



**MINUTES OF THE ARMY RUGBY UNION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT 1400 HRS ON TUESDAY 3 OCTOBER 2017
IN THE NIGHTINGALE SUITE, TWICKENHAM STADIUM, LONDON**

PRESENT: A LIST OF ATTENDANCE IS ATTACHED AT ANNEX A

ITEM	Action
<u>ITEM 1: CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS</u>	
<p>1. The Chairman opened the meeting at 1400hrs and welcomed all present. He commented that this was the end of his third year as Chairman, albeit the middle year was interrupted with a year in Kabul, and confirmed to you that the Board and Council have been working hard to ensure that it remains transparent and financially stable as a registered charity; that our Trustees and Directors are accountable, that we have been subject to independent audit, and that we deliver the best possible value for money as one of the National Constituent Bodies of the Rugby Football Union, importantly focused in every respect on our Charitable objects.</p> <p>2. He reported that the Board and Council have been locked away for the last 24hrs in a dark room here at Twickenham planning our strategy for the next 5 years; taking us to 2022, ensuring we remain financially sound but allowing as much rugby to be played at grass roots level as possible and ensuring we have the correct level of coaches and match officials trained and at the correct standard.</p> <p>3. A strong base at unit level gives us the platform for our Corps to select from a large number of units allowing a competitive set of leagues for men and women to play at the Intermediate level. This of course allows the best of the best to be drawn up to the Representative Teams. Gone are the days of the Army just selecting from those playing civilian rugby; we rely heavily on the Corps to deliver that stepping stone.</p> <p>4. Our representative Teams remain as competitive as ever, playing high level opposition both home and abroad and you'll hear more later in the relevant reports. I believe we have the best people working with them, coaches, match officials, medical staff and administrators, however we are always after people to fill numerous positions as individuals step down from the supporting and management within the representative teams; if any of you are interested please do contact the relevant Director of Rugby here today.</p> <p>5. 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>6. The Management Board, also known as the Board of Trustees, for which I am Chairman, is accountable to a variety of different organisations in varying degrees and areas including the Charity Commission, to Companies House, to the Rugby</p>	All

Football Union, to the Army Sports Control Board and to you, our membership. The purpose of this AGM is to brief you on our plans and intentions so that you can endorse them where appropriate and we can deliver them. Therefore as we finish each section please do ask any relevant questions you may have.

7. A reminder of the aim of the ARU:

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).

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8. The Management Board executes this task on your behalf. Our Mission is to:

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.

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Main Effort – development of rugby within and throughout the Army.

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9. Our Main Effort – The development of rugby union within and throughout the Army, and engagement with civilian clubs in Garrison areas. There is much effort being put into Community engagement to encourage recruitment and I see regional Brigades looking for assistance from the ARU to play our part in this. Note the emphasis on developing rugby within and throughout the Army – that is our goal given the greater emphasis on sport in the Army, and CGS is clear that Sport must be a key driver in the component of Soldier Development.

10. The agenda and reports by the Board to you is as follows.

- a) Finance Report.*
- b) Representative Rugby.*
- c) Community Rugby.*
- d) Rugby Development.*
- e) Approval of the ARU Management Board and Council*
- f) Questions from the floor.*

11. The Chair highlighted last season's, Army v Navy match, three matches, three victories, terrific, what a day! The stadium sold out in 3 days; our day with the Royal Navy is now seen as a higher profile selling match than the Aviva Premiership final. The ARU staff did an amazing job in putting together a full days programme that ended with a post-match dinner for 500 people that certainly befitted the 100th anniversary match. I know that HRH Prince Harry was suitably impressed!

12. The Masters have found a younger and fitter calibre of player. Their Team played with great commitment and passion, Colonel Sandy Fitzpatrick has a new off field team in place and has put considerable effort to find the right level of fixture across the UK, from Edinburgh to Torquay to challenge his Team.

13. The Women's Team remain unbeaten in any Inter Service match, their level of opposition has risen to a new high, a regular fixture against England U20s is now topped up by matches' against the National teams from Germany in Heidelberg in December and South Africa in Aldershot on the 14 October. Please do support them. The off field Team are all transitioning and Maggie Hodge will shortly hand over in her capacity as Chair, with Don Smith (Team Manager) and Glyn Barraclough (Head Coach) all handing over the reins and various points this season. I would personally like to acknowledge the contribution they have made to

the women's game.

