



**Dragons Official Supporters
AGM**

Club

**Thursday 24th Aug 2017
Dai Watkins Bar, Rodney Parade
19:00 - 20:00**

***Minutes/comments/actions from meeting in red**

MEETING SUMMARY BRIEF

1. Opening Remarks - Chair

- *Successes:*
 - *Growth of organisation & established in short space of time.*
 - *Built strong relationships with Playing/Coaching Staff, Region, Dragons Ladies, Clubs, WRU, Pro Rugby Wales, etc.*
 - *Developed a core of initiatives to try to improve experience and develop a greater sense of community within the Dragons 'family'. (Away Travel, Player of Month, Q&As, Supporter Offers/Discounts).*
- *Challenges:*
 - *Fundraising, with intent to remain free to join. Match day raffles etc.*
 - *Capacity, keen to offer constant engagement and support to the Dragons family, can prove challenging with small team of volunteers, running concurrent projects around jobs/families etc.*
 - *WRU Takeover. Established DOSC during a truly historic, yet undoubtedly emotive period in the Region's existence. Difficult for us to strike balance in representation during these events, but tried to remain respectful of process and stakeholders involved.*

Following the announcement that the Burnett Suite (the facility above the changing rooms which used to host corporate hospitality) would become a supporters bar for the 2017/18 season, a member asked who was paying for the facility to be re-furnished to be fit for supporter use.

It was confirmed by Brad Hayward (BH) that the new owners of Rodney Parade would be paying for the re-decoration of the Burnett Suite, but that the DOSC would be engaging with supporters to gain their views on how best to decorate the facility in terms of Dragons memorabilia.

One idea that was suggested from the floor called for a sponsors board on the wall in the bar, which would also be a way of raising funds for the supporters club. BH confirmed that all options would be considered.

2. Financial Results - Treasurer

- *Financial results emailed to all members prior to AGM for perusal.*
- *First year of operation, financial performances exceeded expectations. Due to efforts of Committee members on match day raffle draws, and seeking out sponsorship opportunities.*
- *At end of year the DOSC has surplus of circa £1,400.*
- *DOSC not separate Legal Entity, therefore assets/funds are those of the members of the organisation.*
- *The members therefore vote for the DOSC Committee and entrust them to manage these holdings and assets on their behalf.*

A question was raised as to whether this year's accounts were audited and approved by independent adjudicators, which is stated in point 6.2 of the constitution.

Ryan Price (Treasurer) stated that these accounts had not been verified independently. He suggested that, due to the prohibitive cost of a professional audit (circa £1000), the constitution be changed to state that the accounts would be independently verified upon request from any member of the club.

A member then suggested that the accounts be verified by two suitable members of the club who are not committee members. This proposal was voted on by those present and the motion was passed.

When the DOSC accounts for the 2017/18 season are published, the committee will ask for two suitable volunteers to audit the accounts ahead of the AGM.

3. Plan for DOSC Medium/Long Term - Chairman

- *Worthington's have engaged to become primary sponsors of the DOSC, and have offered the DOSC financial investment for Supporter activities accordingly. Will afford us ability to deliver further improvements.*
- *DOSC will continue to provide key stakeholders with a representative view of what is believed to be the consensus of opinions and requirements from it's members. The DOSC will therefore continue to gather feedback at key times of the season, to ensure it remains aware of the priorities and requirements of the wide supporter base.*
- *The priorities delivered to us by you, the members, are:*
 - *Act as formal and professional representative body for Dragons Supporters.*
 - *Improve the Supporters match day experience both home and away.*
 - *Engage across the Region to support development of game at all levels, and continue to grow support for the Dragons accordingly.*
- *With clarity on ownership, and WRU investment in the facilities at Rodney Parade, short term focus is now on addressing the infrastructure, as requested by the members in latest survey (bar capacity, serving times, PA system, lighting etc).*
- *Medium term we have provided the WRU and Dragons CEO with an insight on the German Football Model, held up as the pinnacle of Supporter engagement. Meeting scheduled to discuss findings, and understand what initiatives would/could read across to Rugby, and particularly the Dragons.*
- *Long term we would like to grow our membership to cover the majority of Dragons Support, and ensure that we are representing the largest possible spectrum of Supporters. Numbers are very strong for 1st year, but need minimum of 1,000 to become the most credible voice possible to Dragons/WRU.*

