

A.G.M.
Minutes
2024

June 25

2024

Minutes of the 151st Annual General Meeting of Greenock Wanderers RFC held within in the clubhouse on Tuesday 25th June at 7.00pm

The President, Eddie Murray, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to this the 151st AGM of the Club.

1. **NOTICE:**

Prior to the meeting it had been brought to Eddie's attention that not all members were able to view papers in advance, despite all papers being posted virtually on our website since 23rd May and copies being available on the wall next to the office. This was deemed to be not in accordance with the Constitution. Eddie asked indulgence that we proceed without letting this get in the way of the meeting. There will be a full review of the Constitution as it is out of date in a number of areas. EM suggested that if members were unhappy then we would close the meeting at this point. There was agreement to proceed. Secretary read out the apologies. (see appendix 1).

2. **ATTENDANCE:** The President and 42 members were present - see Appendix 1

3. **APOLOGIES:** There were 7 formal apologies - see Appendix 2.

4. **REFLECTION:** The meeting took time to pause for a moment of reflection for those well known to the Club who had sadly passed away during the last year.

- Archie McKinlay
- Tom Dunn
- Graham Johnstone
- Mitch Thomson

5. **MINUTES:** The Minutes of the 150th AGM were approved on the proposal of Diane Hughes and seconded by Alan Crighton.

6. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Eddie Murray)**

A warm welcome to all members of GWRFC and our sponsors for our 150th Anniversary season.

The GWRFC "family" ensured that the year and our several celebrations went well.

Given the widely reported problems some very old and very famous rugby clubs are having I have been more and more pleasantly surprised at the sheer scale and diversity that the Wanderers Rugby Family encompasses.

The overall management committee work extremely hard and a special thanks to the senior management group Alan Crighton, Graham Knox, Tony Barrie, Shona Mitchell and Kevin Murray for all their great help.

My heartfelt thanks goes to everyone but especially my 150 committee very ably led by Dougie McDougall and assisted by Beverley Addison, David Bruce, Graham Knox and Kevin Murray.

A specific mention to Graeme Alexander as 7's organiser and Stevie Anderson and Bryan Reddy for getting the tournament on and making it successful to boot, despite the ongoing problems with participating Rugby Clubs. Well done everyone!

We started the season with a launching of Colin Bryce's last 50 years history of the club and a great thanks to him for that work for causing so many arguments about the wanderer of each decade and especially his final team of the 50 years!

In August we had a lunch and match and through the season lunches at the 1XV league games. A magnificent Christmas Ball organised superbly by Bev and the team, a Civic Reception and a final Club Dinner rounded off the year. During all of this I had great support from the Club Committee especially our main sponsor MM Search and great help from Brow House. But I do want to thank John Dyer for his constant help especially with the lunches and meeting our many and varied guests throughout the year. Thanks everyone.

Other reports will go into more detail about our Teams, Facilities, Finance and Future but I can honestly say that after this year our/your future is in very good hands, with perhaps one or two vital reviews of the financing of the playing and especially training costs of every team in the club from the Wee Wandies to the old crocks, but I am sure your committee will work tirelessly, and with the help of all of the members and players, will continue their excellent drive forward of providing an inclusive safe place to learn, play, enjoy and watch rugby and to learn the great life skills this wonderful game gives you and continues to give you throughout life.

The inside page of our program gives you a little insight into just how many people give their time and energy to help the club. Thank you again!

In my 150 program notes I mentioned how Sunday was my favourite day to watch so many young boys and girls learning about our great game, and it was further emphasised at the year end with so many Prize nights for all the various age groups. These were well organised by the wonderful coaches and helped by our bar team and our ever-green Angela and Hatch Marshall in the kitchen and backroom work that is not always seen but is essential to the smooth running of the everyday Club.

In summary, a large number of people ensure that the club operates efficiently and throughout the year visitors have not been slow to appreciate what and how we do things the proper RUGBY WAY. Our helpers would be the first to say that that they rely on the support of their families and likewise my custodianship of this 150 season has been made possible with the help of my wife, Elaine and family and especially Kevin Murray, 149th President.

