

**Burton Wheelchair Rugby**

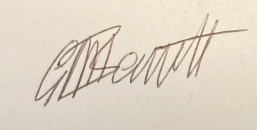
**AGM - Tuesday 27th November 2024**

**Venue and time: Burton Rugby Club, Burton on Trent @07:00pm**

**ATTENDEES: Glynn Bennett, Matty Sanderson, Matthew Sanderson, Matiss Lisovski, Daniel Wade, Michele Williams, Richard Williams, David Yates, Joe Brummit, Sam Linnett, Owain Wass, Emma Kearns, Aimee Dowse, Simon Lovett, Simon Love**

1. APOLOGIES: Ryan Howard, Darren Matthews

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| **Agenda item** | **Discussion** |
| CHAIRMANS REPORT (GB) | **Welcome and Introduction**  Welcome to everyone, may I first introduce a few people to the new team member present, Simon Lovett.  I am honoured to present to you the Chairman’s AGM report for 2024. It has been an incredible year of growth, achievement, and community engagement for our club. For me the past 18 months have been a time of preparation, development and I would like to share our future plans with you today.  I am excited to inform you that, after lengthy negotiations and bribery in the Coopers Arms Richard Williams has agreed to join me as co-joint Chairman /Trustee of Burton Wheelchair Rugby Club with immediate effect. I would like to congratulate Richard and thank him. Richard will work with me to lead the club to an amazing future.  You may have all heard the news that Darren Matthews has resigned from his coaching role at Leicester Tigers to focus on Burton Wheelchair Rugby Club. I don’t have to tell you what great news this is for us.  **Review of 2023-2024 Season**  Team Performance: This year, our team has shown exceptional dedication and skill, participating in several tournaments across the country. We achieved a significant presence in the wheelchair rugby community as individuals and as a club. Everyone’s hard work and resilience has not brought trophies home, but we have enhanced the club’s reputation on a national level.  Player Development: We have focused on developing both new and existing players through regular training sessions, workshops, and one-on-one coaching. The addition of our push towards strength and conditioning has greatly improved our players' fitness levels, contributing to better performance on the court.  Community Engagement: Our community outreach must continue to grow. We successfully conducted multiple wheelchair rugby demonstration events in the community, promoting inclusivity and raising awareness about the sport.  Challenges and solutions: Despite the challenges we have overcome, particularly in terms of travel logistics and maintaining volunteer support. We have continued to remain professional, exciting and enjoyable. Our values will continue to remain at the heart of everything we do.  **Future plans**  Expansion of programs: Looking ahead, we plan to expand our junior and community outreach programs to reach more potential players and supporters.  Enhancing Competitive Edge: We will continue to invest in advanced coaching and training techniques to enhance our competitive edge. Plans are underway to host a national wheelchair rugby tournament in Burton, which will not only bring high-level competition to our doorstep but also boost local interest in the sport.  **Acknowledgements**  I would like to express my deepest gratitude to our Head Coach Darren Matthews, for his patience and his amazing work turning a group of new players into a team that will soon become a team that will enjoy success. I must also express my gratitude to all our volunteers, sponsors, and all members of the Burton Wheelchair Rugby Club. Your passion and commitment are the driving forces behind our success. A special thank you to our players for their relentless spirit and teamwork.  **Conclusion**  In conclusion, the 2023-2024 season has been a remarkable period of growth and achievement for Burton Wheelchair Rugby Club. We have built a solid foundation and are well-positioned to continue our upward trajectory in the coming years. This year I will encourage a stronger relationship with our parent club, ensuring we engage and the importance of inclusion within the community that is Burton Rugby Club. Together, we will strive to reach new heights and make a lasting impact on our community through the sport of wheelchair rugby. |
| ELECTION OF OFFICERS (GB) | **Club Captain and Vice-Captain**  The selection of the Club Captain and Vice-Vaptain will be made annually by the club chairman and director of rugby/ head coach. We have recently adopted a Co-Captain approach, and we congratulate Joseph Brummit and Matiss Lisovski on their co-captain position. We send our thanks and appreciation to previous Captain Ryan Cokayne and Vice-Captain Daniel Wade for their hard work and time.  **Club Chairman and Director of Rugby/ Head Coach**  The selection of the Club Chairman and head coach is determined by the senior management team, and it has been agreed that Glyn will remain as Chairman now sharing this role with Co Chairman Richard.  We are very pleased to announce that Darren will remain as **Head Coach.