14. Inside the stadium the atmosphere was just electric for the centenary match, with a game that produced significant pace and skill reflecting the high standard of our men's senior side. I would personally like to single out Major Andy Sanger for all his efforts as the outgoing coach in leading such a performance.

15. The Chairman finished his opening remarks and invited Mr Tony King, the ARU Director of Finance to brief the AGM.

ITEM 2: DIRECTOR OF FINANCE BRIEF TO THE AGM

16. Mr Tony King, the ARU Director of Finance briefed the meeting. He gave an overview of specific Income and Expenditure in key areas.

17. **Headlines.** The latest audited accounts record an excess of income over expenditure, the third consecutive year the ARU has been in this position. This is exactly what is required and is the result of prudent spending and sound financial planning. It is likely that the accounts for the 17/18 season will not be in the same position as forecasted expenditure is greater than forecasted income. This is sustainable as a one off every 3 – 4 years as long does not become the norm. The Army v Navy continues to be the ARU's main source of income, however match day costs continue to rise over and above the expected RPI increases; indeed there was a 31% in 2017 when compared against the 2016 fixture. As reported at the 2016 AGM, this is not sustainable and both the RNRU and ARU may have to review complimentary ticket allocation and ticket prices. Sponsorship remains buoyant with an expected income of £231k via direct sponsorship, a £10k increase on the 15/16 season. Again, as in previous years, without these two vital elements of income the ARU could not operate at the level it does. A development side toured the USA in Jun 17 – this was £50k of un-forecasted expenditure, however the Masters tour to Bermuda now takes place in the 17/18 FY, therefore there was only one tour during the 16/17 year.

18. Income

Detail	Audited Accounts as at 31 Aug 16	2017/18 Estimate
Voluntary Income (Sponsorship/Grants/Affiliation Fees)	£488,389	£301,032
Other income (Bank Interest, Investments)	£3,372	£2,000
Income from Charitable Activities (Inter-Services, Shop Profit)	£989,627	£860,525
Total Income/Allocation	£1,481,388	£1,163,557

All

19. Expenditure

Detail	Audited Accounts as at 31 Aug 16	2017/18 Estimate
Governance/Cost of Charitable Activities (e.g. Inter-Services)	£672,506	£401,505
Grants/Donations/Team Budgets	£560,382	£884,997
Total Expenditure/Allocation	£1,232,888	£1,286,502

All

20. **Expenditure – Representative Teams**

Detail	Audited Accounts as at 31 Aug 16	2017/18 Estimate
Senior XV	£205,477	£147,450
Women	£120,464	£46,703
A Team	£3,034	£22,240
Academy	£16,386	£20,520
Sevens	£11,697	£41,600
Masters	£27,920	£24,758
Total Spend/Allocation	£384,978	£303,271

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21. **Expenditure – Community Rugby**

Detail	Audited Accounts as at 31 Aug 16	2017/18 Estimate
Community	£42,465	£49,525
Premiership	£12,334	£23,750
Championship	£23,789	£ -
Corps	£13,527	£19,550
Tours	£37,133	£40,000
Total Spend/Allocation	£129,248	£132,825

Chairs of Community Rugby

22. **Rugby Development**

Detail	Audited Accounts as at 31 Aug 16	2017/18 Estimate
Coaching/Rugby Development	£35,042	£8,500
Referees	£24,705	£25,400
Total Spend/Allocation	£59,747	£33,900

All

Are there any questions? Q1. Lt Bambridge asked if there was an opportunity for Corps / Units to bid for ARU funds to assist Tours. TK responded saying there was a fund and units should contact him to confirm the correct procedure. WB highlighted there would be a requirement in future bids for Corps to present their accounts to support such bids.

Lastly he proposed that the Army Rugby Union continue to use DJH accountants for our auditors (vote required - carried)

TK

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

20. Col Adam Griffiths briefed the meeting of the men's representative teams.

21. The Senior XV

a) The 2016/17 season saw the Senior Army XV win the 2017 Inter-Services competition and regain the Inter-Services champions' title after three years in the wilderness. So, on paper a very successful season. However, the success has been much more than the winning. The 2016/17 season saw an open and transparent trial and selection process, a new playing ethos as well as a much more formal and deliberate preparation of players.

