

# **Carnoustie HFSP RFC**

## **AGM Minutes**

<b>Date:</b>	<b>31st May 2019</b>
<b>Present:</b>	34 members
<b>Apologies:</b>	Derek Bruce, Sue Murray, Mandy Bruce, Jack Forster
<b>Absent:</b>	N/A
<b>Next AGM:</b>	TBC

### **1 Previous Minutes**

Minutes of 2019 AGM were read and with no matters arising were approved by Rod Bruce and seconded by Heather Christie.

### **2 Presidents Report – Colin Murray**

It gives me immense pleasure to report on my first year as the President of Carnoustie HSFP RFC, in what has been another competitive, action-packed and highly enjoyable rugby season. I will highlight the many achievements of our teams and players during a year which saw the FP's finish 2nd in the Caledonia Midlands League Division 2. I will also review and update you on matters off the field. We are first and foremost a Club renowned and recognised for our rugby development. Our Mini and School of Rugby sections continue to be very strong, with good numbers at training and at games.

The Mini section also recently successfully staged their annual end-of-season Mini Rugby Tournament and had a very successful day. Having witnessed the Mini tournament, it was hugely pleasing to see the developing rugby skills and enthusiasm of our youngsters. I also had the pleasure of attending the end of season Mini Rugby Annual Awards and was again very impressed by the commitment and effort of the coaches and volunteers – we certainly have a thriving mini rugby section at Carnoustie. I will let Sandy, Owen and Stuart tell you more about the Mini section in their report to the members. We are also a Club that is highly regarded by our local communities. Again, this year, through the efforts of Kevin Franco our School of Rugby Development Officer, assisted by Calum Bruce, Peter Christie and Nick Grant have taken rugby into local primary schools in and around the Angus area.

There is no doubting the future of Carnoustie Mini and School of Rugby is in good hands, which I am sure will provide a future supply of home-grown talent for our senior teams. I would like to thank all involved in the running of our Mini and School of Rugby, section, this in many ways is a key part of our Club. Again, I will let Calum expand on the School of Rugby, Angus Alive Schools initiative and the SRU Schools coaching set up.

In senior men's rugby, Carnoustie FP's under the guidance of Chris Rankin fielded competitive teams throughout the season (except for our shield game against Strathmore at the beginning of the season). Our Club Captain Jack Forster and Head Coach Chris Rankin, in their season's report will reflect on the highlights of the 1st XV's campaign.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all our coaches, team managers, physios, video operators, fixture secretary, officials and volunteers, who ensure that Carnoustie field teams' week-in week-out at all levels within the Club. Thanks also to our match-day organisers, and to all our supporters and sponsors of Carnoustie Rugby Club.

We will continue to develop our coaches where we have already seen an unprecedented number of successfully complete various courses. This development allows us to provide up to date coaching sessions that are fun, creative and that develop all players, not only in their playing ability, but also as individuals.

In terms of club and playing field improvements, the committee have been working tirelessly on several projects to benefit both the players and members of the club. We have recently gained planning permission (following a long and drawn out process lasting almost 18 months) and now have a licence to occupy the school pitches. This will enable us to erect a new spectator's fence and gain income from pitch side advertisements and as well as the installation of 3 containers to help with changing, catering and storage facilities.

I am pleased to advise that we are planning further investment in our rugby facilities, with a small spectator's grandstand (i.e. a modified container) as well as the opportunity for a gym facility to improve the strength and conditioning of our youth and senior players. We will continue to work with organisations local and national to assist in raising the funds for these types of projects. Our new Rhino clothing website has been reasonably successful, orders have been getting placed from mums, dad's players and supporters since it was launched in the New Year. We've managed to get a good product range which is reasonably priced and earn money back to the club with every order. I urge you all to have a look at it and give me some feedback on the content.

Our home clubrooms have been in the Kinloch for almost 3 years now and we are truly thankful to Rob, Tracy, Paul and all the staff of the Kinloch Arms Hotel for ensuring our throats are never dry and our bellies are always full and his team for their help and support. I'm delighted to let you know that Rob and his boss have signed a 3-year deal with the brewers to remain at the Kinloch Arms Hotel which gives the club some comfort that we have a home and a loyal supporter for the next few years ahead. Thanks again Rob for your help and support.

