



**MINUTES OF THE ARMY RUGBY UNION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT 1030 HRS IN BULLER BARRACKS, ALDERSHOT ON WEDNESDAY 22 JULY
2009**

PRESENT: A LIST OF ATTENDANCE IS ATTACHED

ITEM	Action
<p><u>ITEM 1: CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS</u></p> <p>1. The Chairman opened the meeting at 1030hrs and welcomed all present.</p>	
<p><u>ITEM2: THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT</u></p> <p>2. The Chairman presented the following report to the AGM</p> <p>3. Community Rugby. There was a Good level of entry to all ARU competitions despite the ongoing level of military commitments, furthermore meaningful competitive rugby was available for all entrants</p> <p>a. Corps Rugby</p> <p>(1) The Corps Champions are The Royal Engineers but there was strong competition from others particularly the REME who finished runners up in a hard fought final.</p> <p>(2) The REME won the Women's Competition which had mixed participation levels, an area the ARU wish to improve next season</p> <p>b. Community Cup and Shield</p> <p>(1) Over 40 entrants into the Community Cup and Shield</p> <p>(2) Winners of the Cup were SEME who beat the ARRC Sp Bn in the final,</p> <p>(3) Winners of the Shield were 5 Regt RA who beat 36 Engr Regt RE.</p>	

c. Premiership

- (1) There were 16 Entrants into the Premiership, this competition goes from strength to strength and is providing teams with excellent rugby at a higher level.
- (2) 1 SCOTS won the Premiership by beating 1 WELSH in an excellent, well attended final.

d. Community Sevens

- (1) There were 18 Men's teams and 7 Women's teams at the Army Sevens competition which amounted to over 300 players
- (2) 1 SCOTS did the double by winning the Sevens, beating 17 P&M Regt in the final
- (3) The Women's Winners were REME

e. Community Investment

- (1) The ARU will increase investment in the Community game again this season by as much as 50% year on year, providing kit, balls prizes and travel. Teams who get to the semi- final stages of each competition are given a great day out and a chance to progress to a final in the Army Stadium.
- (2) Over the last 6 seasons the level of investment in ARU community rugby has increased by over 600%. Showing the ARU's commitment to ensure that competitive rugby is played at the grass roots level which is the basis of our success further up at the representative level.
- (3) The ARU's funding of the Corps activities at the Army v Navy match ensures through a discounted ticketing and wristband scheme that they are able to make thousands of pounds for Corps rugby, this will continue next season with the ARU absorbing all marquee, bar and wristband costs for the match in May 2010.

f. Clubs and Locations

- (1) The ARU currently have 224 clubs affiliated, these range from the powerful premiership clubs right down to the clubs who may play in one sevens competition per season but at some point during the year rugby is being played wherever the Army is. Last season rugby was played in a variety of locations and with the support of the ARU and RFU competitions even took

place in Bastion, Musa Qalah and Kandahar.

g. Funding

- (1) There are a variety of funding options open to teams as well as the unit sports equipment grants, PRI donations and sponsorship, funding is available from the Army Sports Lottery, the Nuffield trust and other sources. Contact the Secretary if you wish to know more.

h. Secretariat and Web-site

- (1) All clubs are encouraged to use the ARU web-site (www.aru.org.uk) it contains important information such as Health and Safety advice, ARU policy and Terms of Reference for all ARU volunteers, it also contains match reports and event information. Clubs are welcome to post scores, match/tour reports irrespective of the level they are playing at.
- (2) Clubs are also encouraged to contact the ARU if they need advice on any issue.
- (3) The ARU Handbook is undergoing a revamp and will be issued in September.

4. Representative Rugby.

a. U20's

- (1) U20's underwent a Challenging Season and were narrowly beaten in tough group of the RFU U20'S competition. Hoping for better luck this season
- (2) This age group continues to provide young players with the first rung on the representative ladder. It also provides exposure to the ethos and support mechanisms of Army representative rugby, i.e. it will be the first time for many that they have encountered a manager and coaching regime with more than one quality coach and other support staff.

b. U23's

- (1) U23's are the Inter-Services Champions
- (2) The U23's continues to provide development opportunities and a number of players identified last season played in the full Army team.

c. Army A

- (1) The Army A team offers continued development to players who have potential and it is a genuine pathway into the Senior XV
- (2) Corps and Premiership rugby also provide a pathway into the senior XV and it is hoped that this season more matches will have a scout present than before.

d. Women

- (1) 2 Defeats last season but the level of the opposition (British Police for instance) is very high. Genuinely one of the best women's XV's in the country. There were notable victories against Scotland Development and Ulster away from home last season.
- (2) Inter-Services Champions without a try being scored against them, they have never lost an Inter-Services match and the other two Services are a long way behind.

