



**MINUTES OF THE ARMY RUGBY UNION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT 1100 HRS IN GARRETTS CLUBHOUSE, ALDERSHOT ON THURSDAY 8 JULY 2010**

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 1110hrs and welcomed all present. He briefly highlighted the success and increasing high profile of services rugby and the present healthy finance position the ARU attracts.</p>	
<p><u>ITEM 2: THE CHAIRMANS REPORT</u></p> <p><u>Senior XV</u> Col A Allen, Director of Senior Rugby (D of S Rugby) briefed the meeting on the following:</p> <p>2. Army v Navy:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The senior team had received the best possible preparation and was focused for the game. 2. The Navy had raised their preparations. 3. The Army had played rugby 'suicide' in last quarter of game. 4. The team has learnt lessons from the Navy defeat. <p>3. There had been major achievements in preparing and coaching players in the 2009/10, Season Results were as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Won 2. (Oxford, Cambridge) 2. Drew 1. (Worcester Warriors) 3. Lost 2. (Northampton Saints, Saracens Storm) 4. Trg Camp - Won 2. <p>4. Aspirations for the 2010/11 Season are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To win the Inter-Services. 2. Play 5 Premiership A Teams. 3. Play Oxford and Cambridge. 4. Travel on an overseas training camp location TBC. 5. He briefed the meeting on the selection process for the new Senior XV team coach and highlighted the success of the outgoing coach WO2 Andy Price. <p>5. <u>Womens XV</u> The Chairman briefed the meeting on the Womens XV season:</p>	

a. 2009/2010 has proven to be highly successful and has seen the ARU(W) XV's squad retain the Inter-Services Championship for the eighth successive year. The Squad remained unbeaten (ever) by either of the other two Services. This season witnessed a new shortened structure to facilitate the development of Corps Rugby. This was successful and will be repeated next season. The Corps Competition has thrived and has witnessed a dramatic increase in the number of women playing grass roots rugby.

For the first time the ARU(W) trials were invitational which shows the development that women's rugby has made. The trials worked well, but the date of the trial was less than optimal (14th Dec) and several players were unavailable. This has been rectified for the 10/11 season.

b. The expansion and format of Women's Corps Rugby led to a number of new additions to the Squad. This was reflected in nine new caps being awarded during the Inter-Services Championship. Despite several fixtures being hampered by the weather, seven fixtures were played which resulted in 5 wins and 2 losses.

c. The 09/10 season has also seen the formation of the Women's Seven's squad. This season has been designed as an introductory year to trial the format ahead of an official launch in 10/11. Good progress has been made in this area, however, despite an excellent start at the Castle Cary 7's in May 10, where the squad were worthy 'Runners Up' to the Pink Baa Baas, there is much work to do and the squad are still some way off from competing against the top Premiership Teams. Remaining tournaments include the Newquay 7's (17/18 Jul 10) and the Worthing 7's (31 Jul / 1 Aug 10).

d. The Army Women's Squad continues to be represented at the very highest International level and LCpl Jane Leonard RE and LCpl Laura Marsh REME were selected to represent England and Wales respectively in this year's Rugby World Cup (Women's). Additionally, LCpl Jane Leonard was voted Combined Sports Personality of the year for 09/10.

e. The Women's Army squad has lost a Defence Coach and a Conditioner and adverts and job specifications are on the ARU website. One key concern throughout the season has been the delivery of medical cover to the Squad. Despite valiant efforts by Team Doctor Capt Jennie Johnson, the availability of medical cover has been problematic and must be improved for next season.

6. Army 7s Team Col A Allen, Director of Senior Rugby briefed the meeting on the Army 7s team:

a. Results for the 2009 Season:

1. Rome 7s – Plate Winner.
2. Worthing 7s – Won.
3. Bath 7s – Won.
4. Middlesex 7s (1/4 finals lost to London Irish).

b. 2010 'has become a Structured Season - Raising the chin bar' results were:

1. Bournemouth 7s – Won.
2. Rome 7s, 1/4 finals beat France but lost the semi to Australia IRB team.

c. National 7s Series:

- 1) In its inaugural year.
 - 2) The Army had been invited to play as one of UK's top 7s teams.
 - 3) Highest standard in UK outside the Premiership.
 - 4) 4 tournaments.
 - 5) 9 core teams plus 3 invitational sides.
 - 6) Sky TV coverage showing highlights on two channels.
 - 7) Results were:
 - a) Richmond - Semi Finalist. (21-24)
 - b) Keynsham – Finalist. (33-36)
 - c) Manchester 4 Jul – won.
 - d) Newquay 17/18 Jul – won.
- d. The team would be also entering the Middlesex and Dudai 7sand had additionally recruited new team management that were bonding well.