Again, thank you all and good luck to Alan Crichton and his incoming committee for season 151!

7. **VP OF RUGBY'S REPORT** (Read by Eddie Murray, drawing on reports from Graham Knox and John Dyer)

My apologies for not being here this evening as I have work commitments.

This season has certainly had its challenges. Most of which we have overcome. Our great success this season is our playing numbers across all levels of the club.

Our senior men now have 1st 2nd and 3rd xv levels. We are now able to offer rugby to all standards of players.

All teams competing really well considering their relatively young ages. Testament to Robert Mitchell and all his coaching staff who continue to do a great job in developing our local players. All under the watchful eye of John Dyer who has been a great support as Director of Rugby.

Our men's club captain Andrew McDougall was fantastic on and off the park. A massive thank you to him for his commitment, having a very young family and taking so much time off work would not have been easy. Thank you.

Our senior Women's Section has saw an explosion of new players. Our Director of Woman's Rugby Beverley Addison ran a rugby bootcamp last summer. This was a tremendous success.

This allowed the club to put out 1stxv and 2xv levels for the 1st time in the clubs history. A remarkable achievement. We are on track for a 3xv team next season !!

Tina Hemphill (T) and Emily Gray were co-captains for the season for what has probably been the most challenging season for the Women's Section they were absolute rocks. And believe it or not their back again next season. Well done girls.

As head coach of the women section it's been extremely hard work. Never in my time did I think on a Monday night would I be planning sessions for 70/80 players. A huge thank you to all our coaches who continue to support me.

Our main stumbling block at the moment is we have had no Under 18s sides for both sections. This is something that myself Beverley and Clare our Development Officer have been focusing on. Next season we hope to have a full but young U18 boys side. Not far behind in a couple of years an U18 Girls side. This is key for the clubs sustainability for the future. A conveyor of girls and boys coming up to playing in our Senior Ranks.

We now have full compliment in the midis boys section 13s 14 15s 16s and now 18s. We also have full teams from P1 yes P1 through to P7. A great future lies ahead. A huge thank you to our outgoing midi Convenor Lorraine Templeton not sure what I would have done if it wasn't for you. All our coaches from Micros Minis and midis we thank you for your time you give to the young players. Special mention to Brian Malcolm and Finlay Campbell for leading the minis and micros

Our girls section in its 1st season has been another huge success story over 50 new players yet again Beverley and her team ran a bootcamp for S1 to S4 girls. More young players from Inverclyde playing rugby. A highlight being the full International team came down to take a coaching session for our new recruits.

Next season it's hoped we shall field girls U10s U12s U14s and U16 teams.

It should be noted that Beverley won the SRU Glasgow Volunteer of the Season award in Adult Rugby. This was presented to her at the club.

Our development Officer Clare Nicholson goes from Strength to Strength. This season we have been delivering rugby in Inverclyde Academy and Clydeview Academy. And across all primary schools at P5 age.

Only 2 years ago we had nothing. Our reputation in the school was nothing short of terrible. Clare had rebuilt trust with Active Schools Inverclyde and within the schools themselves. I'm pleased to say that the SRU have agreed to part fund Clare again because of all the great work she is doing.

Key wins

Recruiting players from the school to GWRFC.

Employing sessional coaches to spread playing opportunities of rugby in the whole of Inverclyde.

Set up an Inverclyde Academy rugby team.

Set up and Clydeview Academy team which got to the West schools cup final !! in the 1st season.

Summer/October/Easter Camps attended by 40/50 children.

P5 Festival of rugby over 100 P5 kids from different Primary Schools at GWRFC for games. Clare's task remains clear recruit players from Primary Schools into our mini sections and to eventually get all Secondary Schools in Inverclyde playing rugby against each other. She remains on track.

Clare is an invaluable asset to the club. We are very lucky to have her.

