

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF DALZIEL RUGBY CLUB
HELD AT THE MAIN STAND, DALZIEL PARK ON MONDAY, 14th AUGUST 2021**

Item	Action
1 Attendance T Hamilton, L Mitchell, L Barclay, D Stewart, W Davidson, G Calder, D Morton, F McKenzie, N McKenzie, D Scott, C Harris, H Moon, A Scott, W Aitken, J Burns, S Clowes, J Mathieson, J Muir, G Doyle, V Doyle, D Davis, J Donaldson, D Bartlett, S Duguid, R Mitchell, N Devine, A King, S Smellie, D Moon, M Burnett, A Glover, D Hay, A Kennedy, I Johnstone, J Lowe, A Miller, I Munro, W Talbot, P Warnock, A McLaren, B Samuel, R Smith, H Morton, R Thomson, P Morton, I Sommerville, J McKenzie, R Neilson, E Neilson (49)	
2 Apologies D Jamieson	
3 Chairman's Opening Remarks 3.1 D Scott called the meeting to order at 10:30am welcoming all-in attendance and requesting anybody that has not signed in to do so.	
4 Approval of minutes of previous meeting Proposed: D Stewart Seconded: J Muir	
5 President's Report 5.1 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The SRU have advised that the level of funding for the Club DO will remain in place for this coming season• The Club's initiatives on mental health have n well received by the SRU and given coverage on its website• The Club Coach G Calder has been tasked with setting a uniform style of coaching and play to bring a consistent level of training throughout all levels within the club• It is proposed to undertake a review of the Dragons Den which is now coming to the end of its viability• The extension to training and permission for the Midi's to train on a Sunday is ongoing• The Mini section in line with most other clubs will move its training/matches to a Sunday• The SRU AGM has been postponed till 26th September	
6 Secretary's Report Tom Hamilton tabled the Secretary's report -: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• As we are all aware it has been a strange and difficult year but, in an effort, to keep the business of the Club functioning the general committee met each month by zoom since August 2020.I am hopeful that we will resume meeting in the Clubhouse from September.• Today would have been the SRU AGM it is proposed to open and close the meeting re-schedule.• Generally, most of my report is stats based generated from the season but with no rugby having been played the only one I can comment on is the membership. On a comparison basis the number of club members has held up well with an average of 90 Mini, s 82 Midi,s 90 seniors and 55 social members. It's a big thank you to those members who have supported the Club through theses difficult times. It also shows the depth the Club has in its members	

- Since last August there have been various grant and support schemes which the SRU have made available and which we have taken the opportunity to apply for. This has resulted in the Club being successful to a remarkable degree. Firstly, the club was awarded a substantial amount to enable us to upgrade the clubhouse facilities which is being undertaken at present. I wish to thank the Trust as well who have made a considerable donation to allow us to complete all the areas we had identified. Hopefully the refurb will be completed before our first home game in September. Secondly, the Club was successful in being awarded a sum of money to promote the Club and rugby within our local area, community, and schools. Les Barclay has been tasked with the help of a small sub-group to oversee this initiative. The one big aim is to establish a girls' team within the Club. This is crucial to maintain our bronze award from the SRU. There was the basis of a team at Dalziel H S but unfortunately Covid stopped it progressing. This will commence when conditions allow. During this application period I should wish to thank Ian Johnstone and Fraser McKenzie for their assistance which proved invaluable.
- My sincere hope is that we will now be approaching a position that will allow us to resume playing rugby and I wish all the teams within the Club every success in the coming season.

T Hamilton tabled the Secretary's report for questions – none tabled

7 Treasurer's Report

7.1

Introduction

I have been told that my first year as Treasurer was unlike any year we have seen before and I tend to believe that. I am hopeful that I will be able to learn what the role looks like in a "normal" year over the upcoming season and we can return all squads to playing and get a real buzz about the place.

All meetings have been remote and I would like to thank the committee for their support throughout the year with special mention to Ian Johnstone & Tom Hamilton for their expertise, guidance & support as well as to Ian Lilley for an effective handover.

