



GLOUCESTERSHIRE
RUGBY
FOOTBALL
UNION

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

to be held on Wednesday 11 November 2020 @ 7pm via Skype

AGENDA

Present:

Management Board/GRFU Committees/Life Members: K Gee (President), A Siddorn (Chair), A Grant (County Administrator) A Danks, J Darlaston, T Fielding, M Heath, T Perris, B Finch, S Gilbraith, R Groves, B Clark, P Shortell, R Hillier, Emma Jones, M Elton, M Woodward, R Berry, A Dale, A Hopkinson, C Thompson, S Thornton, M Parcel, J Tyler, S Morgan, H Woodman, T Nurse, T Swash, M Nicholson, B Smith, T Read,

Representatives from:

Clubs: Aretians RFC, Bream RFC, Bristol Saracens RFC, Broad Plain RFC, Cainscross RFC, Cheltenham RFC, Cheltenham Civil Service RFC, Cheltenham North RFC, Cirencester RFC, Clifton RFC, Dings Crusaders RFC, Dursley RFC, Gloucester Old Boys RFC, Hucclecote RFC, Kingswood RFC, Longlevens RFC, Minchinhampton RFC, North Bristol RFC, Norton RFC, Old Bristolians RFC, Old Elizabethans RFC, Old Patesians RFC, St Brendan's RFC, St Mary's Old Boys RFC, Smiths RFC, Stroud RFC, Thornbury RFC, Yate RFC.

Schools: Gloucester & Bristol [ERFSU]

Combinations: Bristol & District Combination, North Gloucestershire Combination, Stroud & District Combination

Referees Societies: Gloucester & District Referees Society and Bristol Referees Society

58 people attended the meeting including representatives from 35 clubs, 5 Combinations, Glos & District Referees' Society, Bristol Referees Society, and ERFSU.

Prior to the formalities, Steve Grainger, RFU Rugby Development Director, gave an RFU update and answered questions raised.

[PowerPoint presentation](#) was shared, via County Office desktop, throughout the meeting.

Welcome - GRFU President – Keith Gee: Warm welcome to all, especially

GRFU Life and Honorary Life members. Keith asked for any questions to be raised through the chat box and for all attendees to add their name and club. He explained the meeting is reconvened since the opening and adjournment on 8th July 2020.

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

1. STATUTORY BUSINESS ITEMS:

- **Approval of the Notice of the Meeting** – Keith confirmed the invite originally went out on 8th July and notice of reconvened meeting on October 27th to all in membership of GRFU.
Proposer: R Berry [Old Bristolians RFC] Seconded: S Morgan [Aretians RFC]
- **Apologies:** Nigel Gillingham [GRFU], Simon Collyer-Bristow [GRFU], Rob Beswick [GRFU], P Shortell [GRFU]
- **Approval of the Minutes of the AGM held on 10 July 2019** and sent 17th July 2019 accepted unanimously as a true record of the meeting.
Proposer: R Caines [Kingswood RFC] Seconded: John Darlaston [GRFU]
- **Matters arising from the Minutes of the last AGM** on 10 July 2019 - *No matters recorded*
- Simon Thornton, as Treasurer, read his [Financial Statement – 2019-2020](#), alongside the relevant slides in the presentation and asked for questions. He pointed out the difference between Bristol & Gloucester Schools costs will be due to late invoices being paid, as well as travel costs away to Cornwall. Tom Read stated he was also investigating in his new position of Vice Chair, Representative Rugby [Age Grade]. Keith thanked Simon for the work he carries out, on behalf of the county, in looking after our monies.
- **Consideration & Noting of Current Operating Procedures** – Keith confirmed the distribution to all MB members and uploaded to GRFU [website](#). No comments made. Keith gave thanks Simon Collyer-Bristow and Andrea for the huge amount of time given to the updating of the document.
- **Consideration of Resolutions submitted under Rule 8.5**
 - In accordance with Section 84 of the Co-Operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014, the need for a full audit of the annual accounts be dispensed with in favour of an accountants report to be prepared by a qualified auditor as per the provisions of Section 85 of that Act
Unanimously agreed. *Proposer – T Fielding, Seconded: M Heath*

2. BOARD REPORTS:

- [GRFU Overview 2019/20 & Objectives 2020/21: GRFU Chair -](#) . Adrian read his report and asked for questions; none asked. Keith thanked Adrian for his hard work and commitment, in what was an unprecedented end to the season. Accounts accepted –
Proposer: Mark Nicholson [GRFU]. Seconded: Simon Bilous [Dursley RFC]
- **Matters relating to the welfare of the County** – *None*
[Discussion may take place on the matter raised, but it will be put forward to the Management Board for consideration at the next Management Board]

meeting – scheduled 2nd December 2020

3. ELECTIONS:

- **Election of Officers** [Annex 1]: Keith explained his extended period of Presidency due to extenuating circumstances.
Proposer – R Caines [Kingswood RFC], Seconder – M Heath [GRFU]
- **Election of Sector Heads** (Annex 2) Keith thanked all for their efforts on behalf of the county.
- **RFU Council Appointments** - for noting only [Annex 3]
- **RFU Delegated Function Sector Head Appointments** – for noting only [Annex 3]

4. AWARDS:

Keith asked that club committees consider how they reward their own volunteers and explained that they can nominate for several awards throughout the season.