Clare is also our Academy manager and this is key for player development. The Academy is now starting to bear fruit again with a number of players getting to be selected for the SRU Development Hubs. Zak Burgess, Freddie McPheate Angus Dunnet to name but a few. There's no doubt these boys would have made that without the Academy.

A massive thank you to John McDougall who oversees the Academy with Clare your continued support is really appreciated.

As you can see it's a busy flourishing club growing a fast rate. There are huge challenges ahead. Which I'm sure Tony and Alan will come to. The cost of playing rugby is absolutely rocketing. All grants are getting cut. SRU is expecting a cut of 15% across all spends.

Finally, I'd like to thank My fellow Senior committee members who have been a great support Eddie, Alan, Tony Kevin and Shona.

As you can see it's been a tremendous but challenging year for our ever increasing playing numbers.

8. **HON. TREASURER'S REPORT** (Tony Barrie)

Tony talked through some headlines from the club accounts for 2023/4. The club made a £16k loss across all operations. There are positives, for example, subscriptions are up, sponsorship is up, we have good relationships with the SRU and the bar is doing well. There is an issue around Bar convenors and keeping one in place. The downside are the costs.

The downside is that the costs of playing rugby have risen significantly. Buses are now very expensive and moving forward we will monitor bus use very carefully. We now have a volunteer to support the organisation of the buses .

We now need much more playing space as our numbers are now so high. Council used to subsidise cost of pitch hire. They still do but to a much lesser extent. This is a symptom of doing well.

Some additional costs were incurred due to additional costs of the 150th anniversary. Putting many more people through coaching courses thus adding to costs. Physio costs also rising. 150th match tops purchased for teams. Some of these costs have been offset by sponsorship coming in. Difficult to marry this spend off against costs. If we need new strips, we need to start finding funding for it.

Balance sheet – new asset in new floodlights, no value in asset register for this. Stocks includes bar stock, strips and kitchen stock. TB chasing VAT that we are owed.

Haven't spent against maintenance fund for this year. Incoming President will cover this in his remarks.

9. Proposed subscriptions for season 24/5

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS PROPOSAL 2024 / 2025

Membership Category	2024 Fee £	2025 Proposed Fee £
Playing	160	192
Playing U21/student (at 01/08/24)	85	102
Playing U18 (at 01/08/24)	60	72
Playing Old Crock	85	102
Youth Playing	60	72
Family 1 2 Adults (non playing) + number of youth members Under 18 and younger in year of membership Youth members may play or not. All members living in same household.	160	142
Family 2 2 Adults (1 Playing Adult) Number of Youth Members Under 18 and younger in year of membership Youth members may play or not. All members living in same household.		192

Family 3 2 Adults (Playing Members) Number of Youth Members Under 18 and younger in year of membership Youth members may play or not. All members living in same household.		384
Ordinary	130	140
Country	85	95
Associate	85	95
Life	70	80

Questions on above reports

David Ramage – subscriptions. How confident is DS that he is able to get 100% subs in? What process has been put in place? TB – lot better visibility around who is paying and who is not. TB has access to Pitchero account and can track who has paid and who has not. A big exercise was undertaken at the end of last year to track payments to subs. Message last year was to pay subs or not be considered to play in 150th year. TB speak to DS every month to check on subs payments. Expression of thanks from David for being in a better place.