I have been incredibly impressed by the work that goes in to identify and obtain funding for the club for various resources.

I see the objective is to support the rugby playing activities of the club in the short term while ensuring its long-term sustainability.

Balance Sheet

Thanks to the work of members and committee I feel that the club is in a fairly robust financial position at the moment, but one where the outlook contains a significant level of uncertainty.

Bank balances have improved from some £22k to £48k overall. This is offset somewhat by some £17k of costs which have accrued but not yet been spent. This includes items such as Equipment (which has been acquired post year-end), pitch hire (covering Astro hire costs) and salaries. To offset this, we have included debtors of £3k with funds which were due from HMRC Furlough scheme and income from the SRU.

Income & Expenditure

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

Overall income increased by £9k to £94k last year.

Turning first to Income perhaps not surprisingly, Membership subscriptions fell by some 21% to £32k. We would hope to see a good recovery this year with the return of games. Club sponsor income dropped from £3k to £0 but offset by an increase of £2k to other sponsorship up to £4k. Income from various club social events, catering,

raffles and match fees also fell to zero. These had accounted for some £8k last year.

We received significant support from the SRU across a number of different initiatives, with income from our governing body up by nearly £5k to £22k. This included DO Funding support, Hardship Fund & Club Investment Programme.

Merchandise income was slightly down on last year but where we made an overall loss of £700.

Finally, we received £26k in respect of HMRC Furlough which partially offset £43k of personnel costs including coaching, DO & Physio. Clearly this will not be repeated, and we are actively looking at ways of increasing resource from other areas where we hope that social and other events will be able to take place.

Overall expenditure increased only slightly to £82k.

Some costs fell away completely last year, such as travel, events & courses. I've already mentioned our main expense of the £43k personnel costs where we continue to invest in our coaching, DO & physio resource to support player development & retention, recruitment and continuity. Investment in equipment was up almost £4k to £6k, with a material spend also made post the year-end. Pitch hire fell some £3k to £7k due to the interrupted season.

We accounted for some £17k in payments to the War Memorial Trust. This includes our usual donation of some £13.5k, £2k for the clubhouse and a further £1k where we passed on an SRU grant to pay for works on the clubhouse.

100 Club Prizes of £2.4k were paid out, offsetting the £4.1k of income from this source.

The overall surplus was £12k, a great improvement from £4k the previous year.

Conclusion

While it was a season that we never wish to see repeated, it does see the club in a more robust financial position in previous years. Challenges remain in securing ongoing sources of income, where we are mindful of the external environment and the impact this may have on potential sponsors and other sources of income.

In terms of the funds now held, the committee is looking to identify suitable projects to enhance the facilities available to club members.

Our ongoing budget has been prepared more or less on a breakeven basis with the intention of providing the infrastructure to support playing activities and an overall successful club.

I have been very impressed by the proactive approach of your committee in identifying funding opportunities and the continued support of the club membership throughout the pandemic.

The club needs ongoing funding to continue to operate. I would encourage you all to continue paying subscriptions, perhaps try out the 100 Club and if you identify any grant or sponsorship opportunities, please engage with the committee.

Thank you for your time and ongoing support.

Tom Hamilton tabled the Treasurers report for any questions – none tabled

Tom Hamilton advised that if anyone wished a copy of the accounts just email him.

8 Captain's Report

8.1 Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you for joining us today and thanks for the opportunity to represent the club as Captain this season.

Unfortunately, there is not much to go through for the past season. Restrictions have meant that training is limited, and games have been non-existent. Of course, these restrictions were for good reason and we, as a blurb and as individuals, need to continue to be vigilant and safe.

I'd like to say well done to the coaches at all levels from mini through midi to senior. Their efforts in keeping players coming back by making the training as interesting as possible under the restrictions. Particularly to the mini coaches for getting through without the usual support from parents. Thanks to all the players at every level for their commitment throughout the season, despite knowing early on that the chance of getting any games was unlikely.

I'm sure the whole club will join me in thanking the committee for their support this season in getting training up and running to as good a level as possible, working around space and number constraints. Special recognition to Willie and all the work he has done as our COVID coordinator and thanks to anyone who has supported him in this.

