



Wetherby RUFC
Grange Park
Old Boston Road
Wetherby
West Yorkshire LS22 5NB



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Wetherby Rugby Union Football Club
13th May 2024**

1.0 Members Present

Honorary Life Members

Brian Aston Mel Jones Nick Oates

Non-Playing Members

Jonathan Hirst	James Marr	Brian Aston	Richard Watts
Marcus Little	Geoff Brown	Cedric Duval	Amy Barker
Kevin Stappard	Martin Henry	Andy Hewitt	Andy Gillighan
Ed Goodall			

Playing Members

Stephen Hoather	Myles Oates	Shannon Oates	Becky Merchant
Jonny Day	Elliott Reid	Evan Woodworth	Bradley Mason
Frazer Land	Will Blakey	Bryn Kitching	Jack Wray
Sean Lally	Cameron Briggs	Callum Lawrence	George Gilbert

2.0 Apologies for Absence

Phillip Miller	Karen Campling	Jennifer England
Phil Hill	Rob Close	Lee Mercer
Ian Arundel		

3.0 Previous Minutes

3.1 Minutes Approved:

Proposed:	James Marr	
Seconded:	Richard Watts	Charlie Whetton

Action:

- Hon Sec to update and issue for signature
- Upload to Pitchero
- Issue to Charities Commission

3.2 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4.0 Treasurer's Report

- See Attachment 1 for draft Report and Accounts
- The Treasurer's Report was approved by those present
- The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for his support over the season
- Thanks to SL for Match Day Programmes – being touted as best in the County
- Not maximising boards as a revenue stream
- 150 Club needs revisiting
- Sponsorship for other expenses – i.e materials etc.



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5.0 Section Reports

5.1 President's Report

Over the last four years the Club has gone from Yorkshire 2 to North East 2. My thanks to all players and the rugby staff – Geoff, Evan etc. The 2nd XV have had a much better season – playing more rugby. The Senior Womens' team is still there (just), and it will be a big job this summer for George, Shannon, Wayne, and Becky.

The Junior Section continues to go from strength-to-strength, sending good quality players up to the senior teams.

Its been another good season for the Club/Grange Park – the Beer Festival, grounds purchase, and plans for the new rugby pitch on the old cricket area.

There has been a downside though – not enough rugby is being played at GP by the 1st XV (22 games), and the 2nd XV (26 games) out of a 34/35 week season.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jonathan Hirst who is stepping down after 8-10 years at the helm

5.2 Director of Rugby's Report

Season Stats:

- Wetherby 1st XV have played 23 fixtures - 22 league and 1 Papa John Cup fixture.
- We won 19 losing to Bradford Salem, Keighley twice and Pocklington.
- We are unbeaten in 2024.

At the beginning of the season the only confirmed information was that the Top side would get promoted. As the season progressed and after the Xmas break it became apparent that a number of Counties 1 sides who finished 2nd had the possibility of promotion with some convoluted equation. We finished the League in 2nd place and fortunately we have been selected as one of those 2nd finishing teams to qualify for promotion to North East TWO the highest position the club has ever been.

Thanks need to go to the team of players who have pulled on a 1st XV shirt. Also to Myles Oates who, having been injured again at Keighley, continued as Club captain and assisted with training sessions and selection of both 1st XV and 2nd XV.

Appreciation also needs to be paid to Evan who has been the sole coach and has kept training interesting and kept numbers up.

Next season will be a challenge but nothing we should be afraid of. We have a good number of young players who have the ability to perform at this level.

The 2nd XV played 19 fixtures of the YRFU Championship Merit League. We knew we had some good players, and this has been evidenced by finishing 3rd against a number of teams that have 1st XV higher up the league tables. Only Pontefract 2nds played more fixtures than our guys.



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This was without the consistent presence of the Captain who deservedly was selected to play for the 1st's.

Also need to recognise the effort put in by Marcus Little.

Appreciation to all the players who put on a shirt.

We need to ensure we have a strong crop of players who want to play 2nd XV rugby as we do not want to lose players due to limited fixtures for the upcoming season. Strength in depth is essential to maintain the club's progress.

We also need to support Evan with an Assistant Coach who has backs knowledge and experience, but we need to identify what expenditure we have for this.

The women's teams have struggled for numbers this year and there was a possibility of folding but with dedication and commitment from Wayne and Taff the team ended the season with a couple of fixtures.

