



St Paul's School Rugby Supporters' Group
General Meeting – Minutes
Monday, 28 April 2014

1. Attendance: - Cheryl Williams, Jamie Kugelman, Colin McIntosh, Claire Jackson, Steph Fisquet, Phillip Roxburgh, Allison Stansfield, David Sheppard, Chris Bird, Stu Douglas, Scott Whyte, Scott Forester, Kimberley Reed, Keith and Michelle Hutton, David Young, Lindsay Seccombe, Paul Ewin, David Balwin, Phil Hughes
Apologies: - Kath North, Gabby Douglas, Chrissie Whyte, Greg Love, Jean-Phillippe Jacquet
2. Confirmation of 31 March Minutes taken- accepted

3. Reports/Updates

- a. Head of Rugby outlined the long and short-term vision for SPS rugby.

Short term

- Review coaching – this has been done; 2 coaches per year level and this helps to assist with all players. Only year group not is Year 8 – senior players are assisting with the team
- New jerseys – look great; while some parents disagree with the decision to arrive in formal uniform the appearance is well received and it is clear that the students belong to SPS. CHAC commented on how the SPS boys looked great both before and after games.
- Camps- hoping to bring more camps to school – UQ and Iconz, etc

Long term plan

- Trying to increase pride and tradition
- Aim to produce well rounded men who play a good game of rugby
- Increase the sense of community – senior boys helping out with the younger boys & the majority of players staying to watch the other games
- Secure tours in regular predictable programme known in advance all can plan financially
- Build a stable player base mindful around year 10 (even in current strong year group) up to 10 players are lost.
- Ensure ongoing financial viability of RSG with adequate funds to support the following years plans and hence avoid concerns about finances
- Continue to expand the number of parents volunteers
- Increase Rugby events for 2015 e.g. Rookie to Reds, term 4 event, Launch specific senior player event
- Increase skills development from year 4 up

It was confirmed a committee is being formalised to write an overview of vision for rugby coaching to be implemented in grade 7 with specific structure, goal and progress outlined through the years. This allows consistency even if coaches' change, helping coaches know what players know and how they progress during the years. It would also ensure players are aware of what the skill set they are anticipated to acquire during a specific year. While the plan can be amended but its use as strong base would be a great step forward. A committee of approx. 7 invited members will spend around 6 months to develop with the plan to deliver by the 2014 AGM.

- b. MS Rugby Coordinator – Iconz
- Year 7 – high level skill and good direction
 - Year 8 – good basic skill level talented players
 - Year 9 – improve quickly with key focus areas

Systematic warm up – catch/pass etc 15 min warm-up – basic passing – started with the Grade 8 and could see the benefit immediately at the game on Saturday. A concern has been expressed about distraction level of some students. Need to get coaches to focus on all students to keep them all engaged. Benefits are already visible.

- c. Opens Scott Forester

34 boys attended training. First game was good for both 1st & 2nd XV. A game plan was in place and despite some nerves, implemented well. The school rugby prayer was introduced extending the ethos of the school to the game and help players establish the appropriate mind frame before going on the field. 1st XV bench players did not wear the red jersey until they went on the field, with training shirt worn to allow warm up on the touchline and water to be run on the field. The decision was made for the previously stated practical reasons but also to instil pride and passion in being awarded 1st XV position. It was felt this would help to retain players. All Year 11 players had been spoken to about the 2015 NZ tour; while it is understood some players have financial or other limits the desire was for all open players to attend as an optimal build up for the 2015 season. Enthusiasm for the next fixture v JPC was noted.

Discussion ensued over the 8 bench players not wearing red jerseys and differences of opinion were outlined. The concerns were noted and it was agreed consultation with relevant parties including the players would be made.

4. Treasurer Report –

- a. Paid for training shirts \$2150
- b. Camp – costs just under \$500 budget
- c. Commitments include training shirts for next year leaves disposable funds of approx. \$900
- d. \$500 Gold sponsorship from Alumni; no other offers to date. Awaiting response from JSSG.

