



Sittingbourne RUFC

Est 1976

Gore Court Cricket Club, The Grove, Key Street,
Sittingbourne Kent ME10 1YT

Agenda - AGM of Sittingbourne RUFC 2023-2024 Season

Tuesday 28th May 2024 at Gore Court Sports Club at 8pm

1. **Welcome by Club President**
2. **Apologies**
3. **Minutes of 2022-2023 AGM**
4. **Chairman's Report**
5. **Election of Officers**

The existing Executive Committee members are proposing to change the exec committee structure and personnel.

On the next page is a proposal for how the Exec Committee would like to change the structure and remit of the committee to aid better focus on the Club's current structure and share the workloads for the new development. This will be voted on the night of the AGM.

The President, Vice Chair and Treasurer are happy to remain in post for a further year. If anyone would like to stand against these position - please notify David Hall, interim secretary, by email if you wish to do so, this must be prior 14th May.

We are proposing the confirmation of David Hall to the post of Secretary. Any further nominations need to be submitted prior to the 14th May.

6. **Club Captain**

The current Club Captain is standing down. Nominations, Proposers and Seconders are permitted in advance of the meeting by email to David Hall on the attached form.

7. **Coaches/Playing Report**
8. **Presentation of the Balance Sheet and agreement to ratify at year end.**
9. **Any proposals to be considered by the AGM**

Any member wishing to make a proposal which needs to be considered by and voted on by the membership should notify David Hall (secretary@srufc.com) by email using the attached form.

Please note that nominees, proposers and seconders must be paid up members of SRUFC.

10. **Sittingbourne Rugby Union Football Club Ltd update**
11. **Appointment of Vice Presidents –**
12. **Any Other Business**



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Current Structure:

Position	Current Post Holder	Re-standing?	Nomination	Proposer	Second
President	Roger Down	Yes			
Chair	Chris Nutley	No			
Vice Chair	Bob Broderick	Yes			
Treasurer	James Fassenfelt	Yes			
Secretary	Interim		David Hall	Chris Nutley	Roger Down
Club Captain	Paul Prett	No			

Proposed Structure:

Position	Current Post Holder	Re-standing?	Nomination	Proposer	Second
President	Roger Down	Yes			
Chair			James Hobson	Chris Nutley	Roger Down
Vice Chair (Current Club)	Bob Broderick	Yes			
Vice Chair – (Development)			Chris Nutley	Lucy Griffin	David Hall
Treasurer	James Fassenfelt	Yes			
Secretary	Vacant		David Hall	Chris Nutley	Roger Down
Club Captain	Paul Prett	No	Stephen Jeffery	Chris Nutley	Sean Talbot

Please vote all other positions are appointed via executive committee.

Exec Committee Change Proposal

Proposals Outline – Additional Vice Chair Role

Proposal from the exec committee is to add an additional Vice Chairman, this role will entail mentoring the new chairman and ensuring that all the background compliance work for the new development is ready in time for go-live. Will allow sharing of the looming workload including managing the recruitment and set up of the business side of the new club, including the bar, catering, events, and sponsorship. This is a crucial aspect of our long-term sustainability in our new home. Chairman will focus on all youth rugby with the existing Vice Chair focusing on current set up Men's and Women's.

- Proposals perceived benefits – Succession plan, better focus on the club, shared workload.
- Proposer – Chris Nutley Second -Bob Broderick



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PROPOSAL TO SRUFC AGM 2023/24

Proposal Outline

Proposal perceived benefits

Proposer _____

Seconder _____



Annual Chair's Report

As we approach our 49th year of existence and my own 24th of being on the Committee, rugby numbers remain low across the board despite the continued success of women's rugby. New tackle laws introduced have started to bed in and the initial results suggest this did not impact negatively on rugby numbers as feared.

My thanks to the coaches, volunteers, players and committee members for their contributions and it is time to announce that I will be stepping down as chairman. I wish to take on a new (Background) Vice-Chairman role to support the new Chairman and the development of the new club facilities and business. I am still very excited for the future of the club and urge the members to participate and commit to its growth and success.

Achievements

As chairman I would like to highlight the following achievements of the club in the past season:

- Both senior teams finished in decent positions in their respective leagues, with both teams finishing higher than expected after talking about relegation all season.
- The social media revitalised and new website launched,
- Held Kent Mini festival on site, the first in many years.
- The Newsletter was reintroduced and kept the members informed and engaged.
- The School programme was excellently managed and promoted rugby and the club to the next generation of players.
- We managed to resurrect a mini age group, U11's (thanks Steve) and successful combine the U15-16's to keep them playing rugby,
- The Ladies team was supported by dedicated coaches and volunteers and showed potential for future growth.