Thanks also to Andy Gillighan for his efforts in getting the Vets out again.

Individual reports are submitted by team captains.

A fantastic season and a positive future.

5.3 1st XV (Women) Captain's Report

Only paid 2 fixtures so far with one to go. Started with 2 x players at the start of the season, we're now up to 9-20 on a regular basis. We need to go back and develop the youth teams. Need to start tapping a few more resources. Not going to quit, are going to keep going. Spirit in the team is 'fantastic'. Momentum is building. Another tournament in 2nd week of June. Currently training with the Vets on a Thursday. Fitness is improving. The standard of rugby is really developing exponentially.

5.4 1st XV (Men) Captain's Report

- Highest ever league position in the history of the Club.
- Secured promotion to NE2 – this is the first time that WRUFC has been out of the Yorkshire Leagues.
- Achieved this by having:
 - The highest number of points scored in the League
 - Joint top points difference
 - Most try-scoring bonus points
 - Highest percentage of homegrown players in 1st XV...probably. We utilised 32 players of which 23 are 'homegrown' (72%)
 - An unbeaten record in 2024...a 10 game unbeaten run of which the final 6 games all secured try scoring bonus points.

5.5 2nd XV (Men) Captain's Report

It's been another excellent season for the Wetherby Men's second team. With quality rugby on the pitch, all-round effort to improve at training and plenty of new faces running out for the red and whites for the first time, we have been able to really compete in our first season in the



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Yorkshire Championship. We've also shown further that when the 2s are strong it really is reflected in first team performances and makes selection meetings very difficult.

On the pitch we've played 19 league fixtures, Winning 9, Drawing 1 and losing 9. A mix of results but it shows what a step up this league is compared to where we were last season. Across the league fixtures we've been able to score an impressive 544 points, demonstrating the boys intent to play an exciting, attacking brand of rugby. Which accumulated in a total of 11 try bonus points, which along with 4 losing bonus points, has been a significant factor in us finishing the season in 3rd place. A fantastic result for all involved.

Frustrations have come from inconsistency in availability, with a significant number of games being played where we haven't had substitutes or even a full 15. I'd like to thank the lads who turned up to those games where we had 13 players and who fought hard for 80 minutes to get a result. I'd also like to thank Marcus Little for running the show on match days and his assistance in chasing availabilities. Thanks also to Adam Shaw, Callum Lawrence and Frazer Land for stepping up as match day Captains and leaders in the group in my absence.

The next season is an exciting one with new players coming up from the colts looking to make an impact, to current players competing for first team spots and the second team aiming to keep moving upwards.

5.6 Junior Section Chairman's Report

Player Numbers:

Minis (up to 12s) and Juniors (13s to 17s) have good numbers and we're starting to see a few new joiners at later age-groups, which is a positive sign. We continue to run one of the largest and most successful Mini Junior sections in Yorkshire. We have around 330 children registered across 12 age-groups from Micros through to Colts, supported by a volunteer pool of around 100 coaches, team managers and first aiders.

Fixtures:

Fixtures arrangements have again been really solid this year. In terms of performance, not all teams keep a record of the scores from the non-cup matches, but verbal reports indicate that, across the piece, we're continuing the Wetherby tradition of winning the vast majority of the games we're playing.

Coaches and first aiders:

There was some cracking work over the summer to ensure everyone had all the relevant documentation in place and there have been a number of first aid courses during the season which have seen really good take up from our volunteers.

We're looking to strengthen and consolidate the coaching journey more over the coming year, with first focus being on bringing available resources together and making them more accessible. We're also looking at how we can encourage more volunteers to do formal coaching and reffing qualifications.

Equipment:

We checked through the training equipment at the start of the year and continue to check it on a periodic basis. We were fortunate to benefit from some remaining money from the RJ7 fund which enabled us to get some new flags and tackle bags.



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Grounds:

The grounds have been outstanding given the weather we've experienced, and this is a testament to the folk who put so much effort in to keeping them to such a high standard. Most clubs have had to cancel big chunks of their calendars through unplayable pitches but we have been in the enviable position of playing all our scheduled home matches – apart from a couple of weekends where it has been too hard through frost.

Kit:

A cross-club working group has sourced a new kit supplier following the demise of Steeden and we're now looking to get a couple of big ticket sponsors on board.

