



**MINUTES OF THE ARMY RUGBY UNION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
HELD AT 1330 HRS ON THURSDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2014  
IN THE ARMY RUGBY UNION DEVELOPMENT CENTRE, QUEENS AVENUE,  
ALDERSHOT, HAMPSHIRE**

**PRESENT: A LIST OF ATTENDANCE IS ATTACHED ITEM**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b><u>ITEM 1: CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS</u></b>	
<p>1. The Chairman opened the meeting at 1330hrs and welcomed all present. He reminded the AGM why they were attending:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>a. The AGM shall be held annually as directed by the management Board. Each club within the Union may send one representative to such meetings, exclusive of any member of their club serving on the Council who shall be entitled to vote.</i></p> <p>2. The Management Board, for which I am Chairman, are accountable to you, our membership. The purpose of this AGM is thus to brief you on our plans and intentions so that you can endorse them and we can enact them. You should listen, ask questions and challenge what we have to say.</p> <p>3. A reminder of the aim of the ARU:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>a. The aim of the ARU is to promote and foster the game of Rugby Union in the Army and its local communities in accordance with the Laws of the Game promulgated by the International Rugby Board (IRB) and rules, regulations and bye-laws issued by the Rugby Football Union (RFU).</i></p> <p>4. My Management board executes this task on your behalf. Our Mission is to:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>a. Management Board Mission Statement is to promote and govern Rugby Union in the Army through the maintenance of stable structures for the game that enable its successful development at all levels for the benefit of all its participants.</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>Main Effort – development of rugby within and throughout the Army.</i></p> <p>5. Note the emphasis on developing rugby within and throughout the Army – that is our goal given the greater emphasis in sport in the Army that we are expecting post Operation HERRICK and on the Army's permanent basing in the UK. We are making plans to support all of that now.</p>	

6. This year the Union has gone from strength to strength, as well as a record crowd of some 78,000 at Twickenham, who indeed are confident that Army v Navy will sell out in the next two years; we now have more community teams playing regular rugby; the ARU Premiership and Championship has 80 teams committed to playing regular rugby in regional leagues this year, an increase from 52 last year. The league structure very much resembles that of any county CB league structure and much credit goes to Lt Col James Cook for pushing this forward with drive and enthusiasm.

7. Financially we are well off, you will receive a detailed report from Lt Col (Retd) Richard Ward our NED of Finance shortly, however key figures include a record income of over £600K between the two unions from Army v Navy revenue and a steady annual sponsorship income of £341K, including the Babcock Army v Navy sponsorship; without these two vital components we would not be able to operate in the position we do. This year's accounts are about to be audited and we will issue the findings via the website once we receive the report.

8. Our representative teams have been as successful as ever; another clean sweep at Twickenham in all three games and with the U23s winning the relevant U23 Championship for a second successive year it's clear to see our elite fifteens set up is working well. Our aim has been to ensure we sustain this success, a solid coaching set up provided by the many courses run by our hard working RDO Taff Bamsey is starting to show benefits, that linked with a newly appointed Chair of Coaching, Richard Garrett, is putting in place the foundations for the selection and training our future representative teams and the necessary coaching staff.

9. The building we are now sat in was put in the ground some 18 months ago and is continuing to facilitate record ticket sales to be sold from the office for the Army v Navy match, the shop you'll be pleased to know continues to make a regular strong profit, sales alone at the Army v Navy match were over £40K in only 6 hours and the video suite is used by all representative teams. Taff Bamsey our RDO has held many coaching courses and numerous CPD modules here throughout the year; the RFU have also run several rugby first aid courses.

10. On the community side of the game the season has started exceptionally well, Jason Gunning, Director of Community Rugby, whom you will hear from later with his cohorts of James Cook running the Premiership and Championship and Paul Stannett overseeing the Corps competition have started the season strongly, 20 teams contested the second community tens at Newbury RFC a few weeks ago and the Corps festival unearthed some considerable new talent for the relevant representative coaching staff. Samurai are into the second year of their clothing and kit contract and I urge Commanding Officers and rugby officers to utilize the company and make the contract work.

