

**Minutes of the
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Wednesday 18th June, 1900hrs
Lockleaze Sports Centre**

Present: 68 people attended the meeting including:

- GRFU Executive Board/Team GRFU/Life Members – R Beswick, S Bevan, K Davis, K Gee, S Gilbraith, N Gillingham, L Gomer, A Grant, D Guyan, S Morgan, L Newman, M Parcel, D Parry-Jones, S Partridge, E Ryall, A Siddorn, L Smith, S Thornton
- Representatives from Clubs, Schools, Combinations, Referee Societies – Aretians RFC, Bristol Combination, Bristol & District Referee Society, Bristol Saracens RFC, Broad Plain RFC, CCS Norton, Cheltenham North RFC, Chipping Sodbury RFC, Cleve RFC, Drybrook RFC, Dursley RFC, Forest of Dean Combination, Frampton Cotterell RFC, Gloucester & District Referee society, Gloucester Old Boys RFC, Hucclecote RFC, Kingswood RFC, Longlevens RFC, Lydney RFC, Minchinhampton RFC, North Bristol RFC, Norton RFC, Old Richians RFC, Southmead RFC, St Brendan's Old Boys RFC, St Mary's Old Boys RFC, Stroud RFC, Tewkesbury RFC, Thornbury RFC, University of Bristol RFC,

Welcome – On waiting 10 minutes to start for more to arrive due to reports of traffic, at 1910hrs GRFU President, Emily Ryall welcomed all and thanked Lockleaze Sports Centre for hosting.

[A minute's silence was observed in memory of those rugby colleagues and friends who we have lost during the season](#)

1. STATUTORY BUSINESS ITEMS:

- a) Approval of the Notice of the Meeting – *Proposer Lesley Gomer, Seconder Shaun Partridge.*
- b) Apologies: *7 Bamboos, Bristol Saracens, Cinderford RFC, Dings Crusaders, Old Elizabethans RFC, Stow on the Wold RFC, Richard Ankersen, Gino Beaumont, Geoff Davies, Rob Evans, Andy Higgs, Glenda McWalter, Mark Nicholson, Nathan Smallcombe, Don Parsons, Tricia Perris, Andy Jarrett*
- c) Approval of the Minutes of the AGM held on 19 June 2024 – *approved with Dave Guyan as Proposer & Shaun Partridge as Seconder*
- d) Matters arising from the Minutes of the last AGM on 19 June 2024 – *none*
- e) Financial Report: 2023/24 – Simon Thornton [ST] explained the report had been circulated ahead of the meeting and now filed with FCA. Nigel Gillingham noticed expenditure exceeded income for 2nd year running and asked what actions will be taken? ST explained a decision was made several years ago in that we don't need the amount of reserves we have and with decreased grant funding there could be a need to use. However, in coming years, although next year will show a loss, the shortfall should be less and less. ST explained GRFU's biggest cost is representative rugby but in the following year and with more money from RFU, GRFU's books



should balance. He also shared there is potential to convert investments into cash. No other questions asked from the floor.

- f) Consideration of Resolutions submitted under Rule 8.5 – ST explained the first is passed each year to disregard requirement to have accounts audited; last time cost was £5k. He went on to explain that Kev is looking after day to day and ST as a registered accountant will write up the accounts. No objections to any of the resolutions, with Lisa Newman as Proposer and seconded by Matt Parcel

2. ELECTIONS:

- a) Election of Officers [Annex 1] – ST explained GRFU had 4 good candidates following the advertisement of Chair vacancy for season 2025/26 onwards. He shared that Lisa Newman arranged the interview process and from 4 candidates, a panel selected Chris Grigg as GRFU's recommended candidate. ST then asked to Chris to introduce himself and he gave a brief overview of his vision and how he will take on the first 30 days, 3 months and 12 months. Paul Carter asked where the incumbent Chair is – ST explained he could have attended but declined. PC questioned succession plan and is GRFU confident moving forwards. ST replied affirmative and shared the experience on the Board, also explaining the role of the Chair as a leader/facilitator. With no more questions/comments, ST asked for a show of hands in support of the Executive's preferred candidate, and Chris Grigg was voted in from a majority
- b) Election of Executive Board [Annex 2] – All remain in current roles, proposer Rob Beswick, Seconder Lesley Gomer.
- c) RFU Council Appointments - for noting only [Annex 3]. ST will be entering his 4th year and Keith his 5th so both will continue if RFU council does for next few years at least.
- d) RFU Delegated Function Appointments – for noting only [Annex 3] – Safeguarding and RugbySafe are leads currently being recruited. Dave Guyan as Discipline Chair, gave overview of the season and the types of cases dealt with.

