



# Musselburgh Rugby Football Club

Stoneyhill Farm Road  
Musselburgh  
East Lothian  
Scotland GB  
EH21 6RN

Phone: +44 (0)131 665 3435  
Website: [musselburghrfc.com](http://musselburghrfc.com)  
Twitter: [@MusselburghRFC](https://twitter.com/MusselburghRFC)  
Instagram: [@musselburghrfc](https://www.instagram.com/musselburghrfc)  
Facebook: [@Musselburghrugby](https://www.facebook.com/Musselburghrugby)

VAT No: 269 4465 18

## Musselburgh Rugby Football Club Annual General Meeting Minutes 14<sup>th</sup> June 2022

Club President, Drew Johnston welcomed all members to the General Meeting and was pleased to advise that there were **41** members in attendance.

### 1. Present

The following members were recorded as having attended the meeting:

Drew Johnston	Brian Jardine	Janet Scott	Grant Talac	George Innes
Blair Stewart	Ian McMillan	Tim Wheadon	Bill Thompson	Rory Watt
Tom Foley	Gerry McKay	Eric Stoddart	Duncan Hodge	Sandy Watt
Bob Nelson	Calum Johnston	Heather Johnston	Alan Melon	Colin Arthur
John Talac	Frankie Grant	Stewart Braby	Michael Maltman	Andy Fairnie
Duncan McMillan	Robin Veitch	Joanne Veitch	Derek Hodge	Dave Bowman
Alistair Bowman	Euan McMillan	Andrew Clark	Lewis Hamilton	Matthew Crawford
Greig McVean	Ruairidh Young	Michael Fleming	Robert Bain	Cameron Bain
Gordon McLanachan				

**41** eligible members attended the Annual General Meeting. The Club Constitution states that the attendance of **35** members shall form a quorum at the AGM.

### 2. Apologies

Apologies have been received from the following people:

Jill Irving	John Anzani	Bill Duncan	Colin Scott	Gavin Douglas
Lesley Sutherland	Keith Buchan	Alex Stewart	Brian Monks	Alistair Bonthron
Shona Stott	Ronan Stott	Bobb Stott	Janice Clark	Linus Clark
Neil McNairn	Jackie Lambert	Kenny Thomson	Maureen Talac	Jim McDonald
Robert Burrows	Neil Shirley			

### 3. Minutes of the 2021 AGM

With no comments from the floor the minutes of the 2021 AGM were put forward for adoption as a true record of the meeting.

**Proposed by: Michael Maltman      Seconded by: Joanne Veitch**

#### 4. President's Report

*Below is a reproduction of the President's report read by Drew Johnston, Club President.*

It is with regret that I record the passing of the following members of the club during the past year:

David Lyon, Douglas Findlay, Tot Thomas, John Crawford, Brian Moar, Tom Blackie, Kenny McMillan, Robert Shaw.

These members supported the club in various guises for many years and I ask we take a few moments of reflection to their memory.

Thank you.

Moving on it is time for me to present my personal reflection on the past year and given my imminent retirement from the Board also it would seem appropriate at this time to also reflect on my 3 years as President.

Taking last year first I would say it has been quite a successful one both on and off the park.

I am sure Grant will provide detail around the club's performance on the park so at this time I would just say it was a delight to be President as we cemented our place in the Premiership, had a 2<sup>nd</sup> XV which competed strongly in their own league, managed to play quite a few 3<sup>rd</sup> XV games and continued to develop players of the future through our youth system.

Off the park we have enhanced the environment for our playing group through the upgrade of the changing rooms and the construction of our excellent gym facility and quality training and playing surfaces. In addition we have provided players across all age groups with coaching, medical, social and wellbeing support.

We have come through the pandemic as a strong and vibrant club where all who wish to join are welcome. It has been great to see so many young members using our facilities and the atmosphere that surrounds our club feels very positive to me.

I feel therefore we can mark the 2021/2022 season down as a success and have created a solid base for future growth. Certainly, our finances look stronger than at any time in my memory. (Happy Jill) who is currently in Malta.

Reflecting on my time in the role of President I also feel particularly proud of our achievements over the past 3 years.

When I stepped up to take on the Presidency in 2019 following the great strides forward achieved under my predecessors in the role since our period of turbulence in the late noughties I sought to establish what success would look like for my term in office.

With the assistance of a group of individuals pooled from across all areas of the club we developed a 3 year strategic plan. Little did I think then that this would actually be the length of my Presidency but a year of limbo during the Covid restrictions meant that my planned 2 year term extended to 3 years. I am not complaining at all as being President during our Centenary celebrations was a great honour and has created a bank of memories that I will cherish for all my life.