As ever, we need more volunteers to help with all these important tasks – so if you can, please come forward and offer what skills and assistance you are able to – it will be gratefully received. We can't expect to keep relying on the few who continue to give up more and more of their time. With the reorganisation and introduction of the new Midlands SRU committee based in Stirling, we have had great support from them in terms of advice and opportunities. The main area of improvement is the club gaining greater recognition and being selected to host the Tartan Touch tournament for the first time, is testament to this. We continue to receive a good level of publicity for all aspects of the Club. With the addition of our social media representative, we will further enhance the website, Facebook and twitter accounts to allow us to more effectively market the Carnoustie RFC brand, while improving communications and raising the profile of our Club.

We hosted a few events this season although not on the scale and size of the Beach Rugby, Bill McLaren Dinner or Anniversary Ball. Running these types of events require a significant amount of money up front before the event. The decision to postpone the beach rugby was not taken lightly and following several meetings, hours of debate and review, the committee felt that the best option was to postpone for a year it as there were other, more pressing matters to focus our finances on.

We will be running a few events over the next few months with the annual presentation night on the 21st June in the clubrooms, where we have a hog roast and marquee set up with entertainment supplied until the early hours. Sponsorship is also a very important income stream to our club. This year saw a reduction in the amount of sponsorship opportunities taken therefore, we have just produced a new sponsorship prospectus which will be delivered to over 130 local businesses throughout Carnoustie and the Angus area. That said, we are extremely grateful to the companies who have and continue to provide valuable support to our Club. We are working hard to attract new and existing businesses and individuals to join us and become part of the successful Carnoustie RFC brand. If you know of anyone who would be interested in being involved on our sponsorship team, please let me know and I will be delighted to have a conversation with them.

Financially the club is in a good position, with funds in the bank and all bills current. This was achievable through our fundraising events, sponsorship and donations. Subscriptions this year were better than the previous year however, there is always room for improvement. Without giving too much away, I'll leave the finances to Kath who will explain the income and expenditure in more detail for all areas and sections of the club. Next season is just around the corner, and we are well advanced in all aspects of our planning for the forthcoming campaigns. We can all look forward with a degree of optimism to further success next season, to which you will all play your part. I thank you for your support over the last 12 months. Enjoy the summer, and I look forward to welcoming you back in August.

### **3 Treasurer's report – Kath Edmond**

Good Evening everyone. This year we have been running all sections of the club together so you will see we have a joint account statement tonight.

SRU – we are due another £2250 any day now which will bring totals up. Thanks to Rob and Colin for the Black Joker which you will see has brought in £4100. Also, in the past couple weeks we received Sponsor donations from the Co-op £1048 and the Haven £1000. Thanks to everyone who has supported us through the Co-op scheme, hope to get a few more before our year is up in November. Jock for selling Gowfer Gambles it is amazing how this account just mounts up over the year. The mini memberships are on direct debits which is the way to go and hopefully the FP membership will be like this next year.

Our expenditure: Pitch Lets we have historical bills which arrived in from 2015 which after checking we had not received and had to be paid this is why lets are higher this year.

Travel cost were down due to only 1 bus this past season. Thanks to players for taking cars to games.

Food – Thanks to Rob for supplying food for the after match we really appreciate.

With the donations from The Co-op and The Haven we were in a position to buy a Porto Cabin to be put up at the school ground between the pitches. This will be used as a kit store, Kitchen to

serve teas/coffee on match days and hopefully have a couple tables chairs outside to sit watch match.

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to helping raise money for The Club over the past year.

#### **4 Captain's report – Jack Forster**

Firstly, I would like to apologise for not being able to attend this evening.

I feel the past season has been one of relative success. Building upon last season's third place finish to achieve 2nd in the 2018-19 season. Something I think everyone at the club should be proud of – mostly so those involved in the First XV team. Personal highlights include beating Panmure twice, away wins against DUMS & Falkirk too – and the bus journey back. But possibly the greatest highlight would be the increasing team feeling around the club & team – something we must strive to build upon going forward.

There are a few people I would like to say a special thank you too, whom without Saturday's & the Senior Team wouldn't happen.

Colin Murray – A President & a leader. Chris Rankin – A brilliant head coach, one we are very lucky to retain going into next year. Barry Neil & Malky Barnett – Team Managers who go above & beyond – thank you. Stewart "Spud" Millar – For keeping Danny & Owen's hamstrings well rubbed. Willie Coleman, Pete Christie, Chris Ayres & George Taylor – who without, the pitch, fixtures and general organisation wouldn't happen. Kath & Matt Edmonds – for dealing with the dirty strips. Rob Alcock & Tracy Martin, along with all the Kinloch Staff for putting up with us.