e. Senior XV

- (1) An unbeaten season – this is largely due to the dedication and commitment of the Coaching team, management and players who put in a tremendous effort both on and off the pitch.
- (2) Highlights include a 17 all draw against a Saracens XV and beating Cambridge by a resounding 47 – 0 scoreline. There was also a polished performance in beating Worcester Academy away at Worcester
- (3) The Senior XV are Inter-Services Champions for a record eighth year in succession. The Navy and RAF were beaten with the utmost professionalism and these results are testament to the regime where players are nurtured and given the environment in which to perform at the highest level.

f. Army Sevens

- (1) Won 8 out of 9 competitions entered including Roslyn Park, Cwmtawe and Roma, all prestigious hard fought competitions against the top teams containing many International players
- (2) The one loss was against Harlequins in the final of the Middlesex 7's, Harlequins contained 4 full current full

Internationals including David Strettle and Mike Brown.

- (3) A truly world class team which is appearing at the Middlesex Sevens again this year.

g. Veterans

- (1) Won the Inter-Services Title which meant a clean sweep for the Army teams which was a first for several years.
- (2) Will be attending the World Masters Games in October 09
- (3) Providing opportunities for players to play at a higher level when over 35, team contains many ex Army Caps and struggle to find Vets teams that are anywhere near the same ability.

4. Other ARU Departments and Activities

a. Coaching

- (1) The Coaching Department has again run RFU courses and last year over 100 level one and two coaches have been trained and courses were held in Cyprus BA(G) and throughout the UK, the ARU have also funded a further two coaches to go on Level 3 Courses.
- (2) Thanks go to Colonel Allen Thompson for his work in getting Aborfield acknowledged as an approved RFU coaching centre and from where coaching courses can be run on behalf of the RFU.

b. Referees

- (1) The ARURS and the Combined Services Referees have again provided excellent support throughout the season, the level of refereeing in the Army is improving year on year. Over 120 entry level referees have been trained in the UK, BA (G) and Cyprus.

c. Combined Services.

- (1) The ARU have taken on stewardship of the Combined Services until May 2011. The ARU will use its current management and coaching structures enhanced by personnel from the other two Services from which to operate the CS teams. The main fixture will be the Remembrance Match against the Barbarians on 11 November 2009 (Preceded by a high quality women's fixture).

- (2) The CS U23 will also play 3 fixtures against good quality opposition which will hopefully include a fixture against new opposition at Twickenham prior to the Army v Navy match, this following the demise of the England Students game.

d. Charitable Activities

- (1) In addition the ARU are supporters of Military and sporting charities, over the past year the ARU have made substantial donations to the following Charities

The ABF
 The RBL
 SAAFA
 Help for Heroes
 Combat Stress
 The Keith Morris Memorial Fund

e. Sponsors

- (1) The ARU are reliant on Sponsors to ensure that rugby can be played at all levels. The ARU are constantly on the lookout for sponsors to support its activities. Our - particular thanks go to

Sodexo
 Mazda
 KBR
 SSAFA
 Veolia Water & MUJV
 Enterprise plc
 Selex Galileo
 Thales

ITEM 3: FINANCIAL STATEMENT

5. The Director of Finance gave the Financial Statement as follows

- a. Audit signed off by Radford & Sergeant Aldershot
- b. Annual Report & Accounts on Charity Commission website
Charity Number: 245517
- c. Worth of the Fund as at 31 Aug 2008 - £548,560
- d. The two main sources of income remain sponsorship and the Army v Navy match.
- e. The main areas of expenditure were

<p>(1) Community Rugby</p> <p>(2) Representative Teams</p> <p>(3) Army v Navy</p> <p>f. The ARU are continuing to improve and refine the financing of the Union and current issues are as follows</p> <p>(1) The ARU are taking advice from VAT experts Grosvenor, who will report back and also write to HMCR informing them of our tax position.</p> <p>(2) The ARU continues to operate a 'Reserves Policy' in that it holds reserves to ensure that the Union can operate if problems ever occur with either or both main streams of income.</p> <p>(3) A 'Budget Screening Process' has been instigated to ensure that ARU funds are allocated and spent correctly.</p> <p>(4) Internal Audit Controls have been established such as the Finance Officer, independent internal auditing and financial instructions for resource managers.</p> <p>g. Headline figures are as follows</p> <p>(1) The general worth of fund is £548,560</p> <p>(2) The projected Income over expenditure for 08/09 is £70-90k</p> <p>(3) Financial year 09/10 budget allocation is £662k</p> <p>(4) Projecting a break even performance for 09/10</p> <p>6. It was proposed by the ARU Council that the Audited accounts for year ending 31 August 2008 be approved by the AGM. – The proposal was unanimously carried by the AGM</p>	
<p><u>ITEM 4: ARMY RUGBY UNION MANAGEMENT BOARD AND COUNCIL</u></p> <p>6. It was proposed by the ARU Council that the Management Board and council as detailed below are adopted by the Membership for a period of 1 year up to and including the next AGM to be held in 2010 – The proposal was unanimously carried by the AGM</p>	