b) Players were encouraged to "want and need to play" rather than to "expect to play". This meant that a number of more established players were challenged both in terms of commitment and expectation while more junior and emerging players were afforded the opportunity to step up to the field – many of which accepted. An initial squad of 50 was identified for the start of the representative season in Jan 17 and this was whittled down to an Inter-Services squad of 28 from the middle of February. But, those that did not make the IS squad continued to represent the Army A Team and compete for a place in the IS squad.

c) The final IS squad was not settled upon until just prior to the annual training camp in Portugal. Highlights of the season leading up to the Inter-Services competition was the A Team beating the French Army as well as comprehensively beating an East Midlands 'select XV' at Bedford. Equally, for the senior XV this included beating a strong Welsh Championship Swansea side in Swansea, playing and narrowly losing to the Russian National XV in Benidorm and losing narrowly to a very strong Bedford side (with a few helpers!) in the 2017 Mobb's Memorial match.

d) Thanks must go to the coaches and management of the senior and A squads who have worked tirelessly together to develop players, deliver the support to players as well communicate openly with the chain of command. And, there is a real correlation between the success of the senior squads with more and more senior players now playing regular National League, Championship and Premiership rugby across the United Kingdom. The season culminated in a short tour to the USA for the next generation of senior Army players. An Army Development Squad under the stewardship of Captain Mal Roberts RLC played and beat a US Combined Services team in New York. Next season, one goal, one aim – to win the 2018 Inter-Services comprehensively!

22. Sevens

a) The Army 7s squad have had an equally successful 2017 campaign. Under the new stewardship of WO2 Stu Cooke RAMC, the 7s squad focused exclusively on the GB Super Seven's Series, a national elite 7s competition. Winning the first tournament and £2500 at Bury St Edmunds, the squad maintained a strong competitive nature throughout the next two tournaments reaching the final of the fourth and final competition at Bath Rugby Club. Here

they played a very close match in torrential rain losing out in the last minute to the competition overall winners – Samurai Barracudas. The Army squad achieved second place overall, a remarkable achievement when considering the professional nature and employment of the opposition.

b) The season culminated in reaching the semi-final of the Denver Serevi 7s tournament played in Colorado USA. In the same vein as the senior Army squad, a number of new players have been identified and the aspiration for the 2018 7's season is to field 2 7s squads to compete both in the SSS elite 7s tournament as well as the wider 7 s opportunities across the UK.

23. Academy Rugby

a) Army Academy Rugby in the 2016/17 season was a little dogged by a lack of preparation caused by the last minute appointments of a new Head Coach and Team Manager, a small amount of internal fratricide with the ARU Structured Season, which meant that one Corps fixture clashed with the immediate start of the Inter Service Training Camp.

b) Despite these issues, the overall performance of the team was consistent, although not entirely in line with the original development vision. Good performances against Championship Academy sides in the warm up games and close games against both the Navy resulting in a 3 point loss and a draw against the RAF saw the Army side finish runners up in the IS Championships.

c) 6 players went on to represent UKAF U23 at Twickenham against Oxbridge (Jenkinson, Temple, Wheeldon, O'Rourke, Boginosoko and Mercer), a similar number were involved in the Army A Season and one was taken forward to the Senior XV as a development player.

d) The 2017 season is already showing incredible signs of promise. A complete overhaul of the coaching staff by the Head Coach, Lt Col Mike Atkinson, with the additions of SSgt David Bates, Sgt Martyn Wallace and Cpl Tyler Dunning , has allowed him to really focus on the fundamental principles of developing better rugby players and soldiers outlined in the DoARs Academy Directive.

e) In the background Maj Nige Hinton has also had a re-shuffle of his support team, with WO2 Mark Budd and Cpl James Campbell joining the team as Assistant Manager and Kit Man respectively. This re-vitalised team has hit the ground running, well prepared and providing suitable challenges for the 40 soldiers that turned up for the Academy Trials in early September. It is not often the words "My Brain Hurts" are heard at the end of a training session. The team are challenging the players, mentally and physically and are focused on ensuring that the players are developed as rugby players, soldiers and junior leaders.

