

Aberfeldy RFC

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held at Aberfeldy Town Hall on 4th September 2017 at 8.00pm.

Present: Bill Bruce, Ali Nash, Jason Logan, Paul Summers, Laurie Dempster, Lewis Summers, Kyle Harrison, Alistair Henderson, Patrick Barbour, Edward Munt, Caleb Eady, Geordie Broad, Nicki Oag, Steve Brown, Suzie Morrison, Euan Thomson, Max Carnegie, Angus Broad.

Apologies: Keith Moncrieff, Ross Dempster, Ciaran Cassidy.

Chairman's Report by Bill Bruce:

As before, the various club officers will give their reports on the Club's activities so I will restrict my comments to a brief overview. Last year I reported that we had exceeded expectations; we found ourselves able to field a respectable 15 and give a good account of ourselves – so much so that we found ourselves playing in the BT Caledonian League well before planned. At the time of the last AGM, we had just started competing in the league and I'm pleased to say we have shown ourselves worthy of a place.

So on the playing field we have been successful. We have also been successful in garnering generous support from sponsors; not least the new changing rooms from Mr D Wessels of Findynate Estate.

But the challenges we face remain much the same as last year. We need:

- More funding
- More players
- More social members,
- More sponsorship,
- More trainers,
- More helpers – on and off the committee.

We will discuss these points in more detail during the course of the meeting.

Team Managers Report by Steve Brown:

Since we met at the last AGM in September 2016 the Aberfeldy RFC team have stamped their mark in the Scottish rugby scene. We kicked off the year with a start in the Caledonia Midlands Division 3 Competition. With 8 teams in the league and a home and fixture each, meant 16 games for the season. Our first league match was at the end of August vs. Perthshire RFC at home in Kenmore, this was a great win for Aberfeldy at 36 -19, and the win made a serious impression to these bigger more established clubs, we couldn't have asked for a better start. After that things didn't go well for a while with the following weeks fixture being rescheduled by the Dundee Medics, then our Club being unable to field a team

through September and through half of October. The main reason for missing so many games was our difficulty in fielding a full team on a Saturday, particularly during the shooting season, and the reluctance of opponents to play on Sundays. Although other teams experienced difficulty in fielding full teams, we were usually first to admit a problem and accordingly incurred some penalty points which we might have avoided – a lesson learned for the future.

The rest of the season we had mixed results with appearances vs.

Dundee Medics	39 -24	home
Arbroath	32 - 17	away
Stobswell	12 -72w	away
Waid FB	18 - 12	home
Angus Development	12 - 72w	home
Dundee Medics	27 - 0	away
Perthshire	24 - 17	away

Unfortunately we failed to play any of the fixtures vs. Madras RFC.

Out of the 16 league fixtures we played 8 games, we won 3 and lost 5, scoring 257 points for and 149 against, for the games we played. We finished the season in 7th place on the table.

Since the end of the league we have played 3 friendly matches vs.

Perthshire	14 - 37	away under lights
Arbroath	12 - 67	home
Hillfoots	57 - 45	away, 2 nd Division team.

The team has had great success in the 7's competitions that we have entered:

Crieff 7's were a huge success with the team winning all their pool games convincingly including against Crieff and the Dundee Medics, the lads then went on to win the cup semi-final! Aberfeldy RFC vs. Kirkcaldy RFC in the cup final! Amazing ... it was a really tough final game and Kirkcaldy took the win 32 - 12, for us making the tournament cup final against these long established clubs was massive and all the our boys should be very proud of their achievement.

Perthshire 7's - we reached the semi-final & were narrowly defeated by a vastly more experienced French touring side. We also got a nice mention on the Perthshire website. "Arguably, the game of the tournament was between Ayr RFC & Aberfeldy RFC, teams at either end of the league spectrum in the Scottish rugby. It was another see-saw game with both teams determined to play a fast expansive game. Aberfeldy in particular, were blessed with a couple of fliers & it was this that ultimately decided the game, with Feldy winning 25 - 12."

Islay beach rugby trip was successful too, making semi-finals this year.

The Chairman noted that Steve would be returning to New Zealand shortly and thanked him for his role in getting the club started from scratch and his continuing commitment and hard work.