**  **Other positions**  **Club Treasurer**  Glyn was very pleased to announce the appointment of Simon Lovatt as the club’s Treasurer. We are very lucky to have such an experienced treasurer to ensure we are financially stable and healthy.  The positions of team manager, club secretary, club welfare officer and any other roles will be elected by a vote of the club members at the AGM  Agreed Emma Kearns will remain as **Team Manager** with support from a new **Assistant Team Manager** Ryan Cockayne  **Club Secretary** – Will Johnson has stepped down as club secretary and David Yates has volunteered to take on this role. We welcome Dave in his new role and thanks to Will for all his previous work.  **Club Welfare Officer** – Aimee volunteered to take this role on  Ryan Howard will remain as **Social Media Manager**  Sam Linett continues his great work on developing our new website, as **Web Master** |
| 4.  FINANCIAL OVERVIEW (SL) | The club has received £11,250 in donations from various sources and from this we have paid out £2,000 on various pieces of equipment, further expenses from this has covered the costs of venue/ hall hire and kit. The team sky dive cost £1,500 however raised a total £2,500. The club is currently within an estimated profit of £4,600. With the grants we have received from companies and larger grants we received a total £25,000 at the start of the club beginning in 2023, of which we have paid out £18,000 on new rugby wheelchairs. These figures will remain on the balance sheet and in 5 years 20% will be deducted which coincides with the average 5 year estimated life span of rugby chair. Burton RFC are donating a further £2,000 towards funding another new chair. Invoices are made payable to Simon Lovell.  Sponsorship and Fundraising: The financial health of the club remains our priority, thanks to the generous support of our sponsors and the success of our fundraising activities spearheaded by Richard Williams. This year, we secured new sponsorship deals with local businesses, which have provided essential funds for equipment and travel expenses.  Grants and donations: We received several grants from sports foundations and charitable organisations, which have been instrumental in funding our development. |
| 5.  TEAM REVIEW (DM) | Currently we have 16 players registered at the club and recruiting more players all the time.  There has been a rush to buy players new chairs in fear of the GB chairs being taken away from us. This has created a few issues with poor chairs being produced for some players. I think we need to hold back for a while making sure players know exactly what they need from chair that fits their attributes and their roles within lineups within our team.  We have also introduced a leadership group which will be a connection between myself and you guys. Also, Glyn and I will be conducting one-to-one with every player over the next couple months. This will give you an idea of how you were doing and what I need you to work on.  5’s program: We intend to enter the five leagues in the season. The season will start in May and run until July it will be 3 in 1-day tournaments. With a 16-person squad, we can only take 12 to each tournament. So, we need to decide on whether it'll be a rotation or that I select the best 12 players available for each tournament. This will need to be managed correctly so the players still feel their Worth within the club. Everybody needs to buy in to what we want as a club and that is, do we want to be competitive or do you want to be social.  4’s program: I also know there's a lot of interest in creating a 4’s program. So I have contacted Adam about entering the league in D3 for the next season. Adam's reply on Tuesday morning was quite exciting because he has possibly a opportunity for us to enter a team this season in the last two weekends of the season.  We currently have (currently classified): Joseph Worth - 3.0, Dan Wade - 1.5 and Joe Brummitt - 1.0. David Yates will classify as a low pointer. Maybe a 1.0 and with age reduction would play as a 0.5 Ryan has also been told he will classify possibly as a 3.0 or a 2.5 Joe Saunders is also another possibility, but I would need to take more advice on his disability and how it affects him, into consideration. There may be others in the club that would also classify. I could also consider maybe asking some players to help until we can find or classify more of our own. |
| 6.  PLAYER REVIEW  (JB) (ML) | (JB) We are doing well, most of our players have never played a disability sport before. At times we can get agitated that we are not winning games, but we need to remember how far we have come as a team. It is also important to keep the sport fun whilst also remaining competitive and to not beat ourselves up about some of the setbacks. To give 110% work on court whilst remaining social off court. More social events are to be proposed going forwards. Whilst we want to be social it is important to focus on keeping Burton a competitive team as we enter the leagues next year. During the 2025 league only 12 players will be included in the lineup. With 16 players in the team this will leave 4 without a place in the league. It is essential that those not selected are not disheartened by this and will receive a one to one with co captains to discuss this. All players are encouraged to attend the league tournaments to support their team and if not selected encouraged to observe the games in action for the next time.  (ML) Agreed that everyone can make mistakes but to learn from these and take this into the next training session in preparation for next game. It is recommended that all players outside of rugby look into the rules of rugby, watch rugby games and be proactive in their learning outside of training. If anyone has any questions, then to please ask. As a team we are making massive improvements all the time and what happens on court stays on court, we remain friends off court. |
