

BREDON STAR R.F.C. Ltd. est. 1991
Incorporating
Bredon Star Junior Rugby

(Affiliated to the Rugby Football Union, North Midlands RFU
and Worcestershire & Herefordshire RFU)



Minutes of AGM
Friday 21st January 2022
Star Inn and via Zoom @ 7.00pm

Attendees:

| | | |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Kevin Falvey | Dave Newcombe | Meryl Falvey |
| Will Mealing | Scott Jameson | Darren Gamble |
| James Howard | Karen Walker | Dave Walker |
| Matt Jaynes | Kieran Matty | Al Green |
| Alice Walker | Sherief Loutfy | Jon Stickler |
| Nick Harwood | Gemma Greenwood | Dave Godwin |
| Cerys Godwin | Steve Jenkins | Andy Dickinson |
| Beth Gamble | Duncan Taylor | Mark Dowdeswell |
| Poppy Mealing | Tony Collinson | Jasper Minion |
| Dave Woodcock | Paul Kemple | Jonny Brown |
| Ben Creed | Dave Wayman | |
| | | |

1. Appoint Chairman for the Meeting

DN stated that tonight he would hand over the meeting to KF.

2. Apologies for absence

Alex Ayres, Helen Ayres, Boyd Hargreaves

3. Approval of the minutes of the last AGM held on 25th March 2021

These have been published on the website and circulated to all of you that have email addresses registered with the club. Approved unanimously.

4. Matters Arising - If not addressed elsewhere in the minutes

There were none

5. Club Chairman's Report on the Club's Development throughout the 2020/21 season

Kevin Falvey thanked everyone for attending the AGM and commented on what another strange year it has been and appoligised for the meeting being held 4 months later than normal.

KF stated that he will endeavour to make this meeting as quick and painless as normal.

KF thanked the Junior Section Chairman and Vice Chairman – Scott Jameson and Nick Harwood together with the junior coaches and committee, who have coped admirably during this challenging period.

A number of senior players together with Kieran continue to help with coaching within the junior setup.

Catering wasn't needed, but now we have a sense of normality, Kathy is back on Sunday mornings at Bredon and the volunteer rota seems to be working at Westie.

KF put out an advert for a paid role to support our Saturday catering needs but didn't get any responses. However Kay has come forward, so hopefully Saturdays are covered for the rest of the season.

As for the Bar, then Daz Gamble and team have coped admirably through this trying period. We continue to have the continuity of Gemma and the experience she brings, and the support of several other paid bar staff and we have an ever increasing number of volunteer bar staff to also help to spread the load.

Memberships can now be paid by credit / debit cards and some club merchandise can also be bought over the counter. We have also introduced IZettle Contactless payment for the kitchen, both here and at Westie and also when we run BBQ's.

If you haven't paid your membership for this year, then please try and support the club.

Our 3rd year with Macron our merchandising partner has gone well considering the Covid-19 situation. However, for the 21/22 season the club has moved to O'Neill's as our partner – Worcester Warriors use them too.

It is good to see players and supporters alike wearing club colours on match days and while out and about in general. It is good advertising for the Club.

We have a good number of club sponsors and some new ones this season, but are always looking for more.

We are very grateful for the sponsorship commitment to local grassroots rugby.

Last season we were again able to host Varsity match between Prince Henry's High School and Tewkesbury School. This event was very well received by the schools, but unfortunately will not take place this season either.

We did not hold the Player's Reunion Lunch last season, but will look to organise an event this season as part of our 30th Anniversary plans. Anyone wishing to help with this organisation, then please speak to KF.

From the senior playing perspective, it has been great to see such high numbers at each training session. Kieran in particular has gone above and beyond again in his organisation and execution of training, ably supported by some of the senior squad and junior coaches and it's great to see Big Al, Dave Newcombe, Stevo, Al Ayres, Boyd, Kemps and others conducting training sessions.

Kieran is the consummate professional in his commitment to this club and so much of what he does goes unseen by most of us. Thank you for your commitment and long may it continue.

Thanks also to our wonderful Ladies Team, who continue to improve and demonstrate what can be achieved with hardwork and commitment. They are still the current Midlands Champions. The introduction of a girls squad is also very encouraging for the future.

