

# HOWE OF FIFE RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

## Annual General Meeting

Minute of the meeting held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2016

Provost Wynd at 8pm

President Murdo Fraser welcomed 52 members to the meeting, and asked all to observe a minute's silence in memory of members who have passed away since the last AGM.

**Apologies** – Apologies were received from 16 members.

**Minutes** – the minute of the meeting of Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2015 was accepted as a true record, proposed by Ian Manson and seconded by Dave Davis.

**President's address** – Season 2015/16 has been a challenging one both on and off the pitch, with teams playing in National 1 and Caledonian division 2 and the Harlequins in National 2. The Knights have had an enjoyable season, and both youth and mini rugby have thrived. Construction work at Duffus Park has been ongoing throughout the season and has caused significant disruption but the club has pulled together without complaint and come through it. However, the new facility is now close to complete, and we look forward to the season ahead. The President highlighted the 1<sup>st</sup> XV's trip to Kelso, and the Harlequins tremendous achievement in what was only their second season. The trip to Melrose 7s was another recognition of the club's achievements. The President thanked players, supporters and coaches for all they had contributed to a resoundingly successful season and for their eternal optimism and resilience. He commented " There's no room for pessimists in this club. An optimist sees opportunity in every problem while a pessimist sees a problem in every opportunity."

**Rugby Reports** – were delivered by Dom Martin and Stewart Lathangie. (See Appendix 1)

**Finance Report** – Alistair Paton presented a Balance Sheet which had been prepared by James Hair & Co and independently examined by Matthew Struthers of Henderson Black. The accounts reflect a continuing downward trend in bar sales and a net profit slightly lower than last year. Although project income has confused the picture, the details are explained in the notes to the accounts. A slight loss in such a difficult year is considered encouraging. Both James Hair and Matthew Struthers were present to take questions, and were thanked by Alistair for all their work.

The accounts were proposed by Sandy Green and seconded by Russell Cockburn.

**Subscriptions** – Proposals for increases in membership were circulated (Appendix 2). The President introduced Cheryl King, the Business Development Manager, who has been working on sponsorship and membership. The need to keep rugby affordable for all was recognised, and there were no counter proposals. The increases were proposed by Russell cockburn and seconded by Stewart Lathangie.

**Appointment of Trustees** – Ian Kirkhope, Alistair Paton and David Harley have intimated that they will be standing down, and were thanked for their loyal support and efforts over many years. The President is grateful that their support will continue. Four nominations have been received, and Brodie Runciman, Lee Powles, Alan Hendry and George Clark were unanimously appointed.

**Captains and Vice Captains** – Stewart Lathangie is stepping down after three years as captain and will be succeeded by Dom Martin, with James Lawrie as Vice-Captain. The Harlequins' Captain will be Katie Williams, and Vice-captain Karen Anne Nicol. James Acheson will captain the 2<sup>nd</sup> XV, with George Henderson and James Harley as Vice-captains. All appointments were proposed by Steven Player and seconded by Fraser Clark. The President offered his congratulations.

**Trophies –**

Harlequins - Most Improved Player – Pam Gibson

Club Award - Shona Cook

Players' Player - Emma wood

The Stuart Gibb Memorial Quaich was awarded to Andrew Harley and Jake Douglas.

The Baxter Trophy for the most improved player was awarded to Andrew Steven.

The Donaldson trophy for the Players' player of the year was awarded to Fraser Clark.

The Cellars Trophy for Endeavour was awarded to Janet Douglas, and the President thanked her for all of her hard work during a particularly difficult season.

The Ellison Trophy will be awarded at a later date.

**A.O.C.B**

Members were told of the progress being made at Duffus Park. The completion/handover date at the moment is 11<sup>th</sup> July. Grant Robertson praised the efforts of Colorado and confirmed that water and electrics should be complete within a week. Tilers are working on site and the lift should be on site next week. Work is going on 7 days a week. It is hoped to start painting as soon as possible. Careful project management has kept the works in line with the budget.

The President confirmed that it will now be possible to move straight from Provost Wynd to the park.

First Aid Facilities were discussed, and it was recognised that the scaling down of the project had resulted in smaller but compliant facilities. However, the capacity of the new facility is such that space can be used to meet the needs of users, and this will become apparent as we begin to use the building.

The loss of young talent nurtured by the Howe to fee-paying schools and clubs approved by the SRU is regretted, but there is nothing that can be done.

It was agreed that a closing party would be held at Provost Wynd.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed.