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Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Dalziel Rugby Club

10th June 2024

1. Attendance

Niall McKenzie, Stephen Clowes, Andrew Scott, Jamie Muir, Paul Warnock, David Scott, Fraser McKenzie, David Fleming, Alasdair McGowan, Elaine Neilson, James Burns, Kyle Jeffrey, Daniel Bartlett, Douglas Stewart, Craig Jamieson, Willie Talbot, Roddy Thomson, Vickie Doyle, Callum Croughan, Les Barclay, Kyle Slavin, Daniel Davis, Keith Macdonald, Grant Talbot, Eddy Ferguson, Graham Calder, Les Mitchell, Tom Hamilton, Cammy Harris, Willie Davidson, Josh Greenhorn, Ross Duguid, George Barr, Neil Richardson (35)

2. Apologies

Ian Johnstone, John Mathieson, Ronnie Smith, Jim Paterson, Peter Morton, Bill Samuel, Scott Duguid, John Lowe, Harry Morton, Ian Watson, Ian McLaren, Duncan Morton, John McKenzie, Nikky Devine, Euan Duguid, Rob Neilson, Bobby Martin, Amy Cartwright (18)

3. Opening remarks

Willie Talbot opened the meeting at 7:01pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

4. Approval of the minutes of the 2023 AGM

Proposer: Fraser McKenzie
Seconder: David Scott

5. President's Report

Willie Talbot presented the report.

It's been our centenary year. The first six months were fairly entertaining. We started off with a couple of games, one against Uddingston to make our Centenary against them. Then we had the game against Kilmarnock when the SRU president was here. Both were tremendous events, and it was a great night, great performance. We beat them a bit more comfortable than we beat them in the 1924.

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The game against Kilmarnock, that saw Kelso Yuile, our oldest living club captain came up, he lead the teams out, then we had the the pipe binds and the kids uh there. And as a result of that, Kelso wanted to do something for the club and he's resented the club with a trophy it's going to be called the President's Cup that will be awarded by the president each year to the person who in the opinion of the president has done most for the club in that particular year, not over the years for that particular season.

There are other events planned We have a game against Penicuik who are also celebrating their centenary year. We're hoping to have a representative game late August, early September before the league start with a side chosen from club members against a representative side with some of the DOs supplying players. Emma Wassel, who's one of the women in Scotland players, her father, David, was actually a contemporary of mine at Dalziel and played with us for a number of years. She was very excited to come, but unfortunately her mother passed away during the Women's Six Nations, but she has said to me that between August and December she'll definitely be here.

It's been a tremendous year, it started last June with lots of meetings at Scott Duguid's house to try and get the centenary program, the centenary video sorted. A lot of time and effort. My thanks to Cammy Harris.

The video that Euan Duguid had commissioned is excellent. It's on YouTube if everybody still wants to see it. It's been seen by thousands of people, and it'll certainly help to promote the club to promote when we go to prospective sponsors.

We've got one of the the best facilities here in Scotland. Grant Talbot told me that John Fletcher, the head of performance for Scottish Rugby Union, says this is by far the best facility in Scotland. The pitches are tremendous, even the bottom pitches are looking fantastic and a relationship with the SRU is getting better.

We've still got another six months of the centenary to go. There are things planned for that, and I know John Mathieson has got some ideas that he's keeping close to his chest just now. Again, thanks very much for the honour of being your President in this our Centenary year. Thank you.

Questions – none

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6. Secretary's Report

Niall McKenzie presented the report.

Thank you for attending tonight. The General Committee has met 8 times since the last AGM. Due to two SRU events, we had to combine the November and December meetings. At the January meeting, it was decided to trial bi-monthly meetings, as so much information is available via email and WhatsApp. This will continue into next season with meetings taking place in "Odd" months. This leaves the "Even" months free for event/issue specific meetings that require more detailed discussions, ie the Youth Festival. I will circulate a meeting schedule for the next season to the incoming committee after this meeting. My attempts at improving meetings continues, with reports sent in and distributed for reading before the meeting.

The senior club has used the following number of players this season:

First XV: 46, with Josh Greenhorn, Andrew Forrest, Euan Harkness, Callum Wilkie and Josh Holmes making their First team debuts this season.

Second XV: 75

Total: 90, of which 61 have played 5 games or more.

We have again had a season with no Dazzlers, but we have now re-entered the Dazzlers into the West Development league. We have been given a full card of fixtures, but we are planning to select fixtures to target to get the team running again.