Congratulations to :-

Matt Jaynes - England men's over 40's and got his 1st international cap.

Cerys Godwin and Maddie Miles-Kingston - England under 18's training squad and West Wildcats Regional under 18's. Cerys was also selected for the West Wildcats full Ladies opens.

Maia Ayres and Tilly Palmer - England under 15's training squad.

Both also selected for the West Wildcats girls u15's and also National Champions (with Matt as their coach)

Alice Walker - West Wildcats Regionals womens Over 27's

Helen Ayres and Lucy Richens - West Wildcats Regionals womens Over 35's

We completed 2 big projects in 2021 :-

- The changing rooms were refurbished with new showers / water tanks and the away changing room broken down into 2 rooms. A massive thank you goes to Paul Kemple, Al Green and Tim Coppin for making this all happen. This project was funded mainly by a 106 monies grant from Wychavon.
- The drainage to the pitches at Bredon. Although this has not gone quite to plan the actual drainage solution does seem to be taking the water away. Thanks to Adam Gallagher, Tim Coppin and Kieran Matty for their co-ordination of this project. This project was funded wholly by the club.

A big thank you goes out to the clubs unofficial sponsors and volunteers who contribute in so many unseen ways, again too many to mention, but you know who you are!

In addition, Our Landlords :-

- Kemerton Estate (Adrian / Matt Darby) – Westmancote Site
- Bredon Cricket Club – for use of their facilities each Sunday
- Bredon Parish Council – Bredon Site

Also, a BIG Thankyou to ALL of the clubs players, coaches, supporters and the Club Executive Committee without whos commitment this club wouldn't exist.

Now before I had over to Scott, I would just like to say, this club continually needs / strives to move forward, and to that end, the Executive Committee, have agreed to a number of new roles for this season.

We will ask you to vote on these new roles later, but it is important for me to out line our plans.

Dave Newcombe has made us aware that he will step down as Club President at some point, and although a successor has not yet been fully determined, to prepare for this eventuality and to support Dave in his role, Al Green has agreed to take on the position of Club Vice President. Thank you Al.

Also, Scott is standing down as Junior Chair and Nick will step up to the role, given he's effectively been doing it for the last year or so! A new Vice Chair of the Juniors is in the process of being agreed.

Scott is not being allowed to walk away though. He has agreed to take on the role of Club Vice Chair, supporting me in my day to day role.

Scott will give you a potted history of his 10 years as junior chair shortly, but it would be very remiss of me to not say a few words of thanks to his commitment and passion for this club.

From someone, who I didn't know 10 years ago to becoming a really good friend today and all this brought about by this game we all love and cherish.

We have never had a cross word, but not always agreeing on a way forward with a given problem or issue, however we have always worked through it and as I say remain good friends.

Scott, I think I'm correct in saying, that no one has served longer that 3 years as junior chair in the past, so thank you for taking one for the team and thank you for serving the junior section so admirably.

Junior Section Chairman's Report of his 10 year commitment to the role -SJ

I arrived at this club with just a young 7-year-old lad who wanted to try it out. Some 12 years later I find myself watching the last of my sons move through Junior rugby and my eldest playing in our now established Boxing Day game, for the first time. It has been quite a journey...

Junior rugby is a love, a passion and at times a challenge. But we do it because we care, we wish to see the sport thrive but most importantly for so much more when it comes to the entire agenda of wellbeing for our and other children. It has never more so important than in recent times.

At my first AGM I stupidly raised my arm – I was bestowed the title of 'Sausage Man' – what an accolade, albeit it didn't truly describe the role scope! It was more 'where's the ketchup' complaints management. My nervous twitch got the better of me in 2011 and again, arm aloft I agreed to take over as Junior Chairman.

I haven't always been everyone's cup of tea, at times I might have been overly challenging to what are after all, willing volunteers but it was never for any other reason than to make this club better, respected and for our Junior members to wear the jersey with pride. I think 10 years on we could say it's tended to work and our foundations for continued success are solid.

There have been many successes and huge highs – County Champions and N Mids winners, players who have risen through the ranks to represent the home nations, Premiership Clubs or at Sevens nationally. We had the England Captain attend our Junior dinner, Internationals, former players and many more names synonymous with the sport also helped us out – who can forget Kieran introducing Mike Tindall as Mike Teague!! The noise of that night in May is one I absolutely love..

