

Macclesfield RUFC

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

24th May, 2018

Held at the Priory Lane Clubhouse

1. Introduction

The Chairman welcomed the members and declared the meeting quorate (**Appendix 1**). Apologies were noted (**Appendix 2**).

2. Remembrance of members deceased this year

A minute's silence was held in remembrance of:

- John Fielden
- Peter Taylor
- Ron Townley
- Jamie Pearson

3. Approval of minutes of AGM held 25th May 2017

The minutes of last year's meeting were formally presented. There were no questions from the members and the minutes were approved as an accurate and complete record of the meeting.

Proposed: Albert Simpson

Seconded: John Webster

4. Chairman's report

The chairman presented his report for the season including individuals and groups recognised for their contributions to the club. (**Appendix 3**)

5. Finance report

Peter White gave a brief overview of the finances of the club over the last year but emphasized a full picture would be presented at the financial AGM in September when audited accounts would be available. (**Appendix 4**)

6. Rugby reports

- **First team**
The first team coach, Marshall Gadd read his report for the season. (**Appendix 5**)
- **Second team**
The second team report was presented by Jim Curtis. (**Appendix 6**)
- **Third team**
The third team report was presented by James Keep. (**Appendix 7**)
- **Fourth team**
The fourth team report was presented by Ryan Brown. (**Appendix 8**)
- **Ladies team**
The ladies team report was presented by Phil Mason. (**Appendix 9**)
- **Colts team**
The Colts' team report was presented by George Edwards. (**Appendix 10**)

- **Mini/Junior section**

The Mini & Junior section report was presented by Phil Mason. **(Appendix 11)**

7. Election of Executive Committee and senior team captains

- **Election of 2nd, 3rd, 4th and Ladies team captains**

There being no other nominations the following were appointed Captains for the 2018/2019 season:

2 nd XV	Pete Board
3 rd XV	James Keep
4 th XV	Ryan Brown
Ladies XV	Mary Thorp

Proposed: Jeremy Bostock

Seconded: Jason Walker

- **Election of Executive Officers**

The following members were nominated for the various positions:

NOMINEE	PROPOSER	SECONDER
PETER HARPER	CLIVE HAMMOND	JOHN WEBSTER
PETER WHITE	JOHN WEBSTER	CLIVE HAMMOND
STEPHEN BRANCH	TIM PEAKMAN	MIKE KEELING
PHIL MASON	ANDY MCLEAN	TIM PEAKMAN
TOM DAVENPORT	BOB COOKE	CLIVE KIRKHAM

There being no other nominations, the above were elected for the following season.

Proposed: Sir Nicholas Winterton

Seconded: Keith Dobson

A vote of approval was taken:

In favour – 32

Against – 0

Abstentions - 0

The Chairman took the opportunity to thank Charlie Halle and David Mair for their contributions to the club as Officers of the Executive Management team over the last six years.

8. Confirmation of election of honorary members

John Webster was confirmed as Club President for a further year.

9. Any other business

- Jim Curtis raised the issue of discipline amongst the players, coaches and supporters during the last season. The club has incurred a number of fines which it can't afford. In addition, there is the risk that further discipline issues across the club could result in a deduction of points against the 1st team as the senior representative team in the club. The RFU runs courses on core values and disciplinary training which have been attended by some club members. These should be rolled out more widely across the club
- Jeremy Bostock raised an issue on the quality of refereeing in the 4th team league. Phil Mason suggested that there may be some qualified referees in the mini/junior section of the club who might be prepared to referee 4th team games if they knew in advance. Stephen Branch

agreed to liaise with Phil Mason when the senior teams fixture lists were out. Macclesfield draws referees from the Manchester Referees Society (MADREF) and, where possible referees would be allocated but they are short on numbers.

- Jeremy Bostock suggested that a list of items needed by the club should be posted on the club's media to give the membership the opportunity to volunteer and raise money to cover the cost of items. Pete Harper agreed and was already in the process of putting a list together which included:
 - 9..1. Deep fat fryer - £1,750
 - 9..2. Waste pump - £2,550
 - 9..3. Floodlight bulbs - £1,500
 - 9..4. Barrier repairs - £750
 - 9..5. Improvements to boiler room - £850
- Sir Nicholas Winterton expressed disappointment with the lack of professionalism demonstrated by counsellors who rejected the application to develop the club and offered his support to the club in any future moves to develop the site.
- Tom Burden ask what the process was with regard to getting player sponsorship. Players who have offers of sponsorship should first approach Dan Ackerley, Sponsorship Manager. Tom was congratulated on his International Cap. Clive Hammond suggested that 1st team players might network with the membership and generate their own sponsors.
- Jason Walker suggested that if the club was going down the route of ONE CLUB – ONE SHIRT that the sponsorship the senior teams might have received to buy their own shirts should go back to the club to support the costs. Jason went on to suggest that the new shirts be launched across the whole club. Luke Gray said that a pre-season launch was provisionally booked for 30th June 2018 but that a club social event in August would be a good opportunity to launch the new shirts.
- Reg Davenport very kindly offered some suggestions for money raising through events and functions at the club, including silent raffles. His suggestions and offer of help would be passed to Julia Maxton-Close as Chair of the yet to be formed social committee.

