**Minutes of Grove RFC Board meeting held 16/03/2015.**

Present: -, Chris McCarthy, Martin Stalder, Paul Walsh, Adrian Amies, Phil Connolly and Niki Dinsey .

Apologies: -, John Sevier, Craig Burrows

1. **Minutes of previous meeting approved and signed off**.
2. **Treasurers Report.**

The treasurer reported that at the current time the club has a balance of approximately £11.2k. However, it has outstanding bills of around £15.5k. (Payment for showers being the main component of this along with the expected ground rent from the parish council.) This is a further improvement on last month but leaves no room for complacency.

What has become apparent to all is the loss of bar income over the preceding months. This can be attributed to no 3rd team and the lack of social events.

There are a number of events planned for the next few weeks and they should help with the income, however we do need to organise more social events.

CMc is in negotiations with CB to establish a playing budget for next season.

**No payments for expenses or purchases that are in excess of £50 can be authorised by BM’s without either a phone call or e-mail to PW first.**

1. **Report from the Director of Rugby.**

Since the last board meeting the first team have won 1 and lost 2 league games.

The first a poor 20-17 loss away to Devizes. Followed by a better home performance against Witney but still resulting in a 25-24 loss. This was our first defeat at home in the league since September and highlighted once again the desperate need for a consistent place kicker.

When analysing the results this year and the points dropped to losing games by 3 points or less we are 16 points down which would see us competing for 4th place which will be good enough for promotion next season.

We finished with probably our best second half performance of the season in beating Leighton Buzzard 47-23.

This win ensured another season in South West 1 next year.

Another piece of good news was our reinstatement into the County Cup after Chinnor played an ineligible player. This means we will contest the final with Oxford Harlequins at Iffley Road on April 1st, 8PM kO. This is the first time in the clubs history we have been involved in the senior county final.

The seconds have won 1 and lost 1 in the same time period, they hammered Bracknell 3’s 76-18 and lost to the league leaders 49-17.

We held a senior meeting last Thursday together with a video analysis session in which we reviewed the season and discussed the next pre season.

We heard from both regular first team players and ones who had moved between both 1st and 2nd teams. While all present acknowledged a divide between the 2 teams it was clear that movement is very possible between teams if players commit to training. Suggestions included having a second team coach for a Thursday and Saturday but only if we could get numbers to preseason training. It was noted that it was vital to integrate the colts coming up into the second team and pre season will aim to do this. There was also the suggestion of a mini tour (1 night away) again to aid the integration between all senior players and colts moving up.

1. **Report from the Director of youth/junior Rugby.**

The U11’s are hosting a touring side from Gloucester on April 4th.

March 22th sees the U7 and U8 competing in an away tournament.

March 29th  the U9 and U10’s also competing in an away tournament.

The U14’s were very unlucky to loose in the cup final by 3 points last weekend.

U16 team is trying to arrange a festival over the weekend of April 11/12th.

Talks have been taking place between the current U16 and colts coaches to reach an agreement of the best way forward next season.

It has been agreed that the U16’s will merge with the current junior colts and play as a junior colt side.

Steve Maryon and Paul Shepard have been asked if they would undertake the running and coaching of a development side, consisting of this season’s senior colts and some of this season’s 2nd team players, The team would then take on the club’s second team fixtures.

1. **3rd Team Fixtures and Team Development.**

Following a meeting of the Oxfordshire RFU it has been proposed that next season the 3rd team fixtures will follow a different format.

The teams forming the league will be divided into 2 groups.

Prior to Christmas each group will play each team in its group.

Following Xmas the top teams in each group will form the basis of a new group with the remaining teams forming the second group.

The dates and times of the fixtures are to flexible with the clubs making the arrangements.

**Action :-** C Mc to reply to inform County that we believe this to be a good idea and would be willing to participate.

1. **Future Planning.**

As discussed in the Treasurer’s report the lack of social events has seriously hit the clubs income.

A discussion followed and it was determined that one of the main reasons for is that we no longer meet with Social Secretary, Bar manager, Facilities manager ect. on a regular basis.

With the slimmed down board only board members tend to meet regularly and it has proved very difficult to appoint volunteers to the various roles.

It was decided that from next season we would try a different track.

The board would still be voted in and would consist of :- Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Director of Rugby, Director of Junior Rugby, Club House Director and Marketing Director.

These 7 personages would form the executive board and would meet as appropriate and would be the only people who had authority to authorise spend.

A management board would be set up that would meet on a regular basis (monthly) and would consist of :-

The executive board, Social Secretary, Safeguarding Officer, Clubhouse Manager, Bar Manager, Membership Secretary and Club Captain.

The intention would be to fill these positions at the next AGM.

JS has announced that he will not be standing for re-election next season.

1. **Membership.**

The New membership rates for next season were agreed and are as follows:-

Senior player £100 Junior player(U19) £80

Senior Lady Player £70 Mini Player £70

Club Member £70 Social member £30

Coach £40 Parent Member Free

Parent Coaches receive a 50% discount.

£10 discount/child on additional children from a single family

Senior Guest players fee £5/game

Concessions to be negotiated with either the membership secretary or an Executive board member.

1. **AOB.**
2. MS and Storm Dinsey to meet with the parish council on Tuesday 24th March to discuss pitch closures and procedures.
3. There have been a number of complaints from the PC regarding litter left after matches, mainly the electrical tape and bandages etc. We need to ensure all such rubbish is collected after the games.
4. **The date and location of the “End of Season Ball” needs to be confirmed and advertised.**
5. PW has confirmed that he has arranged for Scott Gillbraith to take the team photos at home games.
6. AGM. The date for the AGM has been set for Wednesday 20th May, 7.30pm start.

MS to provide poster advertising the event and the positions that require filling.

Date of next Board Meeting -Monday 20th April 2015.

**Time – 7.30pm** Location -Grove Rugby club