



Minutes

Annual General Meeting #05 (30th September 2021)

1) Opening Comments

The Secretary called the meeting to Order, which started promptly at 7.00pm. Those attending were welcomed and advised of the meeting Agenda and that questions could be asked anytime throughout the proceedings. Should any topics arise which were not covered specifically on the Agenda, then those issues should be raised under AOB (Any Other Business).

Those attending were requested to highlight any opportunities for improvement / lessons learned which could be implemented in the running of the Coventry Rugby Supporters' Club

Those attending had been requested to sign in (name & membership number) at the registration desk, prior to the meeting being called to Order.

2) Agenda

- Apologies for Absence
- Chair's Report
- Treasurers Report
- Academy Sponsorship (u18s – u23s)
- Coventry Rugby Supporters' Guild
- Election of Officers (Chair, Secretary, Treasurer)
- Election of Committee
- Special Resolution – Honorary President
- AOB

3) Attendance & Apologies

- Those attending had been requested to sign in (name & membership number) at the registration desk, prior to the meeting being called to Order.
- Apologies for not being able to attend were received in advance from a number of member's and acknowledged verbally by the Secretary.
 - Apologies were received from the following:
 - Graham Bayliss
 - Claire Nairn
 - Geoff Kennedy
 - Barrie Duckett
 - Pat Harfield

4) Chair's Report

Welcome to our latest Coventry Rugby Supporters Club AGM.

I welcome new members, old members and ask you, if you enjoy or appreciate what we do, then tell a friend and get others to join. This club is run purely by Coventry Rugby Supporters on a voluntary basis. If we can help, we will.

Where do I start? Almost 18 months of anxiety, apprehension, knock backs and desperate times for us, some more than others. To anyone who has suffered loss during the pandemic, you have my sincerest sympathies and respect. I hope you have found a better place.

Last season, the ten game dash, mostly played under spectator free conditions was a very strange, but curiously positive one for me. As expected, Saracens overcame Ealing Trailfinders to return to the Premiership. I thought Saracens treated the Championship with respect, I wish I could say the same for some of our supporters when they visited in May, a few people forgot rugby traditions. I was quietly pleased with Cov's performances during the shortened season, could see a positive and vibrant team, lots of effort which culminated in our only away trip, and win, at Richmond. It felt good, despite the restrictions and protocols, to travel. I look forward to more away days.

In June the RFU Council rubber-stamped the proposal on the relegation moratorium, to be expected, when members probably had their 'perks' threatened, lunches at HQ, International tickets etcetera. Too much like lemmings or turkeys voting for Christmas. I suspect when the full story of the voting intentions of Championship clubs are ever revealed, it could form the basis of a decent whodunnit.

Still, that has been settled for now and we look forward to a fuller season, 2021/2022 which kicked off our new Championship season with a tasty starter, winning against Doncaster Knights, the new 'Pride of Yorkshire', big spenders and aspirational.

The cynic in me feels that the early season end, prior to any cup competition, has been scheduled to allow more preparation time for the expected designated champions, Ealing, to join the 14 team Premiership for 2022/2023. I would like to think Pirates, Doncaster and, hopefully Coventry, can at least have a say in spiking the pre-determined desired coronation.

On the CRSC horizon, our aims are:

- Arrange away travel to all games, bar Jersey (Cornish Pirates, a one night stop if supported)
- Increase our membership
- Continue with sponsorship/partnership support of Coventry Rugby (to be decided)
- Offer free membership to children
- Continue to support Coventry Rugby and you as supporters
- Continue to foster good relationships with fellow Championship clubs and match officials

The expected launch of Coventry Rugby Supporters Guild soon, details are still being worked out and finalised, meetings are taking place prior to launching. I hope all Coventry Rugby supporters will consider if the Guild is for them or not, but the more involvement, the higher chance of success. I think to paraphrase John F Kennedy, it would be best to:

'Think not what your club could do for you, but what you can do for your club.'

Looking forward to another exciting Coventry Rugby season.

Paul Ingleston (Chairman)

5) Treasurers Report

- **Overview:**

➤ Start of financial year balance	£7,687
➤ Balance of this fiscal year	£842
➤ Total bank balance June 2021	£8,530

- **Community Project Breakdown:**

➤ Raffle	£10
➤ 1 Replica Shirt (3 rd Kit)	£45
➤ Friend of Foundation Annual Subscription	£90
➤ Project 500	£200
➤ Hospitality Table for Members	£500

- **Various purchases made by CRSC during Covid:**

- 15 Home shirt vouchers (Purchased through Crowdfunder – 5 have been raffled off to members)
- 1 kit voucher/NHS shirt (Purchased through Community project)
- 1 Hospitality table (Purchased through Community project)
- 30 Match tickets (Purchased through Crowdfunder)
- 16 VP Match day tickets (Purchased through Crowdfunder)
- 16 NHS Match day tickets (Purchased through Crowdfunder)
- 6 Majestic books (Purchased through the Club Shop)

All of these items will be raffled off or offered to members during the coming season

- **Conclusion:**

Obviously a very difficult year in terms of revenue, having said that we did make a small profit on the year.

In the main this was due to a number of supporters continuing to pay their annual subscription, and a number of people kindly donating money to CRSC, and for this we are extremely grateful, everything we do is for the betterment of our beloved Coventry Rugby Club and to improve the experience for our members where possible.

Due to the reality of COVID no Sponsorship was submitted to the Club for season 20-21 However it is hoped that for Season 21-22 we can again offer the Club some financial support, in what format is still to be determined.

