



Kent County Rugby Football Union Limited

Report of the proceedings of the Annual General Meeting held at Sheppey RFC - 26th June 2019

President John Nunn took the chair, with 30 members present including County Officers, Past Presidents, Vice Presidents, Members of the Committee, Representatives of Clubs and Associates of the County. The following Clubs were represented at the meeting:

Royal Bank of Scotland	Blackheath FC	Sittingbourne RFC
Penguin Inc RFC	Aylesford RFC	Tunbridge Wells RFC
Canterbury	Bexley RFC	Askeans RFC
Gillingham Anchorians	Old Elthamians RFC	Dartfordians RFC
Medway RFC	Brockleians RFC	Sevenoaks
Sheppey RFC	Westcombe Park	Old Colfeians

Apologies for absence were received from, Hon Treasurer of Kent County RFU, 1 Life Vice President, 2 Vice Presidents and 30 individual members, 1 Club.

Those present stood in silence in memory of people associated with Kent County RFU and its Clubs who had passed away during the past year. Mention was made of *John Carley (Past President of Kent)*, *Tom Sutton (President of Kent Schools RFU)* and *Don Hall (Kent Schools RFU)*.

Minutes of the last AGM held on 27th June 2018

The minutes of the meeting held on the 27th of June 2018, that were previously circulated, were confirmed as a true record. Proposed by Robin Taylor and seconded by David Haigh.

Address of Kent County RFU President, John Nunn

Following on from Colin Blackham who completed his 3rd year as President on 27th June 2018 at the Old Colfeians Clubhouse, I was elected as the 31st President of Kent County with extreme pride to fill such a position following the shock of being asked some 15 months previously, if I would consider accepting such a high honour. I then went away and spoke to my sons and asked them, why me? Their reply was, 'why not you', and so here am I.

52 weeks later having enjoyed the year, July and August being quiet months I had time to adjust before attempting to fill the presidential role.

I visited several clubs some by invitation and some by just turning up. To all of these clubs I expressed my sincere thanks for their generous hospitality and the warmth of welcome afforded to me. There are many more clubs on my list for future visits.

Clubs at many levels put up consistent winning performances giving them promotion to the league above, namely Canterbury after winning the playoff game against Chester to Level 3, Sevenoaks gaining promotion to Level 5 after finishing top of London 1, Beckenham to London 1 having finished top of London 2 South East, Beccehamians to London 2 South East also having been promoted the previous season from Kent 1, Ashford gaining promotion to London 3 South East and Faversham to Kent Division 1. Entertaining good quality rugby.

To all of these clubs, congratulations are due and to Old Elthamians for finishing second at Level 3 and Tonbridge Juddians who by finishing 3rd at Level 4 and missed the playoff by one place.

The County has run several insight evenings, all well attended, with the intention of improving its interface with the clubs. The biggest concern overall was the transition of players from colts to senior rugby where a high percentage of players give up rugby altogether. The numbers provided by the RFU being totally misleading when mini, junior, colts, girls and women are included in club totals.

The Kent Women's team had a relatively successful and promising season losing only in their final group game to Sussex the eventual runners up.

I attended all Pool games of the Under 20 XV where the side beat Eastern Counties very easily at Tunbridge Wells RFC, Sussex in a much closer encounter at Cranbrook RFC and away to Hertfordshire at Cheshunt losing by 2 points with a debatable penalty which proved to be the last kick of the game. This loss condemned the side to an away Quarter Final against Gloucester at Bristol where the side weakened by injury put up a very credible performance before losing 32-21. Thanks to all involved with this age group, Terry Hodson, the Manager and to Taff Gwilliam and the other coaches.

The County side still in the top group had 1 home and 2 away games. The first of these games was played at Medway RFC against Cornwall on the same Saturday Canterbury were involved in their playoff game. Sadly all that could be gleaned from this game was a losing bonus point, Cornwall, the eventual County Champions, winning 25-21 including an interception try by the visitors. Following this disappointment, Kent then travelled to Clifton to play Gloucestershire gaining a bonus point victory a first-time success against this opposition. The final game of this season's championship was against newly promoted Hampshire at Havant RFC where another bonus point victory was achieved. A most credible campaign with a near miss from playing at Twickenham. Congratulations to all of the coaching team of Tom Stradwick, Taff Gwilliam and John Gallagher and to the medical team. Also sincere thanks to those clubs who hosted games for any of the groups home fixtures.

The Kent Cup Finals Day this season was hosted by Charlton Park RFC and each of the 5 matches produced entertaining, good quality rugby with 2 of the games going to the final whistle with one score victories. These cup competitions were as always sponsored by Shepherd Neame and Giles Hilton was present to assist with the presentation of the trophies. The winning clubs from Cup to Salver were Old Elthamians, Canterbury 2nd XV, Gravesend, Faversham and Ashford respectively.

Many thanks to Shepherd Neame for all that they do to support Kent Rugby and to John Day for organising these competitions and the patience and forbearance he affords to the clubs.