Committee Members:

We've still been fairly light on MJ committee members from the younger age groups but, with nominations for Safeguarding and Rugby Safe leads today, that balance has shifted now, which is a good thing.

We've really struggled with getting traction for an event / socials group; there is something in place to organise the MJ ball but take up may be a concern and we really need to drive something that helps fundraising on a more consistent and continual level.

The MJ Fixtures Secretary has stepped down and we really need to get a new one in place.

Looking Forward:

Aside from the points already mentioned regarding coaching and reffing, there are two key things on the to-do list:

- Firstly, we've been approached by Yorkshire to potentially act as a pilot scheme for girls rugby.
- Secondly, I've received reports of a few interchanges with match officials during the season and it seems an opportune time to work on our approach across the MJ section in readiness for next season, starting with simple things such as replicating the approach taken for seniors' matches.

5.7 Head of Grounds' Report

Challenging year in many ways. Ian and I have both been in for operations. Ed and Joe Mason have done a wonderful job. Weather has been challenging. Pitches have stood up well; Ed will be doing some work on 3rd/4th team pitches. Will be in a good position for the start of the season. Have been a number of incidents of pitches not being marked up...request better comms to ensure everything in place.

5.8 Senior Section Social Secretary's Report

No Update.

5.9 Sponsorship & Marketing Officer's Report

Had a small sub-committee set up over the summer. Up on sponsorship this year, aided by Player Sponsorship. Already got brochure for next season sorted. Online presence has been good. New sponsorship deal with kit provider. Whole of Club kit brand.

SH – Sean and Jack both heavily involved in the Charity Day. £3.5k raised for St.Gemma's Hospice. Fantastic day with support from all elements of the Club. Thanks to both Jack and Sean.



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JH – easily the best programmes in the league, Yorkshire, and the region.

5.10 Grange Park Report

Solars now fitted. Costs were a little higher than expected. Half of cost raised through funds. Jury is out on how much it's going to save us. Monitor for a while to understand how best to use the generated power.

EV chargers. Lots of complications relating to sub-letting grounds on the lease. On pause for the moment. Are also considering putting them in as 'owners'. Jury's still out.

Freehold. Freehold has been purchased. Still looking at raising funds. Not the right structure – need to change legal structure to become an 'incorporated' entity.

Padel now in. Doing very well, very busy. £1000/month in rental. Positive step forward.

KDRFC – discussions are ongoing. Budget of £150k to invest in the Club. Wouldn't start playing until Aug-25. Hoping also to get a grant from Football Foundation for a floodlit 3G pitch.

Boston Spa Hockey Club have also now requested to join us. They have a temporary home for the next 2 seasons. Will need to raise £.5M to build the pitch(es). Would like to see them here. Also play in Red & White.

6.0 Club Chairman's Report

It has been an honour to be Chairman of WRUFC. I have been very proud over the years to talk about the Club, its players, and the progress that has been made.

Rather than account for all of the good things that have happened over my time as Junior then Senior Chairman, I'd like to leave you all with some thoughts about what I feel has helped our progress as a rugby club and as part of Grange Park that will, maybe, help fuel the progress in this transition to a new leadership team.

Play with Purpose: Mantra No.3

Teams at clubs, whether it be on or off the pitch, need to work on the basis of a shared goal, good communication, compromise, and the ability to see another person's perspective. Never more so is this more important than across Grange Park. GP is US! We have been the driving force, but football have a new leadership group that are trying to push through change and they are doing more to pull their weight from a GP perspective. Pull them towards is rather than push them away...we can't survive financially in this fantastic facility without them.

Pass the Ball: Mantra No.5

I am proud that we have a wide range of volunteers with whom we've been able to engage. From the dozen or so on the main Committee, to the 100s of parents who help out each weekend, and to the 100s of volunteers at the Beer Festival. Success isn't possible without everyone taking some ownership of something. Steve Hoather deserves a special mention.

Dream Big: Mantra No.7

We thought we were dreaming big when we set Yorkshire 2 as a goal, and then Yorkshire 1 followed, and then NorthEast 2. Continue to dream big. Ambition is the fuel for this Club. Success



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drives success and forces action. Be ambitious off the pitch too. We cannot stand still, the Club needs to evolve. We need to push boundaries and stretch ourselves: we need to own this land – a successful re-application to the Community Ownership Fund is critical. Bringing senior football to GP – the ethos of the Rugby Club needs to be wider than just rugby; it needs to be about supporting the growth of grass roots sport in Wetherby. We will all be stronger together.

