

Deal, Betteshanger & Walmer Sports and Social Club

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on June 29th 2014

Directors: Ted Schofield (Chair): D. Donachie (Hon Sec) Serge Orlov: Geoff Smith: David Storrie: Richard Barker.

President: David Storrie.

Chairman's Address.

He first referred to the paucity of the turnout, particularly of voting members, especially players, which the board feels does not give them the backing they feel they need to act fully on behalf of the club. Full members need to attend and make their views known.

He then had to apologise, as did the Treasurer, for the lack of the annual accounts, even in draft, this due to the absence of information from Shepherd Neame regarding the figures on the loan, which despite repeated requests did not arrive until the Friday before the AGM. It was also the case that with the Hon Sec. position lacking clarity due to extraordinary work commitments there were no minutes from the previous AGM. Safe to say lessons have been learned.

Again the position of Director of Rugby had become vacant prior to the end of the season, Ted Schofield having resigned, so there was a very limited report on how the season had gone. The 1st XV had stayed in London 2 South East by a whisker, indeed only by a heavy points sanction upon another club. There is room for improvement and coach Dave Wiggins, who had agreed to serve for another season feels, that with fewer injuries, something from which we suffered heavily, and fit players returning, the chances for the season 2013/14 were positive. He has also agreed to take responsibility for overseeing coaching of the Junior Section to ensure continuity throughout the club.

David Storrie's tenure as club President has ended and Dave Rose Snr. agreed to take another term in the office, which was unanimously greeted with approval by those present, not least the bar manager.

Directors retiring included Dave Rose Jnr. and thanks must go to him for his long service as Hon. Secretary.

Those who stood down from the board during the season or prior to the AGM included Ray Atkinson, Ted Schofield, Brian Bentley and Kevin McLachlan.

Those standing for election to replace the vacancies were David Storrie, Ted Schofield, Adrian Nelson Steve Castle and Terry Laidlaw and given there were no other nominations all were voted in unopposed.

The meeting was then treated to a PowerPoint presentation by the Chairman outlining areas of concern in the way the club is run financially, this vital in view of the fact that the club has lost money over the season due to a drop in bar revenues. The way the finances are arranged has to be restructured.

Point one of his presentation was the need to split the budget for clubhouse overheads from that of the rugby, the former being a fixed cost that had to be met set against the more flexible budget for rugby. This was stated without the board losing sight of the fact that we are a rugby club and was in no way intended to imply that the playing of the game was less important than the building and facilities needed to make it happen.

Having gone over the figures for the year a core budget has been produced to ensure that we have light, heat, hot water and playable pitches. It was recommended that the membership fees had to increase – we are the cheapest club in Kent – since they did not reflect the overheads the organisation faced to continue to function. This has always been a difficult area due to the historical nature of our two prior entities. Neither Betteshanger nor Deal Wanderers laboured under the kind of running costs that required the kind of fees now needed to sustain the DW&B Rugby Sports and Social Club Ltd.

An objection was raised from the floor by Life Member Cliff Davies who felt that the membership were being presented with a *diktat* rather than being offered the facts then asked to vote upon and approve what was being proposed, his complaint based on the way that Betteshanger had previously had their operations controlled by John Moyle prior to the amalgamation. Geoff Davies (no relation) took exception to that on a personal level and countered angrily. They became embroiled in a noisy dispute which, both would now agree, was not enlightening to most of those present although each had valid points to make.

In the end their differences were not satisfied but a vote was called upon the proposals put forward by the board and voted through by the membership present.

We, the undersigned hereby state that the minutes above are a true and fair record, dated on the 29th of June 2014.

Ted Schofield (Chair).....

D. Donachie (Hon Sec).....