

**BATH RUGBY SUPPORTERS' CLUB
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING HELD IN THE ILLUSTRIOUS
SUITE, THE RECREATION GROUND
ON 23 MAY 2013 AT 1930**



Present:

Committee:

Glyn Edwards
Erica Edwards
Andy Thatcher
Anne Kirkham
Tom Sutton - Acting Secretary

Members:

Sue Andrew	Clive Hoskin	Peter Phillips	Dorothy Wallace
Kelvin Brunton	Honor King	Dave Pugh	Jan Warrington
Cath Burgess	Peter Legge	Raymond Preston	Mike Warrington
Fred Clayton	Chris Maggs	David Spurrell	Chris Wensley
Barry Cleeve	Pam Maggs	June Spurrell	Maureen Willcox
Jenny Cleeve	Peter Measday	Dave Stock	Anne Woodman
Paul Cripps	David Paynter	William Singer	John Woodman
Ann Finch	Ray Perry	Cathy Thatcher	

In attendance: Nick Blofeld (CEO, Bath Rugby)

Welcome

Glyn Edwards (Chairman) welcomed and introduced Nick Blofeld, who had agreed to deliver a review of the season and update briefing, looking ahead to the next season.

Speaker

Nick explained that he would concentrate on three key areas in his briefing – Farleigh House, The Rec, and the Team

Farleigh House

Farleigh House had been fully functional for the last six months from a rugby playing perspective. The pitches were in good order and the state of the art gym was proving to be an outstanding facility and a huge success.

The Rec.

The status and future of the Rec was still a significant challenge.

There were three key issues:

1. The Town and Village Green debate – top London lawyers had spent a good deal of time on this bureaucratic process. A decision was expected by the end of the summer/the autumn.

2. The Charity Commission – a body that moves very slowly! The process was now sitting with the Charity Commission lawyers in London.

3. The 1922 Restrictive Covenant. Ironically the work of a Past President of Bath Rugby! The Club was trying to identify any problems and ensure that no issues were overlooked.

Nick assured the members present that the Club “would not give up.”

The Team

Nick started this part of his review by stating that it was the ‘F’ word that sprang to mind – Frustration! Huge efforts had been made in the background before the start of the season, but massive changes had meant that not everyone was together until the start of the season. This coming year the whole pre-season would be spent together and the staff were confident there would be a better understanding within the team, based on time spent together, improved culture, commitment and attitude

It was recognised that the lineout had been disappointing and that, in attack, there had been insufficient creativity. There was also serious concern about the away form of the team. These would be key areas for improvement next season.

Danny Grewcock (Academy Director) and Dave Williams (Academy Coach) would be more integrated in the coaching of the first team. The vision of the Academy had changed to become the identification of a smaller number of quality, home-grown players, - in the longer-term, to fill identified gaps in the squad – the focus was not on quantity. The first team coaches also had a philosophy of inclusion of the Academy players in the first team squad based on ability, if they were at the correct level, not just as injury cover.

Nick explained that there was a desire amongst the coaches to develop a playing style or philosophy and asked the members what they considered the “Bath style” to be. Various answers mentioned “the Meehan attacking style”, “the Meehan/Bakewell style”, “the forwards of the past”, “a better balance”.

It was agreed that any playing style has to be fashioned around the players you have but members felt that, now there was a decent forward platform, it was important to achieve a better blend of styles than had been created of late.

There was discussion about players and the impact of injuries. Gary Gold has identified hooker, scrum-half and back row as key areas for recruitment and strength in depth because of their importance to the team and susceptibility to injury.

As there were now larger squad at all AP clubs, it was hoped to give more game time to players by playing more United fixtures and to put more (Academy) players on loan – remembering that they are professional players, not professional trainers.

On the financial front, the accounts were, according to Nick, “a black hole”, but he reassured those present that Bruce Craig had huge commitment to the project he had started. Nick was thanked for his interesting and informative briefing.

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks (Chairman)

Glyn Edwards welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for coming.

