

**BATH RUGBY SUPPORTERS' CLUB  
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL  
MEETING HELD IN THE ILLUSTRIOUS  
SUITE, THE RECREATION GROUND  
ON 31 MAY 2016 AT 1930**



**Present:**

**Committee:**

Kevin Lawrence (Chairman)  
Erica Edwards (Treasurer)  
Anne Kirkham (Membership Secretary)  
Tom Sutton (Secretary)  
Jen Wilcox (Committee Member)  
Pat Lawrence (Committee Member)

**Members:**

Sue Andrew	Jim Cronin	Honor King	Christopher Pritchard
John Bailey	Peter Dix	Sally Knight	Janet Pritchard
Derek Batchelor	Wendy Dix	Peter Legge	Ian Rooney
Graham Bates	Phil Dunning	Sheila Legge	Stephen Tarrant
Steve Beach	Paul Felski	Craig Macey	Terry Wagstaff
Stephen Blanchard	Craig Fenton	Chris Maggs	Jan Warrington
Kelvin Brunton	Clive Firkins	Pam Maggs	Mike Warrington
Jocelyn Clark	Jenny Firkins	Caroline Mahoney	John Willcox
Fred Clayton	John Ford	Michael Mahoney	Maureen Willcox
Barry Cleeve	Julia Ford	Roger McSweeney	Martin Willey
Jenny Cleeve	Jim Guymer	Betty Measday	Philippa Willey
Peter Collins	Michael Helyar	Peter Measday	Richard Winter
David Cornford	Barbara Hill	David Paynter	Dawn Woodland
Diana Cornford	Chris Kennedy	Peter Phillips	Richard Wright
			(56)

**In attendance:** Tarquin McDonald (MD, Bath Rugby)

**Welcome**

Kevin Lawrence (Chairman) addressed the members present as follows:

Once again, many thanks for attending the AGM tonight. You've heard me say it before, but I make no apology for re-iterating how important this meeting is. BRSC belongs to all its Members and as a Committee we always welcome the opportunity to account directly to the Membership for our stewardship of the Club over the past year, and also to engage as many members as possible in helping to shape the direction for BRSC over the next year and beyond.

Kevin then welcomed and introduced Tarquin McDonald, who had agreed to deliver a review of the season and update briefing, looking ahead to the next season.

## **Speaker**

Tarquin began by thanking everyone for the support given to the team in the past season. It had been a tough season but the Club was grateful for the ongoing, loyal support of the supporter community. He also mentioned the helpful relationship enjoyed with BRSC. He admitted that, in the light of recent events (and changes) on the coaching front, he had one or two things on his mind, but that he was delighted to be at the AGM.

## **Coaching**

He explained the circumstances of the recent change of Head Coach, following the departure of Mike Ford. The decision had not been taken lightly and was the result of a detailed review undertaken with the players and staff by an external consultant – it was not a reaction to performance. The outcome of the review was the decision that a fresh start was needed.

Tarquin also explained the new role of Stuart Hooper, the retiring Club Captain, who has the trust of the players and is being prepared for a long-term future at the Club. Part of Stuart's brief would be to oversee the Academy, in particular looking at player development and developing the wider perspective and game understanding of individual players. He would also be developing his own coaching credentials for a future role.

There were already some negotiations underway for a new Head Coach. It was felt that the playing group was a particular strength of the Club and the focus would be on the development of players to stay at Bath – to be 'lifers' at the Club.

Other positives mentioned were the very good training facilities and, again, the fantastic loyal support of the fans.

Specifics for next season would include a greater focus on the set piece and Taulupe Faletau and Luke Charteris had been signed with that aim in mind. It was recognised that the team had been too passive in defence and this would be a specific target for improvement next season.

At this point there were some questions to Tarquin from the floor.

Q. Why did Ollie Devoto leave?

A. He has ambitions to play for England and felt these would be best served by moving elsewhere for more regular game time. However, it was not a situation that the Club wished to repeat.

