

# Barkers' Butts RFC

77th Annual General Meeting Minutes, Wednesday 3 July 2024

1. Chair of the Committee, Simon Begg, opened the meeting with 36 members in attendance.
2. Apologies for absence were received from Clarissa Reynolds, Ady Price, Chris Kirby, Rebecca Sharman and Sam Finnie joined the meeting through a Teams link.
3. The minutes of the previous AGM were accepted by the floor with no amendments – Proposed: Dave Morris, Seconded: Nicki Linton

4. President Report: Glenn Southwell

Firstly I'd like to start by saying what an honour and privilege it has been to be club president for the last year. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the finer details of how our club runs and being involved in making decisions to make our club a better place on the field and off it.

As a committee, I feel that we have worked more as a group this year with every decision we have made. Special thanks must go to Jo, Jason and Simon for all the hard work that they put into our club. Personally I think the decision to give all players under the age of 16 a free shirt and shorts along with their membership this season is a major step in the right direction for the club.

On the field this season it has been a great success. Obviously with the first team winning the league and producing some great rugby. But it has been done with virtually all homegrown players. As for the women's team it's great to see that they completed their first season of league rugby and managed to get points on the board in the process. The women's team are starting to benefit from players who have graduated from age grade teams at the club, which will only improve the quality of our women's team. 10 players from the Colts played in the seniors. So hopefully we can have a good senior pathway for male and females.

As a parent, my own children are no longer playing on a Sunday morning, which means I have the free time to come and watch our M&J kids. It's fairly obvious that we have lots of talented players coming through the ranks but they all seem to be enjoying whilst they're playing.

I would like to thank our grounds crew for all the hard work they put in behind the scenes. After probably the wettest winter ever, they managed to keep up the maintenance as best as possible, so the teams could get to play when it was right.

Last but not least, I would like to thank George and Mary for being the perfect hosts at our club. I receive lots of compliments regarding George and Mary for the way they welcome people to our club.

Thanks all for your support.

5. 200 Club – Rebecca Sharman

Membership remains strong. Sad event of death of Gordon Davies who put many years into the admin of the 200 Club. Dean Williams also stepped down, again after many years of managing the fund. Rebecca Sharman is also stepping down, Jason Molloy has become a new signatory, Ady Price and Jo Lawson will also become signatories. Payments by standing

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orders are reducing to around 130 people, more paying by Direct Debit.

## 6. Mini & Junior Section – Dave Medcraft

Overall, another positive year for M&J section. Most age groups have large numbers, especially in Mini's where squads are 30+ players. There hasn't been many issues over the season but the poor weather did create problems – thank you to the grounds staff for reducing the impact of the wet weather! There has been a recent issue with Under 18 girls' squad where two coaches have transferred to Kenilworth RFC, taking a large part of the squad with them. Thanks to Coz for supporting the remaining girls and for her efforts to maintain the team. For next season, there will be new coaches for U12 Girls & U6's. Good tour & Mini Festival + girls festival, thank you to all volunteers who helped make these a success. Next season looking at junior festivals too if they can be fitted into the schedule. The Mini Tour is already being organised and there will be a combined Junior Tour.

## 7. Playing Committee – Jack Cosgrove/Emma Sly

Men's: Fantastic season, Tyler & Danny made a great impact helping Jack with coaching, Aine was a great addition to the team. Players were outstanding, best squad in the league and made the coaches job easy. 35 players were used across the season, including some colts. As noted on social media, lots of homegrown talent which is fantastic to see. It was a team effort across the board to gain promotion - thank you to Nick for photos, to Committee for the support, thanks to George, Mary and staff. Looking ahead to next season – different challenge with a different league. Jack Howland, Priesty & Sam Finnie – retiring, thank you. Those players will be hard to replace, even though new players stepping up but everyone will be up for the challenge.

Women's: Good season, came 5<sup>th</sup> in league, fulfilling all fixtures, only 3 teams managed to do this in the league. We have had the first Barkers woman to play for Warwickshire, Milly and a few other players involved in the squad. Julia Schneider represented Barkers in the Gary Street fundraiser, playing against International players. Next season, the Women's Team will stay in NC3, even doing this they are ahead with 5-year plan. Fri night games to be considered, change of rules so can play any time. Couple of U18s are expected to play up, Emma also met with current U18s to offer her support and to confirm the pathway, she reiterated the option of playing up, if suitable and relevant authorisation received. Thank you to sports therapists for keeping players on the pitch.

## 8. Disciplinary – Dave Morris

Lot quieter than previous seasons which is good, 2 red cards in senior (1 was pre-season), 1 colts red, 1 colts coach x 2 red card, 1 junior x red card.

## 9. Grounds crew & buildings – Ady Price

The wetter than usual weather this year has restricted our ability to use the larger tractors for fear of damaging the pitches. However, the upside to this was that Pete Hanger and Mick Silverer

