**ANNAN RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB**

**Minutes for the Annual General Meeting of Annan Rugby Football Club to be held on Thursday** **6th August 2020 at 7.00pm at Barrasgate**

**1 Apologies for Absence:** Neal Coupland, Neil MacPherson, Billy Henderson, Jack Tinning

**2**  **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 27th June 2019 for approval:** Proposed byFiona Latimer seconded by Alan Robertson

**3** **Matters Arising:** None

**4** **President’s Report:**

Gary offered thanks to outgoing committee members Fiona Latimer and Lesley Ewing, both of whom contributed greatly to the current fiscal robustness of the club. Both ladies received bouquets as a token of gratitude for their efforts.

Thanks were also offered to other outgoing members; Neil Moffat, who is standing down from Head Coach duties and Niall Smith for his previous work on the coaching staff . Finally thanks were extended to Dave Fisher for his long service in ensuring that all medical bags were kept sufficiently stocked.

The full report can be found attached below.

**5 Treasurer’s Report:**

Lesley’s report was upbeat but with some caveats, stating that the management committee has had to take some hard decisions to protect the good health of the club’s finances and it’s ability to weather the current situation and It was important that this approach was maintained.

Lesley concluded her report by wishing the incoming Treasurer, Niall Smith best wishes and all good luck for his tenure.

The full report can be found below,

**6** **Election of Office Bearers:**

President – Gary Coupland, proposed by Neil Moffat, seconded by Niall Smith

Vice Pres – Neil Moffat, proposed by Fiona Latimer, seconded by Colin Warrick

VP Rugby – Colin Warrick, proposed by Neil Moffat, seconded by Niall Smith

Treasurer – Niall Smith, nominated by Lesley Ewing, seconded Fiona Latimer

Secretary – Ed Woodman, proposed by Nicole Barlow, seconded by Abbie Clark

Fixture Secretary – Sean Haren, proposed by Gav Lynch, seconded by Ryan Glass

Referee Secretary – Niall Smith, proposed by Garry Coupland and Neil Moffat

**7** **Appointment of Ordinary Committee Members:**The following were duly proposed and seconded and elected to the Committee of Management as Ordinary Members:

Nicole Barlow, Andrew Jancey, Ben Conroy, Tracy Whiteside, Marion Hamilton, Linsey Kyle, Colin McCann, Billy Henderson, Laura McKay,

Gordon Carmichael, Ryan Glass, Abbie Clark, Heather Tinning, Craig Johnstone, Jack Tinning, Neal Coupland, Tam Sloan.

It is hoped that committee members will be able to take on specific roles.

**8** **Election of Captains and Vice Captains:**

The following elections were ratified at the meeting:

**1st XV Captain –** Andrew Jancey

**1st XV Vice-Captain -**  Ryan Glass

**2nd XV Captain –** Ben Conroy

**2nd XV Vice-Captain** – Ross Brown

**Warriors –** Nicole Barlow

**Warriors Vice -**  Chelsea Barnes

**9** **Any Other Business:**

Heather Tinning enquired whether the cancelled end of season awards ceremony for the Mini Section, will still be held at some point in the future. Gary advised that something would certainly be held, probably at Violetbank, to maintain social distancing.

Colin Warrick asked if there was any progress re the purchase of Violetbank. Neil Moffat advised that there was nothing new to report at this stage, however, the issue of purchase is still live.

Colin McCann enquired about VB pitch care going forward, e.g. grass cutting, lining of the pitches, etc. Neil Moffat advised that ‘grounds maintenance’ equipment has been purchased and that grass cutting will be carried by Andy Coupland. Ed Woodman offered to assist Colin with pitch lining.

**Date of Next Committee Meeting: Monday 10th – Zoom.**

**Presidents Report:**

Thanks to everyone for coming to our AGM, in these strange times. I’d also like to thank Marion for allowing us to use her Barn.

