

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Guy's, King's College & St Thomas' Hospitals RFC, Est. 1843AD



Held in the Harris Lecture Theatre, Guy's Hospital on Friday 29th April 2005.

Presiding: Dr T Gibson

Minutes Taken By: Duncan Austin (Honorary Secretary)

Present:

Duncan Austin, Rhys Davies, Chris Howell, Rob Whyte, Elaine Radcliff, Gurv Josan, Ben Diggins, Toby Welch, Rory Gleadhill, Simon Trotter, James O'Shea, S D'Sylva, Owen Williams, Roy Turner, Matt Morgan, Tim Wright, Rob Hone, Peter M. Gretton, Jeremy Nettleton, Dave Manson-Bahr (OE), James B. Powell BSc, Iain Wilson Esq., Neil Meecham, J McGivney, Annie Martin, Gill Wilson, Ben Challacombe, Peter Robinson, Mark Halls, Simon Hill, Gary King, Edward Jefferies, Tom Goddard, Matthew Blundell, Phil Welch, Sho Minamitani, Tim Seng, Daniel Poulter, Andrew Snedden, Martin White-Peart, David Berry, Benjamin Wheeler, Edward Sheppard, Oliver Laird, Tom Kennedy

1 - Apologies for Absence:

Pat Gush, Mark Jenkins, Professor Steve Challacombe, Pete Davis, Shay Reading, Tim Woodville-Price, Tom Bevir

2 - Confirm the minutes of the previous AGM

All present agreed the minutes of the previous AGM to be an accurate account of proceedings and were duly signed by the president.

3 - Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4 - The President's Report

Dr Gibson thanked the club for another enjoyable and successful season. The club had had a vigorous UH Cup campaign, sadly falling at the final post to Imperial Medicals RFC in the final. Dr Gibson thanked the committee for their stalwart work through the season, adding that it had been a pleasure to work with them through what has been a challenging year. The club once again find itself in financial stormy waters, and Dr Gibson urged those present to be resourceful in our undertakings and most of all to ensure that we 'live within our means' in the new financial climate. The Supporters Club has been of invaluable help in keeping the club afloat, and he hoped that all departing students would sign up to the Supporters Club in order to secure the future of the club.

Dr Gibson revealed that a move was afoot at the college to abolish the GKT brand and to replace it with the name King's College School of Medicine, and he anticipated that the GKT sports clubs would soon come under pressure to merge with their King's College counterparts. He stressed that the staff at GKT were highly opposed to any attempt to detract from the identity that had been forged around the GKT hospitals and that they were fully behind the students in resisting any such changes.

On a happier note, Dr Gibson was able to tell those assembled that much progress was being made towards setting up a rugby scholarship, which would hopefully could be up and running in time for the 2006 intake.

5 - The Club Captain's Report

Mr Davies thanked all his players for such an enjoyable season which has produced many fine results. The 1st XV finished 4th in their league, and were the only team to defeat the eventual champions, Dover, in both home and away fixtures. Mr Davies felt that promotion was a very realistic goal for the 2005-2006 season. Special thanks were made to Mr Roy Turner, the teams top try scorer for a sixth successive, with an impressive 100% appearance record.

Mr Davies paid tribute to the clubs two new coaches, Elaine Radcliff and Steve Beckett and felt that they had played a significant part in the club's two UH victories at 2nd and 3rd XV level. He urged the players from these junior teams to maintain their commitment to the club and to push higher honours next season.

6 Honorary Secretary's Report

Mr Austin outlined the results from the rest of the club. The 2nd XV had had a poor run in the league, playing 22 games but winning only 4, but had shown their true mettle in the UH Cup Final, where they had comfortably beaten Imperial Medicals. The 3rd XV failed to submit any data, but had been successful in fulfilling the bulk of their fixtures. The 4th/Veterans XV had won only 2 of their 15 games, but more importantly everyone who wanted to play rugby had been given the opportunity. Special mention went to Chris Howells, who this year played his 40th season of rugby for Guy's. In the BUSA leagues, the 1st XV had a weak start to the season, losing their first four games, but rallied towards the end to win four games and avoid relegation, and also winning the inaugural McAdam Cup against KCL RFC by 45 -5. The 2nd XV have had another successful season, finishing 2nd in their league and winning five of their nine games. The ladies teams have struggled this season, but managed to finish 3rd in their ULU league and 4th in their BUSA league and winning the RSM VII's tournament.

Mr Austin went on to discuss the administration of the club, which had been smooth apart from the financial headache inflicted on us by KCLSU. He felt that with our grant being reduced, our ground sold to Chelsea FC and our player recruitment down from recent years the club was now at a crucial point in its history, and must do everything within its power to improve its player base by making sure we are a friendly, open and accessible club. He argued that the spirit of the club was one of its strongest assets, and that this should continue for many years in spite of all the material changes going on around it.

Finally, Mr Austin thanked Dr Gibson for his hard work as President of the club, and for his continuing guidance through the sea of troubles that has beset the club.

7 - Treasurers Report

Mr Sheppard stated that this was the end of a challenging financial year for the club, and that whilst, through careful management, the barrage of financial headaches is subsiding, we may be in "the eye of the storm"! He outlined the nature of the club's financial woes, in brief that a bill for kit ordered last year and received last year had to be paid for from this financial year's budget.

As a result the unspent funds that had been available to pay this bill were wiped from our account at the end of last year (as is usual with KCLSU accounts). This resulted in the bill being subtracted from an already reduced grant for the year 04/05 pushing the grant account into the red. The supporters club, under Dr Gibson's guidance, were needed to provide coaches, teas, insurance and also footed several other bills to allow football to continue. Mr Sheppard believed that the entire club owes the Supporters Club a huge debt of thanks for their help, adding that we can only hope that they all continue to prosper as they have.

On a happier note, he then reported that subscriptions to the club were higher this year than for some time, with 48 paid-up student members on the books. For next season though, he argued that we must strive to ensure that every player in every team is paying their subs, in order that maximum funding should be available to the club. He added that it is also imperative that leaving students be encouraged to contribute along with a growing army to the supporters club, without whom we would be in dire straights indeed.

8 - Election of Officers

Position	Elected Officer
President	Dr T Gibson
Honorary Secretary	Iain Wilson
Fixtures Secretary	Rory Gleadhill
Treasurer	Edward Sheppard
Club Captain	Rhys Davies
2 nd XV Captain	Simon Trotter
3 rd XV Captain	Tom Goddard
4 th /Veterans XV	David Manson-Bahr
BUSA 1 st XV	Iain Wilson
BUSA 2 nd XV	Ben Diggins
VII's Captain	Sho Minamitani
Wanderers Captain	Roy Turner
Tour Secretary	Ed Jefferies
	Duncan Austin
Sponsorship & Kit Secretary	Rob Hone
	Stuart D'Sylva
Ball & Social Secretary	Neil Meecham
	Pete Robinson

Dr Gibson noted the sad death of Tony Yates, a Vice-President of the club and former President and Club Captain. Peter Davis, Jamie Barwell and Christian Smith were all elected to the Vice-Presidents of the club.

9 Award of Blues

Half Blue

The following members were awarded a Half Blue:

Rhys Davies

Rob Hone

Ed Jefferies

Gurvir Josan

Tom Kennedy

Tim Seng

Ed Sheppard
Brad Tiffin
Iain Wilson

Full Blue

The following members were awarded a Full Blue:

Duncan Austin
Peter Gretton
Ben Wheeler