Last but not least, thank you to the members of the Senior team – a brilliant season with some impressive rugby & great laughs had.

If I have forgotten anyone, apologies.

#### **5 Coach Report – Chris Rankin**

Firstly, thank you for the support from Colin and Rob Blyth. Thank you to the team managers Barry and Malky for all they do. Thank you to Jack who does so much behind the scenes for the senior players.

Pre-season last year we lost a bit of momentum due to the open, as we had nowhere in town to train. However, we had a good start to the season after unfortunately not fulfilling the Shield game vs Strathmore. We struggled at the start with numbers for away games, narrowly losing at Blairgowrie (injuries) and Kinross where Pete Christie play for us. We turned a corner with the away game to Stirling County. Training numbers are now good and always increasing and we have picked up players over the season, Aaron, Steve, Scott, Reece and Drew who will be back after Christmas. We have worked hard on fitness this year and have reaped the benefits. Finishing in second place this year, one better than Colin last year, and next season planning to come first.

#### **6 School of Rugby Report – Calum Bruce**

The Primary School Development Programme, led by Kevin Franco and supported by me and Nick Grant, has been a great success this past season with participation of all local and rural Primary Schools. The programme started with a P6/7 block of six weeks and was attended by good numbers from all the various schools. This was then concluded with a Festival at Carlogie Primary.

Our next block planned was meant to be the P4/5's, but because of such high numbers within each group it was decided to split them and provide a P4 block followed by a P5 block of sessions. these were both concluded with successful Festivals at Carlogie Primary.

Towards the end of the season we were able to provide another block of sessions to the P7's due to move up to the High School as S1's, which finished with a P7 v S1 fixture at the High School.

During this period, supported by Pete Christie, I have been delivering both Transition Training and Strength and Conditioning sessions to the P7's, which I believe have been enjoyable and very beneficial. I also believe that these sessions have been a huge influence in helping retain the majority of P7's as Carnoustie players with only one player to make the move to another Club. A massive improvement from last year.

Also introduced this past season were Primary School taster sessions for P1 to P3 Micros, again led by Kevin Franco and supported by me, as well as a Junior Duke of Edinburgh pilot scheme which Carnoustie Rugby Club has managed, through invitation by Emma Thomas, to get involved with from the ground floor.

These pilot scheme sessions were led and delivered by me with the support of Nick Grant and proved to be very popular with the children, hopefully this will be introduced properly in the future. Many thanks are deserved by Emma Thomas, Active Schools Co-ordinator, along with Kevin Franco, Shaun Franco, Ethan Torrie, Nick Grant and all the Mini Coaches who helped with the Festivals. Without their hard work and dedication, we could not have been as successful.

The High School Of Rugby had a very shaky start to the season, having been entered into a T4 Conference, playing on Saturdays, that soon became frustrated by other teams in the Conference not being able to fulfil fixtures due to various different reasons, predominantly for the lack of numbers.

After many meetings with SRU representatives I believe that we have found a way forward for next season with Carnoustie, able to field an S1/S2 combined and U16 teams, being entered into the T4 Lancer Development Sunday Conference. These teams will be Coached by myself, Nick Grant, Pete Christie and Drew Christie who is a very welcome addition to our Coaching team for the new season ahead.

We will also be able to field an U16 girls' team who will be entered into and play Festival fixtures through-out the region and coached by Kevin Franco with support from myself and Tanya Ross. At the High School in 2018 we were able to provide a ten-week block of sessions for all age groups therein, delivered by Kevin Franco with support from myself and Pete Christie. This was replicated again in 2019, but due to pupil prelims and main exams, only S1 to S3 could be included in the sessions. Through-out these months I have also been delivering Strength and Conditioning sessions for all age groups as well as Sunday training when not attending fixtures or Festivals with our S1/S2 combined team.

One of those Festivals was the Lathallan 7's Tournament which proved to be an enjoyable, but hard-fought day for our S1/S2 combined team. They gave a fantastic display of rugby against the likes of Robert Gordons, Mackie and Deeside who were the eventual winners of the Tournament. Carnoustie teams competed more successfully in their own annual 7's Tournament at Carnoustie High School resulting in our S1, S2 and U16 Girls teams being victorious in all their games and crowned 7's Tournament champions.