Exciting season ahead for the whole club getting back to rugby. The senior playing squad is looking very strong this year with a number of previous players returning as well as a few boys that are new to the game who are picking the game up really quick. I feel we have the opportunity to challenge for the title at both 1XV and 2XV level, while getting a Dazzlers squad out as much as possible would be a great achievement for the club.

We have a team at all levels through mini and midi for the first season in a few years. Good luck to all the boys and girls pulling on the black and blue over the coming weeks and months. I'm sure we will have some strong performances and league finishes at all levels.

9 Fixture Secretary's Report

9.1 Tom Hamilton presented the Fixture Secretary Report: -

We have had no rugby since the early end to the season 2019/20. Season 2020/21 was due to start in October but then again with a shortened format. Unfortunately, in November with the increase in Covid cases made this impossible.

Out sights have now been set on the resumption of Rugby on 4th September hopefully this will be the start of a normal season.

At the October Committee meeting my honesty and integrity were called into question by the Mini Convenor this coupled with several pieces of correspondence have made it clear that this is no longer the club I joined at the age of 13 and have proudly represented on and off the field as a player and rep on several SRU committees. Therefore, I have decided to leave Dalziel and find a Club that upholds the traditional rugby values.

I wish Davie, the coaches and incoming Committee every success in getting the Club back to its rightful place in Scottish Rugby.

10 Honour Recipients

10.1 This year's honours awarded by the Club were as follows: -

- a) Austin Memorial Award - not awarded
- b) Player of the Year – not awarded
- c) U/21 Player of the Year – not awarded

- d) Top Points Scorer – - not awarded
- e) Top Try scorer –3rd XV – not awarded
- f) Team of the Year – 1st XV
- g) 2nd XV Player of the Year – not awarded
- h) 3rd XV Player of the Year – not awarded
- i) President’s Award –not awarded

11 Honorary Life Memberships

11.1 Not awarded

12 AOCB

12.1 J Muir advised that this years Ceilidh has been booked for the Monday 27th December in the Ex-Services Club. More information to follow

12.2 D Scott wished to J Muir for his input and organisation of the Lions tour events. This raised a substantial amount for the club as well as getting members back to the Club. Part of the funds raised bought the new TV in the Clubhouse.

12.3 I Munro raised the issue of improved access to pitches and hoped that this would be resolved for the start of the new season. DS advised that this was being discussed with the Trust to establish what the Clubs needs were going forward and matching this with the availability in the hope that this can be resolved.LB stated that as part of the clubs drive forward it is hoped that a girls’ team will be formed, if so, this will require to be catered for. WD stated he would put together a strategy for when grass is not available and present it to the General Committee for discussion

13 Election of Office Bearers

- 13.1 President D Scott – Re-elected
- Vice President - Re-elected
- Club Captain – A Scott
- 1st XV Vice-Captain – R Mitchell
- Secretary – T Hamilton, -re-elected unopposed
- Treasurer –D Stewart - Re-elected.
- 1st XV Coach – G Calder
- Fixture Secretary Vacant
- Social Convener – J Muir re-elected unopposed
- Corporate Convener Ian Johnstone. re-elected unopposed
- Equipment Convener – F McKenzie re-elected unopposed
- U/21 Reps – Danny Bartlett- re-elected unopposed
- Midi Convener. V Doyle prop. Lynn Penman sec. C Jamieson
- Mini Convener – M Burnett re-elected unopposed
- WMT Rep -, P Warnock prop. F McKenzie sec. L Barclay
- House Convenor. L Mitchell – to be ratified at the first committee meeting
- Hon. President – W Talbot- re-elected unopposed
- Hon. Vice President – Rector Dalziel H.S. re-elected unopposed
- Club Coaching Convener – L Barclay prop. D Scott sec. T Hamilton
- Membership Secretary. H Moon –re-elected unopposed
- Communications Convenor Elaine Neilson re-elected unopposed.

Meeting closed at 11:38a.m.