The main goals of the 3 year plan were:

- The club to be fully established in the top level of "amateur" rugby in Scotland.
- Improve the facilities at Stoneyhill
- Increase our Youth numbers
- Embed the values of Integrity, Inclusion and Respect into our culture.

Taking each of these in turn:

I am proud that we will once again be playing Premiership rugby next year. It is not easy for a fully amateur club to compete against the Premiership clubs who continue to pay some or all of their players and can therefore retain or attract individuals. I think we have made the right decision to remain fully amateur and I just hope that we can continue to remain in the top league for as long as we can with that ethos at our heart. I know Grant and our new coaching team will ensure our senior teams are as ready for the challenges ahead as they can be.

The facilities at Stoneyhill now stand favourable comparison with most clubs in the land. Everyone says that we have done ourselves proud, a few areas to improve e.g. car park, floodlights. There are obviously a few areas where some investment will be required over the short term, car park and floodlights come to mind. I am confident that the new Board will drive forward improvement in these areas and others as and when finances allow.

Our youth system continues to be as strong as most clubs in Scotland. I know that there continues to be significant challenges in increasing youth participation. I am however delighted that we will continue to focus on this key area and am pleased to witness the proposal to increase our Board membership to include someone to focus on this very important area. I am sure that the Board members aligned to this endeavour along with a vast supporting cast of coordinators, coaches and volunteers will continue the good work that has been evident over many years.

As for living our values I feel that the whole club demonstrates a great level of appreciation of the need to treat everyone with respect, be as inclusive to all as is possible and to ensure that at all times we act with integrity. I am particularly pleased to note the proposal to expand our Board to include a member who will focus on values and wellbeing. This is a sign of the progressive club we are and I am sure we will continue to be an attractive proposition to anyone who wishes to join our happy band of members.

Overall therefore I feel I can retire from the President's post with my head held high and am leaving the club in a strong position for Brian and his team to lead us onwards and upwards.

I would like to express my thanks to all who have been involved in any way over the past 3 years. I have enjoyed fantastic support at Board level from Brian, Jill, Janet, Grant, Robin and Blair. I more than most appreciate the work that goes into management of the club and I believe you stepped up to the plate when facing into unprecedented challenges over the past few years. You deserve every compliment that comes your way and I thank you for your efforts.

The Board has enjoyed fantastic support from a great number of individuals and I do not really want to single anyone out (just in case I miss someone!). You all know how much your contributions whether large or small go together to create the magical experience that being a member of Musselburgh RFC is and I thank you all. I am sure Grant and Jill will have more specific thank yous to mention.

I feel however special mention must be given to our clubhouse staff under the leadership of Neil who worked tirelessly to ensure we provide a service to the community that is second to none. Well done.

Finally I would like to thank my family for all their support over the many years I have been involved in the administration of the club. Heather, Hayley and Calum have been at my side through the last 20 odd years and have enjoyed being part of the MRFC extended family. I am sure we will enjoy more happy times from the side-lines or in the case of the younger members of the family from an active role within the club.

Best wishes to all for next year and beyond and Thank You again for giving me the opportunity to be President of my club which has been a key part of my life for the past 47 years.

## **5. Director of Rugby/Ruby Matters**

Below is a reproduction of the rugby review of the 2021/22 season report read by Grant Talac, Director of Rugby.

### **Senior Rugby**

Season 2021 -22 has seen the senior club run 3 XV's for the majority of the season with the 1<sup>st</sup> XV playing in the Premiership, 2<sup>nd</sup> XV in Reserve East League 1 and the 3<sup>rd</sup> XV playing in friendlies throughout the season.

### **The 1<sup>st</sup> XV**

Finished 7<sup>th</sup> in the Premiership winning 6, losing 12, scoring 405pts but losing 615pts for a point difference of -210. The team showed throughout the season that we are competitive in this league. It was fair to say that Marr and Currie were well ahead of the rest however all the other sides are competitive against one another and it is felt with a few tweaks to our defensive set up next season we should be aiming to finish in the top half of the table and challenging for the top four next season.

### **The 2<sup>nd</sup> XV**

Also had a very competitive but frustrating end to the season. They challenged for a spot in the end of season play offs but unfortunately fell just short with close defeats to both Heriots and Currie at Stoneyhill as injuries took hold in the 1<sup>st</sup> XV and players were promoted. Although this was frustrating it is safe to say that the Team played extremely well and it was great to see so many of the guys making the step up to 1<sup>st</sup> XV level throughout the course of the season. The team finished 3<sup>rd</sup> on 72 points just behind Currie on 74.