| 7.  CLUB REVIEW  (EK) | The team manager position has now been shared between Emma Kearns and co assistant manager Ryan Cokayne.  Venues – No main issues with existing venue/ hall hire availability currently with Shobnall and Meadowside, although we are still attempting to source a second venue for an extra mid-week training session.  It was queried whether we could hold a longer 5-hour session possibly once monthly at Shobnall. This would need to be a team agreement, and players would need to contribute to the cost of the hall hire.  Richard is currently in discussion with Derbyshire Green Bank for possible donation/ grant for venue hire. Richard and Emma to liaise re potential venues across Burton and Derby.  There have been instances of issues with finding club equipment and chairs kept in storage at Shobnall. Players are now able to use the staff car park at Shobnall.  Kit – Annual new kit if we can get sponsorship away and home game kit. There is now an online site with all kit and merchandise available.  Trailer – Due for repairs next week. To look into trailer team decals next year prior to entering the leagues. The team is to contribute towards fuel costs when using the trailer for travelling to away games. This is to be transferred to the account Emma has set up for Burton only which will then be transferred to Ryan C as also agreed with treasurer/ accountant Simon.  Inner tubes and tyres - Current system not working. Suggested that the club keeps an ongoing stock of these that are sold to players individually and again this to be transferred to the Burton account overseen by Emma. Agreed to source a box of 50 inner tubes (Draft) and tyres (Roma). Club to also order a few spare spindles.  Socials - The consensus from the recent player survey sent out was that people would prefer 4x yearly (every three months) social events. All are welcome to send their suggestions to Emma. Current socials include Christmas meal on 13/12/2024 and Army vs Navy game in Twickenham 03/05/2025. Suggested ideas for social events discussed at the AGM included, axe throwing, air soft and Derbyshire race for life June 2025. A 2025 event to present awards to the team as a social event/ dinner.  Tournament 2025 – This is already in hand and discussions had with Adam Simmons re-entering the league next year. Essential that we submit all required paperwork ASAP.  Club secretary email – Agreed to create club secretary email account  **Tesco bag packing fund raiser – 8th and 15th December**  First aider – Emma is currently our team first aider |
| 8.  BUDGET AND FUNDING REVIEW  (RW) | The club is now able to apply for a lot more grants now that we have established accounts and charity status. It is estimated that to survive as a club we require an annual turnover of £36,000, to help ensure this it is important for all members of the club to be mindful of funding opportunities that they may recommend or any employers or companies that may be able to support. The club did apply for a grant from the National Lottery which was rejected due to not including all community information requested, Richard is amending this and hoping to resubmit the application.  We currently require funding to source shot clocks £1,500 or to look at sourcing these second hand.  It is also recommended that the trailer is more secured, or the contents insured.  We need to thank our current sponsors by arranging a sponsor's event at the rugby club providing lunch.  Latest sponsor – Gas & Water Engineering who have kindly funded a new chair. Rick MD of Gas & Water an amputee himself will be visiting Shobnall to meet the team soon.  Local social prescribers who will be able to refer people to our club will be coming to meet the team on the 11/01/2025.  A suggested sponsor – Limb Power a recognised sports charity – Richard will look into this  School in Mickleover want to provide a day of wheelchair sports for their students which Richard will be looking into organising in 2025 |
| AOB | Sponsors to be listed on our website  Club website – To increase sharing of the website on club social media to raise more awareness and promote the team. To add the website link to main club Facebook and Instagram pages. Include website link on Burton Wheelchair Rugby GBWR website page.  Dave to ensure club details on the GBWR website are current |

Signed: 

Glyn Bennett Co-Chairman

7th December 2024