He stated that 143 nominations were received for the RFU Mitsubishi Motors Volunteer of the Year and announced the two finalists as Graham Stait [Chipping Sodbury RFC] and Helen Turner [Hucclecote RFC]. Both will hopefully attend a black-tie dinner event in the new year with other CB finalists. A full list of nominations will be added to our website once the promotional video clip has been received from RFU.

- **GRFU Life Member:** Keith shared his pleasure in awarding this season's Life Member, who unfortunately is not on the call due to a conflict of meetings with RFU. Keith explained Nigel is the Senior Vice President of the RFU and that his nomination has been endorsed. Keith continued to read the [citation for Nigel](#).
- **Gloucestershire Awards:** due to the current climate, awards will be announced and presented face to face once permitted.
- **President's Award:** due to the current climate, this season's award will be announced and presented once a face to face presentation can be made
- **Under 20s Player of the Year [Mike Shore Award]** – Alan Dale [ex GRFU U20s Team Manager] announced Adam Hopkinson as the U20 Player of the Year and read the [citation](#)
- **Long Service Awards** – those with 25yrs + service were announced; certificates will be passed to the relevant society to present as and when they can meet again.
 - Bristol Referees Society:** Phil Cheek, Richard Parker-Sedgemore, Richard Potterton, Mike Ripley
 - Gloucester & District Referee Society:** Nigel Stephenson, Gerald Pitt, Steve Bowen
- **League Winners:** Stuart Gilbraith announced the winners / runners up for each GRFU League and explained plaques will now be sent direct to relevant club contact as the likelihood of a face to face presentation anytime soon is unlikely:

Wadworth 6X Premier
RFC II

Old Centralians RFC II, Drybrook

Bristol & District 1	Bristol Saracens RFC II / Dings
Crusaders RFC III	
Bristol & District 2	Yate RFC / Thornbury RFC III
Bristol & District 3	Asley Down Old Boys RFC II / Aretians
II	
Gloucester & District 1	Berry Hill RFC II / Stroud RFC II &
Ledbury RFC II	
Gloucester & District 2	Chosen Hill FP RFC II / Gordon league
RFC II	
Gloucester & District 3	Old Cryptians RFC III / Chosen Hill FP
RFC III	

Stuart added that we had 48 clubs who wanted to play in the District Leagues and therefore no reduction in 2nd league playing within the county – a concern that has been raised previously. Keith thanked Stuart and his team for the immense work over the previous season s for the work that goes on to ensure competitions and festivals are put on across the game and within Gloucestershire

- **GRFU Wellbeing Club Award** – Keith introduced Rich Berry and the fact that welfare of our rugby club being paramount at these strange times, especially whilst the physical doors are closed. Rich gave an overview of the [award](#) and the idea that clubs can look after their players in other ways; GRFU want a campaign to ensure we lose no more to suicide. We need to signpost to charities and mental health services to help injuries to the brain; the same as we do for physical injuries. With Thornbury RFC, UBH RFC, Kingswood RFC and St Mary's Old Boys RFC already on their way to gaining this award. Rich encouraged all clubs to make contact to discuss in more detail and to get the ball rolling throughout lockdown.

5. CLOSING ADDRESS:

Keith thanked all for joining the meeting but for the massive amount of work undertaken. Keith asked that thanks is passed onto all club volunteers and that their work is acknowledged. Keith reminded all to look at the new website, to contact County Office with any queries and to encourage all to follow social media onto posts and/or email your good news stories for Andrea to share far and wide. .

Keith mentioned the phenomenal work that Andrea does and passed on his personal thanks for her efforts and commitment. He finished by asking all to stay safe and look forwards positively to when we can return to play and meet socially.

ANNEXES

Annex 1

Election of the Officers for 2020-21 (Rule 8.3.1 & Rule 12.1)

- **President – Keith Gee**
4th year of two-year appointment due to extenuating circumstances
- **Vice President – Adrian Siddorn**
- **Chair – Adrian Siddorn**
- **Honorary Treasurer – Simon Thornton**

Annex 2

Election of Sector Heads/Chairs for 2020-21

[Proposed and seconded enbloc by members of the Management Board]

- **Age Grade Rugby** – Connor Thompson
- **Coaching** – Steph Morgan
- **Competitions** – Stuart Gilbraith
- **Facilities & Funding** – Tony Swash
- **Governance** – Simon Collyer-Bristow
- **Sponsorship** – Andrea Grant
- **Representative** – Tom Read [Vice Chair, Age Grade Rugby]
- **RugbySafe** – Tom Nurse
- **Volunteers** – Gethin Evans
- **Wellbeing & Mental health** – Rich Berry
- **Women & Girls** – Matt Parcel

Annex 3

For noting only:

- **RFU Council Representatives for 2020-21**
 - Simon Collyer-Bristow
 - Keith Gee

- **RFU Delegated Function Sector Heads for 2020-21**
 - **Discipline** – Mark Elton
 - **Safeguarding** –
 - North – Emma Jones
 - South - vacancy

These are appointed annually by the Management Board to perform the relevant functions.