### **The 3<sup>rd</sup> XV**

A great success story over the season as more young players who had stopped during COVID / leaving school, came back to play rugby. This allowed us with confidence to search for standalone friendly fixtures (rather than teaming up with another sides) on a weekly basis which was important as some of the players were able to step up into the 2<sup>nd</sup> X as the season progressed and injuries took hold. The young guys who

came back to play have certainly been enjoying themselves and have entered into the great squad spirit that is prevalent in the senior squad.

### **Club Gym**

It is also noted that the players are now using the new gym facility which shall hopefully help with the Squads conditioning and transition into performances in the new season. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow board members for helping turn this idea a few years back into reality.

### **Coaching**

Sadly after 4 years at the helm Graeme Patterson has finished in his Head Coaching role. I'm sure you shall all agree that Graeme has done a great job coaching the team over these difficult covid years and I thank him for his efforts and wish him well in the future

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the other coaches that are leaving for their efforts: David Officer, Andrew Binikos, Murray Fleming, Dave Flynn and wish them well for the future.

I would also like to take this opportunity to single out Andrew Clark for his commitment and efforts over the last couple of months. Andrew has held the reins and kept coaching the boys through the 7's season which I know they have all appreciated.

### **New Coaching Set Up**

With Graeme and other coaches leaving we went through a robust recruitment to appoint a new head coach. This process was completed through interview and if anyone wasn't aware as yet, I am pleased to announce Derek O'riordan as the new Head Coach. We have also been busy putting a new coaching team together and I was delighted to announce Andrew Clark as the new Assistant Coach.

The Coaching Team for next season shall be as follows:

- Head Coach (Forwards / defence) – Derek Oriordan
- Assistant Coach (Backs / Attack) – Andrew Clark
- Skills Coach – Callum Gauld
- Strength & Conditioning – James Doig
- 2's Forwards – Graeme Bowman
- 2's Backs – Greg Leitch

3XV will run again with Grant and Dave Bowman sharing the role between them when available to go with the team.

### **Recruitment**

So far recruitment has been going well with us building a number of exiting young talents agreeing to join us. These are:

- Finn Duraj – Loretto School / Edin U20 (hooker)
- Ross Brown – Loretto School / Scotland U18's (prop)
- Lochie Milne – Dunbar Grammar School / Scotland U18 squad (Lock)
- Luke Henderson – Ross High School / Scotland U18 squad (Back row)

We are also currently pursuing another few signings and more shall be announced as we approach the new season. Derek indicated today that one other player is coming to MRFC next season.

Finally on Senior Rugby, our thanks go to all the others, who have made the senior playing season a great success.

Team Managers: Andy Street, Joe Kennedy

Physiotherapy: Kate Jenkins, Lewis Freeman, Lianne Tough

Doctors: Dr Raj Routray and Dr Andrew Hall

Fixture Secretary: Alistair Bowman

Groundsman: Ian Leitch

COVID Officer: Janet Scott

Gatemen: Vitally important on match days

Ball boys: From P6-S1 for home games organised by Fraser Sutherland, Graeme Bowman and Ewan Dawson

We are well positioned for season 2022-2023 when this eventually begins with discussions ongoing with regard to Pre-season friendlies in August. Senior Fixtures are due to be released next week.

## **Youth Rugby Update**

The youth section is still probably where one of our biggest challenges lie in relation to post COVID with youngsters giving up in this period. Again we have seen during the season our YDO Ross Hanning move onto pastures new and I would therefore like to thank him for his efforts and wish him all the best in his new role. The YDO post has now been filled by Tom Foley whose name you may recognise from our 1<sup>st</sup> XV. Tom has started and has been doing some great work in our Primary School Cluster to try and encourage more kids along to the mini rugby.

## **Boys Rugby**

This year we have only been able to run a U/16 Team and S1 team with other age groups not having sufficient numbers. However the season coming we shall be operating an S1, S2 with joint U16 and 18 teams with Ross High. This is mainly because of SRU age grade laws as the current U/16 squad needs to split in two as you aren't allowed to move into U18 until they turn 16.

The boys teams have also been making use of the new gym facility and it is encouraging to see especially in the U16 group the positive impact this has been having on results in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the season.

This however isn't all doom and gloom as hopefully you will have seen on the club website a substantial number of our players and associated players that have been selected for various representative squads.

We also currently look to build on our successful relationship with Loretto School with another 2 of our players invited to take up rugby scholarships in the past year. Although numbers are light the players we are producing are of good quality. Many state schools are experiencing the same with the drop off after Covid. Beneficial to join together to get the 20 players required.

## **Girls Rugby**

Tom has also taken the girls rugby over from Ross and we still have around 15/16 girls at MGS to train on Mondays after school. We are also trying to get them in as a group into the new gym to try and develop their strength and conditioning which again will help move their rugby forward.

