**Minutes of Grove RFC A.G.M held on 03/06/2015.**

Present: - 23 voting members and 8 non voting members

1. **To confirm the Minutes of the 2014 AGM.**

Niki Dinsey proposed acceptance with Helen Price seconding.

The minutes were unanimously accepted as correct.

1. **The Chairman’s Report.**
2. **Playing sides.**

Mixed season for the male playing sides with the 1st team just holding their own in the league. (10th position from 14).

The seconds did well but struggled for games.

Disappointing 3rd team due to lack of players. This resulted in too many missed fixtures and removal from the league. This lack of players seems to be common through-out the south of England.

The big plus for the season was the winning of the Oxfordshire cup.

The Female sides are progressing but recruitment is still a big problem.

The U13’s side, made up of years 6, 7, and 8 now have a strong team and have been selected as the local Rugby partnership team for Oxfordshire.

The senior ladies team is showing progress. A team will be entered into the Thames Valley 10’s tournament and it is hoped to obtain entry into the league for the 2016/17 season. Grove ladies will be going on tour this season so watch out Weston- Super-mare

1. **Premises.**

A great amount of work has been carried out on the club-house this season.

The main entertainment areas’ have been completely refurbished along with the ladies loos and the entrance area.

At long last the showers have been completely re-plumbed and it is now possible for all teams to have hot water after a match.

2 grants were received from the RFU (50% match for money spent) to help with this work

There is still work to do to finish off the refurbishment and it is hoped this work will be completed on the weekend June 27th and 28th.

1. **Finance.**

Not a good year for the club finances.

Turn-over was down and spending up.

1. **Community events.**

The fireworks this year were a huge success.

We now have a youth club running in the club house each Monday and this is really starting to take off.

1. **Strategy and Development**.

We now have a separate group working alongside the board whose’ main objective is to help the board in developing/expanding the club house and the facilities available.

This group is known as “the Strategic Planning Advisory Group” and is headed by the club President, Roger Williams.

*(A presentation by the SPAG will follow.)*

1. **The work force.**

As is always the case this club cannot function with-out the help of it’s’ volunteers.

A big thank you goes out to all the kitchen staff with special thanks to Phil Connolly for his work in the kitchen this year, pre-match dinners have been superb, and also Phil’s work in keeping the bar functioning efficiently.

Thank you also to the bar staff who give up their time to see us all well watered.

And finally a very big thank you to Niki and Storm Dinsey who worked tirelessly in getting the refurbishment completed.

1. **Treasurers Report.**

The treasurer confirmed that income was down on last year with spending up.

Notes laying out the income and expenditure were distributed. (Copies of the notes are available from the Treasurer)

Main point of contention is that the accounts show a deficit for the year of £27K.

Numerous questions were raised concerning the accounts mainly regarding how the club can sustain such expenditure. It was explained that the work carried out on the clubhouse last year was a one off, and the budget set for the playing sides was based on the income from the previous year’s income which did not materialise this year. The board have assured the club that a firm budget will be set in place next season to tide the flow of money out from the club.

1. **To approve the Independent Reviewer’s report of the accounts of the club for the season ending May 2015.**

At the present time we are unable to approve the accounts for the year as the independent reviewer has not had time to complete the review.

At the end of the meeting we shall adjourn the AGM and reconvene at a later date when the approved accounts are available.

1. **To appoint the independent reviewer for the ensuing year.**

Simon Humberstone was proposed by D Price and seconded by J Sevier.

Simon was unanimously re-elected as independent reviewer.

1. **To inform the meeting of subscriptions and match fees for the coming year**

Voting members:-

Honorary Life member Free

Senior Player Down from £132 to £100

Senior Lady Player £70 (new)

Club Member Up from £66 to £70

Coach Up from 27.50 to £40

Parent Member Free(only one parent member allowed /family)

Non Voting Members:-

Junior Player (U19) Up from £77 to £80

Mini Player Up from £66 to £70

Social Member Up from 27.50 to £30

Parent coaches to receive a 50% discount on fee

A second child discount of £10 will apply for children from a single family.

Single match Fee £5/game.

Concessions to be agreed with either a board member or the membership secretary.

Questions were raised regarding the new rates.

It was explained that all rates were evened off to the nearest £10 in order to make collection easier.

The reduction in senior playing fees was due to the number of games the majority of senior players get, with many 2nd and 3rd team players getting less than 6 games /season.

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

This season, our second in South West 1 East, has proved to be quite difficult.

The need for a 10/kicker has been highlighted by the number of matches lost by just a couple of points. The 1st team squad is small with the step-up from 2nd to 1st team very large and this lack of strength in depth has caused problems particularly in the backs division. However, at no time during the season did a final relegation place threaten.