11. An update on the pending International Defence Rugby Competition that is due to be run in the United Kingdom in October 2015 to take forward the event that the Army team won in Auckland in 2011. The three services have met with the CEO of the England RWC 2015 company, Debbie Jevens who is charged by the iRB to run the World Cup. The meeting was very positive and the committee see the services as an integral part of the complete event. Letters of invitation to nine countries have now been signed by CGS and we await responses from them, the competition however will

take a three league format, four teams initially hosted by single-service run competitions in Aldershot, Portsmouth and RAF Halton, followed by semi-finals and the final in London and aligned with prime RWC 2015 fixtures. We will keep you updated via the web.

12. Finally the RFU are pushing on with their RWC 2015 legacy programme. Every CB, including the three Services, are expected to 'get people back into rugby', and Chris Fowke has attended several iRB legacy meetings that are engaging in incentives to bring back past and indeed new players into the rugby environment either as a player, coach, match official or administrator and will be distributing more information to clubs in the coming months.

The Chairman then invited Lt Col (Retd) Richard Ward, the ARU NED of Finance to brief the meeting.

## **ITEM 2: NED OF FINANCE BRIEF TO THE MEETING**

13. Lt Col (Retd) Richard Ward, the ARU NED of Finance briefed the meeting. I wish to give you an overview of specific Income and Expenditure in key areas. Please ask questions as necessary.

### 14. Income

<b>Detail</b>	<b>Audited Accounts as at 31 Aug 13</b>	<b>2014/15 Estimate</b>
Voluntary Income (Sponsorship/Grants/Affiliation Fees etc)	£ 293,929	£ 304,000
Other Income (Bank Interest, Investments etc)	£ 41,869	£ 15,700
Income from Charitable Activities (Inter-Services, Shop Profit etc)	£ 679,472	£ 635,000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£ 1,015,270</b>	<b>£ 954,700</b>

### 15. Expenditure

<b>Detail</b>	<b>Audited Accounts as at 31 Aug 13</b>	<b>2014/15 Estimate</b>
Governance/Cost of Charitable Activities (e.g. Inter-Services)	£ 449,732	£ 422,500
Grants/Donations/Team Budgets	£ 575,516	£ 473,960
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£ 1,025,248</b>	<b>£ 896,460</b>

16. Notes:

Net Operating Loss of £ 9,978 as at 31 Aug 13 but included £ 37,500 cost towards build of ARU Dev Centre

Accounts for 13/14 will be audited on 26 Sep 14 – report available to MB by the middle of Oct 14

17. Expenditure – Representative Teams

<b>Detail</b>	<b>Audited Accounts as at 31 Aug 13</b>	<b>2014/15 Forecast</b>
Senior XV	£ 169,932	£ 120,000
A Team	£ 13,976	£ 8,760
Academy	£ 24,372	£ 24,400
Women	£ 24,734	£ 23,800
Sevens	£ 33,113	£ 47,200
Masters	£ 70,397	£ 14,800
<b>Total Spend/Allocation</b>	<b>£ 336,524</b>	<b>£ 238,960</b>

18. Notes:

Masters funding in 2013 included World Masters Games Tour

19. Expenditure – Community Rugby

<b>Detail</b>	<b>Audited Accounts as at 31 Oct 13</b>	<b>2014/15 Forecast</b>
Premiership	£ 24,800	£ 49,000
Championship	£ 26,303	£ 29,000
Community	£ 17,916	£ 64,350
Corps	£ 5,626	£ 25,400
<b>Total Spend</b>	<b>£ 74,645</b>	<b>£ 167,750</b>

20. Notes:

Increase in funding reflects record amount of teams participating in community rugby and new competition structures

