



All-Party Parliamentary Rugby League Group

Ordinary Meeting Minutes

1st July 2014 Committee Room Six

Meeting commenced

In Attendance

Members: Greg Mulholland MP (in the Chair); Lord Hoyle; Lord Smith of Leigh; Lord Thomas of Gresford; Mark Pawsey MP

Honorary Life Members (all, no affiliation): Maurice Oldroyd; Spen Allison

Organisational Associate Members: Susan Taylor (BARLA); David Gent (RFL)

Individual Associate Members (all, no affiliation): David Ramage; David Ballheimer; Ikram Butt

Other: Ashley Cox; Steve Smith (RVS)

Hon Secretary: Mark Ramsdale

Apologies

Members: Yvonne Fovargue MP; Robert Walter MP; Jason McCartney MP

Honorary Life Members (all, no affiliation): Sir Ian McCartney;

Organisational Associate Members: Dave Groce (GB Armed Forces); Nigel Wood; Ralph Rimmer; David Gent; Blake Solly (all RFL); Tony Colquitt; Adrian Smith; Callum Irving (all Oxford RL)

Individual Associate Members (all, no affiliation): Alex Mitchell; Martin Coyd OBE; Anton Muszanskyj; Iain McIlwee; Chris Byron; Pat Cluskey; Richard Jones; David Draper

The Chairman welcomed new Members Batley Bulldogs and Richard Jones.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous Group meeting were considered an accurate account.

Matters Arising

The Secretariat raised Associate Membership for councillors as an on-going activity.

Correspondence

Sent

- Letter from the Chairman to newly-created club Buxton Bulls, congratulating all involved for setting up the first club in their area.
- Letter of condolence to the widow of Pat Hunt, who staffed Sir Ian McCartney's office for many years, including when the Group was first created.

Received

- Invitation from Associate Member and Political Animals player Stephen Johnson, newly appointed to the rugby league board of Supporters Direct, to the Chairman to speak at Supporters Direct's rugby league development day on 25 October. The secretariat is seeing if a game can be arranged.

Our Supporters



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- Copies of a letter and certificate from Honorary Life Member Maurice Oldroyd on his recognition as an Honoured International Friend of Australian Schoolboys Rugby League.

Pending

- Invitation from Associate Member and Political Animals player Stephen Johnson, newly appointed to the rugby league board of Supporters Direct, to the Chairman to speak at Supporters Direct's rugby league development day on 25 October. The secretariat is seeing if a game can be arranged.

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Group Activity Report

Parliamentary

The Hon Secretary updated the Group on mentions of rugby league in Parliament since the previous meeting, specifically the tabling of a motion by Group Chairman Greg Mulholland congratulating Kevin Sinfield on his being made an MBE.

Public

The Group sent out news on Wigan Warriors and Batley Bulldog's joining the Parliamentary Group as an Associate Members and the Group's celebration of 20 years of Army Rugby League.

The Group now has over 1,223 followers on Twitter.

[Hon Secretary's note: the Group's twitter name is @UKParliamentRL]

Political Animals Report

The Hon Secretary (also Political Animals club Secretary/General Manager) raised the game against the Army Veterans side as part of a celebration of 20 years of Army Rugby League. The game and its importance were showcased on Boots 'n' All.

Private Members Bill: Lord Moynihan – Governance of Sport Support

The Hon Secretary outlined a Private Members Bill secured by Lord Moynihan which contained a number of clauses that would impact on all sports governing bodies, if the Bill were to become law.

AOB

The Hon Secretary presented the creation of the Rugby League Business Network, developed to support businesses, the business community and the game.

Main business concluded at 1825.

Presentation: Ashley Cox and Steve Smith – Royal Voluntary Service

Meeting closed at 1919

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