The Chairman thanked all members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 20.30hrs

Appendix 1 – Members present

G. Allen	F. Barker
K. Bennett	J. Bostock
S. Branch	R. Brown
J. Brown	T. Burden
B. Cooke	J. Curtis
T. Davenport	R. Davenport
K. Dobson	B. Fawcett
R. Hadwin	C. Halle
C. Hammond	P. Harper (J)
P. Jakubowski	J. Keep
D. Laidlaw	J. Marsh
P. Mason	A. McLean
G. Rushton	A. Simpson
M. Thorp	J. Walker
J. Webster	P. White
Sir N. Winterton	D. Harper

Appendix 2 – Apologies received

T. Peakman	I. Taylor
G. Lewis	J. Taylor
P. Harper (S)	M. Keeling
B. Jones	M. Jones
D. Holden	H. Holden
D. Ackerley	D. Sheratte
J. Weston	

Appendix 3 Chairman's report and acknowledgments

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

Ladies & Gentlemen – it is with pleasure that I present the chairman's statement for the season 2017-18 to you tonight. It is appropriate that I start by looking back on what may turn out to be a watershed year for the club and its continuation.

There have been two momentous events this year.

After relegation from National One last year we recognised that life in National Two North would give us an opportunity to consolidate and gradually evolve the first team, as a number of our more experienced players had moved on. We have always maintained that we would never bankrupt the club chasing players' salaries – but it's true to say though, that even with the greatly reduced budget available to Giles last season, we didn't expect at Christmas, to be seriously considering the prospect of relegation. It was at that point, and with some regret, that we terminated Giles' contract. This was no easy thing, as all of us on the committee had played our rugby when such considerations were absent - but we had to act swiftly to allow the new person sufficient time to rescue the situation. With hindsight, it was the right thing to do, but I want to recognise Giles' contribution to professionalising the approach and preparation of the team over the past 3 ½ seasons.

I also want to recognise the contribution of Marshall Gadd since he took over in mid-December. Since that time, we have played 17 games, winning 10 with a total of 49 points from a possible 85, and from sitting in the bottom 2 in early December, under Marshall's guidance, the club finished in the top half of the table. **Remarkably, if the season had started when Marshall took over, Macclesfield would have actually finished 4th behind Sale, Sedgley Park & Tynedale, added to that, if Macc had played and won the rearranged game against Hinkley, we would have finished 3rd!** Huge credit must go to Marshall for what he has achieved, especially when you consider he's done it on his own and had no help in terms of other coaches, both during the week and on match days. I'm pleased to say Marshall is going to continue next year, and to rebuild the team, a task made somewhat harder by the retirement of a number of leading & experienced players.

- Ryan Parkinson – 157 games (over 100 tries)
- Tom Davenport – 141 games
- Dave Marwick – 158 games (46 tries)
- Lewis Barker – 61 games
- Nick Alsop – 40 games
- Matt King – 108 games (52 tries)
- Charlie Reed – 23 games
- A Total of almost 700 National League caps between them for Macc
- To these guys: I want to express my thanks, wish you luck and emphasise you are always welcome at Priory Park
- The challenge is there then, for Marshall to build and set up the team how he wants it and I know he is already well on with this task

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The other main theme was the shambles of the planning application. When one considers the professionalism and thoroughness of the Jones Homes work, against the shambolic performance of the council and its officers, the contrast could not be starker. Our best approach is to bypass this process and rely on the national government process. We are fortunate that Jones Homes are sticking with us through this process and I hope that in due course, our patience will be rewarded. Our challenge then is to remain solvent until 2022 at the earliest – **more on this later.**

With regards to matters on the pitch;

I don't want to steal thunder of the other captains but the 2nds, 3rds and 4ths have also had excellent seasons.

The seconds this year have gone through a process of re-building and continued to perform well and provide a number of players to the 1st team squad. The challenge for this team is that there are a couple of good teams in the league but also a number of really poor outfits that don't provide preparation for the harder games.

The threes have competed well following promotion last season into a league just 1 level behind the 2nd team.