Finally I would just like to thank all the volunteer coaches for helping this year in the Youth Section.. They have been a fantastic support to the youth players and section as a whole. Also a special mention to Paul Hawes who is stepping away from coaching for all his help over the last few years with running the mini section and helping organise the S1's this year.

## **Mini Section (report prepared by Neil Hogg)**

With the minis first full season back after COVID, the start of the season fixtures and training were still heavily affected with COVID issues and protocols. We would like to extend our thanks to Janet Scott for all her support in ensuring we could train and play with these protocols in place.

Due to the break over COVID we saw a massive effect on numbers with certain age groups really seeing a drop off in participants and some age groups missing a full year of structured games, P4's into P5s and P3s to P4's which are important years as this is the start of introducing contact and touch games. However, after a long period out of rugby it was good to see the kids back playing and training. Both kids and coaches could see a huge difference in confidence as the season went on finishing the season with some excellent performances in the tournaments we attended.

Numbers however remain key with our P4 team low in numbers merging with Prestonpans to help fulfil fixtures and most age groups looking to encourage as many new members as possible. Compared to our counterparts in Haddington, North Berwick and Dunbar numbers across all age groups are very low. However, we saw some new members on the back of the rugby camps and Tom Foley's presence in schools so hopefully with an uninterrupted season ahead we can focus on driving new members into MRFC.

Our Micro's U5's, P1's and P2's saw the flip reverse with numbers increasing throughout the year and the addition of new coaches and parent helpers. It has been super to see these numbers flourishing and thanks to all involved for creating the fun and friendly atmosphere on a Sunday morning.

I would like to extend my thanks to all the age group coaches for really embracing this year through its challenges and hopefully the kids have had a fantastic year back playing rugby and we have a strong platform to build on now restrictions are lifted. Thanks as always to the volunteers behind the scenes with all their assistance and we wish our P7 players departing all the best for their rugby future. Grant thanked Neil Hogg for taking over as mini convener, difficulties with covid restrictions. Club atmosphere next season with not having to have separate training times.

## **6. Treasurer's Report (Approval of Annual Accounts)**

*Below is a reproduction of the financial review of the previous 12 month, ending 31 March 2022 read by Drew Johnstone, President, on behalf of Jill Irving, Treasurer who is currently in Malta. Jill passed on her apologies.*

As you can see from the Club's accounts for the year to 31 March 2022 we remain in a strong and positive financial position which is welcome news. Our surplus in the year was £256k, with a continued healthy net asset position. Thanks to Martin Gill at BDO for signing off on the accounts once again this year.

We received a £200k of funding in the current financial year (in addition to last year) for the gym from various large donors (including SRU, Sports Scotland and Common Good), and I would like to thank Blair very much for his funding application time and effort which paid off, including some revisiting for additional funds as our costs increased from initial projections. This meant the club didn't have to use as much of its own money as it had feared. We also received donations relating to the gym, including our 'Wall of Fame' brick wall contributions, as well as a couple of very generous legacies. Neil Smith also deserves a special mention as his project management of the gym ensured the club was receiving value for money at all stages of the development.

The surplus which the accounts is quite deceiving as the cost of the gym is capitalised into our assets on the balance sheet and not included as an expense against the funding income, and will be released over the life of the gym. It's therefore important to remember that that large surplus is not cash. The gym cash is spent!

The rest of the surplus is largely due to our valuable club sponsors, and we were delighted to welcome back the continued and generous support from our main sponsors Derek Paterson and Steve Finch again this year, as well as the many other local businesses who take out pitch side and merchandise sponsorship, many repeating from our major sponsorship drive a year or two ago. I think everyone will agree the pitch continues to look impressive surrounded by so many adverts.

As always a thank you to Ian Leitch for his commitment and expertise in managing the pitch, which has looked great all season as usual. Ian always deliver this service with an eye on value for money which is ever appreciated.

The bar made a £12k profit this year with gross profit margin of 58%, which was impressive given the beginning of the year started still with heavy Covid restrictions. Jill would like to thank the bar staff and particularly Neil for his consistent hard work and enthusiasm throughout the year. It really is much appreciated. We look to build on this through continuing with our popular summer beer garden and using our well established social media channels to promote club events and facilities to our followers. Thanks to Calum for his continuing social media management and quick response when needed.

The MRFC merchandise made a welcome £2k surplus mainly due to the popular Centenary Butcher apron shirt and Centenary Tartan products. The online shop facility is now established and functioning and we look forward to finding a willing and able volunteer to take it on and build it further.

