

SWRU AGM 10th May 2008
Scott Suite, 1925 Suite, Murrayfield Stadium, Edinburgh



Present:

Clubs: Melrose Senior, Melrose Youth, Cartha QP, GHA, RHC, Edinburgh Uni, Glasgow Uni, Watsonians, **Oban Lorne, RDVC**, Murrayfield Wanderers, Mini Wandies, **Dundee Uni**, Kircaldy, Saints, Morgan, Lismore, Hillhead Jordanhill, Stirling University

Apologies: Grangemouth, Gala Youth

SWRU Board: Sandra Kinnear, Rosy Hume, Beth Dickens, Kath Vass, Sheen Buchanan, Louise Dalglish, Claire Cruikshank, Ruth Clements, Claire Fergusson

Apologies: Heather Lockhart

Staff: Jo Wells, Jo Hull, Lindsey Booth, Grant McKelvey, Michael James, Neil Carrie

ACTION

REGISTRATION AND WELCOME

ANNUAL REPORTS

All reports will be made available for viewing on the women's page of the SRU website www.sru.org.uk/womens
 Chairperson's report – Sandra Kinnear

SWRU Rugby Manager's Report – Jo Wells

National Development Officer's Report – Lindsey Booth

Performance Development Manager's Report – Jo Hull

Domestic Fixtures Coordinator's Report – Beth Dickens

Question Mike Bleasdale Melrose –would the Championship committee taking over the administration of the women's regulations mean a reduction in the flexibility to get games played that has always been there before?

Domestic Fixtures Manager: Getting the regulations right is the main answer to this question, also having SWRU Representatives on the committee to ensure that decisions made are fully informed.

INSPIRE ME

Presentations were made by the following:

Murrayfield Wanderers Youth – setting up a youth team
 SWRU Academy Head Coach – From playing to coaching
 SWRU Events Manager - Volunteering
 Ruth Clements – Female Referee
 Glasgow University – Success with Recruitment
 Fife and Tayside RDM – Developing Girls Rugby in a region
 SRU Community Media Manager – working with the media
Contact Michael.james@sru.org.uk

SWRU AGM

Watsonians: .Amendment to the 2007 minutes needed to note the athlete representative position added last year.

Agreed.

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MOTIONS

1. Amendment to SWRU constitution as detailed below

Proposed: SWRU Board

Seconded: Domestic Competitions manager

In Favour: 22

Abstain: 2

Against: 0

Motion Carried.

3.1. There shall be the following classes of membership:

3.1.1 Full Senior

Women's Clubs and Teams in Scotland playing the Sport (hereafter 'Member Clubs').

Individual paid

up members of clubs and teams shall deemed to be individual full members of the SWRU

(hereafter 'Individual Members')

3.1.2. Senior Development

Women's Clubs and Teams in Scotland (hereafter 'Member Clubs') training and playing the

Sport except in SWRU

National and Premier Leagues.

3.1.3. Senior Associate

Women's Clubs and Teams in Scotland training and playing the Sport except in SWRU

Competitions.

3.1.4. Schools

Schools Teams in Scotland playing the Sport (hereafter Schools Member Clubs)

3.1.5. Youth

Youth Teams in Scotland playing the Sport (hereafter Youth Member Clubs)

3.1.6. Associate

Individuals (men and women) not eligible for full membership along with organisations and

companies who wish to support the SWRU.

3.1.7. Honorary Members

Any past player or person of distinction who is elected as such a Member at an Annual

General Meeting on the recommendation of the Executive Committee in accordance with

nomination

and election procedures.

3.1.8. Patrons

The Executive Committee shall have power to appoint Patrons to the SWRU on such terms

As they may deem appropriate.

2. Amendment to the SWRU Constitution as detailed below

Proposed: SWRU Chairperson

Seconded: Watsonians

For: 22

Against:0

Abstain:0

Motion Carried

6.3 Each authorised Club or team delegate to an Annual or Special General Meeting shall be entitled to cast fifteen votes, **apart from a Youth Club which**

is associated with a Senior Club. Then both the Youth club and Senior Club is only entitled to fifteen votes in total. Each Associate member shall be entitled to one vote.

3. Amendment to the SWRU Constitution as detailed below

Proposed: SWRU Chair

Seconded: Kircaldy

For: 21

Against: 1

Abstain: 2

Motion Carried

6.5.4 the election of the Officers and Executive Committee members who fall to be elected, it being the case that each Office Bearer and Executive Committee member shall hold office for two years before being required to stand for re-election, but no Office Bearer or Executive Committee member shall be allowed to serve more than six consecutive years in aggregate before being required to stand down. The appointment of the Chair and the Secretary shall not take place in the same year, but in alternate years.