Q. Why were we not so good at rotating the squad?

A. Yes, this is definitely an area that needs to be improved.

Q. What has happened to David Sisi?

A. He will be back next season.

Q. What will be done about 'man management' of players, which seemed a weakness this season?

A. This is an area that will be improved.

Q. Are there any new props being signed?

A. The scrum is an area of focus so there is always a chance of that happening.

Q. Why play a home match at Twickenham?

A. The reasons are partly commercial, partly to reach a wider audience and partly in order to give big game experience to the players

Q. What has happened to the Sports Psychologist?

A. Good results had been achieved in 2014-15 but not been carried on. The Club is considering similar support in 2016-17.

## **The REC**

Tarquín went on to talk about the plans for the Rec. Despite some obstacles it was still the long-term plan to have a stadium in the centre of Bath – ideally with space for c. 18000 spectators. Within the project there would be a focus on riverside regeneration, community use and school participation. The aim was to provide a site that would be something useful for the whole of Bath.

In the meantime the newly agreed, temporary ground configuration would offer overall improvements, better sight lines and greater leg room.

The Ticket Office staff were doing all they could to minimise disruption for those concerned about their seats under the revised system, including making phone calls to individuals.

Tarquín encouraged anyone with a concern to make a direct approach to the Ticket Office.

In conclusion Tarquín explained that there was a Hearing due on 8<sup>th</sup> June to do with (points of) Charity Law and that a decision was expected in July or August. The Club was hopeful of a positive outcome for the longer term ground plan.

Tarquín was thanked By Kevin Lawrence on behalf of those present for his interesting and informative briefing.

### **1. The 2016 AGM - Welcome and Opening Remarks (Chairman)**

Kevin Lawrence welcomed everyone officially to the meeting and thanked them for coming. He then went on to introduce the members of the Committee who were present.

He also mentioned Grace Preston, mother of longstanding BRSC member, Raymond Preston, who had sadly passed away. Although not a member herself she had been a great supporter of BRSC and her influence would be missed.

### **2. Notice Convening the Meeting (Secretary)**

The Secretary read out the Notice convening the meeting. 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 (Secretary)**

Written (emails and letters) and telephone apologies had been received from 57 members. (A full list of their names is attached as an appendix to these Minutes.)

Tom Sutton mentioned that when offering their apologies several members had taken the trouble to thank the Committee members for their work and had offered their best wishes for the meeting.

### **4. Minutes of the last AGM (Secretary)**

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 4 June 2015 had been published on the website and a limited number of copies were available at the meeting. There were no questions or 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 began her report by saying how pleasing it was to see some new faces at the AGM! She reported as follows:

Bath Rugby may have had a disappointing season on the pitch but BRSC have enjoyed a very successful season both in terms of events and membership.

I am delighted to report that we have continued to build on the progress made last season and for the first time for a number of years have passed the 1000 member mark. When

membership closed on 30<sup>th</sup> April we had 1107 members enrolled. An increase of 35% on last year's total.

Recruitment has again been very positive; 514 new members from a wide geographic area have joined BRSC; the furthest this year being a family in Singapore! However we cannot rest on our laurels as we still have work to do to retain members once we have them. Once again this season a number of members did not renew; the majority were new members but some were members of fairly long standing. Reminder emails seem to have little effect. At the start of this season I emailed those who had not renewed from the previous year, asking why they had let their membership lapse and inviting them to re-join. I had two replies, both saying that they could no longer get to any of our events so they were not renewing.

The committee continues to work hard throughout the year to promote BRSC amongst the Bath faithful and to provide information about the benefits of membership.

- This year we were present at the Bath Rugby Family Fun Day in August, signing up a few members both new and old.
- We continue to have a very visible presence at every home game with our gazebo situated in the Supporters' Village area adjacent to the William Street entrance. This location has certainly increased our interaction with supporters of both Bath & visiting teams. This season we have even managed to use the gazebo for Friday night fixtures by purchasing some camping lights. Over the course of the season we have signed up about 50 new members at our desk on match days as well as a number of renewals. We are aware that there are a significant number of supporters who never venture round to that part of the ground; it would be good to have a second base on the West side of the ground but currently there is no convenient position available and we don't have sufficient personnel to do this.
- The online membership facility via our website continues to be an extremely popular and effective method for renewing and applying for membership. The immediacy of this method has been especially good for enrolling new members who have been recruited via social media, websites etc. The majority of our current members have used this platform which is quick, easy and administratively very efficient. We will still accept a paper membership form with cash / cheque.
- BRSC continue to have a page in the match day programme and the Bath Chronicle continues to feature photographs & articles about BRSC events.
- Our use of Social Media continues to raise the profile of BRSC amongst rugby supporters and others on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. It is invaluable in the promotion of membership and events.
- Our regular e-newsletter, "Newsflash" continues to keep members in touch with BRSC news. We are trying to be inclusive whilst embracing new technologies (which is difficult for some) and therefore make sure that those members for whom we have no email address receive paper copies of Newsflash and other important communications.