24. Women's Rugby – Major Maggie Hodge briefed the GM on the Women's report.

a) It had been another eventful year for the Army Women's Rugby Team. We always knew that this season concluded with the IRB World Cup this August in Ireland. Capt Gemma Rowland (RA) represented Wales in the tournament securing a confirmed place for the team at the next world cup without having to qualify. Bdr Beth Danton (RA) has struggled with injury last season but managed to rehab in time to represent Wales in 7's.

b) The Army squad regrouped at the start of the season for another packed

year which had the team travel to Holland to play the national squad and also Germany. We also played a game against a very confident French Navy in which the Army team gave them a lesson on sportsmanship and rugby skill. We must have made an impression as they are very keen to play us again!

c) The England U20 game drew a large crowd as usual and the skill level on both sides was impressive. Ultimately the second half had the visitors take the lead, but it was a display of rugby that did not disappoint.

d) This year's inter services added a new dimension to the tournament. The RAF turned up to play. And oh boy was it a game. We were aware the RAF Rugby Union was investing in their women's team and their hard work is paying off. In my opinion it was the most entertaining game of the day, and although in the end the score margin was more than 10 in favour to the Army, at no point did anyone take it for granted.

e) 2017 also marked 20 years since women's rugby started in the Army. We celebrated with a dinner of nearly 100 people with many former players and coaches getting together to mark the occasion.

f) This coming season see many changes, there is a new head coach and many of the management team are changing. But we see this as an opportunity and continue with our aims to show off quality rugby that just happens to be played by women.

25. Masters Rugby - Col Sandy Fitzpatrick briefed the AGM on the Master report.

a) It has been a great end to a great season, but sadly the team was to go through more changes on the back of another successful season.

Nonetheless, we started well. We had a few more new Masters, two new fixtures and the introduction of a well-received Strength and Conditioning Programme. We put 99 combined points against the RAF and Navy and retained our Inter Services crown. We played the Police Service Scotland, in Scotland, retained our December fixture with the Aylesford Bulls, found a new and very competitive Veterans XV in Torbay Sharks and completed two Community Engagement events with RBL Village in Aylesford and a visit to Poppy Scotland in Edinburgh. Always humble enough to keep learning, the Masters journey of remaining Competitive Ambassadors for Army Rugby and Sport prevail and goes from strength to strength.

b) This year we said farewell to some older members of the squad, some broken ones couldn't partake and there was no let up on new younger talent seeking to compete for places. Selection included an early fixture against Surrey Vets. A new opposition from last year keen to have the Army fixture on their calendar. Establishing the squad was no easy task, but we shaped the season and fixtures to enable us to settle the squad as best we could by Christmas with stability in the group before we began the home straight to the IS fixtures.

c) We played another great Remembrance fixture against the mighty Aylesford Bulls. A great evening match, in not so great conditions, against a tough opposition, with open rugby the aim of the night. We confirmed the relationship we have established with the club and the local community. We were extremely well hosted, especially in the early part of the day when we visited the local RBL village and factory and, laid an ARU Wreath in their Garden of

Remembrance. We will return this year for the fixture and to help with some chores at the RBL Village.

d) The final fixture to confirm the squad was against the Scottish Police Service in Dec in Scotland. It proved a good match that tested us to the full and exposed some work-ons for the New Year. We hadn't quite set our stall out well enough and lacked a bit of game management to compete against a younger, better drilled side. But, it was a fixture we were keen to keep, as were the Police Service. Hopefully in 17-18 they will be the finale fixture to our training camp in Edinburgh in March 18.

e) Christmas came and went and the Prison Service in Cardiff in Jan was the next hurdle. It is always a tough match at the Cardiff Arms Park. A win allowed us to redeem the loss against the Scottish Place in Dec.

f) At this point in the season the Strength and Conditioning programme was helping. Combined with mobility and flexibility sessions, the injury rate was down and the recovery rate for those damaged increased. You can teach old dogs new tricks, especially if it keeps their body in better condition to a play the sport they love. This further hit home at the squad training camp at ATR Winchester where we were put through our 'lifting' paces in the gym and, our team work and trust on the high wire course. We also welcomed back Mr James Kerr, the author of Legacy. He kindly did a follow up talk on his book which was well received.

g) The season closed with two great IS fixtures. It was great to have all the fixtures on one pitch at Aldershot against the RAF, it made for a better spectacle of Service Rugby. We had thought we had closed out the RAF at Aldershot, but we let them back in the game in a very tough second half that went to the wire. We learned much from that and put it right at Kneller Hall with a very convincing defeat of the Mariners. A befitting send off for Andy Dawling and Matt Norman whose tenure as coaches ended, but also the grand finale for retirement of two great Army Rugby players and supporters – Gareth Slade-Jones and Mark Eastley.