6.5.4 the election of the Officers and Executive Board members who fall to be elected, it being the case that each Office Bearer and Executive Board member shall hold office for two years before being required to stand for re-election, but no Office Bearer or Executive Board member shall be allowed to serve more than six consecutive years in aggregate **in the same position** before being required to stand down. **An officer or Executive Board member shall be allowed to serve the full term of their elected position.** The appointment of the Chair and the Vice Chair shall not take place in the same year, but in alternate years.

3 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Only the post of SWRU Secretary was vacant for re-election. All other officers will remain in post for the second year of their elected term.

Nomination for SWRU Secretary:

Watsonians Propose: Wendy Simpson, Kircaldy

Seconded: Murrayfield Wanderers:

For: Unanimous

SWRU Board Members 2008/9 season

Chairperson – Sandra Kinnear

Vice Chairperson – Rosy Hume

Secretary – Wendy Simpson

Domestic Competition Manager (senior) – Beth Dickens

Youth Rugby Manager – Claire Cruickshank/Louise Dalgliesh

Events Coordinator – Sheena Buchanan

Student Representative – Claire Fergusson

Historian & Veteran Retention Coordinator – Kath Vass

Elite Athlete Rep – Heather Lockhart

SRU Council Rep on SWRU Board – Jim Fleming

SWRU rep on SRU Council – Sandra Kinnear

4 AOB

Lismore: were constitutional amendments sent out in advance of the AGM.

SWRU Chairperson: Motions were sent out in line with the constitutional requirements.

Kircaldy: Were any additional motions received re: Saturday Rugby

SWRU Chairperson No further motions were received by Secretary

Meeting concluded **13:50**

YOUTH AND SENIOR OPEN FORUM

Melrose: Why is National League starting in October?

SWRU Domestic Competitions Manager: In response to Competition questionnaire. Urged Melrose to be part of planning process

Watsonians: The draft calendar includes a break in the season 6 weeks Mid Nov- January Is this response to questionnaire responses?

SWRU Domestic Competitions Manager: Partially. Also, the competition weekend beginning of January is intended to provide competition in one-off format where cancelled matches don't affect league/cup. Could include competition weekend in December along the same lines.

Watsonians: It is a long time to go without competition. Please make sure that this is considered in finalising the calendar.

ACTION: SWRU Competitions Manager

Kircaldy: The men's sections of the club have become quite keen on combining match days on a Saturday. Is this possible?

SWRU Domestic Competitions Manager: The SWRU feels that Saturday games can not be supported in general due to pressure on referees. However, on individual club basis is possible to rearrange. Also, clubs can note this change at the AGM.

Kircaldy: Would like to notify a general change by Kircaldy to play home games on Saturday where possible for 08/09 season.

Edinburgh University: Is there a reason why there are no Academy sessions prior to Xmas.

SWRU PDM: Intention to condense the programme, focusing development to make greater player gains, allowing 2/3 months for players to develop at Uni level.

Ed Uni: Christmas period can change priorities of students and may lose students to other

Stirling Uni: Trials in January may not be the best time. Pre-Xmas might work better.

SWRU Rugby Manager: Requested unis to feed back to SWRU Domestic Competitions Manager/SWRU PDM what times of year would work best for their calendar to Talent I.D..

SWRU Domestic Competitions Manager: Unis often have fixtures which are difficult to fulfil. It is essential that the calendar is looked at and clubs/unis notify early any fixtures that might require re-arrangement.

Watsonians: How is the new Cup draw planned to work?

SWRU Domestic Competitions Manager: We are looking for as many teams in the cup – 16 teams with byes for top 4. Cup dates in draft calendar based on initial round robin format followed by a knockout tournament. to give a slightly different format with more dates and clubs involved.

Saints/University of St. Andrews: The player registration system does not allow separate registration of uni/club players, causing confusion between university members/club members.

SWRU Rugby Manager: The new SWRU membership structure will allow all university teams to register their players separately. A mechanism will be needed to take account of any double registration. **ACTION: SWRU Rugby Manager/Rugby Services**

Melrose: Concerns re: Youth regulations. Age limits are fine. Dispensation process is quite patronising to coaches involved. Concern that the dispensation process is labour intensive. Is this a good use of resources.

SWRU Rugby Manager: Agreed that the dispensation process is labour intensive because it aims to involve fully parents, teachers, coaches of players involved in the decisions made. As the number of applications increases, it may be necessary to review the process and how it is staffed.

The SWRU tries to give advice to coaches involved in successful dispensation applications to ensure that best practise is being used by all. Not all coaches are very experienced and confident and many welcome this support.

Melrose: No-one under 18 can currently play in the front row in a league game. However, regulations allow National league games to be started with unopposed scrums.

Propose that U18s should be able to take part in senior unopposed scrums at National League level. This would require an amendment of regulations.

ACTION SWRU Domestic Competitions Manager: put on AGENDA for SWRU Board meeting.

SWRU NDO clarification: It is possible to play unopposed scrums in youth competitions too without affecting the outcome of the game.