The fourths continued to thrive, providing that all important stepping stone for younger players coming out of the Colts, but also allowing some – shall we call them `**more experienced**` players to prolong their playing days. I want to thank the captains of all 3 teams -Matt Thorpe, James Keep & Ryan Brown - for working together at the start of the season when a prolonged period of injuries and unavailability's, made turning out three teams each week a real challenge.

Without their efforts in the broader interest of the club, it is likely that the fourths would have folded and once that happens - as we have seen with the 5th team a few seasons ago - it will never reform so it is vital that we keep this going.

The revival of the colts continues with a model that I think is the only workable approach – that is, a single senior team with the coaches transitioning with their players. Great credit must go to Tony King, George Edwards, Matt Harding, Tony Wright, Dan Holden and Rob Oliver for an unbeaten season in league B – a level above last year. This bodes well for the senior sides as some of these guys move adult rugby next season.

I'm delighted to announce that we are in the process of starting a Ladies Team here at Macc. and huge thanks to Mary Thorpe as the primary instigator of this initiative.

As you will hear, the mini and junior section continues its unbroken success. We continue to succeed in cups and tournaments and are heavily represented in county age groups and Sale academy. None of this happens by accident and I would like to recognise the work of the coaches but especially Phil Mason, the chairman of the section for taking on a thankless job with unlimited enthusiasm.

The club continued to be heavily represented in Cheshire rugby, with 5 players representing the County at Senior level (Ryan Parkinson, Lewis Barker, Nick Alsop, Charlie Reed & Tom Burden) & five former or current players representing the Cheshire Under 20's playing in the A-league semi-final against Cornwall, missing out on a trip to Twickenham by just 1 point. Despite this, it was a fantastic achievement having only been promoted last year.

I'd like to congratulate the 2 Macclesfield players who were voted into the All Star XV for National League 2 North – Billy Robinson & Lewis Barker. A fantastic achievement considering the dominance of Sale and Sedgley Park this season

Finally, on the playing side, I'd like to say A big Thank You to all those who have represented Macclesfield Rugby Club this past season, at whatever level – you are all an important and integral part of our club.

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I want to return now, to the re-development of the club. As you know, at the end of a long process characterised by incompetence, our application to re-develop the ground was rejected. This means

we need to commit ourselves to another three to four years of austerity, but also, we need to find ways to re-invigorate the club. I am delighted to welcome Stephen Branch on to the committee after he replaced Tim Peakman in November, and he, along with the other committee members, are already working on this. For example;

- The first team budget has been reduced further as part of our financial stewardship. I'd like to thank the `contracted players` for agreeing with the budget cuts and taking a reduction in match fees. Indeed, some senior players have led the thought process for the new pay structure.
- Our Physio budget has halved as Hogan & Mitchell have been replaced by Ollie Ware along with a couple of students and we are actively looking at cost savings wherever it's possible.
- Regarding fiscal matters, Pete White will give you an overview of the financial performance of the club in his report, but it continues to be a struggle – we cannot invest in basic facilities in the way that we would like.
- Bob Cooke has volunteered to act as liaison/coordinator between Jones Homes and the club over the next four years as the marketing strategy develops and we generate more social and fundraising activity
- We are initiating the One Club approach and ditching the Blues and Lions tags so that everyone from U6 to first team feels part of the same club and from this season, all teams from Under 6 to 1st team, will wear identical playing shirts.
- We also feel the club needs to cash in on its heritage – it's 140 years ago that the club was originally founded and we need to promote that history. We also need to be seen and recognised within the town for what we are – a community club within Macclesfield, open to anyone & everyone.

Not an exclusive private members club – something which Cheshire Council clearly were of the opinion that we are.

We are pushing hard on increasing sponsorship and other commercial activity – Dan Ackerly will start his first full pre-season as commercial manager this year and will have a longer run in than last pre-season to identify and sign up sponsors. Despite joining well into the summer last year, when getting sponsors is very hard, Dan performed admirably and I'm delighted to announce he has just secured a 3-year shirt sponsorship deal with a local business to the tune of £12,000 per season – details to be announced early next month.

However, we seem to take 1 step forward and 1 backwards – Halliwell Jones have decided not to renew their sponsorship deal of £11,000 per year.

Therefore, with kickbacks like that in mind, the role of business development director is currently under review as part of the club's wider cost saving plan. There is a risk of redundancy here and the likelihood is that Jonathan will leave the role early in September

Whilst we are doing our utmost to kerb expenditure we still need to carry out the following repairs asap;

- Deep fat fryer - £1,750
- Waste pump - £2,550
- Floodlights (Main pitch & Astro)- £1,500
- Repair auto barrier - £750
- Improvements to the boiler room - £850
- Total of £7,400

And that's without any improvements to the antiquated showers in the changing rooms and other important maintenance issues

It therefore, goes without saying, we need everyone to pull their weight, pay their subs on time and support any functions, fund raising events we may have. With that in mind;

- We remain committed to running a full social programme and I'm pleased to say that Julia Maxton Close has agreed to chair a reformed social committee.