Prior to the arrival of the COVID 19 pandemic, the past season was a bit of a transitional season for all the senior teams, with a number of players, retiring or otherwise moving on, which meant that both the senior men and women were in a position to consolidate their positions in their respective leagues.

One of the most pleasing aspects of the season was the introduction of a number of youth players into all the senior teams, from the Club youth system. It is also testament to the clubs strength in depth and the resurgence of the 2nd XV that the 1st XV Squad had at the time of lockdown being introduced used 35 players.

Our micro, mini and youth sections are also going growing with the Club on occasion putting out 10 separate teams at various age groups over the season. We have recruited a number of youth coaches over the year, however due to the increasing numbers and a few people stepping down we still require more help, both in terms of coaching but also refereeing, so if any senior players, ex players or other members feel they could assist with any of the youth teams please speak to myself or Nicole after the meeting.

A number of individuals were also recognised at national and regional level during what playing season we had, Two of the club’s Senior players, Ryan Hetherington and Chelsea Barnes were also the recipients of the SRU National Try of the month award for October for the senior men’s and Women’s Categories. I’m sure but for the COVID restrictions both would have been in with a shout in their respective categories for try of the season at the Scottish Rugby end of Season Awards.

Lilly Glendinning, Lexi Steele and Ellie Henderson were also selected for the Scotland U20 and U18 Futures Squads as well as Aaron Carmichael and Ryan Armstrong being invited to train for selection to the Glasgow U18 Squad.

Special mention should also go to Ben Latimer, who was chosen by Scottish Rugby as the Mitsibushi Young Volunteer of the season (2019/20) for the Glasgow South Region for his involvement coaching, refereeing and volunteering at the club. as well as playing and training for the U16 team.

Fiona Latimer and Lesley Ewing are also stepping down from their roles as Vice President (Commercial) and Club Treasurer.  I would like to thank you both, for your contribution to the Club and support to me petrsonally over the past few years.  I think everyone will agree the significant time and effort you have both put into the Club during your respective tenures has left us in a much better position than a lot of sports clubs both in a general sense and to manage our way through the current COVID 19 crisis.

Muff is also standing down as Head Coach of the Senior Coaching Team, to take on a more strategic role, within the club.  Muff has held the position for 9 years which has seen the club win 2 league titles unbeaten, a West Shield final, being awarded the SRU Club of the year, Annandale and Eskdale team of the year and both Muff and Baz being joint Coaches of the year at the Annandale and Eskdale Sports Awards.  Well done Muff and thank to for your work and commitment with the teams and the club in that role.

I’d also like to formally announce that Gordon Carmichael will take on the head coach role from this season for the senior men’s group and will be ably assisted by myself, Jack Tinning, Babe Graham, Gav Lynch and some of the senior playing squad.

I’d also like to thank Nicole Barlow for covering the various coaching inputs at local primary schools, Annan Academy, School Health and holiday rugby camps and wish her all the best for the coming season as Club Youth Development Coach.

I would now like to thank those coaches and team managers who are stepping down this year,

Neil Bell, Jim Tweedie, Calum Heughan, Lynn Aitchison and Ghislane Duncan.

A number of others,

Alan and Gus Robertson for their ongoing tireless efforts with match and other photos, press reports, and the club web and social media pages.

Dave Fisher who is stepping down from maintaining our first Aid Kits and sourcing medical supplies.

Jordan Paterson for his input with all the senior squads.

All our sponsors, fundraisers, Staff, Coaches, volunteers, players and members without whom the Club could not have functioned both financially and on a day to day level.

Although we are in uncertain times due to COVID and its continuing impact upon the club, I’d like to think that as we emerge from these difficult times we can still continue to be forward looking, optimistic and continue the development and successes of recent years. But to do that can I encourage everyone to pull together and continue to support the club. There are still a large number of challenges the club faces notwithstanding COVID, including potential changes in the National Funding Structure, player numbers, facilities and funding around all that.

Thank You

Gary

Gary Coupland

President