Discipline, we have had an increase in yellow cards, up to 22 from 19, we have had two red cards, one senior and one Under-18, totalling 6 weeks of suspensions.

We have had 3 out going, and 2 incoming tour requests this year, as well as my first experience of the close time playing regulations. I would encourage all age grade coaches to be aware of the restriction on contact games from the late May holiday weekend, which is in place for player welfare reasons.

The Austin dinner has been booked for the 17th of August, the speaker will be Bill Copeland and tickets are available now.

My thanks to the Executive and General Committee for their work and support over the last 12 months.

Questions - None

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7. Treasurer's Report

Willie Talbot commended Dougal Stewart on his work on the last year. When I was assistant treasurer in the 70s, we only just made 5 figures in turnover, how things have changed in the intervening 50 years.

Douglas Stewart presented the report.

Introduction - The last year was one of high anticipation as we initially planned and then commenced our Centenary year. As Treasurer, this represented a number of new challenges and I am realising, having moved through and beyond Covid in recent years, that there is no such thing as "normal" in managing the finances of a rugby club. The main focus of my role is to support the rugby playing activities of the club, while seeking to ensure its long-term sustainability.

I would like to thank the committee for their support throughout the year with special mention to Ian Johnstone for his expertise, guidance & support.

I have been incredibly impressed by the work that goes on to ensure the continuation of the club's activities.

Balance Sheet - Thanks to the continued support of our members and committee I feel that the club is in a fairly robust financial position at the moment, but one where there are numerous calls for funding which must be balanced accordingly.

For the second year in a row, we have seen a **reduction in overall Bank balances, by almost £2k in the year, to £39k**. In addition to this, we have some £3.0k, net of costs, accrued but not yet spent. This includes items such as Pitch Hire, Travel, Personnel & Merchandise.

Income & Expenditure - I will try to cover off the main items of income and expenditure for you now.

Overall **income** increased by £27k to £114k last year, a 30% increase which can largely be attributed to the Centenary effect. I believe this will be our highest ever turnover. The main income source remains our Membership, with Subscriptions increasing to £48k, an 11% increase. This is the 2nd year of growth post-Covid following a couple of years of reductions. With the support of the Club Membership and Roddy Thomson, good progress is being made in ensuring all club members contribute.

Overall SRU income was broadly stable at £22k and Club sponsorship increased by some £1k, some of which represents multi-year sponsorship so will not be repeated next year. £2k of the SRU income was a grant in relation to works undertaken on the Den. SRU income also includes the Club Investment Fund, DO Funding & Travel support. Please try to book Scottish Rugby tickets through the club, as we usually receive commission on tickets sold.

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Special thanks go to the HLMs, where increased donations of £3.2k were received. It is terrific to see this support. Our DO has also had a successful year in running rugby camps with income up to £2.2k.

On the social side of the club, Raffle income, social events, the ceilidh & Austin contributed £6.6k gross (£4.2 net of costs), a terrific outcome and hopefully shows great evidence of the spirit within the club.

Other donations accounted for a further £3.7k, with match fees down to £1.3k.

We had an increased focus on obtaining Grant funding this year with some £4.3k received. Please keep passing any opportunities to your Committee and John Lowe.

With the Centenary year and our new relationship with VSN, there was an increased focus on Merchandise. A net surplus of £1k was seen this year.

The 100 Club contributed a very welcome net £2.3k of income. This is increasing gradually, and I would encourage club members to consider joining this fundraising initiative.

Overall **expenditure** increased by £22.6k to £114k as we invested the funds received in the various activities of the club. Cost inflation was also a major factor, with significant increases seen across various expense lines.

Our main expense remains personnel costs which increased by some £7k to £40k, where we continue to invest in our Coaching, DO & S&C resource to support player development & retention. Investment in equipment was also up by 72% to £10.5k. This included the up-front investment in our Strength & Conditioning programme. Pitch hire costs were largely stable at £15k, due to increased use of more affordable council facilities and greater availability of grass.

Overall expenditure with VSN totalled some £11k in the past year. This includes items captured elsewhere including 5 sets of strips, merchandise & coaches kit. We also paid for 10 of our coaches to undertake SRU courses this year.

Physio costs increased markedly to £4.3k as the club continues to invest in player welfare. This resource is heavily utilised.

