**BANGOR RUGBY FOOTBALL AND CRICKET CLUB**

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 3rd JULY 2018 IN THE CLUBHOUSE AT UPRITCHARD PARK AT 8:00pm**

1. **Attendees:** Harry Blair, John Boyd, David Bradford, Stephen Burns, Glenn Burton, Allan Chapple, Charlie Clegg,Jamie Clegg, Roger Clegg, John Doherty, Gerry Drennan, Norman Gault, Chris Harte, Tony Heffernan, Geoff Johnston, Ken Johnston, Jonny Melville, Ian McBurney, John McClintock, John McMaster, Dick Milliken, Seb Mingout, David Morrow, Les Nelson, Mark Vance, Jonny Watson, Harry Williams.
2. **Apologies:** Ricky Armstrong, Roger Corbett, John Elder, Chris Escott, Bill Hichens, Jim Lacy, Bob Magee, Garth Maxwell, Denis Neill, Mark Thallon, Neill Thallon, Joe Upritchard, Roden Ward.
3. **Chairman’s Business:**

The Chairman, *John McMaster*, asked everyone to stand for a minute’s silence in memory of former Club President John Langtry, who passed away in November 2017.

1. **Notice of Meeting and Previous AGM Minutes:** *J Melville* expressed his concern that he had not received notification of the AGM and had only found out the day previously through another member. *J McMaster* apologised and explained that, in this transition year between sending out correspondence by post and electronically, this was most likely due to errors in the membership email database. *N Gault* also explained that Management Committee were aware that there might be teething problems and so posts about the AGM had been placed on the Rugby and Cricket websites for the benefit of members who hadn’t received email notice. These posts also encouraged those affected to contact the club with their correct details using the link on the rugby section website. Notice of the Meetingand Minutes of the AGM held on Tuesday 4th July 2017 were then adopted on a proposal by *R Clegg*, seconded by *D Morrow*.
2. **Matters Arising:** None
3. **Honorary Secretary’s Report:**

Prior to consideration of this report, *J McMaster* thanked *Norman Gault* for his support and efforts throughout the year, in particular in driving the recent achievement of Clubmark NI Accreditation by Rugby Section. He mentioned that this is an essential criterion for eligibility for government funding which, in conjunction with the forthcoming Club Strategic Plan, is timely considering that the Club will be celebrating 50 years at Upritchard Park in the 2019-20 season. There being no questions on the Hon Secretary’s Report, this was adopted on a proposal by *G Johnston*, seconded by *J Boyd*.

**7.0 Honorary Treasurer’s Report:**

*J McMaster* thanked *Stephen Burns* for his meticulous work in his first year as Hon Treasurer in what was a very successful year financially. *Stephen* then presented the Summary Financial Statement for 2017-18, copies of which were circulated to attendees. The Club made a small profit of ~ £3k on an overall expenditure of ~ £205K. On **income**, while rentals were down by £2k, the bar exceeded budget by making a £17k profit on a gross profit of 53%, reflecting well on the work of *Alison Johnston* and her bar staff and also on the support of members in supporting and enjoying this facility. Both Rugby and Cricket sections managed their budgets very well, with Rugby achieving a substantial surplus of income over expenditure. Projected budgets for next year will be relying for no Party on the Pitch and it is hoped that this will be compensated for by an increase in members’ use of the bar and a purge on the perennial problem of members’ subscriptions arrears. On **expenditure**, spend on the pavilion was tightly controlled and major savings of £18k were made on the previous year’s grounds expenditure due to the excellent work of the Utilities team coordinated by *Wilson McCloskey* whose machinery maintenance skills have also contributed to lower costs. Some savings have been made by changing utilities and landline providers. Next year’s budget has been set to make a profit of ~ £10k on a projected expenditure of ~ £186k.

There were no questions on the Hon Treasurer’s Report which was then adopted on a proposal by *G Johnston* seconded by *J Boyd.*

**8.0 Amendments to the Club Rules:**

*N Gault* explained the 3 amendments to the Club Rules regarding youth and mini membership categories, and inclusion of the Child Welfare Officer on Cricket Section Committee, as approved by Management Committee. These were adopted on a proposal by *G Drennan* seconded by *J Doherty*.

**9.0 Elections:**

Prior to the election of Officials and Management Committee members for 2017-18, *J McMaster* thanked outgoing President *T Heffernan* for his conscientious and dedicated work as President. *Tony* responded by expressing his thanks to the players for their tremendous effort, especially in light of the sequence of serious injuries in the second half of the rugby season. He also thanked all of the volunteers in the club for their valuable contributions.

On a proposal by *T Heffernan*, seconded by *J Watson, David Morrow* was then duly elected to serve as Club President for 2018-2019.