21. Rugby Development

Detail	Audited Accounts as at 31 Aug 13	2014/15 Forecast
Coaching/Rugby Development	£ 8,853	£ 39,750
Referees	£ 27,500	£ 27,500
<b>Total Spend</b>	<b>£ 36,353</b>	<b>£ 67,250</b>

22. Notes:

Coaching forecast for 2014/15 includes salary for Rugby Development Officer

23. Lastly I wish to propose to the AGM that the ARU approve DJH as the auditors for the 2014 / 15 year. *Carried.*

**ITEM 3: DIRECTOR OF SENIOR RUGBY COVERING REPRESENTATIVE RUGBY BRIEF TO THE MEETING**

Col Andy Dean briefed the meeting of the representative teams.

24. The Senior XV:

- a) Overall: A success in terms of mission to win inter -services but RAF and RN are getting closer. 7 new caps and considerable young talent (3 x Academy players). LCpl Rokoduguni capped by England Saxons. 78,000 at Army v Navy.
- b) Challenges: Availability of players at professional clubs. Conditioning to challenge professional standards.
- c) Look Fwd: New Head Coach – Capt Andy Sanger MBE. Focus on winning the Inter-Services championships but with concurrent preparation for the Defence World Cup in Oct 2015. Utilising the Reserves.

25. Womens XV:

The 13/14 season successfully achieved its aims set out last year, although the season was somewhat affected by the extraordinary weather at the start of the year the games played were maintained at the highest standard that is now expected by the Army Women. The team said good bye to Maj Sam Shepherd (RA) who was succeeded by Maj Maggie Hodge as Director of Army Rugby.

The Corps Rugby season was enhanced with rugby coaching concentration days, the benefits were twofold in both developing players and supporting coaches involved in coaching women's rugby in the Army, it has proved to be popular with the womens Corps set ups and got more women playing.

#### 26. 7s Team:

- a) Overall: Played in 11 tournaments – won 2. GB Sevens – 3 tournaments – a very credible 4<sup>th</sup>. Played at Twickenham in the World Club 7s v ‘Rugby for Heroes’. 17 new caps.
- b) Challenges: Availability of players – throughout whole season & avoiding ‘burn out.’ Finding the right tournaments.
- c) Looking ahead: Advert for new manager to go out early 2015. Possible overseas tournament in Fiji. Utilising the Reserves.

#### 27. Academy Rugby:

The Army Academy had another successful season culminating with the U23 winning the Inter-Services U23 Competition. Army U23 25 - Royal Navy U23 14, Army U23 39 - RAF U23 3. The season started with four Development games before the U23 squad was selected and they remained unbeaten.

At the end of the season the U23 team was invited to Lille, France to play against the full French Army Team. In a very physical match the young team dominated the match and ran out convincing winners 55-17. Five U23 players graduated up to the Army A team and a further three players won their full Army caps in the Inter-Services games at the end of the season. Overall, another successful season.

#### 28. Masters Rugby

- a) The 2013-14 Season provided new challenges with a significant turnover in key staff as well as players.
- b) Successfully retained the 2013-14 Inter Services title, both the RAF and RN provided tough close contests.
- c) A largely new squad and management staff will be around until 2017 helping to lay foundations for the next World Masters games in new Zealand in ??
- d) The Masters continue to increase our coaching and committee support to both Community and Corps rugby through coaching, administrative guidance and leadership.

I will now pass you on to Lt Col Jason Gunning, the Director of Community Rugby.

#### **ITEM 4: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY RUGBY’S BRIEF TO THE MEETING**

29. Lt Col Jason Gunning, the ARU Director of Community Rugby briefed the meeting.

30. Newbury Xs Competition. The season starting with a cracking ‘community tens’ competition at Newbury and is a curtain raiser for all Premiership and Championship teams to dust the cobwebs off after the summer. This proved to be a thorough success with 20 teams competing, 11 new referees blooded and after 8 hours of rugby 1 Scots were the victors. Many thanks to Lt Col James Cook, WO2 Able Matatini and the ARURS for a great day.