- We are re-structuring the executive committee to include the chairman of minis and juniors (in keeping with the one club theme) and, as you'll see, we have nominated some young blood to take over from Charlie Halle and David Mair who are stepping down after serving for 6 years. As mentioned earlier, Steve Branch has already joined the committee having taken over from Tim Peakman in November. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank David, Charlie & Tim for their sterling service to the club over the past 6 seasons – their contribution has been Herculean, and their support for me has been immense and welcomed.
- We have 5 current first team players - Tom Davenport, Chris Townsend, Franky Barker, Sam Moss & Billy Robinson who have held up their hands to assist in various ways and have already come up with some new and innovative ideas to help the club. I find this extremely encouraging as they move from playing to putting something back into the club.
- A team of volunteers from within all sections of the club - minis & juniors, senior players, bar staff, supporters and management - have been busy at weekends and evenings, painting and tidying up the main room and there are plans to extend this to the entrance hall, stairs, landing and the changing rooms.

Despite all of this we really need your help in bringing in more sponsorship and cash into the club, no matter how small a sum. I really can't emphasise how difficult **maintaining** sponsorship income is, as evidenced by Halliwell Jones withdrawal - and we put so much effort into this to maintain **membership fees and bar prices** at a reasonable level. If you, or someone you know, is willing to sponsor the club, or help in any way, please encourage them to do so as early in the season as possible. We are determined to improve the facilities at the club for the next few years and we have ambitious renovation plans that will hopefully enable us to bring in more revenue but this cannot be done on good will and loans.

Despite the difficulties, we continue to maintain a proper community rugby club thanks to the efforts of a small army of volunteers and club employees. I can honestly say, the majority of alickadoos from visiting clubs comment to me on this aspect, and of what a great social club we are, asking 'how on earth we continue to punch above our weight against the big boys with the big budgets and resources to match, yet still maintain our fantastic community club spirit and outlook'. During the past season, I have also received a number of emails from visiting supporters, who have taken the time & effort to write to me, saying how much they enjoyed their visit and to say what a great club we have here.

So, credit to everyone who has helped our guests enjoy their time at Priory Park, both club officials and employees, but also you, the membership who make our guests feel welcome here every Saturday.

- On the social side, we continue to have variable success – Christmas, players' and Ladies' lunches are always sold out but we struggle to fill the normal pre-match lunches for some unknown reason. Over the past 6 seasons, Debbie & I have attended 173 pre-match lunches - At 40 different clubs and I can honestly say that the food served up by Maggie & Barry and their team is amongst the best there is – staggering when you see the facilities and space they have to work with.
- On that point, I'd like to clarify and make it clear that all meals and drinks that the committee and their partners enjoy here, are paid for by the individuals themselves and nobody is subsidised in any way by the club. All are fully paid up members with season tickets – even though in some cases, they are Life VP's choose to pay an annual subscription. We choose to in order to help our club. I'd also like to mention that all travel expenses to away matches are also paid for by the committee members – other than sometimes

travelling on the team bus – and that nobody benefits financially from being on the committee – quite the opposite in fact.

- We need both your advice and support on what social events you would like run, their frequency and timing. Obviously, these events are an important source of revenue but beyond that, they are an important component of the social life of the rugby club and I am anxious that we continue to have a full and varied social calendar that has something for all members. So please contact Julia if you have any suggestions whatsoever as to how we can improve things in this area.
- As you will all know, we are desperate for income and any suggestions, however trivial they may seem, are more than welcome. One idea which we are considering, is to have a wall in the 1st XV dressing room, dedicated to all those who have had the honour and privilege to play for the 1st XV here at Macc. For a payment of £100, your name would be there as part of the proud heritage of his club. Do the sums - if we had 200 people come forward, that's £20,000 of income to assist in improving facilities here.
- With regards to `spreading the word` I'm staggered at the amount of club members, players and MJ parents/coaches who have asked me what's happening with the proposed development of the club.
- All communications are sent out in a weekly newsletter and put on the club website, & on social media. I'm unsure as to what else we can do, but if anyone has any ideas, please advise as I'd be pleased to know!

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- The purpose of the chairman's report is to look back over the season just gone but I can't help also looking forward to next year.
 - There is much to look forward to as we consolidate our position, and I would urge you to think about the renovation of the club and fully get behind the `One Club` initiative. I think people are now beginning to recognise how precarious our situation is and are now starting to come forward with offers of help. I am reassured that people are now starting to recognise how much the club means to them and how important it is to keep it going. However, we need more help and no one will be turned away, so whatever you can offer, either as sponsorship, donations or pro bono time, please come and talk to me.