A range of issues and questions came from various members including Charlie Stewart (CS) – lost £7K on the bar, are we doing a stock check in July? What are we doing about this? TB - Better till system has been purchased, prices will increase this year. Are you confident we can regain this for coming year? Some increased costs were due to running two outside bars for events. There were stock problems due to mis-management from person in charge of the bar at the time. Bar costs have increased. TB – spent on new glasses for certain events. TB will not sign off on things that he doesn't agree with. If presented with an invoice that was not expected, he will be asking questions. TB – Diane works tirelessly on trying to secure new sponsorship. £48K was given – was that mainly from SRU? TB – yes. CS – at what stage in year will we know what SRU will give us? CS – what about buses? Can folk not use cars? TB – we will be tightening up on this. Couldn't anticipate extra buses, for example, of teams that progressed in cup competitions. CS – how much is bus to Glasgow? EM – that is fine for senior teams but this can't apply to under 18 teams. CS – as a committee you need to manage this loss, this can't happen next year. CS – query on clubhouse and cleaning. TB – cost of tractor, for example, costs of 150th prep. CS – what stage in the season did committee realise we were going to make a loss for buses? Invoice costs came in in Q4. Partly due to change in bus company.

Question around buses, can we not have someone to plan this for the season now that fixtures are out? EM – as already said, we have this in place for next year.

Ian Crighton – do we optimise Gift Aid use? TB – yes we do. Everyone making a donation, is asked to complete Gift Aid.

Struan Brown – are subs going up for next season? Another point on travel, people using cars tends to lead to lesser performance on the pitch. How does SRU funding towards buses work? TB – distance is a factor but the funding never covers the whole cost of the bus. AC – moving forward, players could use a bus with the money from SRU and make up the difference.

Ian Appleton (IA) – bar – turnover up £55K. Can you provide breakdown on difference between match day income and clubhouse? Match day income was approximately £5K, lunches made £4k. Other activities cost us eg 150th lunch. Trying to find out, what we as a club generate from hiring out clubhouse for functions so where is this income? TB – money through the bar. If Angela caters the event, Angela takes the money. IA – where does the income from the kitchen show?

CS – he is asking where is the event income going and where is it showing in the accounts? TB – this has been covered.

IA – want to see our history of maintenance of clubhouse. TB – this wasn't shown against the maintenance fund. TB – if you want to disagree, then please feel free to get involved but this was our decision as a committee.

IA – stock on balance sheet has gone up – how much is bar stock and how much is 150th Anniversary stock? TB - £9K of bar stock, £2k of 150th stock.

TB – still due money back from our gas supplier. IA – concerned that costs are still going to go up.

IA - there will be a shock next year if costs continue to rise. EM – things have been put in place to remedy this for next year. Committee has already made these decisions.

CS – how much is expense for RDO going to cost the club? EM – funding in place for this post for another year from SRU.

Bryan Reddy – how much was raised by Xmas Ball? TB - £8K.

CS – are ladies subs going up by the same %? TB – yes. TB – outlined subs proposals (see proposals at 10 below). Outlined three tiers of family membership.

Gordon McTavish – if subs stay the same, what would this represent in money? TB – 20% increase on this year. More subs this year from ladies who joined under reduced membership scheme but will now be playing full membership. Tina Hemphill – answered questions about initial reduced membership and the money that this has generated.

Ross Finnie – I can understand why the committee has come to the decision to raise the subs, however, can we explain why the smallest increase is for non-playing members? This places a heavy burden on young playing members. EM – rationale behind this is that most social non-playing members have already contributed over the years in many cases. Comment – that those who would like to pay more can make a voluntary donation.

Jack McDaid – what are you paying your membership for if the pitches are closed for two months of the year? Ice bath, use of gym, tv subscriptions in the bar etc

10. **ADOPTION OF REPORTS**

The adoption of the President's, DoR and Hon Treasurer's reports together with the subscriptions rates for 23/24 were proposed by Kevin Murray and seconded by Alan Crighton and unanimously carried.

11. **MOTIONS AND AMENDMENTS**

A motion was submitted to amend section 32 of the Constitution to reflect the three tiers of family membership. There was much discussion and no objection to the principle of family membership but the members present felt that they could not support the motion in its current form. A suggestion from the floor was to re-write the amendment to include the three tiers of family membership but remove the final line about voting rights. On this basis, the amended motion was proposed by Kevin Murray and seconded by Alan Crighton. The update would read as follows:

32. Associate Members shall consist of those that pay a house subscription but have no voting rights.

For the purposes of subscription they may be sub-divided into such categories as the Management Committee may decide which shall include:-

- (1) Associate Members;
- (2) Family Members; and
- (3) Fort Matilda Playing Fields Union Members

There are three tiers of Family Membership:

Family 1

2 Adults (non playing) + number of youth members U18 in year of membership

Youth members may play or not.