We also continue to invest in our coaching app, Coach Logic. Club insurance increased by 24% to £1.8k.

As referred to above, the Den refurbishment costs were £3k, but where we also benefited from donations of time and expertise from across the club, including a new kitchen donated by our main sponsor, Arthur Leaker in addition to the SRU Grant.

The War Memorial Trust donation reduced slightly to £17.5k covering the grass pitches, as the Clubhouse was able to meet a further £3.5k.

Travel costs reduced to £2.4k, which was partially covered by the SRU funding. As alluded to above 100 Club Prizes of £2.5k were paid out during the year. The Club Centenary Costs amounted to some £3k, much of that due to the excellent video that was produced showcasing our great club – this was largely covered by donations.

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The Youth Festival was once again a great success and a highlight of the year. Early indications are that a good surplus will be achieved, to allow further support for youth rugby. A surplus of £2.6k is seen through the accounts.

The overall **surplus for the year was a modest £573**, an improvement on the £4k deficit seen in the previous year.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Club Centenary and the efforts of our Membership has brought about record turnover for the club and while a modest surplus has been delivered, bank balances have reduced. Funds received have been invested for the benefit of our playing activities including kit, equipment, physio & S&C with a corresponding uplift in our social activities. Overall, a successful year.

With a slight dip in certain income lines expected next year post Centenary, challenges remain in securing ongoing sustainable sources of income, aside from membership fees and indeed we are reliant on one-off grants or sponsorships for much of our funding & investment. We do remain mindful of the external environment and the impact this may have on potential sponsors and other sources of income as well as costs.

We currently find ourselves in a relatively stable financial position, however, need to continue to take a prudent approach to our finances and provide support where needed.

While we continue to see, inflationary pressures on our costs and the increased demand for training, physio and other aspects expected to continue, I have attempted to reach a balance outlook for the year ahead and am budgeting for a breakeven position next year. Our greatest resource is our membership, and we need everyone pulling in the same direction. To that end, we intend to maintain membership fees at the same level as this year, but with increased costs, we need everyone to pay in full. The expectation is that we will need to increase fees in 2025-26 to ensure the club remains in a healthy financial position and we can continue to invest in the future of the club.

Thank you for your time and ongoing support.

Questions - None

8. Fixture Secretary's Report

Daniel Bartlett presented the report.

Due to weather and no fixtures on 6 Nations dates, the season lasted until May this year. 1s and 2s managed to fulfil all their fixtures, an excellent achievement with regards to other clubs around us.

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We have created a partnership with White Bus Company, thanks to John Mathieson for putting us in touch. This will hopefully see the club get buses at discounted rates and save us money in the upcoming season.

Fixtures for the 24/25 season were released on Thursday 6th June with the 1st team kicking off on 24th August away to Bishopton. The 2nd team's first league game will be September 14th at home to Whitecraigs and the returning Dazzlers enter the Development league at home to Irvine 2s also on the 14th of September. It will be great to get 3 teams out again this year. Standby dates and league rules are yet to be announced. There will also be a cup competition running throughout the year as opposed to at the end like this season but again, details are yet to be announced by the SRU.

Pre-season fixtures are being worked on currently for the senior teams and we will hopefully be able to announce who we will be facing ASAP. One thing for definite will be the club funday on the 10th of August where the senior squad will take on an ex-players team at Dalziel Park.

On a personal note, I would like to thank the committee with their help in my first season as fixture secretary. In particular, I would like to thank Grant Talbot for his help with organising pitches, a thankless task which has more than halved the workload involved in this role.

Questions - none

9. Captain's Report

Andrew Scott presented the report.

Hi all, I would like to thank everyone involved at the club for all that they have done throughout this season and the 3 seasons I have been captain of the club. It has been an honour to say that I was captain of Dalziel rugby club.

This season was a tough season for the seniors. The 1XV being promoted to west 1 and the 2XV in a hard reserve league west 2.

The 1XV played a total of 18 league games, winning 6 and losing 12, scoring 483 and conceding 511 points. They managed to secure 9 try winning bonus points and 4 losing bonus points. This finished them 7th in the league meaning we will be playing West 1 rugby next season. I think this is a great achievement. They also were beaten in the second round of the cup. The 1XV played some great rugby throughout the season with most of the games they lost being narrow defeats.

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The 2XV played a total of 12 league games, winning 4 and losing 8. They scored 228 and conceded 368 points. They managed to secure 3 winning bonus points. This finished them 6th in the league. This is a tough league for the 2XV and they also played some great rugby with some good wins.