We have collectively raised the agenda and provided sport to many young ladies and are already setting the foundations to grow our delivery as many young girls' progress through the club. I have never seen so many women as we have now, involved in delivering training, coaching, admin or wider support – these are unprecedented times and we owe all involved in the delivery and organisation of Junior rugby at Bredon significant thanks and recognition. In my early days I engaged the Glos RFU, the then junior chairman agreed to come to Westie to support our plans to improve and grow. He stayed for an hour, watched the activities and as we walked back to his car I asked, "what can we do to take the club forward", he turned and with absolute seriousness said "build a bigger car-park". I never took him up on his ridicule, nor did I need to. We continue to attract numbers, talents and positive praise from other teams – a car park isn't the solution – it never was. It is the heart, mindset, passion and willingness of so many that have continued to keep the sport of rugby here at Bredon Star front and centre in the community.

I cannot leave it there without the sincerest of thanks to the Exec team for their support throughout my tenure – it would also be remiss to not thank my favourite Gnome Dicko – he was the one every Sunday morning who carried me and the team over 10 brilliant years. What he lacks in height he also lacks in humour, good looks and personality..

I hand on the role after 10 years to a very capable team led by Nick. The future remains bright. I am not stepping away, just hoping to apply my time and focus into other areas within the club.

It was not possible without your support and for that, I am truly grateful for the memories, smiles and life this opportunity afforded me. Thank you to you all.

6. Junior Section Chairman's report on the Junior Clubs 2020/21 Season – NH (Vice Chair)

The Junior section has enjoyed a positive return to Rugby as Covid restrictions have eased. A difficult 2020/21 season threatened to have serious repercussions for junior rugby across the country. Barely a match was played but the coaches worked really hard to keep the kids (and parents) engaged in the sport.

Despite falling numbers across the sport, we've managed to maintain an impressive number of junior players for a village of our size - c.150 across 8 age groups including a rapidly growing u6 & u7 team.

However, the falling numbers did have a negative effect. We unfortunately had to fold the u16 team before 2021/22 season began and more recently the u12s in Dec. We have managed to keep some of the u12s by allowing them to play up at U13s - this is driven by their loyalty to the club and their commitment to the sport is mutually recognised.

We should also recognise the lack of end of season award dinners since the end of the 2019/20 season. This means we have not been able to say goodbye to the older end of the age group or welcome new players and coaches. We will hopefully be able to welcome all new players and coaches this year - there are many!

Academy Success

U15 - 12 players

Glos DPP - Jake Foster; Jake Kinnersley; Barney Cooper; Jack Sargent; Freddie Folwer; Tony Rich; Alex McMillan
Worcs DPP - Will Holley; Ben Ayres; Kai Webb; Stefan Sieracki; Sam Wilson

U14 - 6 players

Glos DPP - Lewis Collins; Charlie Stallard*

Worcs DPP - Archie Kemple; Henry Judge; Tom Redford; Ollie Adams*

*offered places at both academies

Transition to Seniors

So, we should formally recognise the transition of one team from the junior to senior section. Scott, Andy and team finished as U16s in 2019/20 just as Covid restrictions were in full flow. The players had a muted goodbye to the club BUT a number have stayed, trained with the seniors and supported the junior section by handing on their knowledge every Sunday and Wednesday since. Many couldn't put on Bredon shirt again until January this year but they have shown great character and loyalty. Very proud to see Jasper, Chris, Reece, Tanwa, Tom and Jay becoming a key part of the senior squad. We're also starting to see the U16s as-was joining senior training too which is brilliant.

