**Minutes of Grove RFC Board meeting held 20/04/2015.**

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. **Presentation by the Roger Williams on behalf of the DPAG**

RW presented the work to date done by the DPAG on behalf of the club.

These include:-

1. Discussions with the PC in relation to
2. An extension to the existing lease
3. Greater security of primary use of the recreation ground.
4. Permission to have advertising around the pitch
5. Extending the clubhouse Upwards and sideways.
6. Discussions with the Scouts in relation to the re-locating of the scout hut to allow a ground floor extension to the rugby club and a joint venture in regard to the rebuild of the above.
7. Discussions with Nigel Greenhalgh (former club player and director of company that specialises in re-locating sports clubs) in regard to possible grants from the developers.

The DPAG concluded that it was too early to discuss specifics regarding the club house extension but would carry on working towards a successful conclusion.

However, any future plans can only be achieved if the club can raise enough capital of it’s own in order to match any grants that may be available

With this in mind the board has agreed that fund raising must be a crucial role for next season’s board and should be highlighted at the up and coming AGM.

To aid fund raising RW is proposing to organise the “Older” members of the club into a separate wing of the club with their own tie etc. to be used as and when required.

RW in his role as President would also like to send a big “Thank You” to all the ladies and gents that have helped out with the Pre-match dinners this season.

The dinners are an important part of the club and without the help provided could not go ahead.

1. **Treasurers Report.**

Each month the balance is improving. £7K in the bank and just the payments for the showers and Elmer Cotton tops outstanding.

With both Stephen Dexter and Matt Blow on holiday it means we have no-one to check the accounts, however due to the accounting system and hard work of the treasurer, PW feels comfortable to send the accounts straight to Simon for approval in order that they are ready for the AGM.

The RFU funding, of which we £2.5K still to claim runs out in June. However, in order to claim this money we first need to spend £5k finishing the Refurb. Due to the lack of funds PC has very kindly volunteered to loan the club the £5k required to finish the work and claim the funding from the RFU.

It has been decided that from next season there will no longer be a credit system run from the bar. All purchases must be cash or card only. To save embarrassment this will be announced at the AGM.

As it is now the end of season we need to send the electricity bill on to the PC.

**Action**:- CM to read meter and pass on cost to PW.

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

Since the last board meeting the first team have played 4 league games. They beat Newbury Blues 16-8 at home but lost the other 3 v Maidenhead (29-20), Reading (37-7) and Swindon (19-17).

Putting the league aside we did beat Oxford Harlequins 24-22 at Iffley Rd to lift the county cup for the first time in our history. An amazing night for everyone involved at the club.

Before the last meeting we had secured our status for next year but it has been a disappointing end to the season in the league. Our lack of kicker/10 was once again shown in our losses to Maidenhead and Swindon and also the lack of strength in depth after having to make 9 changes for the reading game.

Unfortunately strength in depth is very difficult to achieve at this level unless you have the financial clout to buy it or have a successful youth system to provide home grown players. I think we are now feeling the effects of not having a Colts team for a few years before this season.

The main priority over the coming 2 months is to attract players from the county squad with the funds we have, retain our current players and ensure all the colts who are not going to university stay at the club.

I have asked Simon for a list of names and contacts and I will contact them all personally to find out their situation and invite them to preseason.

The Grove Ladies had their first home fixture on Sunday against High Wycombe Ladies and in a game that was cut short due to unfavourable pitch conditions still managed to achieve a very fine 15-0 win. Well done to the girls and let’s hope there are more games to follow next season.

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

The Season has gone very well for the Youth and Mini teams as a whole.

There have been few fixtures this month but this has allowed the squads to concentrate on the training

There are still a number of tournaments that we have teams entered for.

These include:-

3rd May Mini and Junior Super Stars tournament held at Grove. (Team coaches to arrange food)

U/14 10-a-side tournament at Wallingford. The cost to enter this tournament (£90) has been criticized and the Oxfordshire RFU are looking into it.

Due to the importance of the youth sides to the clubs the Director of youth rugby has been asked to give a presentation at this year’s AGM.

1. **RFU Visits South Parks.**

AT present it is intended that there will be a number of matches organised to celebrate the event. However, we still await news from Dusty as to what format these games will take. Helen Price is considering whether or not to put up a stall advertising Grove RFC with emphasis on the Ladies sides.

1. **Talks with the Parish Council regarding Pitches.**

MS and Storm Dinsey attended a meeting with representatives from the PC (S Dexter, June Stock and Graham Mundy) to discuss the recent banning of games on pitches 1 and 2.

It was pointed out that according to the agreement we have with the PC, Pitches should be inspected at 1pm on a Friday prior to matches and that if the grounds man thinks that the pitch is unplayable he can recommend to the club that the game be cancelled. In this case and previous cases this procedure was not adhered to.

The PC have agreed to review the agreement but due to the up and coming elections have stated that no decisions can be made until after the elections

**Action: -** MS and SD to pursue matter at the next PC recreation committee meeting.

1. **Training Pitches**

Throughout the season the availability of training pitches has proved troublesome.

With this in mind MS and SD had a meeting with representatives from the Challengers and the Rangers football clubs to see if we could come up with a solution.

One problem for the juniors has been that no training areas are available in the early part of the evening during the week.

After discussion it was agreed that Grove RFC would have sole use of the training pitch on a Tuesday evening. ( 4pm to 9pm). Thursday would remain as is with Grove RFC taking over the pitch at 7.10pm.

It was also established that due to the poor drainage and constant use the training pitch is put under all parties’ concerned need an alternative.

It has been proposed that we introduce permanent training lights, powered from a generator, on the 2 pitches at Mably Way. This would be a joint project between the footballers and the rugby club and is hoped could be made available by next season.

**Action: -** MS to start looking at costs and liaise with the footballers.

1. **Club House bookings**

Again we see instances of double booking for the club house.

To stop this re-occurring NO booking will be considered as firm until it is entered into the diary on the computer behind the bar. The diary software will also be changed to ensure that once a booking is made it cannot be removed.

1. **Management Committee.**

Again it has been stressed that the “Club” cannot operate effectively without the management positions being filled. These positions are listed on the posters in the clubhouse and on the literature sent out with the notification of the AGM.

Between now and the AGM all BM’s must actively search out willing members to take up these positions.

1. **AOB.**
2. The standard of the cleaning in the clubhouse is again being called into question

Action:- MS to write to Belmont Cleaning Specialists.

1. AA to order a number of tickets for the England warm-up games at Twickenham.
2. Pitch Marking. As from next season all pitch marking to be signed off by Club Captain or DofR with a new process set-up to monitor and control.
3. The Honours board is now back at Falcon signs and it is hoped it will be back in the club house before the AGM
4. The Double doors in the Clubhouse need attention. CM to contact suppliers to get faults rectified.
5. The club now has a registered address (Recreation Lane). MS to arrange new post code
6. RW has ordered a number of photos of the Cup victory and will arrange to have the best 2 framed ready to go on the wall.
7. We have 2 likely candidates for 2nd team Captain, Matthew Walsh and Tom Harrington. CM to liaise and Club Captain to confirm who is taking on the role
8. With 1st May fast approaching the Club Captain is reminded we need to get the posts down

Date of next Board Meeting –To be arranged