a. The MANAGEMENT BOARD

- Chairman – Maj Gen RL Kirkland CBE
- Secretary – Mr JP Dickens
- Director Marketing – Brig PJ Allison
- Director Community Rugby – Col M V Pemberton
- RFU Council Member – Col MCH Underhill OBE
- Director Academy – Col TA Sandiford OBE
- Director of Finance – Lt Col RT Ward
- Director of Women’s Rugby – Maj S Shepherd MBE
- Director of Senior Rugby – To be nominated
- Non-Executive Director – Lt Col (Retd) WF Butt
- Non-Executive Director – Maj (Retd) CP Bowes-Crick
- In Attendance – Army Head Coach, WO2 A Price
- In Attendance – Special Projects Officer, Lt Col SWD Butt

b. THE COUNCIL

- The Chairman and Members of the ARU Management Board
- Chairman ARURS – Maj Gen RJM Porter MBE
- Chairman Corps Rugby – Col MV Pemberton
- Chairman Discipline – Col MCH Underhill OBE
- Chairman Coaching – Col ADM Thomson
- Chairman BA(G) – Colonel RI Harrison OBE
- Chairman Veterans - Lt Col H Robson
- Senior Medical Advisor – Lt Col G Thomas

ITEM 5: HONORARY APPOINTMENTS

7. It was proposed by the ARU Council that the AGM confers honorary membership on the individuals detailed below. The Proposal was unanimously carried by the AGM.

a. Vice Patron

- General Sir Richard Dannatt GCB CBE MC (Upon Retirement)

b. Deputy Presidents

- Major Gen M Mans CBE
- Brigadier JG Lorimer DSO MBE

c. Honorary Life Vice Presidents

- Brigadier (Retd) RW Libbey
- Lt Col (Retd) WG Withers
- Lt Col (Retd) R Campbell

ITEM 6: QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

8. The following questions were raised from the floor of the meeting

- Q. Mr David Taylor (Individual Member): Might there be a mechanism for ensuring that a report of the Army v Navy match gets into the national Sunday newspapers?
- A. Secretary ARU: This is already in place via Roger Thompson who writes reports and attempts to get them into the major Sunday titles however due to the influence of the Premiership who also play on that day and other sports events it has become increasingly difficult to get column inches. There was however good coverage in the Rugby Paper, the Rugby Times and all Service publications.
- Q. Captain D Reed (2 SCOTS): Would it be possible to play major finals such as the ARU premiership final at Twickenham prior to a big match?
- A. This is unlikely as the cost for the hire of the Stadium is prohibitive, it would also be impossible on Army v Navy day as many of the players in a final would be likely to be involved in representative rugby that day.

Q. Major Richard Garrett (RE): The draft policy concerning the relationship between Army Rugby League and the ARU particularly concerning players and cross code activity, does not take into account the need for a players career progression as a soldier and that this is paramount and soldiers need to take this into account before playing both codes all year round, might the ARU include a paragraph that highlights this need?

A. The Chairman: This is of course a very important issue and the ARU Secretary will look to amend the document in due course bearing in mind that all changes have to be agreed by the ARL who are currently content with the document.

Q. Mr Bill Stephens (Individual Member): It is Blackheath RFC's 150th anniversary this year, as the Army have had many players down the years associated with the club (in particular Birdie Partridge who was instrumental in the founding of the ARU) might it be possible to arrange a fixture between the Army and Blackheath next season?

A. The Senior XV Manager: The ARU are currently populating the fixture list for next season and will approach Blackheath to attempt to arrange a fixture.

Q. Major James Cook RA (Premiership Secretary): Is the ARU concerned about the validity of the fixture between the Army and Navy especially as the Army as so strong and look likely to be so for the foreseeable future?

A. Chairman: Yes this is a worry and has been identified by all 3 Service Chairmen at a recent Combined Services meeting. The ARU have offered to help the other Unions in their development however so far they have not been keen to take up this offer. The fact that the other two Services are currently weak should not stop us from preparing for the match in the most professional way possible.