CRSC Membership for 21-22 will remain at £20 and all members who paid up for season 20-21 will be offered free membership if they so desire

Looking forward to when the new season starts, we are moving away from taking coach payments "ON THE DAY OF TRAVEL".

We would prefer everyone to pay via BACS but will still take cash at the CRSC table at home games (Covid permitting)

- **Financials:**

A summary of the accounts is shown below:

Overview of Accounts (01/07/20 - 30/06/21)	
Revenue	
Memberships	£1,565
Coach Travel Fares	£768
Donations	£385
Total	£2,718
Expenditure	
Coachleasing	£600
Webhost	£208
Richmond Match Tickets	£100
Lottery	£50
Majestic Cov Books	£73
Community Project	£845
Total	£1,875

6) Academy Sponsorship (u18s – u23s)

- For the past 2 seasons the Supporters' Club have proudly sponsored the u18s at a cost of £5,000. The proposal being put forward by the Committee to the members was to consider extending this sponsorship to cover the entire Coventry Rugby Academy (u18s – u23s).
- It was agreed by those in attendance that the Supporters' Club should adopt the proposal to extend its sponsorship to cover the entire academy as the members felt the investment would be beneficial in the longer term for both supporters & Coventry Rugby Club.

7) Coventry Rugby Supporters' Guild

- A small working party comprising representatives from Coventry Rugby & the Supporters' Club has been formed to evaluate how supporters could potentially own a stake in the rugby club, through the acquisition of shares. The working party meets several times throughout the year and has branded the proposal, '*Coventry Rugby Supporters' Guild*', of which the salient details developed by the working party to date are as follows, however, a significant amount of work remains to bring the proposal to fruition:-
- Coventry Rugby Supporters' Guild is to be an independent, democratic, not-for-profit, community-based organisation. It will be regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and it seeks to give supporters a collective voice and a stake holding in the running and ownership of Coventry Rugby Limited. This stake holding will be achieved via a membership subscription to the Guild, which will then be used to purchase shares in Coventry Rugby.

- It should be noted that the Guild will be a separate legal entity in its own right & independent of Coventry Rugby Limited. It will be governed by its own elected Board in accordance with a defined Constitution.
- The objective of the Guild will be to raise funding for capital investment projects to support Coventry Rugby's investment in infrastructure, to improve supporters' match day experience, support the club in driving revenues and giving supporters a voice at the heart of Coventry Rugby Club.
- The Guild will not fund any operating expenditure incurred by Coventry Rugby.
- The Guild will be a shareholder in Coventry Rugby Limited & have a position on the Board.
- The team behind the Guild are a group of long-term supporters with a range of skills & experience. They are working purely on a voluntary basis without remuneration, receiving advice & assistance from the relevant regulatory bodies to ensure legislative & financial compliance.
 - Those Involved:
 - Jon Sharp, Barry Robinson, Andrew Carpenter – Coventry Rugby Limited
 - Paul Ingleston, Quentin Melhuish, Phil Reynolds – Supporters' Club
 - Neil Askew – Finance Professional (Askews)
 - Sean Byrne – Partner & Head of Corporate (Band Hatton Button)
 - Simon Maisey – Coventry Former Players Association

The Supporters' Club members attending the AGM were favourable of the 'Guild' proposal and supported the view that one of the primary objectives for the CRSC in the future should be to own, if possible, a share(s) / stake holding in Coventry Rugby Limited.

8) Election of Officers

- In accordance with the Constitution there are three Officers within the Committee, namely, Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, all of which sought re-election for a further 12 month term.
- All three candidates for the Officers roles were duly elected, unopposed.

Re-Elections

Name	Position
Paul Ingleston	Chairman
Quentin Melhuish	Secretary
Phil Reynolds	Treasurer

9) Election of Committee

- In accordance with the Constitution there are a maximum of nine, minimum of three, GCM (General Committee Member) roles available. All 5 current GCM's were duly re-elected.
- A nomination was received for a GCM position from Frank Morris, who was duly elected to the Committee.

Re-Elections

Name	Position
Peter Redhead	General Committee Member (GCM)
Geoff Kennedy	General Committee Member (GCM)
Claire Nairn	General Committee Member (GCM)
Brian Nairn	General Committee Member (GCM)
Steve Hood	General Committee Member (GCM)

New Elections

Name	Position	Proposer	Second
Frank Morris	GCM	Phil Reynolds	Steve Hood

All the candidates above were duly elected, unopposed

10) Special Resolution – Honorary President

- Guidelines as to how Honorary Memberships could be awarded were presented and formally agreed at the very first Supporters' Club AGM (14th September 2017).
- The guidelines agreed and accepted for Honorary Membership are:
 - The subject enjoys popularity
 - The subject endorses the organisation
 - Gives the organisation respectability / credibility
 - Adds value to the organisation just by associating their name with it
 - Enjoys a certain respect among the membership
 - The subject is "allowed to be part of a club without ever having actually formally completed the membership requirements and therefore has no voting rights"

- An accolade bestowed in recognition by the membership
- The subject would be well respected and honoured as a figurehead
- In view of the criteria above it was proposed and unanimously accepted by those attending the AGM, that Jon Sharp (Executive Chairman of Coventry Rugby) should be awarded the accolade of '*Honorary President of Coventry Rugby Supporters' Club*'.

11) Any Other Business

- Being as no further questions, or, issues were raised under AOB, the meeting was closed.