4. Members Vote on Investment of Current Financial Holdings - *Treasurer*

- *Retain funds held currently for use when opportunity presents for suitable supporter based expenditure.*
- *Allocate % to Away Travel for season 17/18.*
- *Allocate % to single/multiple functions through the season.*
- *Allocate % to developing bespoke Dragons Supporters Memorabilia for Bar(s) at RP, such as DOSC Player of Month Honors Board etc.*
- *Allocate % to developing bespoke DOSC merchandise.*
- *Entrust Committee and Treasurer to manage funds accordingly, and deliver against all or some of above as/when opportunity dictates.*

A member present queried whether it would be pertinent to save the surplus from the previous year's accounts and run a larger float, which would help the committee with supporters club activities for the year.

BH confirmed that the DOSC had secured sponsorship of approximately £2,500, which meant that last year's excess could be used for the benefit of the members as the DOSC is a non-profit organization.

RP suggested whether the committee gather feedback from all members and then shortlist a number of options on which the membership could vote.

A member then suggested that the committee be trusted to manage the surplus accordingly and in the best interest of the membership.

This suggestion was put to a vote and was passed.

The surplus from the 2017/18 accounts will be entrusted to the newly voted committee to manage in the best interest of the DOSC's members.

5. Members Vote for DOSC Committee Members and New Volunteers - *Chair*

- *As per the Treasurer statement in pre-briefing pack, the 2016/17 committee has immediately stood down, in order for the members to vote on the new committee accordingly. Those proposed personnel, and their positions are below:*
- *Chairman - Brad Hayward*
- *Dep Chairman - Dan Hallett*
- *Secretary - Gavin Potts*
- *Treasurer - Ryan Price*
- *Member - Deb Hamilton*
- *Member - Christian Hyde*
- *Member - Matt Andrews*
- *Member - Paul Roberts*
- *Member - Gillian Lightbound*

All members voted in the new committee as outlined above.

- *A number of Member positions will complete a variety of roles through the season, such as Marketing, Travel, Merchandise etc.*

6. Feedback to Dragons/WRU from Supporter Survey Data - *Chair*

- *Full presentation pack on Survey findings delivered to Dragons, will review with Stuart Davies (CEO Dragons) and Martyn Phillips (CEO WRU) in coming weeks.*
- *Key findings from Supporter Survey were:*
 - *Optimistic on Coaching appointments and direction*
 - *Beer - Greater variety and quicker service*
 - *Beer on Hazell Terrace - Use of mobile can vendors*
 - *Card/Contactless Payments at Bars*
 - *Video footage from changing rooms on screen*
 - *More Supporter engagement with non playing team*
 - *Hazell Terrace PA - increase in quality of sound*
 - *Floodlighting - Safety concerns*
 - *Toilets (inc hand-dryers) - Improvements required*
 - *Bars need character/history*
 - *Disabled facilities - Better coverage and access*

A member commented on the meeting between the Dragons management and the region's clubs the previous evening, how positive a meeting it was and how, if half of the objectives discussed at that meeting were achieved, the region had a bright and prosperous future.

7. Initiatives for 2017/2018 Season - *Sec*

- *Away Travel - Growth in scope and ambition (overseas?)*
- *Player of the Month Awards*
- *Online 'shop' - Bespoke DOSC Merchandise etc*
- *Player pre match supporter interview in WFAC (1hr prior to ko)*
- *Supporter events at RP and around Region with Coaches/Players*
- *Quarterly electronic FanZine*
- *DOSC podcast*
- *Increase in Members Offers/Discounts*
- *Investigate the raffle draw moving online greater efficiency on Committee/Supporters on Matchday. Bespoke signed Dragons prizes etc.*

8. Any Other Business - *All*

- *Facilities on site at RP, short and long term vision*
- *Decor and Memorabilia (Nick's Shirt, Dragons Boots etc)*