



# GLOUCESTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY OF RUGBY UNION REFEREES MEMBERS MEETING

Minutes of Members Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2012 at 19:30,  
Hucclecote RFC, Gloucester.

## Present:

An attendance register has been kept, 48 members were in attendance.

## 1. Apologies:

Apologies were received from Nick Palmer, Dennis Dowdell, Martin Price, Steve Copper, Josh Chapman, Paul Addis, Andy Payne, Tony Roberts, George Rooley, Nigel Stephenson, Daniel Homes, Ian Ford, Paul Crichard, Mark Patteson, Huw Jones, Ray Puttock, and Mike Wallace

## 2. Minutes:

The minutes of the last meeting were approved by the members.

## 3. New members:

Matt Cannor, Alistair Bolton and Joe Marshall introduced themselves.

## 4. Conduct in Meetings:

Out of courtesy to those giving presentations within the training element of society meetings, would all other discussions please take place in the lounge area of the club. The doors between the bar and the lounge will be closed to allow discussions between coaches, referees and mentors that have to take place at society meetings to take place without disturbing the remained of the society.

## 5. Introductions:

5.1a **Barry Clark as Discipline Officer and Members' Rep** Discipline, Abuse is reducing thanks to the stance of the county disciplinary procedure, but if abuse does occur please report it, so as to maintain this downward trend.

5.1b **Barry Clark, Whistler reports**, Whistler report cards, we can't expect clubs to return their cards on us if we don't on them so please get your Whistler report cards sent in.

5.2a **Rodger Brennan, Appointments**. Every game for the month of February has been appointed to. There are only two league Saturdays within February so you may find your self with a free Saturday. An attempt has been made to give everyone available two games during the month. If you still want more, please make yourself available for a Sunday appointment, more details later.

5.2b Please get your availability for March in as soon as possible.

5.3c Congratulations to Dan Mobley on completing his first level 5 appointment, and to Josh Chapman on receiving his first level 5 appointment.



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5.4a **Les Newcombe, Finance Manager.** We are now into single figures of last seasons membership still to pay for this season. Most clubs have now paid but there are still a few to pay their invoices for the current season.

5.4b Les apologised for not being able to join in at the Christmas meeting but hoped that the food provided by the society was enjoyable.

5.5a **Adrian Danks as Vice-Chairman,** asked that referees do their very best to ensure that clubs return the report cards.

5.5b **Adrian Danks** thanked all those that had responded to his requests regarding the team of three communications kits.

5.5c We now have an overnight host for our New England visitors for their entire stay, but still require volunteers to take them out and about whilst they are here from 6<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> April. If you are able to entertain please contact **Adrian Danks.** Gary Devoe is one of the referees coming over and has looked after many referees when visiting New England, this may be a suitable opportunity for you to reciprocate.

5.6 **Brian Ravenhill, Society Secretary,** The following has been sent by county office to clarify the situation regarding who changes kit when there is a clash of colours.

**All RFU run competitions for 1<sup>st</sup> XV** will abide by the following ruling unless otherwise stated by the RFU in specific competition regulations:

***Kit – Clash of Colours Regulation 13.6.3***

*Following requests from many clubs the SWDOC has agreed that regulation 13.6.3 (a) (i) will apply at ALL levels in the South West leagues. i.e. It is the responsibility of the AWAY team (NOT THE HOME TEAM) to change shirts if there is a clash of colours. Please discuss with your opponents when confirming the match arrangements, kick-off times etc. prior to your league game.*

However, in all **GRFU run competitions (Senior County Cup, Reserve Leagues, etc)** the **HOME TEAM** will be responsible for changing their colours.

**Please ensure that you are informed of colour changes in advance of the match.**

5.7 **Sunday Junior Appointments,** Tim Lawson has had to stand down as Sunday Junior appointment secretary due to work commitments. Tim has done a great deal of work for a number of years not only in appointing to Sunday junior fixtures but ensuring that the standards of facilities and behaviour on a Sunday are equivalent to or better than those on a Saturday. Marc Barwick has taken over responsibility for Sunday Junior appointments and will be assisted by Malcolm Holmes (whilst Marc's charging his batteries on the ski slope ready to start). The junior cup games require neutral referees to ensure the equity of the game, the county are concerned that without this neutrality discipline and abuse may return to their previously unacceptable levels. So far this season there have been no complaints from referees regarding abuse. Currently we are failing in our duty to provide junior games with neutral referees, these young players will form the next generation of adult players and we owe it to them now to provide a safe and enjoyable game so as to maintain their interest into the adult game. There are some very good competitive games available especially at colts and under 16 levels.



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5.7b John Hackett, Chairman, acknowledged the great work done by Tim Lawson over many seasons and thanked Malcolm Holmes for standing in for Marc and to Marc Barwick for taking on the role for Sunday junior appointments.

6. **Training:**

The training this month was on 'Mental Preparation', by Bob McCrudden.

7. **Any Other Business.**

There was no A.O.B.

8. **Close.**

The meeting closed at 21.00

9. **Date of next meeting**

The next members meeting will take place on the third Tuesday of January, 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2012, venue Hucclecote RFC, Gloucester 19:30.

**Distribution:** All society members via the RugbyFirst website.