He explained that Kevin Lawrence, BRSC Secretary, was not able to be present at the AGM because of a family bereavement. Tom Sutton would be the Acting Secretary for the meeting.

The Chairman also mentioned Hughie Armitage and Roy Titchen, two BRSC members who had sadly passed away during the past season.

2. Notice Convening the Meeting (Acting Secretary)

The notice convening the meeting was read. It was confirmed that in accordance with Paragraph 11 of the Constitution, the notice had been published on the Allez - Bath website and in the local Press not later than 21 days in advance of the meeting.

3. Apologies (Acting Secretary)

Written and telephone apologies had been received from 50 members. (A full list of their names is attached as an appendix to these Minutes.)

Verbal apologies were received from the floor on behalf of Eunice Williams and Peter Lamont.

4. Minutes of the last AGM (Acting Secretary)

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 23 May 2012 had been published on the website and a limited number of copies were available at the meeting. There were no matters arising which would not be covered during the business of the meeting and the minutes were approved for signature.

5. Membership Secretary's Report

Anne Kirkham reported as follows:

Having been elected as Membership Secretary at last year's AGM, two items from the minutes of that meeting seemed particularly relevant. Firstly, one of the aims for the future of BRSC set out by Barry Cleeve in his report was "attracting new members". Secondly a speaker from the floor questioned whether the committee had been pro-active enough in engaging with supporters and attracting new members to BRSC.

I would like to take this opportunity to report on the efforts that we have made this season to address those two points.

- Membership renewal forms were mailed out to all 2011-2012 members along with information regarding the Awards Supper and the end of season newsletter.
- Membership application forms were sent out by Bath Rugby to all season ticket holders; there were 48 of these returned.
- Membership applications / renewals were available at every home game at the BRSC table.
- Members were signed up on the Supporters' Coaches to the first few away games.
- Emails were sent to last season's members who had not renewed giving them a gentle reminder – with limited success
- The Allez-Bath website has had a makeover and we have a presence on Twitter & Facebook
- BRSC continues to have a page in the matchday programme
- The Bath Chronicle has continued to feature photographs & articles about BRSC activities.
- The range of discounts available to members has been extended
- BRSC have organised a number of very successful events during the season for members and their guests
- A new initiative this season was the members' prize draws; two members (Ben Hammett & Arnold Snowball) each won a hospitality package for two people for the

Amlin Cup games against Agen & Bucharest respectively. In our Junior draw Tom Chocqueel-Mangan won a shirt signed by his favourite player Matt Banahan. Thanks to Jeremy Wilton & Bath Rugby for the prizes.

We have recruited 163 new members this season from as far afield as San Diego, Queensland and Oldfield Park!! Unfortunately a significant number of previous members have chosen not to renew their membership; as a result it is disappointing to have to report that although we have slowed the rate of decline in membership we have not managed to reverse it. We closed the membership at 688 members as opposed to 752 last year.

Next season we are hoping to offer on-line payment direct from our website in addition to existing methods of payment. We are also hoping to extend the members' prize draw idea, to have, perhaps, less exotic but more frequent prizes.

If any of you have any ideas as to how else we can promote BRSC membership in the coming season then please talk to one of the committee.

One simple idea from me ... if every BRSC member persuaded one other person to join then we would have to order more cards & badges!!

There were no questions to the Membership Secretary.

6. Treasurer's Report - - to include BRSC membership subscription charges

Erica Edwards reported as follows, with the assistance of a PowerPoint presentation:

Good Evening.

After last year's drastic cost reduction measures, this year has been a year of financial stability.

The sponsors we found in the summer/autumn of 2011 have stayed with us for a second year.

Wadworth have once again agreed to sponsor the newsletter.

Roman Candles and Silcox Son and Wicks' sponsorship has been key in providing a quality Awards Supper that BRSC can be proud of, for a ticket price that is still affordable and very good value for money.

Mowbray Woodward continue to sponsor the 'MW Award for Services to Bath Rugby'. This season the recipient was Kelvin Brunton.