As in previous years, there were 2 end of season dinners, the first again at the Ashford International Hotel for winners and runners up of the leagues and a Volunteers Dinner held at the Faversham Brewery. Both dinners were well supported and I had the pleasure in sharing in them. I was particularly moved at the Volunteers Dinner where in each of the numerous categories 3 volunteers were chosen and after hearing of the achievements of each nominee, choosing a winner must have been extremely difficult for the adjudicators all being worthy of winning. These awards were presented by Jeff Probyn and thanks to him and to Shepherd Neame for hosting the dinner.

All of the games played would not have been possible without the referees' involvement and special thanks must go to all the referees' societies for their time and patience.

I had a most enjoyable day representing Kent at Twickenham for the England v France International accompanied by other County Members.

Finally, thank you to all who have assisted and guided me during the past 12 months especially Sylvia and Tracy. I now look forward to another year serving Kent as President taking forward with me experience gained during my first in this exalted role.

The President requested the adoption of the County report as contained in the Calling Notice. Proposed by Kevin Cope. Seconded by Mike Cordell.

Minutes of the AFGM held on 11th December 2018

The President requested the adoption of the AFGM minutes as contained in the Calling Notice. Proposed by Mike Newsom. Seconded by John Day.

Proposed Rule Amendments

The Rules of the KCRFU have not been reviewed since they were last published in 2000. The Executive Committee proposes to make a number of amendments to the Rules, subject to members' approval at the AGM, all of which were included in Appendix 1 of the calling notice. Without sight of the existing rules to see what is being amended it was not possible to ratify the changes. The changes will, therefore, be communicated more clearly and ratified at the next AGM.

Election of Officers & Vice Presidents for 2019/2020

Honorary Secretary requested that the President be re-elected for a further year and requested a proposer and seconder for the election of John Nunn as President for a second term. Proposed by Mike Cordell. Seconded by Kevin Cope.

Election of other officers of the County

Honorary Secretary – Sylvia Taylor.

Honorary Treasurer – Peter Dessent.

Immediate Past President – Colin Blackham.

The above positions were proposed by Mike Newsom and seconded by Kevin Cope. All were in favour.

New Vice Presidents - The following people were put forward for Vice President Awards for long service: Ian Lunn and David Carver, and were awarded a County tie.

All current Vice Presidents were also proposed to stand for another year. Kevin Cope proposed and Robert Horner seconded all the Vice President positions.

Election of Committee for season 2019/2020

The names that are written on the back of the calling notice to stand again in a role within the county. Proposed by Mike Newsom. Seconded by Alan Thompson.

Appointment of Auditors

The current Auditors, Crane and Partners had confirmed their willingness to continue as Auditors. Tony Power proposed their appointment, seconded by Steve Homewood

Presentations of Trophies

Blazer Badges were awarded to Tony Power who has been Assistant Treasurer and International Ticket Officer for more than 10 years, and Steve Homewood, who has been Individual Membership Secretary also for more than 10 years.

Will Hawkins Trophy

Presented to the club who recruits the most individual members to the county. The winners of the shield were Tunbridge Wells RFC.

The President's Award

The person the President chose to receive his award was John Day, Kent County Competitions Chair.

Any other Business

- a) Sheppey was presented with a Kent County framed shirt to commemorate their 125th Anniversary.
- b) John Corrigan an individual member had sent in a question as to whether the printing of the handbook could be reinstated. Unfortunately, due to budget cuts and the significant cost to print the handbook for the few members that would like it to remain in this format is not viable. Some members have shown a desire to pay extra for their membership in order for it to be printed. A print on demand service will be investigated in order for those that require a hard copy to purchase if so desire. However, a new membership package is being planned.
- c) Roger Clarke informed the meeting that John Dennison is arranging a commemorative event 24/27th October 'Pipes of Peace' in Compiègne. A remembrance weekend commencing with several site visits followed by a U15/16 10 a side competition for boys and a 7 a side competition for girls on the 26th Oct which will be advertised in Kent's Information send out. There is also a VE Day in Dunkirk 7-10th May 2020 where he will be again holding a commemorative weekend with a festival of U13/U14 boys 7's competition and a Vets 15's competition. This will also be advertised to clubs in Kent's information send out in Aug/Sept.
- d) The County is in need of volunteers of which vacant roles are advertised on our website. Communications and PR manager, Social Media Manager, Marketing and Sponsorship Manager as well as a new Volunteer coordinator. The discipline committee is also looking to replace some long-serving members and therefore volunteers are sought to train for these committee roles. Any interested parties or any recommendations for the roles whom we can approach should get in touch with the County Office.
- e) There is a Kent County budget meeting on 9th July whether the budget will be set for the coming year.
- f) It was asked if RFU financial cutbacks are likely to impact on Kent. Kent has always had an underspend of RFU funding for planned activity so the 18% should not hurt too much in our delivery. The County Championship funding has been cut by £4000, the CB will pick up any shortfall to support our representative teams. There are funding cuts for clubs performing at level 5 and above.

The President thanked everybody for attending and for all their work within the County. The meeting closed at 8.17pm with thanks to Sheppey Rugby club for hosting the meeting.