7. Academy The Chairman briefed the meeting on the Academy:

a. Army U20 2009/2010 update:

- 1) Played 8 – W 1 L 7.
- 2) Maintaining a full squad was challenging. (Front 5 in particular)

b.10/11 Plan:

- 1) Despite a disappointing season we will remain in County Championships.
- 2) Attempt to improve recruiting, this involves everyone!
- 3) AGM members are asked to push this age group forward as impact goes beyond just the players.
- 4) Vacancies are available for Manager, Asst Manager, Physio, and Conditioning Coach.

c. Army U23s 2009/2010:

- 1) Inter Service Champions for 2nd successive years, aiming for 3 years.
- 2) Conditioning camp in Cardiff rather than Brive.
- 3) 2 x current squad to CS Senior XV.
- 4) 3 current players to Senior Squad for SA trg camp.
- 5) 1 x coach and manager to Senior XV.

d.2010/2011 Plan:

- 1) Fixture changes – In - Durham University, Out – Worcester Development.
- 2) Conditioning camp moved to CS week iot reduce burden on Corps and Community fixtures.
- 3) Vacancy for Backs / Skills coach.

e. Army A 2009/2010:

- 1) New management in place.
- 2) Alignment to Senior XV objectives and matches improving.
- 3) Plan to play the same number of matches in the coming season (5)
- 4) Better alignment of fixtures with Senior XV (location iot support Senior XV staff viewing games).
- 5) Vacancy for Skills Coach as a minimum, depending on Senior XV appointments.

8. Key Dates – The following dates were announced; U23 Conditioning review – Aldershot – Individual Invitation, Combined U23 / U20 Trials – Aldershot –

General Invitation. (31 Jul – 1 Aug)

9. Masters – The usual trial games in Sep were postponed to Nov through to Feb, Sep was used for prep for World Masters Games in Sydney.

- a. The team entered the World Masters Games in Sydney between 10-23 Oct 09 winning the competition and receiving the gold medal. They were awarded Rugby World Team of the Month Oct 09. (winners kit donated to a Samoan rugby club to help rebuild after the tsunami which hit there while we were at WMG).
- b. The Season was disrupted by weather, as with other teams, but conventional fixture list of traditional key civilian clubs winning 4, drawing one and losing 2.
- c. The team lost the Inter-Services but with a very different team from the WMG team in Oct due to significant loss, retirement and injury of key players especially in the tight five – they are now in a period of rebuilding!
- d. Corporate Support: Enterprise Plc increasingly engaged and keen to exploit the relationship to mutual benefit. Minimum current level of financial support £15k pa likely with additional resource to develop corporate opportunities – A v N is the obvious target. Lt Col Simon Orr is investigating additional complementary corporate support while our stock is high. Ties severed with NPM Financial Management and Nick McEntee.
- e. Governance:
 - 1) Business Plan refreshed at start of season.
 - 2) Director Note to interested parties provides clear guidance on Masters ethos, standards and values.
 - 3) Committee: significant change with selection of new Director in open competition, and retirement of Maj Andy Rapley.
 - 4) WMG saw significant engagement with wider media.
 - 5) Website kept current during season with notices, match reports and details of how to join for interested parties.

10. Community Rugby:

- a. Corps This years Corps competition was played at an extremely high level in Merit league 1, the Sapper dominance was breached by the RLC and Infantry in the league fixtures but they did enough to reach the final and beat the RLC 35 – 25 in a pulsating final to retain the Merit league trophy for an unprecedented fourth consecutive time. The merit league two had the format changed slightly and changed from the winner challenging the bottom team in league 1 to the top two playing in the merit 2 final, this year the AMS beat the AGC 3 –0.
- b. Community Cup and Shield The Community Cup and Shield competition had 64 entries, the Cup was won by 25 Engineer Regiment beating 29 Cdo Regt RA 25 – 18 and the Shield saw 5 Scots collect the silverware by beating 16 Regt RA – 42 - 26.
- c. Premiership The Premiership is as strong as ever and this coming season will see 14 teams play in the competition in two leagues. This years final was played in front of a 'full house' at the Aldershot Rugby stadium and had an 'all Welsh feel' as the Welsh Guards and 2 Bn

Royal Welsh battled it out with 2 R Welsh taking the cup in a breath taking 31 – 26 match full of pride and passion.

d. Army 7's Competition – The Army 7s competition had 10 men's and 6 women's teams compete in the finals. 17 Port & Maritime took the silverware but later withdrew after they discovered they fielded an eligible player, 1 Scots were awarded the Cup; in the women's competition the RLC beat the AMS. The format of the future competitions is under review to allow more teams to play in the sevens festival. Premiership teams will qualify for reaching the Premiership quarter finals.

e. Clubs and Locations – This year the ARU had 234 clubs registered to play rugby union, games were played in Cyprus, Canada, USA, Kenya, South Africa, Poland, Italy, Ukraine, Norway and Afghanistan amongst others.