Finances accepted and moved

5. Rugby Handbook – Phillip was again thanked for an outstanding job. Limited copies had been distributed including Paul Browning. **Action** to send hard copy to PTC and coach for each team. Phil to look at doing an updated team pictures. It would be ideal to be quicker and a solution to overcome the delay (1st team announcement) for 2015 will be sought. Consensus was while the e-version was great and green only the print version did the production justice. More sponsorship would be sought to cover printing cost (est \$500) for future years.

6. Events pending

- a. Back to St Paul's Gala Day –Copies of the handbook would be on display for promotion and hopefully secure further sponsorship. SPS radio on board. The Year 9 will hold the only raffle of the day as agreed by Mr. Cox. It may be possible to include the opening of the Strength and Power shed on this day. Email PTC to try and get all players to stay around to watch games.
- b. The Power Shed- Des Hylton will be training with Rugby players in the 2nd week.
- c. The bye week is planned to have in-house games.
- d. Pink Day- logistics proceeding well. Orders on Flexi schools slow. Paul King reported he was unable to secure a suitable shirt. Natasha Keir, PTC yr 6 had requested funds raised be direct to the Wesley Pink Nurse Project; RSG agree if Cody Baird supports. **Action** Tim to clarify & Claire to let Natasha know. All Open players will need purchase pink socks.
- e. Rugby dinner- no response the e-news call for volunteers but David Balwin and David Sheppard offer of assistance was accepted. All should note the timing on Friday not a Saturday. Start time will be reviewed to try and accommodate those who work. The organising group hoped to have a booklet on the table celebrating the 2014 season. Phillip's offer of assistance for this was accepted David Sheppard agreed to run the 100 square sale/raffle - a donation of a weekend at a holiday unit would be ideal.

- f. 2014 Year 9 Tour -all going well and fundraising as well with 21 players.
 - g. 2015 Opens Tour -the question of moving to 2016 if 2015 was not viable was raised. While a change might suit some students the SPS tour rotation policy was created with all tours in mind not just sporting. Tim stated it was unlikely the school would approve a rugby tour in 2016 as football was already confirmed. The ideal number is at least 20 players. However because of the smaller numbers Tour Time had confirmed they were willing to accommodate requests if need for additional players from opposition teams. While not ideal to travel with a small squad it was a mechanism to avoid disadvantaging the current 10 and 11 players who were showing support of rugby and would otherwise miss out. **Action** Tim agreed to hold a meeting with current Year 10 and 11 explaining the situation. The Year 10 and 11 parents would be informed asap.
 - h. Photo Day -whole of rugby photo still a desired inclusion and Gala Day seems best option. Colin to follow up.
7. General Business
- a. First XV sponsorship – nothing yet but will continue to ask.
 - b. Long term plan – see 3a.
 - c. UQ program2014– see 3a; will encourage participation in camp at St Lucia in 2014 by SPS students and explore single day training at SPS by UQ – **Action Colin**.
 - d. Alumni sponsorship – see 4d.
 - e. Excess Heat at Matches – The lack of shade at CHAC for players & supporters was disappointing. It was agreed SPS could take own shade if host school unable to provide shade. **Action Tim to arrange with AT to pick up.**
 - f. GoPro – David Balwin and Scott – **Action Colin**.
 - g. Camp – feedback on the Easter camp was to be sought to improve 2015. PTC to request. **Action Cheryl**.
 - h. JTAS fixtures- due to unforeseen issues the draw was delayed. **Action Colin & Cheryl to address.**
 - i. Double points round – It was confirmed there would be a double points round and it would be v Ormiston in term 2 for all Sports. The article from the Link would be distributed to families. **Action Cheryl**.
 - j. Year 5- David Young expressed frustration and disappointment about the lack of players. While disappointing Tim confirmed the aim was to try and field a team and felt it reasonable to approach other schools to see if they were willing to field teams of smaller numbers to ensure players got a chance to experience rugby. Why the year 5 could field 2 football teams but not a full rugby or cricket team would be explored. **Action Opens players to attend JS, CPL coordinator to be asked to promote, Tim to liaise with other schools to clarify if fielding smaller teams an option if necessary to keep the SPS team in the competition.**

Meeting closed 8pm with thanks to all who attended.

Next Meeting Monday 26th May at 6.30 pm