Finally, a note on key volunteers:

Thanks for service to the club:

- Claire Dickinson resigned a year ago, but has kept the DBS end of things going since and got us in a great place for the next person
- Meg has been registration secretary for many years and with her boys moving into senior age groups and the new system Meg has also resigned

Ongoing thanks

- Coaches of all age groups, supporting administrators and parents who run the Westie kitchen, but especially Will Gamble and Dave Newcombe for doing all they could to keep the u12s going.
- Arti Ranner for her management of minis fixtures a tough job for this season as so many clubs saw their volunteers throw in the towel during Covid. I understand next season is already sorted!
- Scott Jameson

Other updates:

Registrations and fees (to be updated)

- 149 have paid with a handful outstanding
- Of these 120 are registered on the GMS system

Vacancies

- Registrations Secretary
- Welfare Officer

Junior Referees

- We've had one child express an interest in pursuing becoming a referee - working with Kieran to run a course for coaches and juniors interested

H&S

- updated - DBS better position than we thought Claire has most of what she needs
- First aid course outdated due to Covid restrictions plan is to update junior coaches before 2022/23 season

Girls team u12

- FYI at the request of current u11 girls we are considering a girls u12 team for next season with Jayner support
- maybe touch only but can develop

Sites

- We've seen improved use of the club house post match from Junior section as season progresses

- Westie cafe reopened and is performing well (£200- £300 per week it's open)
- Westie bridge built thanks to Phil Ball and Paul Kemple
- Westie field requires some more work but u11s and U10s are using and u7-u9 are using outfield

7. Financial Report and Presentation of Accounts – Chair of Finance

Year Ending 31 May 2021 was again characterised on and off the field by Covid, which had an impact to the Club and the Star Inn, but overall we had a financially successful year (albeit lower Year on Year earnings)

Bredon Star RFC

The Club's Revenue achieved £41k, which was £20k lower vs last year as we reduced the membership fee for the year plus we were unable to hold as many social events. We did however maintain our sponsorship income levels even if we had lower fundraising.

The reduction in income was matched with lower costs, with savings in coaching as Kieran took over plus lower kit and equipment and reduced trophy costs.

Overheads were largely flat year on year, and after accounting adjustments (depreciation etc), the surplus for the year was £4,859 (compared to £13,988 in 2020)

All a good year considering.

The Balance Sheet remains in a strong position with a healthy balance in the bank, albeit some of this was held and has been used for projects such as the shower and drainage.

9. To consider as a special resolution any additional or alteration to the Rules of the Club duly proposed in accordance with Rule 9.5

In accordance with Rule 9.5; the following motions were requested to appear on the Agenda of this meeting:-

That the Officers of the Club for the year 2021-2022 should be modified so as to include the roles of :- President, Chairman, Vice Chairman, Junior Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary.

Proposed: Meryl Falvey

Seconded: Kieran Matty

Supported Unanimously

10. To consider a resolution disapplying the provision of the Act relating to the obligation to appoint Auditors

Proposed: Meryl Falvey

Seconded : Kieran Matty

Supported Unanimously

11. To elect the Officers for the ensuing year

So the officers standing again this year are:-

President - Dave Newcombe

Club Vice President – Al Green

Immediate Past President - N/A (as this does not come into effect until Dave stands down).

Secretary - Karen Walker

Treasurer - Duncan Taylor

Club Chaiman - Kevin Falvey

Club Vice Chairman - Scott Jameson

Club Junior Section Chairman – Nick Harwood

Proposed: Darren Gamble

Seconded : Jon Stickler

Supported Unanimously

12. Election of Committee Members

The Club Officers together with :-

Daz Gamble, Kieran Matty, Al Green, Steve Jenkins, James Howard, Nick Harwood, Helen Aryes.

All the above have indicated their willingness to stand and were formally proposed by

Proposed: Mark Dowdeswell

Seconded : Tony Collinson

Supported Unanimously

If anyone would like to stand for the committee, then please see me.

13. To confirm the Election Honorary Vice Presidents (made by the Committee during the preceding year)

No Vice Presidents Elected this year.

14. To confirm the election of Honorary Members (made by the Committee during the preceding year)

Confirmation of ALL Club Coaches in 2020/21 season and our Staff and Non International Ticket Sponsors being elected as Honorary Members of the Club.

Proposed: Kieran Matty

Seconded: Nick Harwood

Unanimously supported

15. To consider any other business of which due notice shall have been given

None received

16. Any Other Business (on which no voting shall be allowed)

Abuse of Referees - KF

North Midlands RFU has emailed all clubs advising that abuse of referees by players or supporters will not be tolerated. There have been 20 reported cases up to Christmas 2021.

KF – asked all club spectators at all levels to be respectful to referees

16. Date of next AGM - November 2022