Bath Rugby have been very supportive. This season we have enjoyed:

- The hire of the Clubhouse and Illustrious Suite at zero cost for all our events
- Free artwork for the membership flyer, Awards Supper tickets and menus
- Free food for players and Bath Rugby staff at our Awards Supper
- An extensive buffet at the Heineken Cup Anniversary Party for the price of a sandwich buffet

Without these sponsors and Bath Rugby's assistance, running BRSC would have been difficult.

And now the Accounts for the year ending 30 April 2013:

Income

- Membership subscriptions were down £548 v last year as a result of a reduction in the membership
- Events: Event income was unchanged if you remove the Race Night and raffle proceeds from the 2011-12 figures
- Newsletter sponsorship of £1777 was for 3 newsletters; March 2012, June 2012, and December 2012

- Charity collections: This is money we collected for our charities, i.e. raffles, sale of old badges, England Programmes, old ponchos. Last year's collections are under the heading of the activities they related to or Misc for badges etc. They were up by £220 this year. The increase is mainly due to the Awards Supper raffle.
- Misc Income is down because we have sold hardly any Merchandise. Even though advertised no one bought any Xmas presents. Our remaining merchandise is fully paid for in the accounts in a previous season (before my time) and is therefore not a burden on our finances

Expenditure

- Membership: Costs are up by £1060 because we have purchased a new badge this year which we could not afford at the start of last year as upfront payment was required
- Postage & Stationery: Costs increased by £227 due to the increased cost of stamps which have gone up in April 2012 between 20% for a large letter stamp to 40% for a ordinary second class stamp
- Printing: 3 newsletters and the Player Awards voting forms. All other printing costs are listed under other headings; e.g. menus & tickets under Awards Supper, membership forms under Membership etc.
- Presentations: Bath Aqua Glass mementos presented this year to Flatman, Barkley, Mears, Davis, Claassens and BRSC Player Awards. Last year to Dixon, Beattie, Bell, Meehan, Grewcock, Barnes
- Charity: level of donations down by £2034 due to Shirt Raffle £1684 and Race Night £644.
- Misc: cost increase due to timing of the website costs. Last year's webmaster did not pass on the website costs that he had paid for because we were so short of money.

Charitable Donations

This year we donated £913 to charity. All monies except for the donation to the Poppy Appeal were collected by us as donations.

The Poppy Appeal donation was to the Keynsham Branch of the Royal British Legion because they had lent us their Bingo machine for several years in the past free of charge.

This is higher than the amount BRSC collected last year even though last year's accounts showed donations amounting to £2,946. This included the last match day raffle in May 2011 (£1,684 for the Tamara Johnson Trust Fund) and the proceeds of the Race Night.

The players sold raffle tickets at our Awards Supper to the amount of £521, an increase of £171.

We sold raffle tickets at our Christmas Quiz to the amount of £135.

Visiting and our own supporters donated £80 in exchange for our old badges and second hand England programmes from the Autumn Internationals and the Six Nations that Glyn and I found at Twickenham in our capacity as Honorary Stewards.

We sold a box of old Bath Foundation ponchos at the Saracens home game in December when the weather was atrocious and raised £102 for the Foundation.

Income v Expenditure

This year we have spent almost as much as we received as income. We have added £334 to our bank balance which now stands at £4257 at the end of April. We still owe our charity £43 and Montroy Media £10 which is an outstanding cheque.

Expenditure Level

I am of the opinion that we have achieved a reasonable balance between the level of costs we incur on one side and the level of professionalism we try to achieve on the other side.

Bank Balance

Our bank balance as at the end of April is £4,257 of which £334 was added during this season.

The Committee is of the opinion that this amount is adequate for the correct functioning of the Club based on the following:

To function over the summer period when we incur substantial costs before the membership subscriptions start coming in, we believe we need a cushion of approx. £2,000. We need to pay upfront for membership cards, membership badges, membership flyer, and some costs associated with the Awards Supper.