Development Officer's Report by Laurie Dempster:

Referring to the number of missed matches, Laurie advised this was a trend that presents a potential threat to the future of the club – the league rules have been reviewed and there is now a real risk that any team missing 3 matches could be expelled from the league. Although our difficulties, caused by the work requirements of the bulk of our players, had been made clear at the outset, and again more recently, we cannot rely on special treatment.

The nub of the problem is that our player pool is too small. While we continually bring on new players, we face a steady drain as players leave for work or university and this aspect of our rural location is not going to change. Our plans to hire a Youth Development Officer via a joint funding with Crieff have fallen through. While we have received encouraging indications that grant funding could be available, there remains the obstacle that our present structure and staffing does not enable us to proceed with confidence. We will need to work on getting this fixed before employing a YDO to bring on the youngsters we need to eventually play for the senior team.

Our efforts to encourage players from the surrounding area, particularly Pitlochry, Dunkeld and Blair Atholl have met with limited success and Laurie suggested that we might do better if we changed the Club's name to *Highland Perthshire RFC* or *Atholl and Breadalbane RFC*. Following discussion, it was agreed that moving some training nights to Pitlochry might more effectively make a difference both psychologically and in terms of convenience. It was agreed to try this as soon as possible. In order to avoid an EGM if the Committee later decided a name change was needed, the Chairman proposed and the meeting approved a motion that: ***"The Committee is authorised to change the name in its discretion should it decide that this is necessary to attract more players."***

Laurie advised that the Kenmore Sports Association had agreed in principle that ARFC could use the Clubhouse facilities to provide food / refreshments to visiting teams up till 8.00 pm. They have arranged for the premises to be licensed. In order for us to progress we will need to arrange a suitable licensee to oversee the sale of alcoholic drinks and a roster of players to attend to service of food and drink.

Child Protection Officer's Report:

As the CPO Ross Dempster was unavoidably absent, Laurie reported briefly on his behalf. We now have a proper Child Protection Policy in place and have increased the number of members qualified to supervise minors. We need more to qualify and Laurie asked anyone who could to complete the necessary formalities.

The Chairman extended the thanks of the meeting to Ross for his work in getting the CPP established and also for his regular work as team coach.

Treasurers Report by Ali Nash:

The accounts as at 31st March 2017 had been circulated earlier but Ali circulated further copies. To date the Auditor has not been in a position to commence an audit but it is

expected that this will be done shortly and that no changes / significant changes will be required. Ali briefly explained the main items and the present financial situation. There were no questions.

As per the Agenda, the meeting discussed the question of a change to the financial year so as to be more in line with the timing of the AGM. It was agreed that it would be more appropriate to change the AGM to a date near the end of the playing season and leave the FY date undisturbed. Laurie Dempster proposed and the meeting approved the following resolution:

Resolved that with effect from 2018 the date of the Annual General Meeting be changed to a date in the last week of June each year.

Election of Committee for 2017-2018:

It was agreed that the new committee should be expanded as proposed by the outgoing committee and set out in the Agenda. Office bearers were elected as follows:

Chairman:	Laurie Dempster
Treasurer:	Ali Nash
Secretary:	Bill Bruce
Child Protection Officer:	Ross Dempster
Membership Secretary:	Suzie Morrison
Coach:	Ross Dempster
Fixture Secretary:	Laurie Dempster
Grounds Convenor:	Paul Summers
Social Secretary:	Nicki Oag

When nominated the Players Representative and Team Captain will be co-opted on to the committee.

A.O.B

i) Laurie mentioned that a page is to be added to our website to record our thanks to sponsors. Presently these include:

Aberfeldy Rotary Club for financing a new strip,
Peter Jack and Neil Young for match balls,
Kenmore Sports Club for the use of their ground and facilities,
The Courtyard Restaurant for subsidizing post - match team food,
Andersons Dentistry for £1000 - to finance youth development.
Laurie asked that we support these sponsors in any way we can.

ii) Nicki Oag kindly volunteered to responsible for laundering the team kit once the Brown family depart. The Chairman extended thanks to Mrs Brown on behalf of the Club for all her work.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9.45 pm.