31. - Corps. Last year’s Competition saw a well drilled RE side overcoming the REME in an exciting final at the end of the season. In the Merit 2 competition the final saw a competitive and hard fought game with the AGC narrowly beating the Intelligence

Corps 35-31. The Ladies season was marred by availability and poor weather, but the positive attitude and flexibility of the committee and the sides involved ensured that only 4 games were unplayed by the end of the season. The RA(W) were the eventual winners beating the AGC(W) 29-7. The Army Ladies Coaching team have also introduced a Coaching Concentration on the Corps Festival day and will run another three during the coming season. The aim is to improve player development and to ensure duty of care to players who are new to the game.

32. Premiership. The Premiership was a huge success again last year and the Competition was won by 12 Regt RA, the first Gunner Regiment since the glory days of 7RHA who beat the newly amalgamated Royal Welsh 13 – 10 in an exciting final in Aldershot. This season will see a restructure to the way in which the Premiership leagues are structured and run. With one Premiership League 1 pool with all teams playing each other in a round robin league before progressing to knock out stages. Underneath this league will sit two Premiership League 2 pools split into two area leagues; North and South that again will compete in round robin matches before progressing to knock out stages.

33. Championship. The Championship was run for the second season last year with 18 teams entering. The current Cup holders are The Royal Highland Fusiliers 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion the Royal Regiment of Scotland who beat 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion the Rifles 32-7. For the coming season we have 52 teams organised into 8 regional leagues. The Championship will be played as a series of league fixtures until the Christmas period before splitting into 3 competitions. This gives every team the opportunity to progress into the play off stages of one of the competitions and it is hoped that this will increase the number of games played.

34. Army 7's Competition. The Army 7s Competition had 16 men's and 5 women's teams compete in the finals. 1 YORKS won the Cup, 32 Engineer Regiment won the Plate and the Ladies Competition was won by the Royal Artillery(W).

35. RFU Game Management System. Units are reminded that the Governing Body data base system 'Rugby First' has been replaced by a new 'Game Management System' This is a governing body requirement. ARU funding from the RFU will be based on the information you provide so please be comprehensive and clear, including team contacts and fixtures. Your teams are not registered with the ARU until you have registered with Rugby First and therefore not insured to train or play rugby. If you are unsure that you are registered or need advice please contact the ARU RDO as a matter of urgency.

#### **ITEM 4: THE RUGBY DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS BRIEF TO THE MEETING**

36. Capt Richard Garrett – Chairman of Coaching briefed the meeting.

37. ARU Coaching. The ARU Coach Training and Development Team have continued to operate with a Chairman, full time RDO and volunteer workforce of Coach Trainers and Educators. They have delivered training, assisted in the co-ord of Rugby competitions and carried out a liaison role with departments of the RFU.

38. Training Staff: We continue to maintain and develop a cadre of RFU qualified personnel who deliver coach development modules and accredited courses across the Army. We currently have two Trainers, six Coach Educators, seven Developers, and a

number of coaches working towards these qualifications. The team are required to deliver a minimum number of courses and complete personal CPDs each year to maintain currency and competency; this continues to be a challenge combined with work and operational commitments. The RFU have recently amended the criteria for training deliverers and they will now be trained to deliver refereeing modules, and titled Rugby Developers/Educators.

39. Courses Delivered: The team have delivered five Coaching Adult Courses (Level 2) in a number of locations in UK and Germany, generating 123 qualified coaches. We conducted a Coaching Children Course (L1) in Gutersloh, enabling 17 coaches to facilitate mini rugby in the garrison. In addition a number of CPD modules have also been delivered, including pre-requisites for courses such as Ruck & Maul and Scrum Factory, as well as Continuity in Attack and Kicking sessions.

40. Referee training – Capt John Voss and his team have continued their excellent work training and developing our new and aspiring referees. Just last week 11 new match officials attended the latest course at Aldershot and were then ‘bloodied’ at the Newbury 10s in September.