**Club President: David Morrow**

The new President reiterated the thanks of the Chairman to *Tony* for the various roles he carried out so well in the last year, including that of Club President. *David* then stated how much of an honour it was for him to be President. He mentioned how, as a schoolboy, he helped pick stones from the pitches when Upritchard Park was developed 50 years ago and how much it meant to him and the Club that Joe Upritchard was still active at the Club. He also thanked the various Club Committees for their good work over the last year, and especially mentioned *Aileen Corbett* and her team for the excellent catering provided for the rugby lunches and for our own and visiting teams. He reiterated that without players, we would not have a Club, and concluded by wishing all our players an enjoyable and successful year.

**Club Officials and Members of Management Committee:**

Prior to the election of the new Management Committee, *J McMaster* informed the meeting that Jonny Watson had agreed to be nominated for the post of JVP. This completed the nominations for Management Committee for 2018-19. The two unfulfilled posts would be further considered by the new committee. The following were duly elected on a proposal by *R Clegg*, seconded by *L Nelson*.

**Club Chairman: John McMaster**

**Hon Secretary: Norman Gault**

**Hon Treasurer: Stephen Burns**

**Hon Membership Secretary: Sebastian Mingout**

**Chairman of Rugby: Jonny Watson**

**Chairman of Cricket: Chris Escott**

**Grounds Convenor: Wilson McCloskey**

**Pavilion Convenor: Stephen Montgomery**

**Bar Convenor: TBA**

**Social Convenor: TBA**

**Commercial & Development: Mark Thallon**

The following nominees were duly elected as Senior VP and Junior VP respectively for 2018-19.

**Senior Vice-President: Roger Corbett**

**Junior Vice-President: Jonny Watson**

**10.0 Club Auditor:**

*Clive Briggs* was duly reappointed for 2018-19 on a proposal by *S Burns*, seconded by *J McMaster.*

**11.0 Election of Honorary Life Members**

Management Committee had approved the nominations of *Roger Clegg* and *Denis Neill* as Honorary Life members and both were delighted to accept.

Unfortunately, *Denis* could not be present for family reasons. In his absence, *Denis’s* nomination was adopted on a proposal by *G Johnston* seconded by *A Chapple.*

In proposing the nomination of *Roger Clegg*, *R Milliken* first of all congratulated *Roger* on recently becoming a grandfather. He then spoke of *Roger’s* role as the first of the golden generation of Senior rugby players to join Bangor in the transition years between Bangor being a very successful Junior Club in the late 1960s to becoming one of the best Senior clubs in Ulster and Ireland over the next fifteen years. He also felt that it was significant that *Roger’s* son *Jamie* should also be heavily involved in Bangor’s recent second coming to Senior rugby, thereby carrying on a very strong and positive family association with the club. *Roger’s* nomination was then adopted after being seconded by *H Williams*.

In reply, *Roger* spoke warmly of his long association with the Club, the many life-long friendships he had made amongst his peers and the friendships he held with many long since passed club officers and those members of today’s committees with whom he has worked more recently. In accepting what he considered to be a great honour, Roger then wished the current generation of players and officers the very best for the future.

**12.0 Any other business:**

*C Harte* complained that the percentage increase in VP Retired subscription was excessively high and that he also had difficulties in locating this year’s electronic AGM correspondence. *N Gault* replied by stating that the previous 50% reduction in retired categories of membership had been carefully considered by Management Committee in 2016-17 as being too generous. It was decided that it would be fairer to decrease the discount to 30% for all categories of retired members rather than raise fees overall to increase income from member’s subscriptions. This had the benefit of easing the financial pressure on younger VPs and NP members with young families, mortgages and other expenses which the vast majority of retired members, regardless of category, did not face. This proposal was approved at last year’s AGM without objection. It was also pointed out that membership fees in themselves had not been increased for any category of membership for 2017-18. *S Burns* added that the long standing additional 10% reduction in membership fees, which is not mentioned in the Club Rules, had presumably been introduced several years ago when the Club had severe debt and cash flow problems. This is no longer the case with the majority of members paying by Direct Debit over 10 months. Management Committee in 2017-18 considered this as unnecessarily generous and it was therefore withdrawn to provide a further marginal improvement in much needed income from subscriptions.

*C Harte* further suggested that the club could lose some retired VPs because of the level of increase and implied that those registered playing members whose subscriptions for 2017-18 were outstanding as tabled in the Hon Secretary’s Report should be followed up. *C Burns* replied that this has been a long-standing issue within the Club which is why it has been highlighted in the membership Tables in recent years. Management Committee and Cricket and Rugby Section Committees do strive to minimise and eliminate this but it is difficult to manage, especially when year on year player turnover is taken into consideration.

There being no further discussion on retired members subscription fees and no further business, the meeting closed at 8:40pm.

N Gault Hon Secretary BRF&CC