Our Midi section continues to grow in strength and numbers, but is obviously still a work in progress of development and has some way to go in order to complete an unbroken pathway from P1 Minis through to our adult FP section, but I have every confidence that this can be achieved in the future seasons.

Along with the growth of our Club comes the need for funds to sustain our future vision of where we wish to be. I have managed to organise a series of bag packs in various different super-markets and placed our charity boxes in outlets through-out the town.

We will also be introducing membership fees for our Midi section School Of Rugby for the first time. Combined together with sponsorship we will, hopefully, be able to boost Club funds considerably.

In conclusion, although I've found this season to be extremely challenging, to say the least, I now feel confident that we have found a clear path forward and it only leaves me to thank all of the Committee, Club members and the aforementioned Coaches for their continued support, but most of all I would like to thank my wife, Mandy, for her common sense approach to problems and her constant help and ability in finding solutions to the challenges that present themselves.

## **7 Mini Rugby Report – Sandy Grey**

Thank you to all the coaches for their dedication and commitment to the club all year, and special thanks to Lorna Hendy and Anne Lochhead for all their work pitch side all year providing food at our matches.

The minis have had a good year; at tournaments we won the majority of games and are definitely now seen as the team to beat. We have a couple more coaches coming on board and are hoping to pick up a few more with Tartan Touch. Children from all over Angus can play for us. It is astounding how much goes on from P1 to the School of Rugby. We just need more parents to help going forward.

## **8 Other Business**

### **8.1 Subscriptions**

We have a new sponsorship presentation leaflet, copies available at the AGM, with new proposed fees. The main change is that the social membership is now £20 which entitles you to two international tickets, there is a High School of Rugby membership fee, and more options for family memberships. The new fees were proposed by Matt and seconded by Chris Ayres.

### **8.2 Honorary Life Members**

The nominations for honorary life memberships are:

- Heather Christie - for tirelessly working on paying bills and keeping the accounts in order
- Peter Christie - still involved in CHS, Strength and Conditioning and playing for the first 15
- Donald Currie - always available and amenable to the club in CHS

Nominated by Colin Murray and seconded by Kath Edmond

### **8.3 Office bearers**

The committee are staying on; Colin Murray as President, Sandy Gray as Vice President, Kath Edmunds as Treasurer and Niamh Arbuckle as Secretary. Jack Forster will remain on the general committee. There is one position in terms of membership. Colin Murray asked Rod Bruce if he would take the position and he accepted. New member of the committee, our social media guru, Connor Blackmore. Nominated Colin Murray and seconded by Sandy Grey.

### **8.4 Training**

Chris Rankin - Preseason training will be Tuesdays and Thursdays with optional Saturday sessions. 1st game on 10<sup>th</sup> of August at the Blairgowrie 10s, the 17<sup>th</sup> vs Mackie, the 24<sup>th</sup> Squad Day, 27<sup>th</sup> Dundee Titans and the 31<sup>st</sup> August League game. We start to prepare from the 29<sup>th</sup> of June.

## **8.5 Micro's**

Nick Grant raised some concerns about P1/2 training and parents' perceptions of rugby, and that it can be a bit overwhelming for the children. CM suggested that it would be a good idea to check with other clubs to see what they are doing. Colin suggested that they sit down as a coaching team and even bring in Andy Cumming and Steve Turnbull to have SRU direction for all clubs. Nick said that it was vital to get the parents on board, to bring them to the training. To be discussed at the coaches meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> and then Colin to contact Andy Cummings.

## **8.6 Forwards Coach**

Chris Rankin informed the AGM that Peter Christie has agreed to be the forwards coach this year.

## **8.7 Presentation Night**

The 21<sup>st</sup> June Presentation Night. This will be held in the Kinloch with a hog roast, a marquee and entertainment. Tickets available from Kath, £10 per person.

## **8.8 Gala Day**

Gala Day on 6<sup>th</sup> of July please bring bottles and tombola. Even better bring a seat on the day and help!

## **8.9 Memberships**

Rod Bruce informed everyone that membership starts now. Players be advised, membership before the first game or no insurance.

## **8.10 Fixture List**

Kath Edmond informed members that the FP's fixture list that has been published will now change due to changes in the leagues, which might mean someone new to play?

There were no other items and the meeting was closed. Colin Murray thanked everyone for their attendance and contribution to the meeting.