Ladies and Gentlemen, if you're still awake, I'd like to thank you for your support throughout the season and for your attention tonight, and hopefully we can rely on your support for what is an exciting future at our club.

Acknowledgements and thanks to club members

To this end I believe the most important task of this statement is to recognise these people. This list is long but you will forgive me because they must be acknowledged:

So, in no particular order;

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| • Jonathan Marsh | doing an invaluable job on the commercial & business side of running the club, combining this with role of Match Day host. |
| • Geri and her bar staff
Elaine, Kerry, Amanda etc. | Fantastic bar service – These girls work tirelessly to ensure everyone gets served – sometimes under real pressure & always with a smile despite some impatient punters. I have had many comments from visiting officials and supporters, praising the girls behind the bar. |

- Maggie & Barry Priestly and the team who provide the catering
Food always of a very high standard, and they have suffered financially due to the unprecedented number of postponed games – particularly on Sundays when the place is usually teaming with kids and parents. Unlike Senior rugby, these games are re scheduled so they lose out on income.
- Gate team led by Colin Joyce
Colin Joyce Alan Cope
Sue Bowen Dave Teale
Helen Stuart Jane Harper
Will Montgomery Keith Dobson
Mark Reddiough Mike Keeling
Ray Richardson Sarah Tobin-Flynn
Helen Holden
Sterling effort by everyone, too many to name. Always put on a brave face, despite standing on the gate facing the elements – and also facing irate punters who somehow think they have the right to come in free of charge
- Terry Robson & Derek Laidlaw for 4th official duties
- Albert Simpson
For liaising with the referees and other match officials for the past 30 plus seasons. Albert has now stepped down from this role, so I'd like to give him a special Thanks for all his efforts over the years. He can now enjoy the match days without worrying about other duties.
- John Knight
Fixture secretary for `social sides`
- Tony Close
For sorting out the applications for International tickets and the `will & pie` club. Anyone here not yet a member, please see Tony for details about how you can help your club and enjoy a fantastic pie lunch!
- David Wilkinson
Match day commentator, and raconteur (his phrase – not mine!)
- Sir Nicholas Winterton & David Rutley MP
For their continued their support over the season
- Ground Staff –
John Webster Phil Jones
John Davies Barry Day
Dave Armstrong Roger Hadwin
John Brown Steve Fry
Dave Holden Bill Roberts
Save the club a fortune in labour costs and are invaluable – volunteers. These guys worked exceptionally hard this season in the face of one of the wettest, coldest winters on record. We can't praise their efforts this winter too highly.

- Tim & Sam Broster from Branching Out 2,
Who very kindly paid for a much needed vertidrainer to help the drainage on the main pitch.
- James Jennings, Andy McLean, Barry Priestly (Barry the Pie)
For organising, assisting work parties to paint the clubhouse. Also, to all those who turned up to help in this important project, giving up their valuable time on Sundays and evenings.
- All of the minis, juniors and colts team coaches and administrators
For their hugely important roles in introducing youngsters to our great game and showing the patience of Saints in nurturing and coaching these stars of the future.
- Phil Mason – MJ Chairman
Difficult job of running the MJ section with all the differing factions.
Also, a great help on match days hoisting the flags, putting out the pitch flags, and organising ball boys and mascots each week.
- Ross & Simon – Blues physios from Hogan & Mitchell
Hogan and Mitchell are stepping down after 3 years and are being replaced by Ollie Ware.
- Dr Philipp Gruenbeck
Dr Phil has had to step down from match day attendances due to his circumstances having changed, so extra thanks to the Doc tonight.
- Marshall Gadd
First team coach – Marshall started the season as 1 of a team of 3 but found himself in sole charge after Chris Jones left and Giles was replaced. As mentioned earlier, his achievements and results are even more impressive when you consider he`s done all the coaching on his own.
- Luke Grey – 1st team manager
Luke has been the only ever present at every single game this season giving invaluable help to Marshall and the squad on match days. Sometimes Luke is here 5-6 hours before kick-off ensuring the 1st team are organised, kitted out etc every single Saturday
- Jim Curtis
Handling the disciplinary issues like Rumpole of the Bailey
- Bob Jenner
Taken over from Clive Hammond as NCA representative and also Doing a fantastic job

on the history of our Rugby Club. Check out the web page to have a look at the Timeline he has produced with some help from Wilkey.