Pre-season training was not well attended and this led to a slow start by the players.

The one outstanding moment during the season was the winning of the Oxfordshire cup which was a terrific achievement for the club.

Lack of training facilities during the winter has proved a problem with the training pitch continually being put out of bounds by the council.

The 2nd team have had a good season but were restricted to only 16 games.

They finished 5th in their league.

Very few 2nd team players turn up for training which means progression into the 1st team is unlikely.

Lack of a 3rd team effects all the teams, however, it is hoped that with the number of u19 colts coming through next season this will change and we should then be able to fulfil our league obligations.

The club needs a designated Director of Rugby to deal with all levels of senior players in the club and to actively pursue the recruitment of new players.

Steve Chadbone will be joining us to take up this role and it is understood that he is already id discussions with a number of new recruits.

Next season Duncan Nichol will take on the role of 1st team manager and Nigel Dixey will take on Club captain.

There is a clear playing budget for next season, (down on last year’s budget) and 1st team coach will have discretion on how this is spent.

Any-one wishing to play for the 1st team must attend training and a clear selection policy will be in force for next season. This policy will be published on the web site.

First training session 2nd July.

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

Niki Dinsey provided a presentation with reports from each of the mini and junior teams, (U6 through to U16.) A copy of the presentation can be can be obtained by e-mailing Niki at niki.dinsey@sarsen.biz

The presentation showed the continuing strength of the junior sides and the great commitment given by the coaches.

U6 great season will numbers rising and now seeing around 20 players weekly.

U7 lost a couple of the girls last season but still have 15-20 lads playing.

U9 Struggling with numbers but encouraging performances

U10 Strong squad of 20+ winning nearly all their matches through-out the season.

U 11 Difficult start to the season but improving ad now regular turnout of around 20.

U12 squad of around 24 and managed to compete in 18 matches this season.

U13 Lack of numbers and in particular local lads has been a big problem and likely to get worse next season.

U 16 Numbers is main concern with a number leaving in the season. Next season will see the lads playing in a junior Colts side.

1. **To Approve the Appointment of any new Life Member.**

The board recommended Paul Walsh to become a Life Member based on his commitment to the club over preceding years.

This was proposed by Phil Connolly and seconded by Adi Amies.

The vote was carried unanimously.

1. **To consider the board’s proposal to amend the Rules.**

There were two proposals put forward which were presented as one proposal i.e. to change the length of appointment for Board members to 1 year (at present the Chairman. Secretary and treasurer are appointed for 3 years) and to restrict the board to 7 named positions.

This was proposed by M Stalder and seconded by P Walsh.

The proposal was rejected with 9 votes for and 10 against.

1. **To Elect the Board of directors of Grove RFC for the coming year.**

Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary retain positions as Chairman has 1 year of term remaining with Treasure and Secretary 2 years remaining.

Niki Dinsey returns as Director of Youth Rugby (Unopposed)

Phil Connolly returns as Clubhouse Director (Unopposed)

Adrian Amies returns as Elected Director (Unopposed)

Steven Chadbone was proposed as Director of Senior Rugby by Craig Burrows and seconded by Nigel Dixey. Accepted unanimously.

Gerry Gannon was proposed as an elected Director by Storm Dinsey and seconded by T McCarthy. Accepted unanimously.

Wayne Overson was proposed as an elected Director by A Amies and seconded by P Connelly. Accepted unanimously.

1. **A.O.B**

Roger Williams had prepared a presentation by the SPAG.

This was read out by Stephen Dexter.

Following the 40th Anniversary Dinner in 2013, it became evident that we have a large number of former members, who still hold the club in very high regard, and more importantly could provide a huge resource in ideas and practical help. I therefore contacted the Board of the club and offered to act as a contact for this group, with the aim of providing advice, support and planning of events and issues outside the day to day running of the club. Terms of reference were agreed and the Development Group of John Sevier, Stephen Dexter, Paul Walsh, Clem Davies (a former player, Treasurer of the club and now Financial Director of London Welsh) and I was thus formed to represent the former players and in providing assistance to the Board.

We have met on numerous occasions and provided advice on streamlining the administration of the club which is currently in operation. More recently we have initiated negotiations for an extension to the lease on the club house, greater security of primary use of the Recreation Ground, advertising around the pitch and established that the Parish Council have no issues with extending the clubhouse upwards on sideways.