The numbers at training all season were good with around 35 guys training each training night. This shows that the coaches have been doing a great job. The gym partnership with FerriFit is a great addition to the club, with many guys enjoying the sessions there and taking out memberships of their own. This will help the squad in the season to come. Once again there is going to be touch organized for the summer and a running group on a Wednesday night if anyone would like to attend them before pre-season starts.

As for next season I think that the guys and the coaches will 100% be up for the challenge to win West 1 and get ourselves back into the national leagues once again and the 2XV into West Reserve Division One.

The social side of the club has also been great this year with special thanks to Jamie Muir for running the clubhouse and letting the social convenors plan nights out in the clubhouse. This is great for the club and bonds the guys more.

It has been an honour to captain such an amazing club and especially in its centenary year. I am standing down from being Captain, so thank you to everyone who helped me and the club throughout the last 3 seasons. It is greatly appreciated.

Questions – none

10. Youth Rugby Report

Niall McKenzie presented the report.

Mini

Overall, another successful season for the minis, all sections seem to be well resourced in terms of coaches and players. Only slight disappointment was the inability to boost the numbers at p7, this will have a knock on effect with the midi section however it was not through lack of effort on anyone's part.

Midi

The Under-18s have had a successful season, topping their group pre-Christmas, reaching two semi finals, and winning the Festival. 10 players are aged to step up to senior, with a few having already made their senior debuts. The Under-16s had a challenging start with a number of players departing to other clubs, but were boosted when the Under-15s were disbanded. The squad won the Chairmans Trophy against Cumnock. Training has seen high attendance (over 90%), with joint session with the Under-18s to improve match preparation. The Under 15s started with a

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small squad, and found the season tough with a few heavy defeats. Some players drifted away and the decision was made to move the older players to the Under-16s and younger ones to the Under-14s. The Under-14s went the full season unbeaten at home, including wins against national conference sides.

Girls

Another good season from the girls. This was the first season where we had some u16 players alongside our established u14s - the under 16s mainly playing with Cambuslang. This season the girls had several new opportunities, playing at Scotstoun during Glasgow warriors and I believe Dalziel's first appearance at Melrose 7s. We also had representation at both the U16 and u15 player development hubs. The u14s also had a strong season winning or coming close to winning at several of the end of season festivals. There will be challenges with the girls particularly surrounding player recruitment as currently there is little or no players coming through, this is something the club are aware of and will address over the coming months.

Development Officer

Grant has delivered over 200 Primary sessions, 50 Secondary sessions and 100 Club sessions, to over 5000 boys and girls, focusing on the Motherwell schools. These have culminated in 7 schools festivals. There was a successful Easter camp, with a Summer camp to be announced soon. Grant continues to represent the club at various SRU events: Player Development Hub lead at Ravenscraig, and presenting at Glasgow and National conferences. The youth Strength and Conditioning started this season and we will be looking to improve it over the coming seasons. We have 45 active coaches, with 100% having completed Rugby Right and 95% completed Coaching Essentials (the minimum to coach contact rugby).

All convenors would like to thank the coaches and volunteers in their sections, with Grant highlighting his good working relationship with Derek Park and Stevie Drummond, and Colin Ireland and John Mathieson for their support and Guidance.

Questions – Eddy Ferguson asked about strategy about filling gaps? This may have a knock on effect in years to come. Ans – Discussed at every committee meeting, Graham Calder commented that we need to have lead coaches for each age group and not always rely on parents. Grant Talbot is focusing on Motherwell schools and targeting specific age groups. George Barr said that we are doing a good job in player development with a number of clubs folding

Les Barclay – it's great that we've got a ladies' team.

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11. Awards' Recipients

Player of the year – Lewis Marshall

Second XV Player of the year – Josh Greenhorn

Young Player of the year – Callum Wilkie

Top points scorer – Andrew Glover (Club and 1st XV), Euan Harkness (2nd XV)

Top try scorer – Fraser McKenzie (Club and 1st XV), Stephen Baird (2nd XV)

Team of the year – Under 16 (Boys)

President's Award – Euan Duguid, for his work in the Centenary.

12. Austin Memorial Recipient

Dougal Stewart

13. Honorary Life Members

Roddy Thomson, Jamie Muir

We also gave Harry Morton, Paul Warnock and John Murphy for the centenary.