Membership is slightly down on last year only as we had a couple of larger Patron subscriptions in 2021, otherwise we are looking forward to another year of strong membership support and to try to attract new interest around the community, kicking off with our Rugby Force Day on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August where we will have a membership renewal and sign up area as well as merchandise display and other events throughout the day, open to all. We took the decision to increase memberships by a small amount for the coming season. Membership fees have remained the same for a few years now, and given the increased costs which the club is facing with energy and product price hikes we felt this was appropriate. We have also introduced a modest gym membership fee which will contribute to the running costs of the gym.

Playing services costs continue to be covered by SRU grant funding and sponsors contributions and thanks to Ali Bowman for continuing to facilitate the bus bookings, again with an eye for value.

The mini section continues a welcome contribution to the club through their monthly subscriptions and it's been a pleasure to work with Neil Hogg on this, Jill looks forward to building the section further next year.

As always volunteers (or lack of) are one of our biggest challenges at the club. While the key roles are filled with very able and committed people, there are many other roles which the club would benefit if picked up by others. I've mentioned already we are looking for a Merchandise Manager volunteer, and we would also benefit from Social Convenors to make use of our beer garden which I believe is one of the best outdoor spaces in Musselburgh giving a safe space for members, visitors, families and dogs alike (Drew won't like that last part!). Running regular BBQs, social evenings, and events would not only build and

enhance the club experience, but open us to a wider audience to welcome through our doors. Finally, although it may appear a small or insignificant area, the club continues to be in dire need of volunteers to spare half an hour or an hour of their time on match days for raffle selling. This is an easy and important way to earn free money for the club, of which can be quite a substantial amount over a season, and of which we are happy to reward efforts with free beer, free lunch, free merchandise yet we still struggle. These roles will be a real focus as we run up to our new season.

The club will be able to reap the benefits of our strong financial position and consider our priority projects of the future now that the gym is complete. I feel it must be highlighted that the club continues and is proud of its fully amateur status which allows all funds raised and earned at the club to be ploughed back into the club for the players, members and visitors benefit. This is not something which other clubs who pay players can say and we are keen to continue with this principal.

Drew commended Jill for all her efforts.

**Proposed: Blair Stewart    Seconded: Robert Bain**

The Annual Accounts for Season 2021-2022 were duly approved.

## **7. Alterations to the Constitution**

The following amendments to the constitution were proposed and approved by more than two thirds of the members present.

### **5. MEMBERSHIP**

#### **5.06 Amend to read:**

The amounts of annual membership subscription payable by 31<sup>st</sup> August for the ensuing year will be agreed, for each category, at the AGM. An annual membership card will be issued to each member on payment of their subscription or the first instalment of 12 monthly standing order payments and is not transferable. ***Non-playing gym users will be potentially subject to paying additional subscription fees.***

### **6. GENERAL MEETINGS (ANNUALLY AND EXTRAORDINARY)**

*The agenda been like this for some time and as the election of honorary presidents will be done prior to the election of office bearers. When Drew took on honorary treasure, honorary president was lost and people walked away.*

#### **6.06 Amend to read:**

- a. President's Report
- b. Director of Rugby's Report
- c. Treasurer's Report (Approval of Accounts)
- d. Alterations to the Constitution
- e. Subscriptions for Coming Season
- f. *Election of New Honorary Life members and Election/Re-Election of Honorary Presidents***
- g. Election of Board of Management
- h. Election of Club Captain and Vice-Captain
- i. Any Other Competent Business

### **7. BOARD OF MANAGEMENT**

#### **7.01 Amend to read:**

The Board of Management of the Club shall comprise the following *eight* positions and be augmented by a general committee appointed at the discretion of the Board:

- a. President
- b. Vice President

- c. Treasurer
- d. Secretary
- e. Director of Rugby
- f. General Board Member – Values/Mental Health and Wellbeing**
- g. General Board Member- Youth Matters including Child Protection**
- h. General Board Member – Additional Tasks and Responsibilities as and when required  
(continue with this option when and if required)**

**7.01 Remove:**  
f. Immediate Past President

**7.05 Amend to Read:**  
The Board of management will appoint the following personnel from the membership of the Club to facilitate the efficient running of the business affairs of the Club:

- a. Bar Convener
- b. Sponsorship and Fundraising Manager
- c. Marketing and Social Media Manager**
- d. Youth Representative
- e. Mini Representative
- f. Membership Secretary
- g. Fixture Secretary
- h. Child Protection Officer

## 10. USE OF PREMISES

**10.06 Amend to Read:**  
The Board of Management shall have the right to allow organisations, bodies and individuals from within the local community the use of the club premises. Bookings must be made through the Club Steward or his/her deputy and ratified by the Board of Management at the earliest opportunity. **All gym users must complete a health and safety induction before using the facility.**

Drew explained that the two new General Members on the Board with specific responsibilities were necessary as in the current climate that we live in, the requirement for mental health support has never been more important. As Youth Matters is an important focus at Board Level a voice at the Board is required. The third General Member would not have a specific portfolio. Although the immediate past President has no place on the board, he would always be available when required.