Challenges

As Chairman it would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the following challenges that the club faced in the past season:

- Volunteer recruitment started successful at the beginning of the season, but tapered off towards the end, leaving some open positions.
- Some long-serving members, including the club captain, the second team captain and the third team captain, decided to stand down from their roles, creating a leadership gap.
- The chairman also will be stepping down after changed jobs and was no longer around in the week, making it difficult to balance his time between the club and his family.
- Numbers within several mini and youth teams remain low, we need a concerted effort from all to increase numbers.
- Women's and men's numbers are also low, again more focus and effort of recruitment and retention is a must for next season.

Opportunities

There remain the following opportunities that the club had for the next season:

- Recruitment – we need more new players, more coaches and volunteers to strengthen the teams and the club. We have a lot to shout about.
- Volunteers – many hands make light work, the more people taking even parts of roles and tasks the easier the of the club becomes,



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- Improve the performance and image of the club – we need to be more visible within the community engaging and promoting whenever we can. Expanding profile of the club will also aid fundraising and sponsorship activities.
- Develop the new club business side to ensure long-term sustainability and success of our club.

Conclusion

I would like to express my pride and gratitude for leading the club and his confidence and excitement for the future of the club. I ask the members to support me in his transition and to give their full backing to the new Chairman. I encourage the members to spread the word about the club, invite your friends and family to join, volunteer any spare time, support the events and initiatives, and to share their ideas and feedback.

Finally I would like to thank the members for their support and loyalty, and wish them well for the next season.



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Senior Report 2023/2024 Season

1st XV finished 4th in Counties 3: P 18, W7, D 1, L 10. Points for 360, Points against 438

2nd XV finished 4th in Kent Rural B: P20, W 11, D 0, L9. Points for 481, Points against 489

2023/24 has been a very successful season on the pitch for both teams with the 1st XV finishing in its highest position for many years which is a fantastic effort from everyone involved especially with the introduction of some big teams in the league. Both performances against TJ's stand out along with the run of games towards the end of season.

The 2nd XV had an up and down season but finished respectively in 4th place with big wins against Vigo 2's, Weaving and away at Ashford Barbarians alongside other good performances.

Good to see some new and old faces this season and even better to see some of our Academy making their senior debuts with one becoming a fixture in the 1st XV.

With that being said, it's also been an extremely challenging season for myself and the captains due availability. This is down to how rugby has changed over the last couple of seasons with many clubs struggling with player availability, some clubs locally losing their 2nd XV's altogether and others choosing to drop out of the league structure due to this. Sittingbourne has had to forfeit games due to lack of availability for the first time under my tenure

Recruitment is key to the continued success of our Club, and this has to become our focus during the off season



Women's and Girls' Report AGM 2024

As we reflect on this season for our women's and girls team, it's essential to acknowledge both our achievement and challenges we've faced.

Attendance and Recruitment:

The season began positively, with approx. 12 women regularly attending Wednesday night training sessions. However, despite initial enthusiasm, we encountered difficulties retaining both girls and women due to two main reasons:

1. Introduction of tackle training: As we began to introduce more tackle training, we observed a decline in numbers. It became evident that some participants were not yet ready for or comfortable with this aspect of the sport.
2. Team formation challenges: With decreasing numbers, we faced challenges informing any team across different age ranges. This led some players to seek opportunities with other clubs already fielding teams in their age ranges.

Recruitment Initiatives:

To address these challenge and encourage new members, we have taken proactive steps:

- *RFU 'Love Rugby' Campaign:* We have signed up for the RFU 'Love Rugby' campaign and are organising a recruitment evening on Wednesday 5th June. This event will provide an opportunity for anyone interested in joining to meet the team, coaches, and ask any questions. Additionally, we will be running a four-week programme every Saturday, starting 22nd June to 13th July. While the campaign primarily targets girls, it will be open and advertised to both women and girl.
- *Sunday Touch Training:* To further aid recruitment and retention, we have introduced Sunday training sessions focusing on touch training. This is designed for those who may not be ready for or interested in contact training. Wednesday sessions will continue to focus on contact training during the season, providing options for players in the future who are at different stages of their rugby journey.
- *Social Media:* We are currently working on ramping up our social media presence to encourage new players to join us for the upcoming season. Stay tuned as we'll be using all platforms, including TikTok, to advertise and entice players. Keep an eye out for new engaging content, behind-the-scenes glimpses, and fun challenges designed to showcase the excitement of rugby and the fantastic community spirit of our club.

Looking Ahead

While this season has presented significant challenges, we remain optimistic about the future. We are hopeful that the upcoming Women's Rugby World Cup, being hosted in England next year, will provide exciting opportunities for our club. There is a programme which involves close collaboration with 'Red Roses' and grassroots clubs in the lead-up to the World Cup. We are hopeful that this could open doors for us and further enhance our growth and development.

In conclusion, I want to extend my gratitude to all our player, volunteers, supporters and especially our coaches. It is through your commitment that we continue to grow and strengthen our women and girl's section.



Mini's Report

The mini section this season has had many positive aspects and some areas where we have identified growth or improvement.