Melrose: Referees during the competition insisted on starting with opposed scrums. There may be a problem with the referees not knowing youth regulations during the youth cup.

Lismore: wider referee education issue to be considered. Referees are not familiar with women's regulations.

SWRU Domestic Competitions Manager : We will continue to support referee education in partnership with Referees Department. Look to produce a club resource to assist with this.

Edinburgh: Contested scrums with U18s to be considered in context of Uni competition please.

Watsonians: Communication between national coaches and clubs.
Re: player selection and positional selection for players.

Recommendation for increased consultation with club coaches re: selection and position and how club can work to assist with preparation of players.

Action: SWRU PDM/Performance Coaching Team

Watsonians: Will there be more national squad coaches viewing national

and premier games during the season?

SWRU PDM: National coaches in an ideal world would be full time and would attend club games. However, they are not. The PDP coaching team between them have managed to see all Premiership clubs play at least once this season.

Clubs are invited to provide information and footage to the national coaching teams. We would encourage coaches to do this and to attend the coaching updates to encourage exchange of information and views.

AWARDS

Premier League

Top Try scorer – Lucy Millard
Top points scorer – Lucy millard
Player of the Season – Lisa Martin

National League

Top Points Scorer – Katie Barker
Top try scorer - Annabel Sargeant
Player of the season – Emma McBride

NDL

Top Points Scorer – Donna Smith
Top Try scorer – Dee Bradbury
Player of the Season – Claire Taggart

Club Player of the Season: Lisa Martin, Murrayfield Wanderers

Coach of the Season

Started coaching 2 years ago. Final year student himself. Manages to unify the club and promotes peer to peer learning. This coach also works hard to try to improve himself as a coach. **Jonathan Fisher Glasgow Uni**

Club of the Season

New club, NDL, Huge growth in numbers and have never taken fewer than 20 players to an NDL day. Well managed and have hosted NDL and SWRU Communication meetings. Over 100 spectators at some games.

Morgan RFC.

Volunteer of the Year

17 separate nominations for the winner of this award. Testament to how much work she has done for her club in the last 12 months. **Marianne Olivier Lismore.**

International Player of Season: Heather Lockhart.

THANK YOU TO STAFF AND SWRU BOARD from the floor

CLOSE : 14:40

ATTENDANCE

FULL NAME	POSITION	CLUB/SCHOOL/ORGANISATION
Tatenda Nyatsuanza	Player	GHA
Lynsay McGregor	Player	GHA
Doug McClure	Coach	Lismore
Lucy Millard	Captain	Murrayfield Wanderers
Lindsey Smith	Player/coach	Hillhead Jordanhill
Fiona Reardon	Player/Secretary	Hillhead Jordanhill
Margaret Fitzgibbons	Player	Hillhead Jordanhill
Pippa Low	President	Stirling University
Amy White	Player	Stirling University
Lynsey Honnik	Captain	Saints
Fiona McGregor	Captain	Saints
Stacey Coffin	Captain	St Andrews Uni
Ellen Beattie	Coach	Murrayfield Wanderers
M Bleasdale	Coach (youth/senior)	Melrose
Julia Anderson	Player	Morgan women
Clare Murrey	Player	Watsonians
Martha Ivanovas	Player	St Andrews/Saints
Barb Gillie	Club Captain/Secretary	Watsonians
Keri Holdsworth	Player	Watsonians
Grant McKelvey	SRU PDM	SRU
Michael James	SRU Community Media Manager	SRU
Holly Webster	Club Captain	Edinburgh Uni
Rachel Collins	Player	Edinburgh Uni
Ruth Howie	Secretary	Glasgow Uni
Anna McFarlane	Player	Glasgow Uni
Wendy Simpson	Player	Kirkcaldy
Jennifer Simpson	Player	Kirkcaldy
Veronica Fitzpatrick	Player	RHC
Jennifer Kenny	Secretary	RDVC
Ruth Clements	Student Rep/RDVC	SWRU/RDVC
Kath Vass	Historian	SWRU
Sandra Kinnear	Chairperson/SRU Council Representative	SWRU
Rosy Hume	Vic Chair	SWRU
Beth Dickens	Domestic Competitions Manager	SWRU
Claire Cruikshank	Youth Representative	SWRU
Louise Dalgleish	Youth Representative	SWRU
Claire Fergusson	Student Representative	SWRU
Jim Fleming	SRU Representative	SWRU/SRU
Sheena Buchanan	Events Manager	SWRU
Jo Wells	SWRU Rugby Manager	SWRU/SRU
Lindsey Booth	SWRU NDO	SWRU/SRU
Jo Hull	SWRU NDO	SWRU/SRU
Donna Kennedy	SWRU Academy Coach	SWRU
Neil Carrie	SRU RDM – Fife and Tayside	SRU