The amended constitution will be posted on the new website in due course.

## 9. Subscriptions

There were proposed changes to the membership fees for the coming season given no uplift for a few years. The club would continue to offer members the opportunity to spread the costs over the year by Standing Order. One off payments or 1<sup>st</sup> Standing Order must be made by the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022.

Membership Type	Additional Info	Annual Fee	or Monthly S/O	Gym
Senior Player		£120	£10	Included
Student/U21		£60	£5	Included
Midi/Youth/U18 Player		N/A	£10	Included
Gold member	Free Match Entry, Priority to Away International tickets; Club Dinner tickets, Match Day Pint	£300	£25	Included
				Annual
				Monthly S/O



<b>Non Playing Member</b>		£60	£5	£120	£10
<b>Family Membership</b>	2 adults + 1 or more named non-playing child	£120	£10	£120 per person	£10 per person
<b>Patron</b>	Paused, pending review	N/A	N/A	£120	£10
<b>OAP</b>	Over 60 years old	£50	£4	£120	£10

**Subscriptions: Proposed by Tim Wheadon**

**Seconded: John Talac**

A follow up discussion took place querying the low subscription of £10 and how this may encourage people with no interest in the club using the gym incorrectly and there being too much interest, which would impact on club players not being able to access the gym. Blair stated that this fee is almost equivalent to Pure Gym. Drew clarified that there will be protected times for club players and group sessions as well as outside groups such as East Lothian Girls.

All concerns regarding the code/key pad access would be discussed at the next Board Meeting and that a 'vetting' system to ensure that only responsible people would be allowed to use the gym would be agreed on.

## **10. Proposal for Honorary Membership and Life Membership**

*Below is a reproduction of the Life Membership Nomination for Colin Scott presented by President, Drew Johnston:*

It gives me great pleasure in nominating Colin Scott to be a life member of Musselburgh Rugby Football Club.

Colin joined MRFC around the same time as me back in 1975. His father was first fifteen bagman and part time referee! We played in the colts together coached by Sandy Brown, Bobby Wilson and Davy Robertson, enjoying many fun filled trips to the Borders under the watchful eye of Alex Baxter.

Upon graduating from the colts, Colin found himself a bit of a victim of his own versatility. Colin was a member of the team that won promotion to, and played in, the First Division of Scottish League rugby at a time when club siders were filled with Scottish Internationalists.

Post -match you could always rely on Colin to provide the drum beat for any of our vocal acrobatics. His ability to get a rhythmic beat out of a variety of everyday objects is most impressive.

As he got a bit older he reduced his playing time and began helping in a coaching capacity.

Encouraged by his lovely wife, and rock, Janet, he found himself coaching at Stoneyhill school where he influenced a number of today's senior players. Colin and Janet have also hosted several players who came to play for the club from distances as far away as New Zealand and Australia.

Following his retirement from the fire Brigade, Colin worked for himself painting and decorating his way around the county. These skills have been of great help to the club over the years, notably most recently in the gym project.

However, it is probably his cooking skills that we have all benefitted most greatly from. Colin has been working in the kitchen for many years. He helped us establish one of the best pre-match lunches in the country and his Thursday night curries have been something our players have looked forward to with relish.

Along the way, Colin has performed several roles within the club resulting in him becoming President in 2009, a position he held until 2013. During his Presidency, the club experience some difficult times culminating in relegation to the Regional Leagues in 2010. However, Colin gathered a group of like-minded members and formulated a strategy to restore the club to a National League position. This goal was immediately achieved, and we even enjoyed a trip to finals day at Murrayfield. This action laid the foundation for the club's rise back up the leagues. It was also the bedrock upon which the clubhouse improvements began to take shape.

In recent times we have seen Colin step up to the plate to ensure the gym was finished and also to ensure that when necessary members and guests have been fed.

Ian 'Faither' Dewar has always been considered the heart of our clubhouse development here at Stoneyhill. I respectfully suggest that Colin Scott can be rightly held in a similar light as the glue behind our Club's successes in this early part of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

I propose therefore that at this time, Colin Scott be elevated to the position of Life Member.

The Board also wished to re-appoint of our existing Honorary Presidents:

Donald Macdonald (2019), Ian Hackett and Norrie Shirley (2020) were voted into this Honorary position and are considered to be fully worthy of continuing to be recognised for their contribution to the club and the game of rugby in this manner.

Drew proposed one new nomination for Honorary President, Derek Paterson who has supported the club financially and comes to all the games with his family.

Members were unanimous in their approval of these nominations presented by the Board.