We also need some money to protect us if we lose our sponsors. Last year the net benefit to BRSC of sponsorship monies received was just over £2,500.

We are also still in negotiation with Bath Rugby about a better location on match days and how we can make people who enter the Rec from the South side aware of our existence and of our events.

Apart from a banner, we did not spend any money this season as our new position could not be resolved due to planning issues. Once we know where we will be for the next few seasons we will need to purchase suitable equipment; e.g. gazebo, new desks and chairs, A-boards, etc.

Assessment of Membership Subs Level

This topic was considered by the Committee at its last meeting.

Membership subscriptions levels are:

- Adult £7.50
- Junior £4.00
- Family £16.00 (up to 2 adults & unlimited children under 16 at same address)
- Overseas £10.00

Benefits:

- Membership Card
- Membership Badge
- Regular Newsletter
- Free entry or reduced ticket prices to our events
- Local discounts

Membership can pay for itself:

- Attend 3 of our events
- Use your discounts:
 - Match day examples: Mission Burrito BOGOF, Wetherspoons 20% off breakfast, Patisserie Valerie 10%, Las Iguanas 20%, Bath Aqua Glass 20% off non-sale items, PurePots 10%,
 - Other examples: Bath club shop 5% off: £2.50 per shirt, John Titcombe Fine Jewellery 20% off, Silcox 10% (useful for that sofa!!)
- 8x Travel on the Bath Supporters Travel coach to away games (last year you only had to travel 3x to achieve same)

Based on our expenditure for this season adjusted for the charity donations, events (should be self-financing) and the March 2012 newsletter, the costs that should be covered by the Mem Subs are £5,148. The Membs Subs are £4,734, so that is a shortfall of £414.

Hypothetically, if Membs Subs were to be reduced to £5 for adults and £11 for family membership, then the Membs Subs income would drop to £3,070 assuming the same number of members. This would mean a shortfall of £2,078.

We are only keeping the Membs Subs down because we have managed to obtain sponsorship for the newsletter from Wadworth.

Looking forward I do not expect any of our current costs to go down; stamps, print costs other than newsletters, membership badges and cards, website costs, etc. are more likely to go up. Our match day advertising costs will probably increase from a base of almost nothing due to the requirement that we 'fit in' with the Bath Rugby style which will mean using a professional printer.

The committee members are giving their time for free and the website is currently run by me (also for free) and in my opinion we have achieved a reasonable balance between the level of costs we incur on one side and the level of professionalism on the other side.

To help you use your discounts better we are exploring the possibility of providing the businesses with a sticker to advertise this fact.

My advice to the Committee has been that we should not change the current membership subs in order to sustain the current level of BRSC activity and the Committee has agreed.

Finally

Committee Members are not reimbursed for travel costs. We always purchase our own tickets to BRSC events. Any costs are only reimbursed to Committee Members after being agreed in advance and claimed with a receipt.

My thanks to Clive Hoskins for his expertise and help in producing the audited accounts in time for this AGM.

Questions

There were no questions about the content of the accounts as presented.

Membership Subscription Charges

A pre-notified question was raised by Mike Warrington, who wondered whether the membership subscription could be reduced back to its previous level of £5. He explained that it was the view of some regular B.R. Coach travellers that they receive nothing more for £7.50 than they did for £5.

A wide-ranging discussion took place in which reference was made to the rise in costs in general since the previous subscription was in place; the impact of playing performance on membership levels; confusion caused by the Club now having its own membership deals; the growth of events for season ticket holders; the need to work with the Club to create an integrated programme of events with player attendance; the suggestion that some social events should be not necessarily rugby-related, e.g. a Race Night.

Paul Cripps congratulated the Committee on the programme achieved and stated that he thought the Committee was doing a terrific job. He proposed, seconded by Fred Clayton, that the membership subscription rate should remain at £7.50. The proposition was carried.