ITEM 7: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8. The Chairman informed the AGM of the following

- a. ARU Succession planning – The ARU have a succession plan and appointments are generally for 3 years whereupon personnel may apply for any vacant position through the ARU office.
- b. The Terms of Reference for all major ARU positions are published on the ARU web-site www.aru.org.uk

9. The Secretary of the Army Sports Control Board (ASCB) spoke to the AGM on the following subjects.

<p>a. The Army Sports Lottery – All personnel applying for a sports lottery grant must be members of the Army Sports Lottery if they wish to receive funding.</p> <p>b. Clubs are reminded of the need to inform the ASCB of any tour they intend to go on and also to copy the ASCB in on the post tour report.</p> <p>c. Corps Secretaries are requested to send fixture lists to the ASCB to ensure that funding for travel can be provided at public expense.</p> <p>10. The Chairman offered a vote of thanks to the work of the Secretariat who ensure that the ARU runs smoothly.</p> <p>11. There being no further business the meeting closed at 1200hrs</p>	
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Attachments:

1. List of Attendance.

Army Rugby Union AGM ATTENDANCE 2009

Ser	Rank / Title	Initial	Surname	Unit	Appointment	Voting Member
1	Brig	P	Allison		Dir Marketing	Y
2	Maj	N	Andrew		Dir RA	Y
3	Major	P	Appleby		APTC President	Y
4	SSgt	T	Baker	Coach	Army/CS XXXV	N
5	Maj	CP	Bowes-Crick	RHCE RRF	NED	Y
6	WO1	B	Bragg		U23/A Manager	N
7	Lt Col (Retd)	W	Butt		Non Exec Dir	Y
8	Mrs	I	Camfield		ARU Officer	N
9	Lt Col (Retd)	AE	Carter		Hon Life President	N
10	Maj (retd)		Chapple	HQ Londist	SO2 G7 PD	N
11	WO2	G	Cook		PSAO	N
12	Maj	J	Cook		Sec Aru Prem	N
13	Capt	E	Cullen	6 Rifles	Senior Team Mgr	N
14	Sgt	T	Cutler	ARURS	Treasurer	N
15	Mr	J	Dickens		Sec ARU	N
16	Maj	SM	Dowse		CSRR/ARURS	N
17		N	Duncan		Referees	N
18	Lt Col	D	Edmondson		Sec ARURS	Y
19	SSgt		Edwards	27 Regt RLC	Rugby 21C	Y
20	Sgt	G	Evans		RE Coach	N
21	Capt	B	Exley		Rugby Officer	Y
22	Mrs	K	Fowke		Shop Manager	N
23	Mr	C	Fowke		RE Rep	Y
24	Maj	N	Garrett		RE	N
25	Ms	T	Gillespie		IMS Member	N
26	Lt	S	Harris	39 Regt RA	RA Sec	Y
27	Lt Col (retd)	C	Harris	ASCB	Secretary ASCB	N
28	Col	R	Harrison		Chairman BA(G)	Y
29	Capt	C	Hastie	2 Regt AAC	Corps Sec	Y
30	Capt	B	Houston	39 Engr Regt	Rugby Officer	Y
31	WO1		Hughes		Sec REME	N
32		M	Hyde	Southampton UOTC	Sec	Y
33	Maj Gen	RL	Kirkland		Chairman ARU	Y
34	WO11	D	Lewis	ARU (W)	Coach	N
35	Brig	J	Lorimer	PJHQ	ACOS J3	N
36	WO1	M	Mitchell	Head Coach	Army/CS XXXV	N
37	Capt	R	Newnham	4 RA	Secretary	Y
38	Col	M	Pemberton		Chairman Corps	Y
39	Maj	T	Poole		Sec RE	Y
40	Lt Col	R	Quicke		ACFA	Y
41	Maj	M	Rawlinson		Sec RLC	Y
42	Capt	D	Reed	2 SCOTS	Rugby Officer	Y
43	Maj	A	Roddy		RA WOMEN	Y
44	Miss	H	Russett		Finance Officer	N
45	Capt	J	Shaw		ITC Rugby Officer	Y
46	Col	W	Stevens		IMS Member	N

Ser	Rank / Title	Initial	Surname	Unit	Appointment	Voting Member
47	Capt	C	Stevens	RIFLES	Hosp Officer	N
48	Col (Retd)	D	Taylor		IMS Member	N
49	WO1	J	Voss	DE & S	CS RRDO	N
50	Lt Col	R	Ward		Director of Finance	Y
51	Maj	K	Woods	RCDM	ARU (W)	N