## **10. Election to the Board of Management**

A unanimous show of hands for each of the nominees confirmed the election of the following members to the Board for the 2022 – 2023 season.

President: Brian Jardine, proposed by Andrew Johnston and Seconded by Neil Durham  
Vice President: Blair Stewart, proposed by Brian Jardine and Seconded by Brian Monks  
Treasurer: Jill Irving, proposed by Alistair Scott and Seconded by Robert Bain  
Secretary: Ian McMillan, proposed by Janet Scott and Seconded by Tim Wheadon  
Director of Rugby: Grant Talac, proposed by Daniel Owenson and Seconded by Tom Foley

Drew welcomed Brian to his role of new President of the Club.

*Below is a reproduction of the speech given by the newly elected President, Brian Jardine:*

Thanks very much Drew. Welcome Ladies and gentlemen. I would like to thank you very much for allowing me to be standing here in this position today. I am so proud and honoured to be invited to stand as the President at Musselburgh Rugby Club. I would have been proud to take over the role at any time, but to be taking over when the Club is in such a strong position, both on and off the park, is a great opportunity for me to help move the Club on even further.

I would just like to take a couple of minutes to speak about what Drew has done for the Club, both on and off the park over his 47 years of service to Musselburgh. Drew joined the Club after having had a promising basketball and football career. I believe he had trials for at least one senior football club but he decided that rugby was to be his sport of choice.

Drew played with the Colts before moving up to senior rugby. He was a great ball player and most of his rugby was spent playing first 15 rugby. He captained the Club twice and was skipper when they won the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division in 1984, losing only one game on their way to the title. He was quite a prolific try scorer, for a second row forward. Drew was also a great 7's player and was a member of the squad that had a clean sweep of the local 7's one year. He was also fortunate that he did not have too many serious injuries throughout his playing days and on the few occasions that he was injured, Doc Watson patched him up and threw him back on the pitch.

Once his playing days were over Drew took up refereeing and also committed himself to the Board. Unfortunately, his refereeing days were cut short due to his heart attack. Thankfully, he fully recovered from that quickly.

Drew has now covered every position on the Board. Back in 2010 when he took over as Treasurer, the Club was not in its best place financially. However, Drew soon turned this around and when he handed over the reins to Jill five years ago the books were in far better order.

The Club's performance both on and off the park over the last few years has been well documented and we are so proud of what has been achieved. I would like to share with you some of the highlights that I have had during his tenure. Covid came, and all the centenary celebrations that we had planned were up in the air, so we thought anyway.

Drew arranged and held two very well attended AGM's over Zoom. Most clubs just went without over this period. The highlight for me was the Centenary Programme that Calum and Drew put together. They both worked tirelessly in contacting and speaking to members, players, older members and people from other Clubs. The question and answer session with the ex- Scotland Internationalists was fantastic. When it went 'live' there were over 170 people zooming in from all over the world. Thanks very much for the memories. Eventually Covid slowed and we were able to hold our Centenary Ball, the Club Dinner and we concluded the season with our annual 7's. All were fantastic occasions and I have so many happy memories from each occasion. Drew presented each of these functions with his usual charm and dignity. Thanks for this Drew and thanks for the last 47 years. Your upcoming break is well deserved.

I was brought up to Stoneyhill in 1976 by my then neighbour, Paul Charlton. Paul was just finding his place as hooker in the firsts. I had given up playing juvenile football and was looking to get fitter. That trend didn't continue for too long as Alex and Russell will vouch for.

I joined a Colts team coached by Sandy Brown, George Innes, Bobby Wilson and Kenny McMillan. We had a good team and I loved our trips to the Borders, especially the Border 7's events. The great Alex Baxter was a spectator at all our games and his shouts of 'kick it' still stick in my head. I loved my rugby and my footballing days were quickly forgotten.

I moved up to senior rugby and unlike Drew most of my days were spent playing with the seconds and latterly the thirds. However I did get quite a few games with the firsts. My first game was against PL down at the Mary Murray and I was fortunate to kick the winning points in a 6 -3 win. I scored all the points in a 21-12 defeat to a strong Selkirk side under the lights at Stoneyhill. My brother Iain and I played one game together, up at Howe of Fife, I think we won but I may be mistaken. Playing in the 100 point demolition of Garnock in the cup, even then I did not manage a try. I played alongside Drew in his 1984 Division 3 winning campaign. In the one league game that we lost that year Drew was moved up to prop, much to his disgust. My last game for the firsts was down at the Greenyards after I had converted to prop. The team included Craig Chalmers and we were well beaten. I remember it well but only because I was taken to the cleaners. My opposing prop had an easy day. Thankfully, I never had to go through an experience like that again.