As a result of the positive attitude from the Parish Council towards a possible clubhouse extension, we have had a discussion with members of the Scouts to see whether they would be prepared to move their new premises away from our clubhouse to allow a ground floor extension. Those discussions were very positive and there could be mutual benefit in working with them to secure the best outcome for both organisations. In addition we have discussed with Nigel Greenhalgh, a former club player, who is a director of a professional organisation involved in sports facilities and their funding the possibilities of grants and where they might come from to assist in a clubhouse development.

The increase in population arising from the 5,500 scheduled new houses in Grove and Wantage will leave the clubhouse and playing fields in the centre of Grove and within easy walking distance for most of the community. This gives the club a great opportunity to be a community club and to be seen as such. Consequently this suggests more facilities to capture this market including additional social areas, bigger changing rooms for both males and females, storage facilities etc.

However, it was felt that, at this stage, it was pointless to discuss any specific detail regarding size/style/cost/position of an extended/new building, as there was too much “groundwork” to be considered and completed before reaching that stage. What we did do was to recommend the following:

* The need to raise money for a specific Development Fund and suggest a target figure of £20,000 pa. If we are to access potential money from the various agencies we need to be seen to raising money ourselves and any proposed funder/donor will need to see our accounts. The 2015 accounts are likely to show another deficit (our fifth in a row and eleventh out of the last fourteen) and this must change. To this end we suggest four fund raising functions and are in the process of organising them, once we have Parish Council permission and support. These would be in addition to the successful Mini Rugby Tournament and November Fireworks Night where the cash raised here would be for the areas they traditionally support.

A Colts Seven-a-side Tournament in September 2015

A hundred club which will be advertised by September and will run throughout the year

A giant Car Boot sale in the Spring of 2016 to be held on Wasbrough Field

A Grove/Wantage Extravaganza in August 2016 to be held on the Recreation Ground

* Involvement with the local business community to highlight the clubs future ambition and to recruit possible members with a proven business background.
* Club funds to be allocated, along with sponsorship from the business community to foster closer relationships with our local school to encourage the establishment of a rugby development officer. This will eventually generate competitive sides, playing on a regular basis in King Alfred’s Academy and consequently raising the standard at our club and providing more players, with better basic rugby skills for the future.

The aim of these incentives is to provide a better, bigger clubhouse with improved facilities which can be enjoyed by us all, as well as generating more cash in future years. It will also cement the community aspect of our club, which is essential for our future and generate more and better young players. These will, in turn, enable us to secure and maintain a position as major players in South West rugby for the years ahead.

I am aware that this is an ambitious list of aims, but am convinced that if we all contribute in helping to make it happen, it will succeed. We will be asking for help from all of you and hope that you will enthusiastically agree.

**Grove RFC Old Boys (GOBS)**

Another consequence of the 40th Anniversary Dinner is we now have a considerable data base of former players and supporters of Grove RFC. This has been used from time to time to inform this group of pre match lunches, significant fixtures, club news etc.

It has therefore been suggested that we make this group of past players, supporters etc into a more formal and recognised group. The GOBS would have a polo shirt and club tie recognising their membership and past efforts for the club and would also have a regular newsletter with up to date news on members past and present, plus old photographs and memorabilia. It would establish a new support group for the club that would have current members, players who have lost touch with the club and members who have moved away but would still like a tangible supportive link to Grove as their old rugby club. We would also encourage all GOBS members to join Grove RFC. More information about becoming a member of the GOBS will be available before the end to the season.

**At this Point the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman with the intention of re-convening when the Club accounts have been checked by the Independent Reviewer. The Independent Reviewers report will then be presented to the membership for their approval.**

**Tuesday 22nd September.**

The Meeting was re-convened at 9pm in the club house with 13 voting members present.

**Item 1**- To review the revised financial statements for the year ending 31st march 2015.

Copies of the financial statement were distributed amongst the members present.

The statement highlighted the fact that the club had spent £21624 more than it had brought in during the year.

The membership was asked to approve the accounts as a true and factual record which they did by a unanimous vote of 13 to accept the report with no votes against and no abstentions.

**Item 2**- To approve the independent Reviewers report.

The reasons for this overspend are highlighted in the report presented by Reviewer.

It was stated that the over-spend of the previous season had resulted in the club being in a position where it could be considered insolvent.

The board recognised the gravity of the situation and after talks with the reviewer and the clubs accountants has set procedures in operation that will hopefully reverse the situation.

The first of these was that after many long meetings a budget for the 2016/16 season has been agreed that will stabilise the clubs financial situation.

Also, controls have been introduced that will ensure that all spending is approved by the treasurer and correct procedures will need to be complied with before any payments can be made.

After a number of questions from the floor the review was put to the membership who gave their unanimous approval with a vote of 13 to accept the review with no votes against and no abstentions.

**With no other business on the agenda the meeting was called to order and dismissed.**