7.0 Membership Subscriptions

Discussion was held in relation to Membership fees, and it was agreed that Membership fees would remain unchanged

Proposed: James Marr
Seconded: Steve Hoather

Non-Players	Cost
Vice President	£100
Social	£50
Volunteers ¹	Free
Players	
Senior Women	£33
Senior Men	£66
Senior Men Concession	£33
Minis & Juniors (1/2/3+ Players)	£100 / £150 / £160
Micros (1/2/3+ Players)	£50 / £75 / £80

Agreement was also reached by the GCM that match fees and playing kit would be managed by the Senior Sections and, wherever possible, the burden to the player would be reduced through the securing of 'Player Sponsorship'.

8.0 Club Constitution & Rules

Hon Sec proposed the following change to the Club's Rules:

Section 2.4 Membership

A list of applications for membership (not including those applying for Mini-Junior Membership) shall be provided to the General Committee, by the Honorary Secretary, for review and final approval.

Hon Sec proposed that this item was no longer relevant and, therefore, be removed from the Club's Rules

Seconded: JH
Vote: Unanimous

Action: Hon Sec to update Club Rules and issue for signature prior to distribution.

6.0 Elections

¹ Subject to completing all RFU Safeguarding and Headcase compliance requirements.



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6.1 Club Trustee / Officer Roles

Position	Elected	Proposer / Second
Club Chairman	Richard Watts	Jonathan Hirst / Mel Jones
Vice Chairman	Stephen Hoather	Jonathan Hirst / James Marr
Honorary Secretary ²	James Marr	Jonathan Hirst / Stephen Hoather
Honorary Treasurer	Myles Oates	Jonathan Hirst / James Marr
Mini & Junior Section Chairman	Simon Clutterbuck	Cedric Duval / James Marr
Mini & Junior Section Secretary	Cedric Duval	Simon Clutterbuck / James Marr

6.2 Non-Trustee Officer Roles

Position	Elected	
Director of Rugby	Geoff Brown	James Marr
1 st XV (W) Captain	Rebecca Merchant	Shannon Little / James Marr
1 st XV (M) Captain	TBC	
2 nd XV (M) Captain	Bryn Kitching	James Marr
Discipline Secretary	Shannon Little	Richard Watts / James Marr
Club Safeguarding Officer	Amy Barker	Simon Clutterbuck / Cedric Duval
Head of Grounds	Martin Henry	Richard Watts / James Marr
Fixtures Secretary (Snr Women)	George Stocker	
Fixtures Secretary (Snr Men)	Richard Watts	James Marr / Andy Hewitt
Fixtures Secretary (M&J Section)	TBC	
Social Secretary (Snr Women)	TBC	
Social Secretary (Snr Men)	TBC	
Social Secretary (M&J Section)	TBC	
Rugby Safe Officer	Karen Leeder	Simon Clutterbuck / Cedric Duval
Grange Park Representative	Mel Jones	Richard Watts / James Marr
Committee Member 1	Andy Hewitt	James Marr / Richard Watts
Committee Member 2	Ed Goodall	James Marr / Richard Watts
Committee Member 3	Will Blakey	Stephen Hoather

² It was also agreed that Mel Jones would assist Hon Sec as required.



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Hon Sec commented on the need to spread the load more evenly. He suggests that the following roles were priority for co-opting:

- Social Media / Communications Officer
- Data Officer
- Systems Manager

6.3 New Honorary Life Members

The Chairman, on behalf of the Committee, presented a nomination for Honorary Life Membership to be conferred to:

Geoff Brown.

The nomination was unanimously agreed by all present.

7.0 Any Other Business

Mel Jones proposed that this meeting should endorse a delay of any decision of any other sports clubs joining GPSC until such time that we have full disclosure of any proposals in respect of grounds, clubhouse (incl. any extensions or alternative buildings), GP voting rights, and financial considerations. He also proposes that as part of this process WRUFC puts together its own development plan.