My last game for the Club was for the 3XV down at Biggar, on the very back pitch, the one you share with the sheep and cows. It was memorable because we started with 11 players, the other 4 having gone to North Berwick first. Not great communication. They later turned up but we still got beat. We had the usual Musselburgh style celebrations on our trip home. They must have been good because I later woke up on a 44 bus in Lanark Road West. I was staying in Portobello at this time. I think the fact that my playing kit did not make it home that night helped force me into early retirement at 35. I loved every minute of my playing days.

I followed the firsts as much as I could but I always intended to give the Club something back.

I took over the administration of the International tickets and I have done that for a number of years now. Alistair Scott has kindly agreed to take over this role.

Once I had retired from the police I was given the opportunity to take over as Steward of the Club. I loved the interaction with the players and over time grew quite a bond with them. Many of these players are still playing and are around today. After 5 years doing the job I decided to step down, but not before I found my replacement. Neil took over and what a job he and his team have done for us. I would like to congratulate him on his recent marriage to Erin and I wish them all the best in their future together.

Once I had retired I was able to follow the team home and away and it was on one of these bus trips that Drew asked me if I would consider being his Vice President. This was something that I had never considered. Esther and I discussed it for a while and we decided that I should accept his offer. I am afraid I am not as outgoing or as charismatic as Drew. You won't find me singing about climbing up sunshine mountains or about octogenarian grannies. I might be able to join in with the choruses but that is as far as it goes I am afraid. I am sure that Drew won't be a stranger to Stoneyhill though and we won't have to ask him twice to entertain us with a song or two.

Like Drew, I would like to thank the Board for what they have achieved over the past few years. The Club has come on leaps and bounds over this time. We are all great friends and what a difference this makes at Board meetings. There may be some differences of opinion but these are always talked through and the correct answer is normally found. There are never any grudges held.

I would like to make a couple of special mentions. I would like to thank Janet for what she has done for us as secretary. Janet was secretary in a particular trying period and was able to lead us all through Covid safely and correctly. As you all know, she is standing down, she has done a fantastic job and will be greatly missed. However she has promised that she is not walking away and will give Ian all the help and support that she can. She and Jill were the brains behind the Centenary Ball and they were both instrumental in making it happen. Thank you Janet, for everything.

I would also like to say a special thank you to our new Vice President, Blair Stewart. Blair had a great playing career with the Club and now helps out coaching the youngsters and has done for some time now. I would like to reiterate what Jill said earlier that without Blair's help in completing all the grant applications and finding the additional funding required we would not have had the gym up and running so quickly. Thanks for this Blair.

I would like to give thanks and a welcome to our new members of the Board and to becoming part of a special family. I would like to thank Ian, Euan and Colin for agreeing to take over their respective roles within the Club. Ian and Euan have both been involved in the Club in one way or another since time in memorium and I am looking forward to working with them over the coming seasons.

Hopefully, Colin will still be playing next year but it is great to be having him join us on the Board. It will be good to have a players prospective of things, other than Danny's of course. Health, wellbeing and mental health is such a big thing these days and is such a prominent part of life. Colin has already taken big steps in tackling this and I am delighted that he is joining us and we will give him as much help and support as we possibly can.

Finally I want to wrap up and wish the players and the new coaching staff led by Derek and Andrew all the best for the coming season. I think we will have a good season and we will remain the top 'pub team' in Scotland.

No, I am only kidding, I am convinced that we can finish higher up the league this season and top 4 is not out of the question. This is certainly what we should be aiming for. The seconds should be able to compete at a high level and will give Heriots and Currie a run for their money. I would like to think we can get a third 15 out on a regular basis.

Lastly I would like to wish the mini and midi sections all the best for their season.

At the end of his speech, Brian confirmed that Euan would be joining the Board to take over as Youth Convener to work in tandem with Grant, Tom, Neil Hogg and the other coaches from the Midis and Minis and that Colin Arthur would be focussing on Health and Wellbeing due to its current importance, this continues the work that he has been doing over the past year supported by Janet.

Drew explained that Colin and Euan couldn't be nominated at the AGM as the new constitution hasn't yet been put in place.

#### **11. Election of Club Captain and Vice – Captains**

The players have previously held a meeting to vote for their choice of Club Captain and Vice-Captain.

Club Captain: Danny Owenson

**Proposed: Rory Watt**

**Seconded: Colin Arthur**

Vice – Captains: Rory Watt and Colin Arthur

**Proposed: Duncan Hodge    Seconded: Ruairidh Young**

#### **13. Any Other Competent Business**

There were no formal written items for business.

The meeting was closed at **8.21 pm**.

For and on behalf of Musselburgh Rugby Football Club

Janet Scott

Musselburgh RFC Secretary