41. Other Initiatives: The RDO has co-ordinated the generation of the RFU O2 Touch initiative in Tidworth, Aldershot and Cottesmore. This is still developing with support from units in those locations. Pitch side first aid and development courses for physios have also been facilitated.

42. Looking Forward: The intent remains to support Rugby development through coaching, medical and officiating delivery at grass roots. In addition the development of coaches beyond Level 2, towards and through Level 3, by training, mentoring and liaison with the RFU and other agencies.

I will now pass you to Chris Fowke to briefly update you on RFU Discipline procedures.

#### **ITEM 5: THE SECRETARY ARU’S BRIEF TO THE MEETING REGARDING RUGBY DISCIPLINE**

The Secretary briefed the meeting:

43. Season 13/14: 18 Red Card Incidents dealt with – up from last season. Key trends:

- a. Dangerous tackling – particularly round the ruck area.
- b. 2 x yellow cards in one match.
- c. Match official abuse both by players on the field and coaches off the field

44. Clubs/units should ensure that they include on field discipline in their coaching sessions and rugby discipline is taken seriously by all rugby officers/managers/coaches and ultimately players.

a. All clubs/units are to be reminded of the need to read and understand RFU Regulation 19 (available on the RFU website) and the ARU Discipline Letter from Season 14/15 issued on and available on the ARU website.



b. All clubs/units are reminded that a Player Ordered Off the Field of Play or cited may not take part or be selected for any match until his case has been dealt with by a Disciplinary Panel. They should also note that players/coaches and even spectators can be charged with misconduct or bringing the game into disrepute under RFU Reg 5.12.

c. Therefore any player sent off from the field of play or any individual charged with misconduct off the field of play under RFU Rule 5.12 is deemed to be guilty and are therefore suspended from playing/participating in any rugby activity until the disciplinary hearing commences.

45. The ARU as a CB will endeavour to hold Disciplinary Panels as soon as possible after the incident has been reported. A number of additional panel members have been trained over the last season in order to assist with this. **It is encumbent on all Clubs/Units to notify the ARU Disciplinary Chairman of any Players Ordered Off or Citings ASAP after the event and ensure their players are adequately represented at the Panel.**

a. Any serviceman suspended whilst playing for a civilian club is also suspended from all rugby and they should notify their club/units appropriately so that this can be enforced.

b. The taking of performance enhancing drugs continues to be an issue across all sport. As a reminder, if an RFU drugs test is proved positive, it will generally mean a ban from playing all sport for 2 years. This would also potentially question their suitability to remain in the Army. All units/clubs should be aware of the current Army Policy on the use of sports supplements.

c. All clubs/units who play regular rugby outside of England against other Union opposition or in other Union competitions or leagues will be covered next season by an RFU formerly agreed exemption to the requirement to provide touring paperwork and insurance. However, any discipline incidents that occur in these fixtures should be notified to the Chairman of Discipline.

c. All units/clubs are to be congratulated on their behaviour at the Army Navy game this season. There were very few disciplinary incidents and most involved ex servicemen.  
**Keep it up for the future!**

46. Finally, there is no place on the field of rugby for foul or abusive play or any off the field indiscipline. **Please do not let it be your player or club that lets the side down! Clubs/units who have more persistent discipline issues can be dealt with as a club by the ARU as well.**

## **ITEM 6: ARU MANAGEMENT BOARD & COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS**

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

- a. Chairman – Brig WF Bramble OBE
- b. Secretary – Mr C Fowke
- c. Director Marketing – Brig PJ Allison
- d. Director Community Rugby – Lt Col J Gunning
- e. Chairman Discipline and Governance – Lt Col P Stannett
- f. Director Academy – Lt Col T Cottee
- g. Chairman Masters - Col S Orr OBE
- h. Director of Finance – Maj C Tate
- i. Director of Women's Rugby – Maj MA Hodge
- j. Director of Senior Rugby – Col A Deans
- k. Non-Executive Director – Mr G Brown
- l. Non-Executive Director – Lt Col (Retd) RT Ward
- m. Non-Executive Director – Ms Brenda Hobday
- n. In Attendance – Army Head Coach