11. Coaching - The ARU coaching structure continues to produce the requirement from foundation level up to level three coaches and beyond, numerous coaching courses have been conducted in UK and BA(G) this year; our coaching educators are actively involved in RFU coach training and delivery across the union. Planned courses at RMAS and a seminar at Arborfield later this month, which has ex England Coach Brian Ashton delivering day two highlights the vision we have to drive the standard of our coaches up.

12. Refereeing – The ARU referee society continues to integrate and support the Combined Services society, some of the service top level referees come from the union. Steve Penfold (REME) narrowly missed selection to the national panel this year. Entry level referee courses have been well attended but the stretch of being asked to regularly appoint 'teams of three' for Corps and Premiership games all being played on the same Wednesdays test the pool presently capable of officiating at this level.

13. Combined Services – The annual match between the Combined Services and the Barbarians was played in front of a full crowd at Aldershot in November last, the result 22 – 17 was at great reflection for service sport. The Barbarians now see this as a permanent fixture and the CS Management Committee are keen to ensure this fixture receives the highest possible profile, a new proposed sponsorship deal and a high profile venue for this season will aspire to this vision.

14. The U23 CS fixture at Twickenham against the Oxbridge team was a first and again is seen as a fixture that will remain in the calendar; Oxbridge are very happy to retain the fixture and enhanced marketing from both the CS and Oxbridge management will strive to a larger gate receipt.

15. Website – The Website is well utilised and is undergoing a 'revamp' that will be effective in September. Enhanced use will be made of match video footage and community reports.

ITEM 3: THE FINANCE REPORT

16. Finance Update – Chairman

a. The Audited Accounts for the FY 2009/10 are now with the Charity Commission and can be seen by accessing the Charity Commission website using the ARU Charity number 245517.

It has been a good year financially with an Excess of Income over expenditure of £111022, which was in line with expectations. The worth of the Fund as at 31 August 2009 the ARU was £659,582, which is comprised of Funds Invested of approx £314k and Cash at Bank £352k, with Creditors and Debtors roughly balancing each other.

You should note the value of the ARU will fluctuate with the value of the stock market, but the investments are in secure, Charity Commission recommended Investments.

b. Finance Key Points:

- 1) Sponsorship has remained buoyant although the economy is beginning to pinch in all areas and we have recently lost one of our sponsors KBR, but this has been balanced by an increase in sponsorship from Sodexo.
- 2) Income from Army v Navy remains critical to everything we do and the net income for the 2008/09 was £350k in Ticket sales, along with ARU Shop profit generating on the day £30k; (that's a lot of shirts sold) the shop is one of the areas that the new ARU Sec will be looking at to grow the income by taking the shop to National 7s events as well as the A v N game.
- 3) The Director of Community Rugby continues to bid for monies to support rugby at unit level, without wishing to steal his thunder, I am delighted that he has been able to provide financial support for equipment, travel, pre and post match hosting and the cost of medical cover.
- 4) It is our Representative teams that continue to receive significant support and it is only right that as a Union we continue to support and enable our people to play to the best of their abilities and to the highest levels. You can see the cost of running the Representative Teams by looking at Annual Accounts.
- 5) Looking forward, the current Financial Year 2009/10 should also see an excess of income of approximately £100k, but we are also aware that we have been accepted and are taking part in the inaugural International Defence World Cup in 2011, which is likely to cost upwards of 6 figures and we are now looking at ways of funding our participation without impacting on how we support the other areas. vote required to accept accounts as presented and to approve DJH as accountants for the coming year.

The AGM was asked to vote on the 1514 balance sheet and report as presented was accepted - Carried

17. International Defence World Cup Lt Col Simon Butt briefed the meeting on the International Defence World Cup in Australia and New Zealand in October 2011. Senior team players would be 'ring fenced' from mid Sep to the end of Oct 11. More details would be available at the end of Jul 10 once invited teams had confirmed with the Australian Defence Force and playing pools had been drawn.