7. Chairman's Report

Glyn Edwards apologised to members for the late start of the AGM and reported follows:

Introduction

In this report to the AGM – my first as Chairman – I shall firstly and briefly review last season from a playing perspective, and then deal with an aspect of crowd behaviour at the Rec which has caused considerable embarrassment and regret for many genuine supporters.

I will then look back over our calendar of Social Events from last season – for which we remain as always most grateful to Bath Rugby for their generous support, before outlining our Communications Strategy, then briefly look ahead to next season, and the composition of the Committee for the new Membership Year.

Season 2012-13

In reviewing the 2012-13 season from a supporter's perspective the inescapable conclusion is that the overall record was clearly not much improved from the previous season – despite an extensive overhauling of the coaching staff. A second successive LV= Cup semi-final was reached – and lost – and, after the previous season's disappointments in the Heineken Cup, we at least qualified easily from our Amlin Challenge Cup pool before losing in the quarter-finals. Our home league record here at the Rec was the third best in the Premiership, however – with 9 wins and only 2 defeats. The problems were clearly on our travels, with the solitary Premiership victory coming in the very first match of the season, where Olly Barkley's boot secured the narrowest of wins at Worcester.

It was not the best of seasons for the travelling away support – despite three wins on the road for those of us lucky enough to be able to follow the team in Europe. And as the away match commentator for Bath Hospital Radio I can assure you that it is even worse to have to describe successive disappointing performances to listeners than it is merely to have to watch them from the stands!

Next season hopefully promises much improvement on that score – not least because of the exciting young talent recruited to join us this summer – which is the first real opportunity that the current coaches have had to refresh the squad. By this time next year we shall all be able to judge just how successful they have been.

Retirements through injury have been too common since last year's AGM, with first David Flatman, then Lee Mears, and now Dan Hipkiss unfortunately having to call a premature halt to their careers. Of course, all BRSC Members and other Bath supporters will wish them well and, I'm sure, want me to thank them for their personal contributions to Bath Rugby – especially on the field of play.

This is perhaps the appropriate moment for me to announce how delighted I am that the ultimate 'one-club-man', Lee Mears, has accepted my offer to become our first Honorary President – and we look forward to welcoming him to some of our functions in his new role.

Congratulations are due to Dave Attwood, Kyle Eastmond, Rob Webber and Davey Wilson – plus our 'new boy', Jonathan Joseph – on their selections for the England party to play the Barbarians this weekend and for the tour to Uruguay and Argentina in June; to Tom Heathcote who will be travelling to South Africa with Scotland; and to Paul James and Francois Louw, selected for the Barbarians vs the Lions.

It is not often that I have felt ashamed to be a Bath supporter – in fact, I am sure that it has never happened before – but there has been more than one occasion at the Rec this last season when the treatment of Stephen Donald by sections of the home crowd can only be

described as disgraceful. One BRSC Member – Mr AEJ Bailey of Trowbridge, who has sent his apologies for not being able to be here tonight – was so (quote) “sickened and intensely annoyed by the verbal abuse aimed at Stephen Donald, and the bad manners of a few alleged fans” that he wrote and asked me to raise this issue at the AGM.

Spectators at sporting events are clearly entitled to their opinions as to the quality of the displays on offer, but quite how anyone watching a game thinks that booing and jeering one of your own players is likely to encourage the team to perform better has clearly never played sport themselves. Displeasure at the quality of a performance is one thing – and greeting it with silence rather than encouragement is a legitimate choice in my opinion. But singling out an individual player for vocal criticism – particularly in such a team sport as rugby – is, for me, well beyond the pale.

Bath Rugby have asked for BRSC’s input as they are planning to introduce a statement of unacceptable conduct by spectators – a ‘Supporters’ Charter’, if you like, although I would hope that no true ‘supporter’ would resort to such appalling behaviour. I shall keep you informed of progress on this initiative.

The Club is also considering the introduction of some ‘Information Stewards’ – for want of another title – similar to those who assist spectators at Twickenham, and the ‘Gamesmakers’ who helped visitors at last year’s Olympics venues. These could be part of the Stewarding arrangements at the Rec, or could be managed as a separate team of volunteers. If any BRSC Member is interested in fulfilling this sort of role on a matchday, they should get in touch with me, initially. The role will also be advertised on Allez-Bath.