14. AOCB

a. Naming of the Dazzlers

I am writing to formally propose a change in the official/formal description of *The Dazzlers*, referred to in official correspondence as the 'Third XV.' As we look forward to reinstating The Dazzlers (a name which should stand, for the avoidance of any doubt) I strongly suggest that changing the descriptor to 'Development Team' would provide a more accurate reflection of The Dazzlers' purpose and, crucially, strategic importance to our club.

The current designation of the 'Third Team' does not accurately capture the essential role The Dazzlers play within Dalziel. The term 'Development Team' better aligns with our objectives to provide a safe and encouraging, transitional space for young players making the significant step change up from U-18 to senior rugby. It also offers more senior players a platform to continue enjoying the sport in the later stages of their careers as well as those looking to develop and progress through the squads.

A 'Third Team' label may inadvertently convey or denote an (inaccurate/misleading) sense of being 'third-rate'.

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I am delighted to be part of a management team, including Roddy Thomson, Davie Fleming and Aaron Muir, who will endeavour to bring The Dazzlers back to life for season 2024/25 with a recruitment drive in the coming weeks and months. Anything which could negatively impact on our recruitment and retention efforts, and the overall perception of the team, should be avoided.

Furthermore, the term 'Development Team' underscores our commitment to nurturing talent, inclusion and maintaining player engagement across all stages of their rugby journey. I would also encourage the Secretary to write to the Scottish Rugby Union (SRU) and request their endorsement and support of this terminology change. That point notwithstanding and given the above considerations, I respectfully request that the committee endorse the use of the term 'Development Team' and desist with 'third XV' in all our own official correspondence, literature and publicity when formally describing The Dazzlers. This change will not only better describe the Dazzlers' aims but also support our club's broader strategic goals by enhancing our appeal to prospective players and stakeholders.

Thank you for considering this proposal. I am confident that this minor change will have a wider, positive impact on Dalziel Rugby.

Agreed – keep the “development team” as internal name, Niall to ask the SRU to change the name on the fixtures listing on the main site.

b. Merchandise

Willie Talbot wanted to thank Paul Warnock for his work with VSN in our first full season. Eddy commented about the club badge on the non-playing shirt being wrong. This to be taken back to VSN.

15. Election of Office Bearers

President – **John Mathieson**, proposed – Dougal Stewart, Seconded – Roddy Thomson - elected

Vice President – **Paul Warnock**, proposed – John Mathieson, seconded - Davie Scott - elected

Honorary Secretary – **Niall McKenzie** – re-elect

Treasurer – **Dougal Stewart** – re-elect

Membership Secretary – **Roddy Thomson** – re-elect

Fixture Secretary – **Daniel Bartlett** - proposed Fraser McKenzie, Seconded Stephen Clowes - elected

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Club Captain – Daniel Bartlett, proposed Andrew Scott, Seconded Stephen Clowes
Fraser McKenzie, proposed Daniel Bartlett, Seconded Eddy Ferguson – Daniel agreed to not stand as captain, **Fraser** elected.

Club Vice Captain – **Nikky Devine** and **Daniel Bartlett**, proposed Fraser McKenzie, seconded Dougal Stewart

Coaching Convenor – **Grant Talbot** – re-elect

Social Convenor – **Daniel Davis** – re-elect

Fields and Equipment Convenor – **Fraser McKenzie** – re-elect

Corporate Convenor – **Ian Johnstone** – re-elect

Mini Convenor – **Stephen Clowes**, proposed – Fraser McKenzie Seconded – Andrew Scott - elected

Boys Midi Convenor – **Vickie Doyle** – re-elect

Girls Midi Convenor – vacant, coopt at committee

Communications Secretary – **Elaine Neilson** – re-elect

Under-21 member – **Alasdair McGowan** proposed Andrew Scott, Seconded Fraser McKenzie - elected

Honorary President – Duncan Morton – re-elect

Honorary Vice President – Jaclyn Martin, Rector Dalziel High School - re-elected

War Memorial Trust Representative – Paul Warnock – re-elect

16. Closing remarks

Graham Calder asked that thanks be given to Michael and Christine Burnett for the work they've done over the years.

Willie Talbot thanked everyone for attending, look forward to the close-season and get ready for the new season for all teams.

Meeting closed at: 7:55pm

Next meeting of General Committee: 15th July 2024

Next Annual General Meeting: 9th June 2025

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