- Derek Laidlaw for washing the strips each week and saving the club a fortune.
- Mickey Jones for organising – yet again! – the Beer festival – an extremely important revenue stream for the club. After 24 years (and several pints of beer!) Mickey is taking a step down from this role and we are looking for a couple of volunteers to step into Mickey's rather large shoes.
- Julia Maxton Close Fantastic effort in organising the Ladies' Lunch for 100 Ladies and for putting her name forward to head up a social committee.
- Captains of all social teams A really Difficult job and much appreciated. Please give these guys your support.
- John Webster For another outstanding season as President of Macclesfield Rugby Club and also representing Macc at Cheshire RFU meetings
- To those members – who probably wish to remain anonymous, but you know who you are - who have very generously donated their hard-earned cash to help their club. If anyone is in a position to donate some money – no matter how small – please contact Clive Hammond. Rest assured, any money donated will be exclusively used for the improvement of the club house and grounds.
- Tim Peakman, David Mair, Pete White, Charlie Halle & Stephen Branch For their tireless efforts in running this club and supporting the Chairman
- And Finally, to all you for your support week in and week out Sometimes it's very difficult when things don't always go the way they are planned, and there are always certain individuals who insist on 'having a cheap shot' at the Committee on a Saturday afternoon, but Thank you to everyone who DOES lend their support, whether by way of words or deeds. This far outweighs the negative comments and makes it worthwhile.

Please forgive me if I've forgotten someone, however, that's inevitable when there are so many to thank for the success of our club.

Appendix 4 Finance report

This report is only brief and general as our financial year does not end until 30th June and we will as usual hold a Financial AGM in September when I will report on the accounts in full.

As with most sports clubs we continue to live a hand to mouth existence. I mentioned last year that we have a good knowledge of our annual expenditure and that there are very few areas where savings can be made. Having said that with ideas brought forward by Nick Smith with in the financial plan he helped develop we have looked closely again at all our expenditure and made some small savings which are always welcome. The aim of any club is to ensure that Income meets expenditure and this has again proved difficult this year.

Looking specifically at our income we had budgeted for a small increase of 11% over the previous year having identified areas across the board where this increase could be achieved. The general income which covers things like the bar, hire of the club house, the rental for the telephone masts, donations, non- playing subs etc will have exceeded budget thanks primarily to the donations members have made which have been earmarked for the club renovations.

Playing income will just about meet budget showing a small decrease over the previous year, taking account of the reduced allowance from the RFU for travel and the loss of our football section. Gate takings and Season Tickets were at a similar level to last year and it remains a problem as to how we can increase the number of people coming through the gate. Playing subscriptions overall hit budget thanks to the work carried out by Jonathan in chasing the players and are at a similar level to last year.

The two areas where we continue to struggle is from the fundraising events and sponsorship. Whilst income from fund raising is at a similar level to last year the members response to the RFU raffle which could produce £9k for us was again poorly supported. Sponsorship is a continuing problem although I am pleased to report that with Dan Ackerley on board I expect to see a 24% increase in sponsorship in the year taking it back to the levels we saw in the 2014/15 year. With Dan's commitment I expect to see a higher level of sponsorship coming in over the next years.

I set a break-even budget for the year and whilst I expect expenditure to come in under budget, income will fall short and there will be a trading loss for the year.

Cashflow remains a problem for us as whilst we will show a small trading loss for the year we also have to finance the repayment of the mortgage and tractor loan which is about £10k per annum. This year we have also had some necessary small capital purchases of about £1k. We need therefore ideally to be running in profit of about £15k to cover the outflow of cash.

The Chairman has thanked the large band of members who give their time without which the club would not function. I would like to reiterate his comments and add my thanks as without their help we would not bring in as much income and certainly we would have to spend far more on the efficient running of the club.

I think I am preaching to the converted but as a rugby club it is vitally important that we have the full support of all our members not only at the games but at the various functions that are organized so that we can maintain the viability of the club going forward.

Peter White

Financial Director

Appendix 5 1st team report Marshall Gadd

Last season (2016/2017) saw the loss of the spine of the squad in ability and experience:

Elliot Brierley – 142 games	Tom Eaton – 335 games (223 for Macc)
Mike Finnemore – 105 games	Jordan Brookes – 129 games (78 for Macc)
Ollie Parkinson – 74 games (23 for Macc)	Nyle Davidson – 122 National League games
Josh Redfern – 18 games (Then professional)	Elliot Millar – 85 games then to Edinburgh
Paul Millea – 136 National league games (41 for Macc)	Jack Ingall – Professional
Martin Kent – 165 games	Ollie Fewtrell – England Counties 18's
Tim Jeffers – Retired from sales Sharks	Matt Van Sertima – County 20's

These represented over 1,300 caps of National League experience. Not to mention the professional experience lost through those leaving the club.