Proposed: Mel Jones

Seconded:

DRAFT

Wetherby RUFC 2023-24 AGM Treasurer's Update



2023-24 Draft Profit and Loss



	<u>Profit and Loss</u>	Income	Expense	Net 23/24	22/23
a	Membership and Player Sponsors	£36,782	(£300)	£36,482	£32,232
b	Senior Kit and Sponsors	£7,200	(£9,413)	(£2,213)	(£8,676)
	Junior Kit and Sponsors	£20	(£830)	(£810)	
	Other kit and Sponsors	£942	(£861)	£81	
c	Match day Programmes and Gate	£3,765	(£1,624)	£2,141	£858
d	Pitchside Boards and Signage	£250	(£1,236)	(£986)	(£1,063)
e	Sportsmans Dinner	£2,169	(£2,200)	(£31)	£2,610
	MJ End of Seasons	£644	(£1,624)	(£980)	£512
	Senior end of Season	£0	£0	£0	(£695)
	Other social	£182	(£805)	(£623)	
	150 Club	£470	£0	£470	
f	Other Income	£6,305	(£594)	£5,711	£3,302
g	Misc.	£296	(£4,278)	(£3,982)	£3,087
h	Rent	£0	(£13,000)	(£13,000)	(£14,933)
	GP Development	£0	(£3,545)	(£3,545)	
	Travel	£423	(£1,275)	(£852)	(£621)
i	Equipment	£0	(£4,581)	(£4,581)	(£1,498)
	International tickets	£8,172	(£8,012)	£160	(£2)
	Coaching	£0	(£7,790)	(£7,790)	(£6,460)
	Physio	£0	(£3,531)	(£3,531)	(£3,746)
j	Grounds	£0	(£3,429)	(£3,429)	(£22,205)
k	Clubhouse Development	£0	(£930)	(£930)	£1,681
		£67,619	(£69,859)	(£2,240)	(£15,617)

- a Membership:** Increased membership income due to addition of player sponsors
- b Kit and Sponsors:** Cost of playing and off-field kit, offset by sponsorship income
 - Senior: 1st and 2nd XV playing ikit, warm up kit and polos
 - Junior: Cost primarily shorts and socks top up
 - Other: Cost is subs and coaches jackets, income is selling ties and other kit throughout season
- c Match Day Programmes:** Programme sponsors c£2k income, remainder of income is gate fees and raffle. Expense is cost of programmes.
- d Pitchside Boards:** Board income offset by productions costs
- e Socials**
 - **Sportsmans Dinner:** Cancelled so all refunded
 - **End of Season:** Ongoing currently, main do in a few weeks, expect profitable
 - **Other:** Curryoke, DJ costs, charity day etc..
- f Other Income:** Pitch hire, primarily to Yorkshire rugby
- g Misc:** Other expenses (GoCardless fee, First aid course costs, Poppy donation etc..)
- h Rent & GP Dev.:** Paid to GP for land/clubhouse rental and overhead contribution
- i Equipment:** Primarily training equipment (balls, bottles etc..) and £800 Veo cost
- j Grounds:** Grass mowing, line paint. Included building stand in PY
- k Clubhouse Development:** Summer work day costs (skip hire, paint etc..)

2023-24 Cash Position



	Name	Details	Balance B/F	Income	Payments	Balance C/F
Juniors	'WETHERBY RUFC -	558111-04476980	£1,902.31	£127,675.51	(£128,141.40)	£1,436.42
Seniors	'WBY RUGBY U.F.C.	558111-03510417	£8,837.02	£2,091.55	(£8,722.00)	£2,206.57
150	'WTHBY RUFC 150 CLB	558111-03543609	£2,607.24	£469.50	(£2,600.00)	£476.74
			£13,346.57			£4,119.73

Tour accounts:	Balance B/F	Total Income	Total Expense	Balance C/F
Total Ringfenced	£8,151.56	£62,927.56	(£67,685.64)	£3,393.48

Net Cash	£5,195.01	£726.25
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Unpaid Programme	£500.0
Pitchside Boards	£375.0
Papa John Bus	£300.0
End of Season	£1,500.0
Anticipated Cash Income	£2,675.0

Net Position	£3,401.25
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- Currently, the Club has £4.1k in cash
- Of this, £3.4k is 'ringfenced' for Junior Sections
- The Club currently has £726 available cash
- Adding back some anticipated cash receipts, anticipated net cash position at year end will be c£3.4k