



Club Secretary Report July 2024

Well that was fun! Chris Metson said being secretary would take about 3 hours a week. Perhaps he is just more efficient than I am.

The other director reports cover in some detail their areas of responsibility and activities, so I won't repeat their messages here.

2023/24 focus

Looking back, my focus has been on keeping all the good things already in place ticking over – there is a degree of necessary but ultimately humdrum activity needed to comply with the requirements of all our external stakeholders e.g. Companies House, D&W RFU, RFU more broadly, insurance and utility suppliers etc as well as just keeping the wheels turning on our own internal processes

Hollywood could make a film about the saga of the club minibus. Suffice to say I don't expect to see it back at Castle Road until late July.

I also supported some of the day-to-day financial processes after Richard's unfortunate illness but am very grateful that Steve Ward is now on board to pick up where Richard left off. It is important to recognise that the hiatus caused by Richard's absence was unsettling for Vince and the clubhouse team as their line manager "went awol", and the stand in was learning the ropes. So, thank you to them for their patience during this time, and to Richard Larcombe for his support and guidance.

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Priorities for 2024/25

The Board has a huge amount to work on next season with demands on the clubhouse team, funding and volunteers outstripping the availability of all these precious resources. We must be clear on priorities and provide the leadership and direction to all our stakeholders on how we achieve them.

The club agreed a strategy over a year ago which we will develop into a business plan underpinned by a robust budget with appropriate oversight that allows all sections of the club (seniors, youth & minis and their parents, walking, VPs) to develop according to their agreed plans.

We also have other stakeholders such as sponsors, commercial clients and private individuals who pay to use our facilities. We will ensure that our plans ensure their needs are met too.

Other than keeping the run of the mill, dull but necessary, stuff going, I see my role as one of supporting my colleagues on the Board such that we provide the leadership and direction the club needs to achieve these aims.

One final thing

Others will speak eloquently about this, but I'd like to thank both Richard Bathurst and Jim Mason for their help and support they have given me as one of the new boys on the block. Their contribution to this club is unseen by many but has been immense. They will be missed on the Board but hopefully we will see them in the bar on match days for many years to come. Thank you both, have a beer on me.

Graham Hillier
Club Secretary

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