

## **Minutes of the 2009 Annual General Meeting held at the Clubhouse on Sunday, 22 March 2009**

### **Present:**

- Club President Richard Haigh, Chairman David Hall, Secretary Ian Watkinson, Treasurer Steve Fitton, and eleven members of the committee and Club

### **Apologies:**

- Howard Sykes, Nigel Hoyle, Keith Parry, Rob Denton.

### **Minutes & Matters Arising:**

- Minutes of the 2008 AGM read and accepted as a true record; no matters arising that are not dealt with elsewhere

### **Correspondence:**

- None relevant to the AGM.

### **Chairman's Report:**

- David Hall welcomed everyone to the meeting and reported on a season badly disrupted by weather, with no less than seven first team home games abandoned without a ball being bowled. This led to lost opportunities both on the field and behind the bar. The financial implications were clear from the annual accounts.
- The 1<sup>st</sup> XI secured a satisfactory mid-table position, similar to the past few years, without ever really challenging for honours. The season will probably be best remembered as Phil Heaton's last with the Club. Phil has been a loyal servant, travelling over from his Lancashire home each week in a fifteen year association with the Club, during which time he was, arguably, the best all-rounder in the League. The meeting expressed its great appreciation of his contribution and wished him and his family well in the future.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> XI was mainly made up of three senior players who each captained the side at times – Stuart Greaves, Rob Denton and Nigel Hoyle – together with a group of young and talented players who were a great credit to the Club. Their success in winning the Paddock Shield with such a young side brought a great deal of pleasure to everyone at Shepley. The cup run also proved the catalyst to a strong end to the league season, avoiding the relegation that had threatened earlier. The Chairman hoped that their success at such a young age would bear fruit for the first team over the coming years.
- The Junior teams made considerable progress under the energetic management of David Walker and his team. After some disappointments the previous season it was encouraging to see the juniors well organised and motivated once again.
- The Chairman thanked a number of individuals for their efforts during the year. Ray Horrocks proved once again that he is a great groundsman, albeit now under the supervision of the mole-catcher general. To win the FE Greenwood trophy for the third time in six years is a remarkable achievement and testimony to Ray's hard work.
- The Chairman gave particular thanks to our outstanding team of tea ladies who produce such excellent teas, and who would certainly win the league trophy if there was one. Theirs is a thankless task undertaken with gusto.
- The Chairman also gave thanks to all members of the committee and the officers who gave so freely of their time, notably Treasurer Fitton for all his work not only with the finances, but in the cellar and around the site; and to Secretary Watkinson for his work on fund-raising, the Bonfire and the website.

### **Secretary's Report:**

- The Secretary reported on continued progress for the Club off the field, helping make it financially secure. The Village Bonfire again broke all records in both numbers and profits. The Shepley Spring Festival, despite the unkind weather, was a very successful event for the Club. The Last Friday Club and other musical events continue to be popular and, although they are not greatly profitable, they bring new people into the Club who then take up memberships, sponsorships and book functions. Reaching out to the community is a vital part of the Club's strategy. The Secretary thanked all those who worked so hard to make these events so successful.
- The re-development of the Club is a major priority over the coming years and the Secretary thanked Richard Haigh and his team for their work in progressing this project with the planning authorities to the stage where we are fairly confident that we will get permission to move forward with our plans. The Club has retained a consultant to look into funding streams and we are optimistic that we will be able to raise the necessary funds.
- The Secretary thanked all those who gave their time and money to help the Club. Howard Sykes had taken over the sponsorship role with enthusiasm and thanks are due to him and all the sponsors. Steve Fitton had proved indispensable as ever, and the Secretary feared how the Club would manage should he fall under the proverbial bus.
- Finally the Secretary thanked all those who had worked so hard to get the ground in such good condition for the Paddock Shield Final in August. Ray Horrocks, Peter Wells and Colin Tinker had made a wonderful job of making the green stuff look immaculate. Many others – notably David Wright – had worked tirelessly with paintbrush in hand to do the same with the buildings. The whole place looked wonderful and was a credit to the Club. This was recognised not only in the award of the FE Greenwood Trophy (again!), but in countless comments from spectators and league officials. As a result, Shepley has been encouraged to apply to host the Sykes Cup Final in future years, something that would have been unthinkable a few years ago.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

- Treasurer Steve Fitton reported on a mixed year financially for the Club. Income was up, despite losing seven first team home games to the weather; this largely due to the success of the Village Bonfire and Spring Festival. However, expenditure increased at a far greater rate.
- The officials variously explained the increase in expenditure. Player costs increased due to a one off arrangement that would not be repeated. Costs for Sky TV were now for a full year, rather than for a part year in 2006-07. Increased staffing costs behind the bar were essentially the cost of losing Chris Armitage, who did a huge amount of voluntary work. It was explained that the Festival income was entirely bar-related; we do not take a rent, we simply have the rights to all alcohol sales around the Festival site(s).
- The Chairman thanked the Treasurer and reminded the meeting that we needed more volunteers if costs were to be kept down.
- The Annual Accounts were accepted unanimously.

### **Election of Officers and Committee:**

- With all existing officers prepared to continue in office, and with no other nominations received, The Chairman proposed and President seconded that all officers of the Club should be re-elected, which was duly passed.
- Barry Seal and Mel Briggs have stepped down from the Committee, so The Committee is currently , therefore, as follows: President, Richard Haigh; Chairman and League Representative, David Hall; Vice Chairman and Secretary, Ian Watkinson; Treasurer,

Steve Fitton; Messrs Garry Booth, Rob Denton, Huw Ellis, Gerald Goddard, Sam Haigh, Nigel Hoyle, Keith Parry, Howard Sykes, David Walker & Peter Wells.

- The Chairman invited anyone else wishing to join the Committee to step forward, and Mr Brian Wells offered his services.
- The meeting re-elected all current committee members plus Brian Wells.

### **Club Constitution**

- The Secretary explained that the current constitution, dating back to the 1960s, was no longer suitable. As we approach funding bodies - many of them publicly funded - we need to demonstrate that we meet all the criteria of a modern, efficiently run club. As a result, and encouraged by our funding consultants, we have discussed various models with the Yorkshire Cricket Board, ECB etc. Finally, we got hold of a model constitution written by the ECB themselves, that meets all the likely demands we face.
- The Secretary explained the main changes, which are intended to show the funders that their money will be used appropriately. The document has been seen by the committee, who have no concerns, and by the funding consultant who has approved it.
- The Chairman pointed out that the limit of ten committee members in the current draft was dangerously low. The Secretary said that this was an arbitrary number and could be changed without problem; it will therefore be changed to fifteen in the final document. The meeting approved this amendment unanimously.
- The adoption of the new constitution was proposed by Peter Wells and seconded by Garry Booth and passed unanimously. It will take immediate effect.

### **Membership Fees**

- Fees for the 2009 season were approved unanimously as follows:

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Playing Members: £80.00

*(£60.00 if paid by May 31<sup>st</sup>)*

Non-Playing Members: £18.00

Senior Citizens: £10.00

Junior Members: £15.00

*Please note that ONLY juniors who are paid up members of the Club will be permitted to use the Club's facilities, including the nets*

Family Membership: £30.00

*Couple & children under 17, excluding Junior players, who must be Junior Members in their own right*

### **Any Other Business**

- None

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.20 am.