Social Calendar 2012-13

Another successful Annual Awards Supper kicked off the season in August – with the winners being:

Try of the Season Michael Claassens (H v London Irish on New Year’s Day)

Personality of the Season Tom Biggs

Unsung Hero of the Season Joint Winners: Ryan Caldwell and Simon Taylor

Young Player of the Season Tom Heathcote

Player of the Season Tom Biggs

A retirement presentation was made to the MC for the evening – David Flatman.

Our planned ‘Meet the Coaches’ evening eventually proved impossible to hold, and so after the Fans’ Forum in October, we welcomed back our Honorary Member – Tony Spreadbury – for another interesting and entertaining ‘Ask the Ref’ evening in November. Mid-December saw the return of an old-faithful in both the Xmas Quiz and our regular quizmaster, Dave Stock, for the usual popular and successful seasonal function.

The highlight of the social season for many will have been the Heineken Cup 15th Anniversary Party, held on January 31st – of course. Phil de Glanville, Jerry Guscott, John Mallet and Nathan Thomas joined over 120 supporters to celebrate the 1998 achievement of becoming the first English champions of Europe by beating Brive 19-18 in that unforgettable final in Bordeaux.

In March we held an informal gathering to make a presentation and say farewell to Brad Davis, and at the beginning of April we hosted a ‘Friendship Breakfast’ at Jika Jika to welcome our counterparts from the Stade Francais Supporters’ Club – Les Amis du SF –

before the Amlin quarter-final tie. Thanks to those BRSC members who turned up to assist.

Our last function of 2012-13 was the Lions Tour Forum at the beginning of this month, following Warren Gatland's announcement of his Tour Party to Australia. The assembled panel of Gary Gold, Mike Ford, Danny Grewcock, Lee Mears and Simon Taylor – expertly chaired by the Independent's rugby correspondent, Chris Hewett – put many of the broadcasting media's line-ups to shame, and provided the audience with considerable insight and many humorous reflections of past Lions tours.

The Bath supporter's social calendar was further enhanced last season as Bath Rugby held a pre-season BBQ at the Rec and also a general Fans' Forum, as well as 'Open' Captain's Run training sessions. Members who were also Season Ticket Holders were invited to attend other events including an end-of-season review by Head Coach Gary Gold and an insight into all matters Academy from Director Danny Grewcock at Farleigh House.

Quite a busy year !!

Allez-Bath website & Communications Strategy

This time last year Kelvin Brunton – who had been the BRSC Webmaster for over 10 years – declared his intention to retire from the role as soon as the Committee could find someone else to take up the role and inject some new ideas into the website layout and content.

This is the first AGM since at which we have had the opportunity to publicly and formally thank Kelvin for all of his much-valued support over the past decade and more. Allez-Bath was, and remains, a vital communication link not only to our Members, but also to a much-wider audience, over the long period of his stewardship. Kelvin's tremendous support to the Supporters' Club was properly recognized at last August's Annual Awards at which he was the recipient of the Mowbray Woodward Award for Services to Bath Rugby. Thanks again, Kelvin. **(Energetic applause)**

Kelvin maintained Allez-Bath throughout last summer whilst the Committee investigated options for upgrading the website. With the assistance of BRSC Member Peter Phillips, Erica took on the Webmaster role using the commercial "1 and 1" package. Using their technology ensures that the website will always be up-to-date - in technical terms – and the ease of use allows maintenance of the content by Committee Members as no specialist technical knowledge is required. The 'new-look' Allez-Bath went live in October, and has been generally very-well received. Following on from the initial re-assurance that we had gone down the right route we have since upgraded our package further to facilitate full access from smartphones and tablets, and will be able to offer on-line payment for Memberships (at no extra cost) from the start of next season and – in the future – for Non-Members to attend BRSC events.