- The range of discounts available to our members has been reviewed, updated and validated. These are listed on the Allez-Bath website and published in the Newsletters. Maybe we can make more of these in our promotional material on match days next season.

We have been working closely with Bath Rugby to promote membership of BRSC and to advertise our events. They have once again enclosed a BRSC Flyer with all their paper-based ST application packs as well as including a link to the BRSC website with their STH thank you email. There is also an up to date BRSC section on the Bath Rugby Website incorporating a link to the BRSC website. The club have been very co-operative in helping to advertise BRSC events by displaying posters in the clubhouse and other locations around the ground.

I would like to record my thanks to Bath Rugby, especially Kat Farmer & Mark Wenban, who have been very supportive and helpful in matters relating to BRSC membership and events.

Next season is a special one for BRSC as we celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> birthday. A Bath Rugby Supporters Club had been in existence since 1921 but with the advent of professional rugby in 1996 a re-appraisal of the purpose and function of such a club was necessary; as a result in January 1997 BRSC in its present form came into being. Once again we have designed a special membership badge and card to recognise this occasion. We are also planning to hold a 20<sup>th</sup> birthday event in January 2017.

I hope that you will agree that over the last three years we have made great progress in promoting and developing the membership of BRSC. We have tried to balance the need to embrace new technology and promote BRSC in a way that connects with younger supporters whilst retaining and valuing our loyal, longstanding members. It is particularly pleasing this season to have broken the 1000 member barrier but with an increased ground capacity next season and possibly more STHs we must work hard to keep increasing the membership numbers. (***SPONTANEOUS APPLAUSE.***)

There were no questions. The Chairman paid tribute to Anne Kirkham's brilliant work and thanked her on behalf of everyone involved with BRSC.

## **6. Treasurer's Report**

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

Good Evening.

This year has been interesting year from a financial perspective. Last year I explained that 2015-16 would be quite a challenging season for us:

- Bath Rugby had indicated that they would charge us for Clubhouse events but there was great uncertainty about the level of oncost for the Awards Supper.
- The 150<sup>th</sup> Dinner would have substantial fixed costs for venue hire and speaker
- We had no confirmed sponsors for the Awards Supper, the newsletter, and the 150<sup>th</sup> Dinner.
- Other increases like stamps

And it was.

In November we held the 150<sup>th</sup> Dinner, an event with a substantial fixed cost that we had to commit to before we knew the level of ticket sales. We tried hard to find a sponsor to cover those fixed costs, but we were unsuccessful. We made the decision to keep the ticket costs at an affordable level and to increase the non-member supplement (£45 / £55). In the end we made a small loss.

The Awards Supper was jointly sponsored this year by John Titcombe Jewellery and 9ft Tall. 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'. Bath Rugby have been very supportive although we now share the Clubhouse costs for our smaller events where the bar takings do not cover the total costs. This season we have enjoyed:

- The hire of the Clubhouse and Illustrious Suite at zero cost for the Awards Supper and the AGM
- Free food for players and Bath Rugby staff at our Awards Supper
- Free posters at The Rec advertising our events
- The opportunity to add our flyer to the season ticket renewal pack
- Mentions in Bath Rugby emails.

Without these sponsors and Bath Rugby's assistance, running BRSC would have been more difficult from a financial perspective.

And now the Accounts for the year ending 30 April 2016: (using the slides for explanation)

### **Income**

- Membership subscriptions were up by £3,900 v last year
- Events: Event income was up by £10,400 due to the 150th Dinner
- Charity collections: Up by £1,348
- Merchandise: Up by £551 due to our commemorative pennant and 150th badge sold to a French badge seller
- We did not have a sponsor for the Newsletter

The Amlin Final tickets income was spent on buying tickets from French sports agencies in May 2015.