h) But, they haven't gone far. We rejigged the coaching team and Dean Lewis, this year's assistant and backs coach was a successful applicant for the vacant Head Coach position and, he will be ably assisted by Mark Eastley and Gareth Slade-Jones as the forwards and backs coaches respectively. Yet another strong coaching team eager to develop the Masters game and their own coaching profile!!

i) So, a successful season, lots of positives and on reflection, a few areas to be refined and tweaked for 17-18. More players are eager to compete for a place on the Masters team, we are eager to increase our engagement and won't be complacent as we prepare for 17-18. Next season will be equally daunting, with a similar fixture calendar including a trip to the Bermuda Classic, which will include a Remembrance Parade with the Bermuda Regiment and structured training programme. We will play the Richmond Heavies and Torbay Sharks away and, the rise of the RAF and the Navy must always be accounted for in pushing us to exceed the demands on ourselves as a squad to enable success to prevail.

j) None of this is possible without a huge commitment from many especially the ARU and our Sponsors. But, the support from the players, the

management team and the chain of command to release players has been excellent. We thank the Rugby Officers and Commanding Officers alike for their promotion and support of Masters Rugby.

Are there any questions on Representative Rugby?

Q2. Lt Yaxley – 2 Mercian asked if there was any plans to involve integration into Premiership, Championship and University clubs? AG responded highlighted plans already in place and future aspirations to brief civilian academy sides. Maj Gen S Burley DASCB highlighted the TASS and Elite Sports programme / scheme to the AGM and the opportunities for Army personnel to become involved at higher levels.

Q3. Capt Smith RE asked if the Senior Coach placement could be confirmed. AG replied stating that Capt B Burnard had been selected however due to work commitments this appointment may have to be delayed. Capt A Sanger MBE would remain in position until Capt Burnard was free to take up the role.

ITEM 4: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY RUGBY'S BRIEF TO THE AGM

26. Col James Cook, the ARU Director of Community Rugby briefed the meeting on Community Rugby.

27. Community Rugby sits at the heart of the Army Rugby Union and accounts for over 90% of rugby output. The development of both unit and Corps competitions is now static with structures that work and allow as many rugby players as possible to partake. We are indebted to those that administrate and support and especially the match officials who facilitate our rugby. May I thank Lt Col Nick Andrew for his chairmanship of Corps rugby these last few seasons and WO1 ASM Martin Bentley for all his tireless work appointing referees to community matches. Lastly, Captain Abel Maitatini of DSEME for his tireless dedication to the administration of the community game and Sgt Wally Walters of 1 RRF for his superb efforts as rugby officer to his battalion, community coach, World Cup England liaison officer and now Army U23 coach; Sgt Walters is the epitome of selfless commitment, humility and is respected by all he meets, thank you.

28. Corps Rugby – With the same structure for the last 12-year the Corps season started with the Aldershot September competition. The season soon moved into round one of the five rounds in early October with two well balanced leagues. The finals were played at the Aldershot Stadium in March. Congratulations to the AAC who beat the RAC 29-27 to become League 2 Champions and the Royal Artillery who beat the REME 20-17 after extra time to become League 1 Champions.

29. In the Women's Corps finals, the REME/RE combined defeated the AGC / Int Corps in a highly entertaining match, it should be noted that for the coming season the RN development XV has been invited into the competition to help develop women's rugby in the Services.

30. Unit Rugby - The Premiership and Championship was played within 11 leagues, containing 87 unit teams split over five levels of rugby. More competitive matches were played than ever before, despite a disappointing 12% of matches being cancelled, of which nearly 50% of those were within a week of the fixtures; we must do better. However, the structure allowed for far fewer one sided fixtures and the vast majority of units found themselves in competitive leagues with minimal travelling.

31. The leagues benefited from amended laws to account for smaller rugby units so they could play without competitive front rows or substitutes. The use of members of paired regiment soldiers from the Army Reserve worked well as did player affiliations.