3. BOARD REPORTS:

- a) GRFU Overview 2024/25 – Kev Davis thanked all for voting him back in and talked through his [presentation](#) and the £8K profit showing, due to share prices going up. £7-£8k loss predicted. Next season he is hoping for a 10% increase in funding from RFU. He shared the contribution towards a CB Administrator was on hold until season 2026/27. Shaun Partridge introduced himself as On Field Lead and AGR South lead; SP shared illustration of what On-Field cover and successes via his slides. SP welcomed questions post meeting. Lisa Newman shared success of this seasons HVotY event and the two finalists going to Twickenham late August. LN covered current vacancies and asked anyone interested in supporting GRFU to reach out to her post meeting or via email. Stuart Gilbraith quoted number of First Aid courses hosted and volunteers upskilled. SG referred to Play it Safe courses; with only 13 hosted last season clubs were encouraged to host, and all coaches involved with children to complete Introduction to Safeguarding e-learning course plus a Play it Safe course.
- b) Matters relating to the welfare of the County: None
[Discussion may take place on a matter raised, but it will be put forward to the Executive Board for consideration at the first Executive Board meeting in season 2025/26].

4. AWARDS:



GLOUCESTERSHIRE
RUGBY
FOOTBALL
UNION

- a) RFU League & GRFU District League presentations 2024/25 by SG & ER – see presentation.



GLOUCESTERSHIRE
RUGBY
FOOTBALL
UNION

- b) GRFU Coach of the Season was explained by Steph Morgan who then quoted a nomination for Chris Howell before presenting him with his award.
- c) Mike Shore U20 Player of the Year was awarded to this year's Captain, Reuben Woodham of Tewkesbury RFC. Unfortunately, Reuben was unable to collect his trophy, and ER will present into the new season at his club.
- d) Roy Phillips' Administration of Rugby Award was presented by ER to David Parry-Jones for his contribution towards GRFU Discipline over numerous years.
- e) Gloucestershire Long Service Awards were presented to:
Morgwn Atkins – Minchinhampton RFC, Paull Chandler – Berry Hill & Forest of Dean Combination, Rob Flood – Old Colstonians RFC & Barry Miles – Bristol Saracens RFC. The latter two were not in attendance and so will be presented on another date into the new rugby season within their own clubs.
5. **CLOSING ADDRESS** – The President thanked all for those present for attending and wished them luck for the next season; the Executive Board for their presentations and work over the season; and Andrea Grant for providing administrative support to the GRFU. The President then gave a special thanks for the long-standing dedication and commitment given to the GRFU from the outgoing Chair, Simon Collyer-Bristow, and wished him well for the future.



Annex 1

Election of the Officers for 2025/26 – [Rule 8.3.1 & Rule 12.1]

- **President** – Emily Ryall
- **Vice President** – Adrian Siddorn
- **Chair** – Chris Grigg
- **Vice Chair** – Dave Guyan
- **Honorary Treasurer** – Kev Davis
- **Company Secretary** – Simon Thornton

Annex 2

Election of Executive Board for 2025/26

- **On-Field** – Shaun Partridge
- **Off Field** – Matt Parcel
- **Governance & Welfare** – Stuart Gilbraith
- **Volunteers** – Lisa Newman
- **Representative Rugby** – Don Parsons
- **Women & Girls** – Nathan Smallcombe

Annex 3

For noting only:

a) RFU Council Representatives for 2025/26

- Keith Gee
- Simon Thornton

b) RFU Delegated Function Sector Heads for 2025/26

- **Discipline** – Dave Guyan
- **Safeguarding** – TBC

Annex 4

Resolutions proposed under item 1(f)

1. Amend Rule 8.3.1 to read:
“Any Member shall have the right to make nominations, with the written consent of a candidate, for election to any one or more of the offices named in or created under the provisions of Rule 12.1. Such nominations shall be sent in writing so as to reach the Company Secretary, duly proposed and seconded, not less than twenty-four hours before the time for which the Annual General Meeting is convened. The Executive Board Executive Board shall also have the right to make nominations for the election of Officers.”
2. Amend Rule 8.5.1 to read:
“Any proposal shall be submitted in writing so as to reach the Company Secretary, duly proposed and seconded, not less than twenty-four hours before the time for which the Annual General Meeting is convened.”



**GLOUCESTERSHIRE
RUGBY
FOOTBALL
UNION**

3. Under Rule 8.1.7.2, to disapply the provisions of the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 relating to the appointment of Auditors.

DRAFT