### **Expenditure**

- Membership: Costs are up as we have more members and a specific membership card to celebrate Bath's 150th season
- Events costs are up due to the 150th Dinner
- Printing, Postage & Stationery: Costs increased due to the extra members
- Equipment: We did not purchase any equipment this year.
- Presentations: Bath Aqua Glass mementos presented this year at the BRSC Player

Awards plus commemorative pennants for presentation to supporters clubs of our opposition this year.

- Web: Costs have increased due to increased use/traffic and higher PayPal costs.
- Merchandise: Additional pennants and 150th badges on general sale
- Charity Expenditure: £0
- Charity Donations: Same as our charity collection

### **Charitable Donations**

This year we have collected £2498 for charity (an increase of £1300 over last year). These donations came from our members and other rugby supporters.

The raffle at the 150th Dinner was particularly successful. You generously gave £1,120. The players sold raffle tickets at our Awards Supper to the amount of £557, a slight increase v last year.

We charged an entry fee as well as sold raffle tickets for our Charity Christmas Quiz.

We sold prior seasons' badges and raised £359

Fan drinking cups and match day programmes from the World Cup at Twickenham generated £165 - thanks to Honorary Steward and ex-BRSC chairman Glyn Edwards for his efforts.

### **Web Presence**

Our online shop has now been in place for 3 years. 70% of membership subscriptions are now paid online and a similar percentage of our event tickets are also sold in this way. The online shop uses the shopping cart software from Ecwid - which is used by more than 450,000 sellers in 175 countries.

We have decided not to charge extra for the use of our online shop vs the more traditional methods because the benefits of especially online membership applications far outweigh the small oncost.

### **Income v Expenditure**

This year we have spent less than we received as income.

### **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 £9,512. Out of that amount, £2,498 will be donated to the Great Western Air Ambulance Charity and £257 to an organisation helping the victims of the Paris attacks. A further £317 relates to expenditure incurred this year but where the cheque has not been cashed yet. This leaves us with a fund of **£6,440**.

## **Financial Planning**

This coming season will be the first season that we will be able to do some financial planning rather than just balancing the books.

We have a healthy balance this year due to the magnificent membership increase.

We recognise the reality that we now pay a share of the costs for some functions held in the Clubhouse.

We are looking to improve our IT systems:

- By moving from free software with limited functionality to the paid-for version with more functionality
- By exploring how we can improve our email reach – we are looking into a bespoke bulk-email facility
- By improving our back office systems – e.g. membership management and accounts, perhaps even match day payment options other than cash or cheque
- By making it easier to manage our social media output

We will probably need to buy a new gazebo as well as lights this time as many games have been held in the evening.

We have also started work on our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary party.

On top of this there is the increase in the price of stamps and other expenditure.

We will work hard over the summer to find sponsors. However, we cannot rely on an uncertain source of income.

Over the past 5 years we have rebuilt the finances of BRSC from almost zero to a good level. We now have a contingency fund to cover our activities should we encounter a catastrophic loss of income. We need to continue this good work and ensure that we are not reliant on just a single source of income that is not increasing at the same speed as our costs.

## **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 Hoskin for his expertise and help in producing the audited accounts in time for this AGM. (***SPONTANEOUS APPLAUSE***)

The Chairman reiterated the gratitude of the members for the Treasurer's tremendous stewardship of the BRSC Accounts. There were no questions.

## **7. Chairman's Report**

Kevin Lawrence presented the following report.

### **BRSC: "MOT"**

I'd like to start by giving you my take on how BRSC currently stands – a quick "MOT" if you will. I think in doing that it's important to acknowledge that this was a disappointing season in terms of on-field performance, especially after the highs of last season and our hopes for something even better in the Club's 150<sup>th</sup> Season.

Nevertheless you've just heard detailed presentations from Anne Kirkham and Erica Edwards, which show that despite all that's happened our Membership numbers and financial position are both in remarkably good shape. We didn't quite make the "stretch target figure" of 1500 that I suggested last year, but the final figure is very creditable. I think it's interesting and encouraging that our numbers continued to increase throughout the season, disappointing results notwithstanding. I think it's reasonable to infer from this that our product offering as a Supporters' Club seems to be attractive and that the pricing is about right. The trick will be sustaining that level of membership and indeed continuing to grow it over the forthcoming seasons.