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(supported by other members of the grounds crew) were able to complete some renovations on the old Massey Ferguson tractors, ensuring they will continue to give us useful service for many years to come. This restoration project amongst other things was used as the basis for Pete's nomination for the Warwickshire RFU Groundsman of the year awards, where he was given a runners up award - congratulations Pete. With the club's financial support we were able to invest in a second-hand Verti drain which eliminated the use of external contractors for this process and means it will have paid for itself by the start of the new season. This piece of equipment allows us to aerate the pitches more often which leads to an improvement in the playing surface and also a reduction in the pitch maintenance costs to the club going forward. We also carried out in-house fertiliser spreading this year to reduce the annual costs further. The pitch seeding was completed by Woodwards in May and we would ask that everybody avoids training on the Colts and 4th team pitches until mid-August to allow as much recovery time as possible. We have been successful in our application to the Planting Our Future Scheme which will see the scheme plant circa 300 trees across two areas of the rugby club: The area on the badger field that marks the boundary between the club and the residents of James Dawson Drive and a small section of the area beyond the 4th team pitch (this is to help with drainage in that area) The ground crew (supported by Club Treasurer Jason) also applied and were accepted for, a grant from the Football Foundation's Pitch Maintenance Fund As part of the conditions of this fund application Ady and Pete had to go back to school and complete a Level 1 Grounds Maintenance course! The club will benefit from this funding grant for the next 6 years. The implementation of a couple of projects (The 1st team and training pitch cross bars replacement and the fitting of the awning) have been delayed due to the weather but we hope to conclude these during the close season now the weather is improving. (Helping hands gratefully accepted) Key projects we are looking to progress next year include drainage improvements located at the base of the 2nd team pitch, the rough area beyond the 4th team pitch and the top left-hand area of the badger field. We are also investigating the possibility of implementing rainwater harvesting solutions to reduce the club's water bill, hopefully with potential environmental funding from an external company. We would like to thank the players and coaches for their support of the flag trial we did this year. By bringing in the flags after each playing session, we were able to reduce the breakages from 30 plus down to less than 5 for the season. Also thanks to those club members who collect up and bin the rubbish on the grounds each week as this allows us to spend more time on the maintenance tasks instead of litter picking. We would like to take this opportunity to thank George and Mary for looking after us so well again this year and also thanks to Chris Kirby for the use of his digger. Thanks also to Kev Carey and Mick Silverer for the additional volunteer help they gave us this year and thanks also to the Club Committee for their continued support.

The BBRFC Grounds Crew: Barry Baker, Pete Hanger, Bogdan Zutic, Bob Hobson and Ady Price

### 10. Financial Report - Jason Molloy, Hon Treasurer

Jason noted a correction for the agenda, the Club Accountants is Armstrongs, rather than Weavers (previous name, same accountant Stewart)

Thank you to George, Mary, Sue the Bookkeeper & Stewart the Accountant for their hard work and diligence in helping to keep Barkers' stable, efficient and profitable.

Jason noted from the Annual Accounts that sales of food have increased from 2023/24 which is great however costs have also increased. As a club, we have provided a lot more kit this season, coaching salaries & medical costs have doubled. Heating & lighting has gone

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up slightly but should reduce over the next 2 years with new locked-in deals. Miscellaneous costs = discos, memorial bench, dog security of site. Repairs & renewals have decreased but we have spent funds on potholes, new shutters, boiler repairs – most of these repair costs have come out of Keith Aldridge's Estate. We will be looking to reduce costs where we can next year. Approval of the accounts was proposed by Simon Begg, seconded by Dave Morris, no queries or concerns were noted and the motion was carried.

11. To elect the officers of the club for the ensuing year

- President: Glenn Southwell, proposed by Katie Southwell
- Hon Secretary: Jo Lawson, proposed by Ewan Lawson
- Hon Treasurer: Jason Molloy, proposed by Jo Lawson

These were the only nominations received within the prescribed dates.

12. To elect Vice Presidents.

- No nominations received

13. To confirm any election of Honorary members made by the committee during the preceding year.

- No elections made

14. To elect roles on the committee for the ensuing year:

- Vice President: Chris Kirby, proposed by Tessa Murray
- Rugby Safe Lead: Katie Collins, proposed by Jason Molly
- Safeguarding Officer: Julia Schneider, proposed by Jaime Bray
- Data Officer: Sarah Wilson, proposed by Simon Begg
- Disciplinary Officer: Dave Morris, proposed by Daryl Morris
- Senior Fixture Secretary: Mick Cullinan, proposed by Allan Lawson
- Player retention & development Officer: *nomination received after deadline (Loz Ready) so will be dealt with at next Committee Meeting*
- Social Secretary: no nominations received
- Players Representatives
  - Club Captain: Jake Powell, nominated by Chris Kirby  
Sam Finnie, nominated by Dave Nurse

A closed ballot took place with Jake Powell receiving the most votes and accepting the role of Club Captain

• Members' Representatives

- Membership Secretary: Simon Begg, proposed by Ben Begg
- 200 Club President/Secretary/Treasurer: Glenn Southwell, proposed by Nicky Linton
- Members' Representative: Nicky Linton, proposed by Glenn Southwell

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- Members' Representative: Jake Powell, proposed by Jason Molloy (dependent on Club Captain vote)

As Jake took up the role of Club Captain, this role was left vacant

15. Armstrongs were reappointed as the club accountants.

16. Special resolutions, other motions or business duly proposed in accordance with Rule 8.5.

- Proposal to add a Merchandise Manager/Commercial Manager role to the Committee (Annex A). The Merchandise Manager/Commercial Manager to chair a kit sub-committee with a nominated member from each section of the club (Men, Women, Mini's, Junior Boys (incl Colts), Junior girls) , seconded by Simon & carried with no amendments
- Constitutional rule changes proposed (Annex B) – carried

17. To hear any other relevant matter for consideration of the committee during the ensuing year, but on which no voting shall be allowed.

- Bob Hill queried whether minutes had been sent by post and noted that no copies were available in hardcopy at the meeting. Jo Lawson apologised for no hard copies being available and noted that this would be done for 2025, however routinely documents would only be sent by email although she would ensure a copy was made available publicly in the club (on noticeboard).

18. Presentation of Club Volunteers of the Year Awards.

Volunteer of the year – Nick Browning

Young volunteer of the year – Sam Hewitt

19. Notice of next Annual General Meeting: **2 July 2025, 8pm**