All members living in same household.

Family 2

2 Adults (1 Playing Adult) + number of youth members U18 in year of membership

Youth members may play or not.

All members living in same household.

Family 3

2 Adults (Playing Members) + number of youth members U18 in year of membership

Youth members may play or not.

All members living in same household.

12. **OFFICE BEARERS**

The following personnel had been duly proposed and seconded to fill the main Management Committee positions:

President	Alan Crighton
Vice President (Rugby)	Graham Knox
Vice President (Finance)	Tony Barrie
Vice President (Facilities)	Billy Carroll
Director of Women & Girls Rugby	Beverley Addison
Director of Rugby	John Dyer

Hon. Secretary	Shona Mitchell
Hon. Treasurer	Tony Barrie
Club Captain	Lyle Murray/Jack McDaid
Ladies' Captain	Christina Hemphill/ Emily Gray
Sponsorship Convenor	Diane Hughes
Bar Convenor	tbc
Subscription Convenor	Donald Stone

Election of those above to the main Management Committee, en bloc, was unanimously carried.

13. **ELECTION OF HONORARY AUDITOR**

EM sought an honorary auditor for the coming year. No names were forthcoming.

Before moving to any other competent business, Eddie Murray invited Alan Crichton to take of role of President.

Alan started by thanking Eddie and Kevin, and expressed the honour that he felt it was to be asked to be the President. It is an honour for all who serve on the committee. Alan assured the members that everything we do will be in best interests of club. Having so many players is a wonderful thing but brings it own challenges. All the volunteering helps financially. Our social committee will get more nights arranged for club members to generate our own money, rather than taking bookings. Saturday nights in particular will be for our members. AC – bring the committee back in line with the constitution, reverting to 12/13 depending on bar convenor and shared roles. Looking at extending our clubhouse. Grateful for all our volunteers but we're always looking for more. Best wishes to both sets of co-captains for next year.

14. **ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS**

David McIlroy enquired about the arrangements for election day on July 4th. Alan responded that we are paid to be a polling station and that, to the best of his knowledge, the whole space is required and, therefore, the bar will be closed on that day. Alan will pick up with Gerry Malone (IC) to clarify requirements.

Alan brought the meeting to a close.

Appendix 1**Those present** at the 150th AGM of Greenock Wanderers RFC

1. Shona Mitchell	12. Struan Brown	23. Craig Marshall	34. Jim Blair
2. Eddie Murray	13. Diane Hughes	24. Robert Mitchell	35. Ian Appleton
3. Tony Barrie	14. David Strachan	25. Haggis	36. Julie Morrison
4. Cieran	15. Billy Carroll	26. Andy McDougall	37. Charles Shaw
5. Alan Crighton	16. Charles Stewart	27. David Ramage	38. Andy Graham
6. Christina Hemphill	17. Roger Hardie	28. Lyle Murray	39. Brian Malcolm
7. Ross Finnie	18.	29. Jack McDaid	40. Kevin Murray
8. Gordon McTavish	19. Andy Love	30. Stuart Morrison	41. Michael Frizzell
9. Allan Cameron	20. Ryan Ellis	31. Bryan Reddy	42. Lesley Cadenhead
10. Emily Gray	21. David McIlroy	32. Iain Crossley	43. John Sneddon
11. Graeme Alexander	22. Ian Crighton	33. Finn Mitchell	

Appendix 2

Apologies

1. John McDougall	4. Graham Knox	7. Rivet Bolster	10.
2. Stuart Clark	5. Ali Dunnet	8. Donald Stone	11.
3. David Bruce	6. John E Dyer	9. Ryan Ellis	12.