Financially the Club definitely passes the MOT. We are in good shape and Erica's role as Treasurer has a lot to do with that. For pretty much the first time in my memory as a Member of the Committee we are in a position to move from accounting to genuine budget management. It's comforting to know that we have enough resources to meet our operating expenses should we suffer an unexpected loss of income, and funds available above and beyond this minimum figure to invest in improved information systems and other infrastructure to help us to continue to deliver what you as the members want, and also to help us with our commitment to growth.

As some of you may recall, I've been worried in the past that we didn't have enough people available to deliver everything that we would like. I'm happy to say that that is changing. I'm grateful to everybody who responded to my various cries for help and I look forward to working with a full committee after this AGM.

#### **Actions following the 2015 AGM.**

At last year's AGM we undertook to focus on financial stability and growth in this year and I hope you'll agree that on the basis of what you've already heard tonight that we've delivered on that and achieved both of those objectives.

We also promised a thorough overhaul of the list of discounts available to BRSC members as a benefit of membership. We co-opted Pat Lawrence onto the Committee to undertake this task. Pat personally contacted every establishment on the old list and has produced a new, current version which will be regularly updated. Pat even added a few as part of the review process! Please have a look if you don't regularly use our discounts. Some of the restaurant options in particular are great value and you can very quickly recover the cost of membership! This was a big job and we're very grateful to Pat for tackling it. **(APPLAUSE)**

We also said that we were working with Bath Rugby to improve the link and content relating to BRSC on the main Bath Rugby webpage. We've done that; it's much improved and we will continue to keep it under review and make sure it stays at the right level.

As many of you will be aware, over the past couple of years the use of Rec facilities by any organisation has become increasingly restricted with BRSC as one of the few organisations still able to do so. Nevertheless it was becoming increasingly difficult to plan events because of uncertainty about availability and cost – to the extent that we were starting to consider looking at other options. We didn't want to do that – The Rec is where BRSC belongs and we have always felt that supporters should be able to use facilities such as the Clubhouse, whilst recognising the reality that in this day and age we would need to pay for some of them and budget accordingly.

I'm delighted to be able to report that following very constructive discussions lead by Tom Sutton for BRSC and Alex Cohen on the Bath Rugby side we have arrived at a sustainable, consistent set of cost calculations which means that we can plan to continue to hold events such as the Awards Supper, Ask the Ref and the Christmas Quiz at the Rec at affordable prices. That's great news; we want to be an active part of the Rec as it goes into the next

stages of development and I would like to thank Tom Sutton for his work on this and also Alex Cohen and the Bath Rugby management team for their positive approach to maintaining BRSC as a regular user of the Rec.

### What's gone well?

At this point I'd like to focus for a few moments on what I think's gone particularly well this year.

- **The 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner** is the first item on my list. It took a huge amount of planning and administrative effort to deliver but I think it was well worthwhile. Having Nigel Owens there delivering his first after-dinner speech following the RWC final was a great coup and we were also delighted to welcome other distinguished guests such as Simon Halliday. We set out to deliver an event that was in keeping with this very significant milestone in Bath Rugby's history whilst holding costs to a level that made it accessible to a large number of our members and other supporters. I think we pretty much achieved that. It was a huge team effort and I'd like to thank everybody involved in delivering it.
- **Toulon – away and home.** We all recall only too well the tragic events leading up to the cancellation of the away game against Toulon but it would be remiss of me not to pay tribute to the conduct of the BRSC Members and other supporters who made the trip anyway and stood in solidarity and in the true spirit of rugby outside the ground with our friends from Toulon. That reflected huge credit on us as a supporter community, on Bath Rugby as a club and on British rugby supporters as a whole. It also paved the way for the hugely successful "Bienvenue Toulon" event in the Royal Oak. I wasn't in Toulon – I only saw the pictures on the television but they formed a lasting memory for me. Some things are simply bigger than just the Game itself and that was one of them.
- **Pennant presentations.** We've been presenting a commemorative pennant that we specially commissioned for the 150<sup>th</sup> Season Celebrations to the supporters of every team visiting the Rec this Season. This has been extraordinarily well received (yes, even by the Gloucester supporters!) and it's an idea that other groups are now picking up on. It's also enabled us to build up a network of contacts with other supporters' clubs which we hope will prove very useful in the future.
- **Try of the Month.** This was something that we thought we'd try out this year as part of our efforts to engage as many Club Members as possible in our decisions. As you know, the winner from each month as voted for by BRSC Members will be carried forward to the end of year try of the Season vote. We could have done with a few more votes each month but on the whole it's worked pretty well.
- **Communications.** This is another area that we are always trying to improve on. Big thanks as always to Jen Wilcox for drawing together the Newsletters and Newsflashes and also for being one of the driving forces behind our expanding and increasingly vibrant social media presence.
- As well as managing our budget, Erica Edwards is also our direct communications focal point and manages our bulk electronic communications to members. It's an important job and one that is becoming increasingly difficult by a bulk mail handling system which is at best clunky and frequently non – cooperative! We've agreed that this aspect of our business is so important that we need to spend some money in the