<p>32. Premiership Rugby - The Premiership finals, Cup & Plate, were played at Newbury Rugby club in March; despite taking a 14 point half time lead, 1 YORKS were overcome in the second half by the eventual winners, 12th Regiment Royal Artillery, winning 22-14 to become the most successful rugby unit of the millennium with their 3 wins in 4 years. The Premiership plate was won by 1 Rifles, beating 8 Training Bn REME 31-10 in a match much closer than the score suggest.</p> <p>33. Championship Rugby – The Championship finals were also played at Newbury RFC in poor conditions reminiscent of mid winter. In the Championship Cup the Hindoostan XV overcame the Pilgrims 15 – 10, while in the Championship Plate final 3 RSME beat the Defence Academy 34-10. With RSM Mark Eastley not only managing brilliantly but making a short cameo performance once again. The Championship Bowl saw 29 Regt RLC beat 21 Engineer Regiment 41 – 15 in an expansive match, played with great spirit. The Championship Vase, the best match of the day was won by 5 Rifles 32 – 27 against 1 RHA, even though the Horse Gunners managed to close the gap to a single score in the last minutes but just ran out of time to gain victory, finally the Championship Tankard was won by 35 Engr Regiment 29, 19 against 2 Mercian. Congratulations to Hindoostan, 3 RSME Regt, 29 Regt RLC, 5 RIFLES & 35 Engr Regt.</p> <p>34. 7's Competition. – Another good day in Aldershot 14 Regt ran out winners defeating 3 RSME in the final, we are looking to alter the format of this event with preliminary events at Garrison level and Teams qualifying from those events then coming to Aldershot for a finals day in July.</p> <p>Are there any questions on Community Rugby?</p> <p><i>Q4. Lt Col A Geary RLC questioned the Women's Corps amalgamated Teams process. JC replied highlighted the process was there to support Women at all levels to play the game and the Chair of Corps rugby would address each issue on an individual basis.</i></p> <p><i>Q5. WO2 McLay asked the process for units becoming amalgamated at Championship level. JC replied that this would be a 'last resort' as against the aspiration was to get as many people playing for as many units as possible. Individual requests would be looked on a case by case request.</i></p> <p><u>ITEM 5: THE RUGBY DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS BRIEF TO THE AGM</u></p> <p>35. Chris Fowke, ARU Chief Operations Officer briefed the AGM in the absence of the ARU RDO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) During the period the ARU Education team has continued to deliver UKCC Coaching XV-A-Side Game (L2) courses, which from 1 Sep 2017 is called the Coaching Award averaging 100 newly qualified coaches per year. The courses have been delivered predominantly in Aldershot but also one in Germany with courses planned in Colchester, Catterick and Tidworth Garrisons. With others in Edinburgh and Cyprus planned for early in 2018. b) Head Coaches were interviewed and selected for the Army Masters (Sgt Dean Lewis) and Army Academy (Lt Col Mike Atkinson). c) Only 2x Coaches (one leaving the Army) were accepted onto the Advanced Coaching award starting in June 2017 and this continues to be a difficult (not impossible) hurdle for those serving coaches who wish to get accepted onto this year long Home Nations programme. d) The Advanced Coaching Award is a pre-requisite for the HC job of the senior XV. e) Coaches running a military or civilian team which completes 12 x fixtures a 	<p>Chair of Community Rugby</p> <p>Corps / Unit Rugby Officers</p>
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season, crucially with all fixtures showing on the Game Management System (GMS) should be looking to attend the advanced CPD courses during 2017/18 in order to be ready for the 2018 advanced coaching award – we should as a CB be able to at least double our numbers next year.

f) Development and usage of the RFU's GMS within the Coaching environment of the ARU. All coaches should be conversant with the GMS as this is where they manage their coaching career and are assigned to teams. This has insurance implications as coaches need to be assigned to a Club so they are covered by liability insurance should something go wrong!

g) Continued drive to ensure all Rugby Officers understand they are now responsible for their teams' page and should understand the basic operation of GMS; Golden Roles for the teams should be updated so the RFU can target email the correct person within your team. All friendly fixtures should be entered by rugby officers so teams meet the 7 x fixtures required to be deemed an Active Club. This will be enabled and supported by ARU RDO Mike Bamsey.

36. ARURS: Major Richard Wade, briefed the AGM on the ARURS: What went well:

a) ARURS again appointed a referee to every ARU competition fixture requested.

b) 152 referee assessments undertaken (20% up on last season).

37. What didn't go well:

a) Numbers of referees trained by ARURS significantly down compared to previous seasons – attributable to factors beyond ARURS's control.

b) Referee feedback from teams continues to be far too low.