Carried 100%

48. ARU 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 – Col DC Wakefield OBE
- c. Chairman Corps Rugby – Lt Col P Stannett
- d. RFU Council Member – Col (Retd) MCH Underhill OBE
- e. Chairman Coaching – Capt R Garrett
- f. Chairman BA(G) – Col (Retd) RI Harrison OBE
- g. Chairman of Premiership – Lt Col J Cook
- h. Senior Medical Advisor – Col B Baker

Prior to the vote Col DC Wakefield OBE asked the Chairman to clarify that the position of the RFU Council Member should be a serving officer. The Chairman replied that the Board were content that Col (Retd) MCH Underhill OBE remains in this post until Oct 15 when the position will be re-advertised for anyone to apply.

Carried majority

49. ARU President – Lieutenant General John Lorimer DSO MBE

Carried 100%

50. ARU Hon Life Vice Presidents –

- a. General Sir Peter Wall GCB CBE ADC Gen
- b. Major General SA Burley CB MBE

Carried 100%

**ITEM 7 - QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR**

51. Questions from the floor –

Maj G Heakin asked if future representative match reports posted on the website could include the team lists for historical records. The secretary replied that he would ensure that representative team managers included conclusive team lists.

**ITEM 8 - ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

52. Any other business – There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 1520 hrs.

53. Actual Attendance:

	<b>Rank / Title</b>	<b>Initial</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Appointment</b>	<b>Voting Member</b>
1	Maj		Stork	101 EOD Regt	Rugby Officer	Y
2	Capt	P	Jones	1 QDG	Training Officer	Y
3	Capt		Sylvester	AMS	Rugby Officer	Y
4	Capt	A	Sanager	ARU	Head Coach	N
5	Capt	S	Smith	39 Engr Regt	Rugby Officer	Y
6	Capt	N	Allcock	HQ Sp Comd	REME	Y
7	Col	A	Deans	ARU	Director	N
8	Maj Gen	S	Burley	ARU	Chairman	N
9	CSgt		Kippling	1 YORKS	Rugby Officer	Y
10	Lt	C	Johnston	RCDM	Military Rehab	N
11	Lt	D	Cummings	ATC Pirbright	Rugby Officer	Y
12	Maj	M.A	Hodge	ARU	DIR Women	N
13	Lt Col	R	Olney	Army Air Corp	Chairman	Y
14	Maj	L	Davies	1 R Welsh	Rugby Officer	Y
15	Maj	G	Heakin	11 EOD Regt	Rugby Officer	Y
16	Maj	C	Hastie	AAC	Treasurer	N
17	Col	D	Wakefield	ARU	Chairman Ref	N
18	Maj	M	Stuart	RLC RFC	Sec	Y
19	Miss	KA	Fowke	ARU		N
20	Mr	B	Butt		IMS	N
21	Mr	MC	Fowke	ARU		N
22	Mrs	IK	Camfield	ARU		N
23	Ms	T	Gillespie		IMS	N
25	SSgt		Johnson	SEME	Rugby Officer	Y
26	Capt	R	Garrett	ARU	Chairman Coaching	N
27		Rob	Jones		BA(G) Head Coach	N
28	Lt Col	P	Stannett	ARU	Discipline	N
<b>Army Rugby Union AGM 2014</b>						
	<b>Rank / Title</b>	<b>Initial</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Appointment</b>	<b>Voting Member</b>
29	Capt	N	Dermott	ARU	Senior Manager	N
30	Ms	B	Hobday	ARU	Management Board	N
31	Mr	G	Brown	ARU	Management Board	N
32	Mr	M	Bamsey	ARU	Dev Officer Coaching	N