



Kent County Rugby Football Union Limited

Report of the proceedings of the Annual General Meeting held online by Zoom - 2nd Sept 2020

Chairman of the Executive Committee Roger Clarke took the chair, with 21 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:

Bexley RFC	Blackheath FC	Old Gravesendians
Blackheath FC	Old Elthamians RFC	Tonbridge Juddians
Canterbury	Tunbridge Wells RFC	Old Colfeians
Gillingham Anchorians	Askeans RFC	Vigo
Medway RFC	Langley	Sheppey RFC

Due to COVID the AGM was conducted virtually using an online facility. A short briefing was delivered on protocols for the meeting and how to communicate.

Apologies for absence were received from, Benny Bell (Canterbury) and Steve Homewood (KCRFU Memberships).

Those present bowed their head for quiet reflection in memory of people associated with Kent County RFU and its Clubs who had passed away during the past year.

Minutes of the last AGM held on 26th June 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on the 26th of June 2019, which were previously circulated, were confirmed as a true record and no matters were arising.

Address of Kent County RFU President, John Nunn

I will start my address by referring back to last year's AGM at Sheppey RFC where I stated that I had enjoyed the first year of my three-year tenure, as Kent County RFU President and was looking forward to a very busy second year. It started in that vein with the most enjoyable visit to Twickenham on 11th August for the first of the pre-world cup international warm-up matches against Wales. At the finish of the game, I made a point of contacting the RFU President, Old Brockleians RFC, Peter Wheeler and reminding him of a match many years previously when he and I had played together in an invitational XV against his old boys in their golden jubilee season. Sadly, following a stroke, he had suffered in December 2018, he had no recollection of this game nor the names of his contemporaries at Old Brockleians. On returning to the bar, I met 007, James Bond, and was photographed with Daniel Craig. Since that occasion, everything has paled into insignificance.

The season moved on and we were able to watch England fall just short of World Cup Victory and in the New Year seeing them securing the triple crown in the truncated Six Nations matches.

The arrival of the COVID-19 virus and the subsequent lockdown meant that all games at the busiest part of the seasons were not played. Hence, no Kent Cup Finals Day, no Senior County Championship matches, and disappointment for the strong U20's XV, who had won all three of their group matches and were looking forward to a home quarter-final game with high hopes of making Twickenham this season.

COVID also meant the cancellation of the Social events namely the annual Volunteer Awards dinner at Shepherd Neame Brewery and the Annual Awards Dinner at Ashford International Hotel.

Another casualty was the South Africa Tour and will now be postponed until July 2021.

I had the pleasure of visiting the following clubs, Beccehamians, Blackheath, Bromley, Charlton Park, Dartfordians Gravesend, and Sevenoaks all who made me feel most welcome and afforded me generous hospitality.

The following Clubs gained promotion, on which they are to be congratulated, and sadly some were relegated and to them, we offer commiserations and wish them a rapid return to their former higher league. The promotions were Tonbridge Juddians to National One, Westcombe Park to London & SE Premier League, Ashford and Folkestone to London 2 SE, Southwark Lancers, and Cranbrook to London 3 SE, Brockleians and Footscray to Kent 1. The relegated clubs were Canterbury down from National 1, Beckenham, and Dartfordians back to London 2 SE, Maidstone & Dover to 3 SE, Parkhouse, and Old Williamsonian's to Kent 1 and Old Gravesendians and Whitstable to Kent 2.

To clubs that are experiencing financial difficulties, we hope that with the easing of lockdown that they will survive. In really severe cases, has not the sharing of facilities been considered?

I would like to thank all the committee members for all their hard work often behind the scenes and all volunteers, who help to keep Kent in an enviable position in the county set up with the particular mention of Peter Dessent standing down as Treasurer after 17 years and Terry Hodson who is standing down as U20's manager after many years in that post.

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

Minutes of the AFGM held on 11th December 2018

There no questions raised concerning the Minutes of the AFGM.

Proposed Rule Amendments

At last year's AGM, the rule amendments were proposed however, without sight of the existing rules to see what was being amended it was not possible to ratify the changes. Therefore, all rules and amendments have been circulated for this year's AGM to show all the changes. There have not been changes for 20 years and it was suggested that we do so every 2-3 years (unless there is an exceptional circumstance that requires us to review earlier). The adoption of the amendments was proposed by Terry Hall and seconded by Alan Thompson.

Election of Officers & Vice Presidents for 2020/2021

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 third term. Proposed by Nigel Fray. Seconded by Graham Withers.

Election of other officers of the County

A Director of Governance role has been created on the Executive Committee to be tasked with Governance issues; co-ordination of action across RFU/CB Governance, discipline issues within the county, and governance in general with CB committees and sub-committees and the volunteers associated with them. This position was advertised widely, and Nigel Fray was appointed to this position for 20-21.

Honorary Secretary – Sylvia Taylor

Honorary Treasurer – Ben Ashby

All were in favour of the above positions.

Roger Clarke nominated Peter Dessent as an LVP a rare honour that is richly deserved who has served for 17 years as Kent County Treasurer. Proposed by John Day and seconded by Tony Power.

Re-election of all current Vice Presidents was also proposed to stand for another year. Terry Hall proposed, and Taff Gwiliam seconded all the Vice President positions.

Election of Committee for season 2020/2021

Sylvia thanked Roger Clarke for his sterling work this past year as our RFU Representative who will continue in this role for this coming season. Roger has been invited to sit on additional committees within the RFU. The names that are written on the back of the calling notice are the proposed committee for the coming season, this is due to better succession planning to enable us to put in place volunteers for the coming season. Proposed by Kevin Cope. Seconded by Les Beven.

Appointment of Auditors

The current Auditors, Crane and Partners have confirmed their willingness to continue as Auditors. Proposed by Giles Hilton. Seconded by Tony Power.

Presentations of Trophies

A Blazer Badge is to be awarded to David Caddy who has been involved with youth competitions for many years.

Will Hawkins Trophy

Presented to the club who recruits the most individual members to the county. The winners of the shield were Maidstone FC.

The President's Award

The person the President chose to receive his award was Terry Hodson, who has been Kent County U20's manager for many years.

Any other Business

Graham Withers asked that any end of year reports to include the promotion and relegation of Women's leagues.

Roger Clarke thanked everybody for attending and for all their work within the County. The meeting closed at 8.10 pm.