next year acquiring a bulk mailing platform that is fit for purpose – our current one just isn't.

- We are also developing a “sponsor’s pack” with information for potential sponsors about BRSC and a similar information pack about BRSC for inclusion in the new players welcome pack and for our discount partners.

### **In other news....**

We’ve continued to develop a constructive relationship with Bath Rugby at all levels. I’ve already spoke about the new agreement regarding use of Rec facilities but other areas of business have included:

- Continuing inclusion of BRSC membership material in Season Ticket renewal communications.
- Invitation to sit on the committee considering candidates for inclusion in the Hall of Fame – one of only five seats on the panel so great recognition
- “Ring Fencing” of spaces for BRSC Members at popular events such as the recent “Visit Farleigh” – another example of good cooperation with Bath Rugby.
- Closer integration of the BRSC match day presence within the overall “supporters village”. The William Street location has been really beneficial. We’ve seen far more people coming to the desk and we’ve also been able to participate on activities such as the “Tunnel of Noise”. We’ve also performed an increasing role as an “information desk”; pointing enquirers in the right direction for other facilities – but that’s fine. It means more opportunities to engage and possibly recruit new members!
  - At this point I should record a note of thanks to Karen Gill and the Rec staff for all their help in erecting the gazebo for us and taking it away post match. It’s a great help.

### **Looking forward**

At this point I see no need for radical changes to the way that BRSC is progressing – we just need to keep up the pressure on numbers. Another 1000 seats in the West Stand is a potential 1000 more members – please help us to recruit them! We’ll keep on trying to find innovative ways of reaching out to the wider supporter base and rely on the membership as a whole to let us know if we’re delivering what you want.

The new committee will of course take stock at its first meeting and decide whether there are any areas for particular focus. You can be assured that we will continue to keep you informed.

### **Thanks**

As I come to the end of my 2 year period as Chairman I think I can present to you a Supporters’ Club which is growing, vibrant and in good shape. I do know from conversations with other Independent Supporters’ Clubs that many of them are envious of us and our success, and the way we are developing.

But of course, all this is a result of incredibly hard work by a relatively small number of people who achieve a huge amount and I would like to express my personal thanks to everybody who has served on the Committee and given me and the Club such great support – and I hope you will join me. **(APPLAUSE)**

As well as the Committee members there are also a number of others who I would like to recognise, starting with Jan and Mike Warrington who have continued to arrange travel to games both in UK and Europe. I know it's becoming increasingly difficult but it is greatly appreciated by those who use the service. **(APPLAUSE)**

I would also like to thank the "unofficials" who also give a huge amount of time to help us out, especially Honor King and Craig Macey. **(APPLAUSE)**

And finally, thanks to you and all the membership for your support.

During the last 2 years as BB&W diehards we've seen some incredible highs and some – shall we say more difficult – periods and the 150<sup>th</sup> Season wasn't the one we would have hoped for. But next year brings another Anniversary – BRSC's 20<sup>th</sup> in its current form and hopefully we'll have a lot to celebrate! I'll conclude at that point. Many thanks for listening.

**(SPONTANEOUS APPLAUSE)**

Anne Kirkham then spoke on behalf of everyone present in thanking Kevin for all his hard work and leadership of BRSC.