38. Fixtures. A total of 587 fixtures were appointed to over the season with 152 (126 in 15/16) referee assessments undertaken by match observers; a 20% rise on the previous season. There were 28 promotions below Level 7 of which 4 are now eligible for the Army Senior list (L7-5). Two ARURS referees are now graded at L5 and one at L4 with all three therefore eligible to referee the IS fixture between the RN and RAF in the 17-18 competition. As ever, feedback from Unit teams is critical to referee development and there continues to be too few submissions; a common trend. Units are once again encouraged to make the effort to complete this process as they will be the ultimate benefactors.

39. Training. 32 new referees completed the L2 training course, a drop of 70% from the previous 3 seasons. This significant drop is directly attributable to the new RFU mandated process for course loading and is mirrored across civilian societies too. Discussions are taking place with the RFU and ARU RDO to identify ways that this situation can be improved.

40. External Highlights. Of particular note is that Matt Duncan has undertaken his second World Rugby appointment for the fixture between Scotland and Italy on 18 Mar 17 as part of the To5 led by Nigel Owens (Wal). Jimmy Fraser was also appointed to referee the Scottish National BT Bowl Semi Final on 25 Mar 17 and won the "Referee of the Year Award" from the Highland Rugby Referees Association. Iain Kiy has been selected as part of the South West Group of referees.

41. Recognition. In the past 12 months ARURS members have been nominated for a number of awards within their own societies and the RFU. Claire McCarron received a nomination to attend a RFU President's Luncheon for her services to the game for both ARURS and Warminster RFC and the whole appointments team were recognised at the RFU Presidents Awards as one of the top three nominations

in the “People Power Referee” category.

42. 2017-18. Moving forward to this season, the Executive Committee focus remains on developing junior referees (L8-Probationer) for the future, with support on the side lines from those more experienced. In addition, developing a plan to increase numbers of new referees is at the forefront of the training team’s efforts; we rely heavily on new match officials to ensure that teams of three are provided to Corps and Premiership fixtures whilst still delivering match officials to the community leagues.

43. In summary, appointments of match officials will continue on from last season seamlessly and this season’s challenge will be overcoming the training processes of the RFU model. Are there any questions on the Army referee Society?

ITEM 6: DISCIPLINE UPDATE

46. Major Ratts Rattenbury, Chairman of ARU Discipline briefed the AGM.

47. Season 16-17 – Red Card Incidents. There were 29 Red Cards issued during the Season 16-17 for the following incidents with a total of 77 weeks of sanctions issued by 18 Panels using 23 different panel members. This is a high number of panel members compared to other CBs and reflects our own specific circumstances and geographic laydown. We also have 3 military panel members that regularly sit on civilian RFU CB discipline panels, thus ensuring cross moderation and closer working links with the RFU. We now also have a working link with Gareth Graham, a permanent RFU Panel Chairman. He is a barrister and also works with 6 Nations and European Professional Club Rugby (formerly the Heineken Cup) and is available on call to assist us with high profile or contentious charges.

- a) 10.4 m 2 x Yellow Cards – 8
- b) 10.4 e Punch or Strike – 7
- c) 10.4 a/g Dangerous Tackling/Charging – 6
- d) 10.4 s/m Match Official Abuse – 4
- e) Rule 5.12 – 3 (non-playing offences, 2 of which were MOA related)
- f) 10.4 b Stamping – 1

48. In comparison this is an increase from last season but this may be attributed to both an increase in tempo and also the World Rugby emphasis on upgrading of contact with the head area. The trend that did cause concern though was the rise of “Match Official Abuse” charges. Not only is this of concern in its own right but it is also a “corporate failure” by those who have failed to meet the Army’s Values and Standards (CDRILS). In order to address this there is an ARU CB Memorandum with an additional 2 weeks to be added to any sanction for this offence. The RFU have been informed about this and have supported our action. They have also told us of at least 2 other CBs that have taken similar action.

49. Season 17-18 – So far this season we have had one Red Card incident for 10.4 e Dangerous Tackling (attracted a one week sanction). We have also conducted a panel on behalf of D&W CB both to maintain working links with other CBs and also because it was a soldier who had been sent off!

50. PLEASE GET THE MESSAGE OUT TO PLAYERS TO PLAY WITHIN THE LAWS AND NOT TO LOSE IT AT THE WRONG MOMENT!

51. Playing Whilst Suspended. Reg 19.5.2 states that:
“A Player ordered off may not take part or be selected for any match until his case has been dealt with by an RFU or Constituent Body Disciplinary Panel.”

