

**[www.hendonrfc.com](http://www.hendonrfc.com)**

**Greenlands Lane, Hendon, London, NW4 1RL**

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7. It was agreed that the £370 raised for A Kelly, who has since relocated abroad, be transferred to the youth account.
8. The club thanked G Cooper for his continued generosity in the RFU Grand Draw.
9. The club also thanked K Gent, a former 1<sup>st</sup> XV Captain, for his kind donation of £650 towards the new youth team kit.
10. The accounts were unanimously accepted.

### **Director of Rugby's Report**

11. D Connell presented a report on behalf of M Harber.
12. M Harber thanked the captains, coaches and managers from their efforts during a challenging season. The 1<sup>st</sup> team finished in the relegation zone and will play next season in Herts/Middlesex 2 while the 2<sup>nd</sup> team managed a mid-table finish in Merit Table 3.
13. In total, 92 players played for the club this season – 67 for the 1<sup>st</sup> team and 63 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> – yet there was no regular squad to speak of. Players need to commit to play for the club, not a team, and need to communicate their availability in a timelier manner.
14. At the players meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> May, G O'Donoghue was elected 1<sup>st</sup> team captain and D Cooper was elected 2<sup>nd</sup> team captain.
15. G O'Donoghue said the coach would take the players through pre-season training but that he needed good numbers to stay with the club for the rest of the season. The club has an outstanding coach and it's unbelievable that players are willing to lose him through their disinterest in training.
16. Training will start in the second or third week of July. The exact date will be confirmed through the usual channels.
17. Poor training facilities are often cited for the poor attendance at training. The training area by the floodlights turns to mud from overuse and rain from late October. To address this the club has provisionally booked the state of the art astro-turf pitch at Allianz Park every Wednesday from September through to April 2014.
18. This is a huge financial commitment as the hire will be £144 for each 2 hour training session. However, there's a compelling argument that providing top class facilities will attract and retain quality players and encourage those who take flight at the prospect of training in the mud.
19. Our recruitment over the summer will highlight the fact that training will be at Allianz Park. In addition, players must make use of it for training as it's not viable to pay £144 for single digit training numbers.
20. The club has never been so organised in recent years with regards to the season ahead. An excellent coach and training facilities are in place from the summer. It's now down to the players to make the most of it.

## President's Report

21. D Gershlick said that the club's 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary season had highs and lows. It was disappointing to be relegated but there was also much to be positive about and that Saracens/Allianz Park presented some great opportunities for the future of the club. The 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary dinner in October was a very successful and memorable night.
22. The President again thanked the captains for their work both on and off the pitch during the season. He also congratulated the newly elected captains and said it was important that players give them their full support next season.
23. He also expressed his thanks to the committee for giving their time and energy over the past twelve months.
24. Commenting on Saracens, he said that they expected to play more Saturday games next season and the club would need to ensure it could accommodate visiting teams and officials without disruption. In particular, parking will be a problem. The 1<sup>st</sup> team fixture list is expected in June. The Saracens schedule is largely dictated by TV schedules. Their fixtures up to November should be known in the coming weeks.
25. The club also expects to play a match in Allianz Park at the start of the season in memory of Seamus Lavelle. This year is the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death.

## Membership

26. The proposed rates of subscriptions were discussed and unanimously passed.
27. The membership rates for the 2013/2014 season were set at:

Playing Member	£70	Committee Member	£50 (£70 if playing member)
Vice President	£50	Life Vice President	£350 (one-off payment)
Social Member	£10	Junior Member	£10 (under 19 on 1 <sup>st</sup> Sept)

28. The committee will introduce a new membership category before the start of the season for Saracens supporters.
29. The club noted and approved the nomination of I Lyall as a Life Vice-President.
30. The weekly playing subscriptions are a matter for the Playing Committee. However, they were briefly discussed and it was felt they could be increased to up to £10 to better reflect the costs of playing and training.

## Officers of the Club and Management Committee

31. The following committee was proposed and accepted

<b>Club Officers</b>			
President	D Gershlick	Chairman	M Watts
Treasurer	D Connell	Secretary	N Foley
<b>Management Committee</b>			
Director of Rugby	M Harber	House Secretary	M Watts
Fixture Secretary	C Silver	Bar Secretary	J Cremin
Player Registrar	T Gilbride	Social Secretary	D Cooper
Youth Chairman	L Donohoe	Recruitment Secretary	J McCarthy
Safeguarding Officer	N Foley	Medical Officer	S Smith
		Fundraising Managers	G Cooper / J Ryan

32. N Foley said that the club always needed volunteers and that anyone wishing to take on a role or contribute should speak to anyone on the committee.

### Any Other Business (AOB)

33. L Donohoe pointed out that the Captains board in the clubhouse needed updating. J Linale and M Watts agreed to follow-up on getting names added.

34. T Brownsell provided an update on M Brandler, Hendon's most successful 1<sup>st</sup> XV captain from the 1970s and now living in Australia. He sustained a spinal injury after falling from a tree and unfortunately ended up in care home in Sydney that did not specifically cater for disabled residents. M Thornbury, also living in Sydney, championed his cause amongst his old friends in the UK and Australia. They were able to identify a specialist facility in Perth and raised in excess of £1,000 to pay for an air ambulance. Thanks to the care he's receiving he's now mobile in a wheelchair and even watching local rugby matches. Anyone passing through Perth is more than welcome to pay him a visit.

35. M Kupczak volunteered to take on the role of gym coordinator so that he could open the gym area a couple of nights a week for anyone who wanted to do weight training. This was supported by those in attendance.

36. D Cooper said he is organising a club day to take place on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August and that all members, friends and family are invited to attend.

37. There being no other business the chairman concluded the meeting at 16:15.

Minutes prepared by N Foley.