Refreshing the website has been a major plank of our Communication Strategy over the past 12 months. Another has been to send information to Members about everything we are doing or promoting by e-mail as far as we can. The only exception to this is the distribution of the Newsletter, which has continued to be posted out. As we cannot yet reach at least 75 households by e-mail, important messages such as the AGM calling notice, Committee nomination forms, and Awards Supper booking and nomination forms still have to be posted to some Members.

The BRSC Twitter and Facebook accounts are also now managed by Erica, and we have recently seen a significant increase in the numbers of players and others who 'follow' the Supporters' Club on Twitter. This particular popular social media outlet has proved very

useful in advertising our events to a predominantly new and younger generation of Bath rugby supporters.

The Bath Chronicle continues to give us space in the paper – as well as on their online ‘This is Bath’ website – for the weekly ‘Supporters’ Corner’, in which our forthcoming main events have been advertised well in advance, along with details of the away coach trips.

Additionally, courtesy of the new editor, many of our events and activities have been reported on afterwards – featuring photographs - so that more local people know that we exist, and what we do.

We were unable during last season to improve our matchday presence at the Rec – despite the best intentions of former Managing Director, Jeremy Wilton - from the generally unsuitable and very exposed table location in front of the Clubhouse. Discussions have since taken place with Nick Blofeld and the new Matchday Operations Manager, Julie Deshon, to find a better location for us for next season, and also with a long-term view for when the Rec is finally home to a new arena and accompanying facilities where we can all watch Bath Rugby play at home in relative comfort.

BRSC’s presence ‘on the pitch’ continued when we made presentations to Olly Barkley – on his departure for Paris – Lee Mears – on his premature retirement – and Michael Claassens (probably Toulon bound, although to be confirmed - recognising these players’ long service to the Club. Anne also organised the half-time Membership draws which were introduced last season. We have continued to have a page in the Match Programme to advertise our events and Membership information, and this has also featured on the big screen – which we intend to exploit more next season. Also, for the first time in several years, the BRSC Noticeboard in the main Clubhouse bar has been regularly updated, and for next season our presence on Bath Rugby’s official website will be improved.

Future Plans

We are planning to hold the 2013 Awards Supper in August, along similar lines to last year, and anticipate another sell-out with well over 100 Members and guests attending. We will invite Bruce Craig to join us as he is moving back to Bath.

In October we have agreed with David Flatman to host a BRSC event in support of his Testimonial Year and chosen charities. The plan is to hold a ‘Secrets of the Front Row’ supper, with a formal meal and the opportunity to quiz David and his mates, Lee Mears and Duncan Bell, on the art of survival at rugby’s coalface, as they entertain us with some well-chosen anecdotes.

The Xmas Quiz will be back, and Spreaders will be available to regale us with refereeing wisdom once more.

We will also strive to increase the number of local establishments and businesses offering discounts to BRSC Members – so please don’t forget to take advantage when you can. From next season we will be supplying window stickers to these firms to remind you of where you can access these extended benefits of BRSC Membership.

Committee Matters

Finally to Committee matters. Anne and I are midway through our 2-year terms, and both of us intend to continue in our posts of Membership Secretary and Chairman.

Erica has been nominated to continue as Treasurer for a further 2 years, and Tom has been nominated to succeed Kevin as Secretary. Kevin has agreed to be nominated for an unnamed post, however, in order to remain on the Committee, for which we are all grateful and very pleased.

Chris Wensley was co-opted onto the Committee in January to provide administrative support, and has now been nominated to become a full-member.

In thanking all of the Committee members for their efforts throughout last season, special mention must be made of Andy Thatcher, who is not seeking re-election this time around. Best of luck from all of us with your new venture, Andy – the internet radio station, Chippenham FM – and many thanks for your support, along with Cathy, in your time on the Committee.

Questions from the floor

Glyn was asked about his reference to the “former Managing Director”.