This year we have developed talent from within and had to manage players bodies, promoting a number of 2nd team players. A great example of this is Tom Burden who has become an established starter and respected player in the 1st team. Phil Laing and Chris Jones came back due to a lack of recruitment by the previous head coach of a second row. Matt Thorp played 15 games more than he had in a season before and has looked handy.

The likes of Sam Travis (21), Dom Sheratte (21), Joe Dearnaley (19), Jake Percival (18), Zach Heath, Sam Perry (20), and Bruce Lacey were given their chances and we also introduced Simon Ridgeway (18). Long term club man Pete Board has broken in to the 1st team and will continue next season.

We have developed players such as:

Myles Hall who has become a first-choice player these days

Frankie Barker has become a regular in the second row

We brought in youngster Tom Poole who has improved immensely and we have identified Dan Matthews as a recruit with potential.

We brought Brendan Berry back and he has become a good, mobile, loose head prop.

Sam Broster was utilised in his best position at centre and flourished in the absence of Max Smith on long term injury.

Dan Lomax has enjoyed an extended run at full back with James Hampson forced to play out of position.

Tom Morton has been getting back to his usual self and we were without the centre pairing of Smith and Winterbottom for the majority of the season due to injuries. We also lost Josh Degroot after 2 games to injury.

A number of players will be leaving us or retiring prior to next season and I would like to thank them for their contributions to the club and wish them well for the future:

Rhodri Mayor – Tom Davenport (Appointed to the committee) – Lewis Barker – Ryan Parkinson – Matt King – Toby Twigg - Liam Parfitt- Dave Marwick.

We are making good progress in the recruitment of new players who are ambitious and talented:

Adam McCarthy (Bath BUCS, England North 18's, Lancs 18's, Fylde 1st XV

Jordan Simpson (NLD, Glossop)

Tom Brand (Hartbury College, Glossop)

Dafydd Rees (Wales Students RI, MMU, Sale Jets)

We are looking for more young talent that we can develop within our financial constraints and our success so far can be demonstrated by the signing of scrum half Jonny Mason from Sedburgh. Jonny has been playing alongside Cameron Redpath all season.

We have built bridges with the second team in our training methods and in selection and has resulted in a number of players being promoted to the 1st team. This will encourage younger and ambitious players to come through the ranks of the club all the way in to National 2 rugby. In the forthcoming season the 1st and 2nd teams will work as a squad to further enhance their training and development

Appendix 6 2nd team report Jim Curtis

Lions AGM report 24/5/18

Played 20

Won 9

Lost 11

League position 4th

Possibly the most challenging season in the past 10 years, due to player availability and injuries thought out the club.

Many positives for the season - after the 2 warm up games I felt that we were 5 weeks off from being ready for the season, this included fitness and game management. This was proved correct as we started the season with 5 straight losses, something I cannot ever remember happening to the Lions. on a positive note the lads buckled down and produced some fine rugby and turned the season around allowing us to beat all the teams in the league at least once with the except of Chester, who only beat us with the last play in 3 games!

Following on from the 3rd team not playing a game and the 4th team playing a conscious decision was made by the management of the 3 teams to ensure that we produced all 3 teams every week. This led to a vast improvement of communication and player spread over with a number of players playing twice on a day on occasions and reduced or no benches being taken.

Again, the Lions have been a breeding ground for the next generation of 1st team players with a number of Lions players making the step up to the first team this season either permanently or sporadically when required. This then bringing 3rd team players into contact with the more structured Lions game.

Happy to report that all of the players blooded into the Lions were all capable and held their own or even excelled and kept their places, including a number of Colts

Finally, I am happy to report that with the increased communication there is a far greater bond within the playing core of the club from lions down to 4th team the important step for this is to now include the colts in this and encourage them to make the full transition into open age rugby

Thank you

Appendix 7 3rd team report James Keep

Macclesfield 3rd Team Report 2017/18 Championship – 2nd league in the North West intermediate

	Team	P	W	D	L	CC	Wo	Co	Nfw	For	Agst	Diff	Pts
1	Lymm 2	24	22	0	1	0	1	0	0	1069	305	764	93
2	Vale of Lune 2	24	18	0	4	0	2	0	1	943	318	625	82
3	Wirral 2	24	16	0	7	0	0	1	0	780	470	310	69
4	Rossendale 2	24	11	0	12	0	0	1	0	378	640	-262	56
5	Wilmslow 2	24	10	0	13	0	0	1	0	613	544	69	53
6	Macclesfield 3	24	9	1	13	1	0	1	0	554	736	-182	49
7	Rochdale 2	24	8	0	16	0	0	0	0	550	737	-187	48
8	Stockport 2	24	6	0	18	0	0	0	0	445	828	-383	42
9	Preston Grasshoppers 3	24	3	1	19	0	1	0	1	268	1022	-754	35

START:

Plagued by player loss both through retirements, other commitments and club moves. However, positively, players moved up the teams in the club.