- First of all the majority of feedback from coaches, parents and children has been extremely positive, with children enjoying themselves and having fun throughout the season.
- This year has seen an increase in festivals being held by other clubs which has allowed the children and coaches to visit various clubs and play against teams that they may not normally meet throughout the season.
- Off the back of this coaches have formed relationships with the age group coaches, arranging fixtures between the clubs additional to the prearranged ones at the beginning of the season and created relationships with the clubs which would not normally of happened.
- The club has formed a strong relationship with Dartford Valley, hosting their minis section when they did not have the space at their ground and in return they have hosted special events with our teams playing evening matches on the floodlit pitches, creating an experience the children and parents have thoroughly enjoyed.
- The club and minis section has continued to build its relationship with the Kent RFU and hosted the U7's festival in which 25 teams attended Sittingbourne's ground. The festival was well received not only by Kent but the clubs that attended with a huge amount of positive feedback, again building and improving connections.

We have found, like many other clubs, that recruitment has been a struggle. Our under 11 section does not have enough players to field a team but has been linking well with other clubs and our under 10's. We have identified this as an issue and a separate subcommittee is being formed to improve on how we deal with recruitment. We would also like to improve on the number of girls that attend and this is something as an entity the club are looking at. George Catlin has organised school tournaments where we were hoping we could also build on our relationships and recruitment of players, but also been well received in the local community.

We have been able to offer training in some select areas, for example First Aid, where we have now doubled the numbers of qualified first aiders within the club at mini & junior level. However, we have struggled for courses from the RFU. With few courses available locally and a high level of applications makes it difficult to get on the courses requested. We do have two coaches in the middle of their Level 2 coaching qualification with other coaches eager to attend when available. There has also been a refereeing course which is being attended to assist with improvement and offer the children a better coaching experience.

All in all a very positive season and a lot for us to be proud of as a club, we are continually striving to improve, with progressing the coaches knowledge and giving the children a better experience, forging relationships with other clubs throughout Kent, improving the children's experience with additional festivals and more joint sessions. Next season and over the summer we would like to continue to engage the children with some fun touch sessions which will be open to all, and will help improve on the link between senior teams and junior teams. We are planning for some senior members to attend a Sunday training session and assist with some coaching and we would also like to increase our support of the senior teams, creating some family days where the children can form a guard of honour etc.



Development Update for AGM 2023-4

After seven years and four months, 1100 letters of support for the planning application from our members and others supporting the proposal, four Swale Council Planning Committee meetings, a meeting with Borden Parish Council representatives, visits to another similar Quinns development and numerous consultations with the developers and architects.....

The proposal for a new clubhouse with RFU compliant facilities, 2 new RFU compliant pitches and 75 parking spaces was finally passed by Swale Planning Committee!!!

There are still a number of stages to the actual development. A number of technical requirements will be completed by the developers prior to putting a spade in the ground. Discussions regarding the promised third pitch continue and were not included in this detailed application but it is still part of our overall agreement and has been given outline planning permission along with the whole development.

The works on the pitches are due to start in the spring and the clubhouse in the summer.

In the meantime there's plenty of work to be done –

- Serious fundraising (for which we have appointed a sub committee to be led by Neil Langford, a businessman of some standing and fundraising experience)
- Consideration of how we are going to run the club (in conjunction with the local authorities of course!)
- Legal and contractual compliance matters

To name but 3!

It's not going to happen by magic, so if you truly want a club which is ours for the future, GET INVOLVED!



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Friends of SRUFC Account as at 31 March 2024

	2023	2024
Income		
Transfer from Club Account	20,000.00	
Bus stop + First Try	3,250.00	504.94
French night	500.00	
Ladies night	457.00	
Club dinner auction	1,622.00	283.49
VP lunches	2,172.00	
Poly fundraising	1,728.21	
Mainstream	5,152.00	
Gore Court 50% profit	446.61	
SRUFC fundraising (club dinners, ladies nights)	2,286.50	800.00
Shirt donation sale		200.00
Sale of club ties		150.00
Miscellaneous (includes square charge)	407.50	128.64
Total Income	38,021.22	2,067.07
Expenditure		
Poly fundraising donations Tiny Toes	1728.21	
Mainstream money back to club	5,152.00	
Total Expenditure	6,880.21	
Balance	31,141.61	33,208.68



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING on 5 April 2024

In Attendance:

Roger Down

Chris Nutley

Robert Broderick

James Fassenfelt, Treasurer

Wilma Down, Secretary

The minutes of last year's AGM were agreed.

Given the company is not yet trading, accounts and treasurers report are not in existence. Therefore no club auditors are as yet required.

The treasurer undertook to set up a new bank account for the company with a requirement for 2 signature transactions (any 2 of the 4 directors).

No elections or appointments to director posts were made.

No further business was conducted.

These matters will be reported to the AGM of Sittingbourne Rugby Club.

Signed

Roger Down