ITEM 4: ARU MANAGEMENT BOARD & COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

18. Management Board Appointments The following were proposed as ARU Management Board members for the coming year:

- a. Chairman – Maj Gen RL Kirkland CBE
- b. Secretary – Mr C Fowke
- c. Director Marketing – Brig PJ Allison
- d. Director Community Rugby – Col M V Pemberton
- e. RFU Council Member – Col MCH Underhill OBE
- f. Director Academy – Col TA Sandiford OBE
- g. Director of Finance – TBA
- h. Director of Women's Rugby – Maj S Shepherd MBE
- i. Director of Senior Rugby – Col A Allen MBE
- j. Non-Executive Director – Lt Col (Retd) WF Butt
- k. Non-Executive Director – Lt Col (Retd) RT Ward
- l. In Attendance – Army Head Coach
- m. In Attendance – Special Projects Officer

Carried

19. Council Appointments – The following were proposed as ARU council members for the following year:

- a. The Chairman and Members of the ARU Management Board
- b. Chairman ARURS – Maj Gen RJM Porter MBE
- c. Chairman Corps Rugby – LCol P Stannett
- d. Chairman Discipline – Col MCH Underhill OBE
- e. Chairman Coaching – Col ADM Thomson
- f. Chairman BA(G) – Colonel RI Harrison OBE
- g. Chairman Veterans - Lt Col S Orr
- h. Chairman of Premiership – Maj J Cook
- i. Senior Medical Advisor – Lt Col GD Thomas
- j. ARU Media Officer – Maj T Osman

Carried

ITEM 5: ARU HONARY APPOINTMENTS

20. ARU Honorary Appointment – The ARU Chairman proposed that Maj (Retd) CP Bowes-Crick be appointed as an Honorary Life Vice President. Carried.

ITEM 6: QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

21. Maj R Garrett RE asked if the ARU felt there was 'mission creep' with the extensive call on players (also now we had an extensive 7s season) and the requirement for a balance between a players career and rugby.

The Chairman replied there was concern and representative teams will look at spreading the load. The academy has shifted 1 training camp so some deconfliction will occur and all are asked to plan ahead.

22. Richard Quick, representing the Cadet Force asked if the ARU would consider supporting the Cadet Force 7s on the 9 Apr 11 in Beacon.

The ARURS requested that a request for referees was made direct to them. The D of S Rugby said the ARU 'professional players' would be encouraged to attend. He commented that the Cadet Force should additionally request support from the regional recruiting team.

23. The Director of ASCB briefed the meeting on several issues including the merger of the TA SB and ASCB, issues with public money and T & S. The availability of funding for coaching courses and the A S Lottery.

24. Lt Col P Stannett asked who and when players would be ring fenced for the IDRWC in 2011.

The D of S Rugby replied this would not be agreed until the new Senior XV coach had been appointed.

25. The D of S Rugby asked that a vote of thanks be recorded to Capt I Wilkins for his outstanding contribution to the senior XV stepping in at very short notice as the team manager over this last season.

ITEM 7: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman presented trophies and training shirts to the runners up and winners of the ARU Southern league. SEME Bordon & Defence Academy Shrivenham.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1250hrs.

Attachments:

1. List of Attendance.

Col	A	Allen	Director Senior Rugby
	Tim	Baker	Veterans
WO2	T	Bamsey	ATR (B)
Capt	B	Birkbeck	21 SAS
	D	Boocock	
Maj (Retd)	C	Bowes-Crick	Non Executive Dir
WO1	M	Bragg	25 Trg Regt
Lt Col (Retd)	B	Butt	Non Executive Dir
Lt Col	S	Butt	Projects Manager
Maj	E	Cameron	55 OPR Coy
Mrs	I	Camfield	
Maj (Retd)	D	Chapman	Life Vice President
Capt	I	Constantine	19 Regt RA
Maj	S	Crossfield	Defence Academy
Sgt		Cunningham	19 Regt RA
Sgt	T	Cutler	ARURS
WO1	N	Duncan	Veterans
Lt Col	D	Edmondson	ARURS
Capt	A	Edwards	
Maj Gen	C	Elliott	ASCB
Mr	C	Fowke	
Mrs	K	Fowke	
Maj		Garrett	RE
M	T	Gillespie	IMS
WO2	J	Gwynne	Defence Academy
WO2		Hammon	42 Eng Regt
Col	R	Harrison	Chairman BA (G)
SSgt	A	Harvey	22 Engr Regt
	M	Hyde	Southampton UOTC
Maj Gen	R	Kirkland	Chairman
WO2	D	Lewis	Coach Women
Maj	G	Edmond	Army Cadet Force
Capt	I	Wilkins	AGC
CSgt	C	Holmes	2 PWRR
Capt	E	Smith	A Team
SSgt	I	Taylor	SEME
Maj	G	Quant	Veterans
Mr	J	Law	Defence Academy
Brig		Lorimer	Deputy President
LCpl		Narruhn	10 QOGLR
Lt Col	S	Orr	Director of Masters
Maj	T	Osman	ARU Media Officer
Maj	D	Pack	Defence Academy
Col	M	Pemberton	Dir Community Rugby
Maj	T	Poole	RE
Lt Col	R	Quicke	ACFA
Miss	H	Russett	
Lt Col	P	Stannett	Chair Corps Rugby
Col	M	Underhill	RFU Council Member
LCpl		Knight	ARRC SP BN