### **8. Membership Subscriptions 2016-17**

- The Chairman announced that the membership subscription rates would be unchanged in season 2016-17.
- Kevin also stated that, after due consideration by the Committee, it had been decided to withdraw the Standing Order and Direct Bill payment facility for membership subscriptions. There were two main reasons – firstly Standing Orders were very frequently not updated, which leads to time and effort in rectifying the problem. Secondly, the Data Protection Act requires annual updating of permissions, which compounded the same problem. He emphasised that there are still three valid payment options available. There were no dissenters to this information.

### **9. Pre-notified matters for discussion**

The Secretary reported that no items had been received under this heading.

### **10. Nomination of Scrutineers**

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

### **11. Election of the Committee**

#### **a) Chairman**

Kevin Lawrence was the only nomination received and he was declared duly re-elected. Kevin was thanked for the excellent job he was doing on behalf of BRSC.

#### **b) Membership Secretary**

Anne Kirkham was the only nomination received and she was declared duly re-elected. Anne was again thanked for her excellent work on behalf of BRSC.

#### **c) Committee members**

Sally Knight, Pat Lawrence, Ian Rooney Jen Wilcox and Richard Winter had all been appropriately proposed and seconded, and were elected to serve on the Committee.

### **12. BRSC Charity Fundraising 2016-17**

- Tom Sutton explained that the Committee had again been keen to involve the membership in selecting the next BRSC Charity recipients.

- He briefly described the background to the process that had been undertaken, which had involved an on-line vote as well as postal vote for non-email members. A shortlist, with appropriate background information, of two possible charities had been presented for a decision.
- There had been 129 votes received as follows.  
Parkinson's UK- Bath and District Branch - 66 votes  
Headway Bath and District – 63 votes.
- Kevin Lawrence then requested that the AGM endorse the outcome of the vote, which was approved nem con. Parkinson's UK Bath and District would therefore be the nominated BRSC Charity of the Year in season 2016-17.

### **13. Constitution**

- There were no proposed changes to the Constitution for season 2016-17.

### **14. Any Other Business – notified in advance by the due date**

The Secretary reported that no items had been received under this heading.

### **15. Relevant Matters for further consideration of the Committee**

a) Peter Measday enquired about the appointment of the Auditor of the BRSC Accounts and wondered whether there was a need to consider a change of Auditor after a set time period as was normal business practice. The Secretary suggested that this matter form part of the planned review of the Constitution, which was due to take place in the next season.

b) There was a suggestion that a BRSC event be held at the beginning of the season with the Coaches and New Players, as had been traditional in the past. It was pointed that the Club now organised season ticket holder events, which had 'taken over' the previous BRSC event but enquiries would be made.

c) Honor King expressed her thanks to the Committee for "all the incredible hard work that goes on" on behalf of BRSC members.

### **16. Closing Remarks**

a) Tom Sutton reminded those present to sign the attendance sheets before departure.

b) In thanking everyone again for their attendance and support, Kevin Lawrence requested that members should inform the Committee of what it is doing well, and what it is not doing well – above all to communicate with the Committee and not allow any concerns to fester.

c) On behalf of those present Kevin Lawrence congratulated BRSC Committee Member Jen Wilcox and BRSC Member Craig Macey, who had announced their engagement.

**TWS.**

**SIGNED:**

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**Kevin Lawrence (Chairman)**

**14<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

- **Appendix to AGM 2016 Minutes**

**APOLOGIES: AGM 2016**

Mike Andrews	David & Tracey Lawrence**	Steve & Sue Roberts**
Wendy Armitage	Adrian & Susanne Laws	Andrew Sharpe
Ray Burgess	Mary Laws**	Denise Thomas
David & Maureen Byrne	Callum & Jenny Macneil**	Rod Thomas
Mike Cardy	Anita Murray	Alex Trump
Steve Crooke	David Murray	Ed Trump
John Crouch	Paul Neale	Julian Trump
Keri Davis	Martin North	Rosemary Trump
Jamie & Janey Dawe	Jon O'Brien	John Voss
Rob & Jan Drew	Lisa O'Brien	Dot Wallace**
Ian Gunning	Christine & Tony Oxford	Chris & Martine Wensley**
Ros Gunning	Jim Pearce	Anthony White
Lee Hardy	Phil Pearce	Lesley Wilcox
Clive Hoskin**	Mike Plummer	Eunice Williams
Huw Jones	Phil & Teresa Powell	Eric Woolley
Becky & Mark Knapman		(57)

**\*\*From the Floor:**