Corps / Unit
Rugby Officers

- d) Director Community Rugby – Col J Cook OBE
- e) RFU Council Member – Col J Cook OBE
- f) Chairman Discipline / Governance – Maj R Rattenbury
- g) Director Academy – Lt Col J Kennedy
- h) Chairman Masters – Col S Fitzpatrick MBE
- i) Director of Finance – Mr T King
- j) Director of Women’s Rugby – Maj C Maxwell
- k) Director of Senior Rugby – Col A Griffiths OBE
- l) Non-Executive Director – Mr A Leach
- m) Non-Executive Director – Lt Col D Rutherford
- n) Non-Executive Director – Ms Brenda Hobday

Carried 100%

63. 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 G Malec
- d. Chairman Coaching – Capt C Chudleigh
- f. Chairman of Premiership – Col F Ross
- g. Senior Medical Advisor – Col S McQueeney

Carried 100%

All

ITEM 7 - QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

64. Questions from the floor - There were no questions from the floor.

WB highlighted the work to be undertaken by the ARU Board on the Strategic Plan and the requirement to grow Women’s Rugby, Match Officials and Coaching development. He briefed on the AGM on the vision to grow the Army v RAF match and that everything the ARU strives to achieve should be linked to both the Constitution and Charter. Lastly he highlighted the ever increasing for willing volunteers and any person wishing to become involved with the ARU should in the first instance contact the ARU COO.

ITEM 8 - ANY OTHER BUSINESS

65. There being no further business the meeting closed at 1542hrs.

Annex A to
ARU AGM Dated
September 2017

Rank / Title	Initial	Surname	Unit	Appointment	Voting Member
Mr P	P	Allison	ARU		N
Lt	J	Bambridge	1 YORKS	Rep	Y
SSgt	D	Bates	Royal Signals	Rep	Y
Capt	C	Bentley	7 Para RHA	Rugby Officer	Y
Lt Col	M	Beynon	Infantry	Chairman	Y
Maj Gen	W	Bramble	ARU		N
SSgt	L	Brimble	1 RHA	Rep	Y
Maj Gen	S	Burley	ASCB	Director	N
Mrs	I	Camfield	ARU		N
Mr	D	Chapman	ARU MS	Life Vice President	N
Lt Col	J	Cook	ARU		N
Maj	C	Crosby	AMS		Y
	D	Curvin	MAB 8	Coach	N
Capt	M	Fetters	101 Engr Regt	Rugby Officer	Y
Lt Col	S	Fitzpatrick	ARU		N
Mr	C	Fowke	ARU		N
Miss	K	Fowke	ARU		N
Col	R	Frazer	ARU		N
Lt Col	A	Geary	RLC	Rep	Y
Col	A	Griffiths	ARU		N
Ms	B	Hobday	ARU		N
Maj	M	Hodge	ARU		N
Lt	C	Hughes	4 SCOTS	Rugby Officer	Y
Capt	J	Inving	INT CORPS	Secretary	Y

Sgt	B	Isherwood	3 RSME Regt		N
Lt Col	A	Jackson	AMS	Director	N
Lt	N	Jackson	39 Engr Regt	OIC Rugby	Y
SSgt	D	Jarman	3 RSME Regt		N
WO2		Johnson	8 Trg Bn REME	Coach	Y
Lt Col	J	Kennedy	ARU		N
Mr	A	King	ARU		N
Mr	A	Leach	ARU		N
2Lt	SA	Littlejohn	19 Regt RA	Rugby Officer	Y
Lt Col	G	Malec	ARU		N
WO1	T	McCabe	ARU MS		N
WO2	M	McLay	22 Engr Regt	Rugby Officer	Y
Maj	M	Monier-Williams	UKAFR		N
Maj	J	O'Mara	AGC	Secretary	Y
	L	Parker	3 RSME Regt	Rugby Officer	Y
Capt	D	Pugh	12 Regt RA	Team Player	Y
	S	Rankin	ARU	ARURS	N
Maj	R	Rattenbury	ARU		N
Lt Col	D	Rutherford	ARU		N
Maj	T	Smith	RE	Rugby Officer	Y
Mrs	C	Stannett	IMS		N
Lt Col	P	Stannett	ARU		N
Maj	D	Tickner	5 Regt RA	President	Y
Maj	R	Wade	ARU		N
Col	D	Wakefield	ARU	ARURS	N
Lt	T	Yaxley	2 Mercian	Rugby Officer	Y