He explained that Jeremy Wilton had left the Club at the end of the season. Jeremy’s initial plan had been to return to Australia but a change of plan meant he was looking at other options. Jeremy had been a good friend to BRSC and would be missed.

8. Pre-notified matters for discussion

a) The following motion had been submitted by Eunice Williams (Proposer) and Peter Lamont (Seconder).

- **Amendments to the Constitution.** To clarify what appears to be an area of uncertainty, I would like to propose the following motion to be discussed and voted on by the members at the AGM of BRSC. “That any proposed change to the constitution be discussed and agreed by members rather than just the Committee at an AGM or EGM before it is adopted and implemented.

In the absence of Eunice and Peter, the proposal was presented by Sue Andrew.

The Chairman explained on behalf of the Committee that changes had been made to the Constitution (and passed at the AGM) in 2011, precisely so that the work of the Committee would not be constrained in this way. He reassured the meeting that members would most certainly be consulted if any matter of extreme importance was being considered for change.

After brief discussion the motion was defeated by show of hands.

b) The following motion had been submitted by Sue Andrew (Proposer) and Eunice Williams (Seconder).

- **Pre-notification of agenda items for the AGM.** That Any Other Business at the AGM shall be an opportunity for any member to discuss matters pertaining to the running of the Bath Rugby Supporters Club and its promotion without prior notification or inclusion on the agenda.

Members of the Committee pointed out that there was already ample opportunity for important issues to be raised through the pre-notification of questions (such as this one) two weeks prior to the AGM. It was also mentioned that in the wide committee experience of several members of the current BRSC Committee, no committees on which they (had) served allowed “bombshell” items to be sprung on the Committee at an AGM. The Committee felt it was only proper that it should have prior notice of questions so that appropriate replies could be prepared.

Members were also encouraged to raise matters of policy or of concern by contacting any committee member during the season, and not to wait to the AGM.

After brief discussion the motion was defeated by show of hands.

9. Nomination of Scrutineers

As the posts to be elected were not contested, there was no need for the nomination of Scrutineers.

10. Election of the Committee

a) Secretary

Tom Sutton was the only nomination received and he was duly elected.

b) Treasurer

Erica Edwards was the only nomination received and she was duly re-elected

c) Committee members

Kevin Lawrence, Susanne Laws and Chris Wensley had all been appropriately proposed and seconded, and were elected to serve on the Committee.

11. Closing Remarks (Chairman)

a) Glyn Edwards mentioned that the Committee would be glad to receive any offers of help from anyone present.

b) He drew attention to a proposed Fans Forum, which had been advertised on CoML, and was due to discuss rugby coverage on TV with BT Sport. The meeting would take place on Friday 28th June at 5pm and would be hosted by Craig Doyle.

c) Ann Finch thanked Jan and Mike Warrington for their continued hard work with the supporters' coach travel.

d) Barry Cleeve thanked the Chairman and Committee for their hard work.

TWS.

Appendix to AGM 2013 Minutes

APOLOGIES: AGM 2013

John Bailey	Richard Mawditt
Gordon Baker	Shirley Mawditt
Kathi Baker	Betty Measday
William Bartok	Angus Meek
Charles J. Boyle	Anita Murray
Michael Cardy	David Murray
Arthur Cookson	Lisa O'Brien
Rosemary Cookson	Jon O'Brien
Jill Coward	Martin O'Kane
Phil Deeks	Don Pain
Rick Donaldson	Chris Pritchard
Phil Dunning	Janet Pritchard
Norman Enston	Mervyn Small
Clive Firkins	Emma Sparks
Jenny Firkins	Tony Spreadbury
John Ford	Neville Stanton
Julia Ford	Martyn Thomas
Mark Gamble	Joy Thomas
Mike Harley	Jenni Titcombe
Trudy Healey	John Titcombe
Brendan Hood	Julian Trump
Kevin Lawrence	Rosemary Trump
Pat Lawrence	Tony White
Susanne Laws	John Willcox
Adrian Laws	Leslie Willcox

From the Floor:

Peter Lamont
Eunice Williams