Started with 6 straight losses, some games starting with less than 15 men, with one game us even going down to 11 players whilst the opposition maintained 15 on the pitch (with substitutes)

The players found it very hard graft, and player recruitment from there became more difficult. Showing the importance of a strong start to a season.

The quality of players we had was never in doubt, it was the quantity that we suffered with. However, it was a season of two halves

Total		Before xmas		After xmas	
Loss	13	Loss	8	Loss	6
Win	9	Win	2	Win	7
Concede	2	Concede (cup)	1	Concede	1

TURNAROUND:

5 straight wins from the end of January

- Colts becoming available which was a very positive contribution
- Players helping from other clubs (Bowdon, Wilmslow & Kersal)
- Working group commitment to collaboratively working through the player shortages
- Fantastic 'club players' showing the true meaning of the phrase. Playing 1st team to third team in as many weeks.

Core 3rd 15 availability was fragile until the end with us turning out for the final game with a bare 15 and narrowly coming undone to the League champions

Players should be encouraged to play back down the sides as their careers slow down.

Team management should cover the fielding a 2nd & 3rd team

PLAYERS COUNT – 100 players on contact sheet (some 2s some 4s)

Played (78)

A Frain
Aled Williams
Barts
Callum Wright
Caswell
Coates
Cooke
Coolbec
Crompton
Curtis
Davenport
David Kirk
Dobson
Eiffleander
Euston
Fox
Gadd
George Hodgkinson
Gleave
Gostick
Graham
Grant
Gregory
H Blackwell
H Harding
H Oliver
Hadfield
Hamish Burke
Hardwick
Hopkin
I Roberts
I Taylor
J Board
J Oliver
J Wright
Jack Brierly
Jake Atkinson
Jake Lodge
Jeremy Bostock
Jim Welsh
Joe Flower
Johnny Thompson
Jones

Lewis Pierce (Fb)
Lisle
Lord
Max Russell (fb)
McCarthy
Milne
O Roberts
Oli Kenny - broken wrist
P Board
Pat Ellis
Pat Swallow
Poyser
Preace
Price
Richard Norfolk
Robinson
Rosser - Knee
Rowbotham (fb) - Elbow
Sherratt
Shiel
Smith
Spendlove (fb)
T Blackwell
Thomas
Thomlinson
Tom Aitchison
Tom Leicester
Warren
Whitehead
Williamson
Keep
Kingston
Kirk
Kostija
Lewis jones

Didn't Play (22)

Lewis
Lamon
M Thorpe
J Taylor
Olly Wheelton
Carl Downes
Jim Leighton
Ryan Brown
Dave Bostock
Dan Salt
Josh Burke
T Burden (waiting on knee scan)
C Frain
Forbes Hunter (colts prop)
James Scott (colts prop)
Oscar Kenny (fb) - slipped disc
Macey
Ross Elliot (fb)
Ross McGone 12 (colt)
Barnes
M Dale
Pat Horgan

Appendix 8 4th team report Ryan Brown

The 4th team is a mix of players of all abilities across a wide age group who enjoy playing competitive rugby on the pitch and the craic off the pitch. It can be really difficult to get a team out each week either because people are not available or because, as the lowest team in the club, we have to lend players up to support the senior sides in the league. Having had a bit of a crisis after Christmas with the number of concedes and the threat to the 3rds and 4ths of exclusion from their respective divisions it was amazing to see how players pulled together each week and made themselves available to support their teams. We set up the whats app group and communication between the 2's, 3's and 4's improved a lot and helped with the selection of payers for all three teams. It was good that Matt Harding joined the group and worked with us on selecting colt's players, particularly after then end of their season.

The season ended well and we are looking forward to the next one.

A BIG Thanks to Jason walker and the guys who organised the social tour to Greece this year. All 44 of us across the teams had a great time..... What goes on tour – stays on tour!

Appendix 9 Ladies team report Phil Mason

while, and long has the club needed a Women's 15 to take to the field.

Since launching just after Christmas, the group has a core of around 20 now regularly training. Experience varies wildly across the group from zero to fully fledged players, so they are taking their time to build the group. We have an age range of anything from 14 to 40+.

Tim Riseley has taken on the role of coach, with support from around the club. RFU have provided financial assistance which puts a little in the bank for when they need kit etc.

Hopefully the Women's team will be up and running this season playing friendly matches, building experience and playing time, and ready to enter the leagues in 2019/20 season.

Exciting times in store for the Macclesfield Women's 1st XV.

Appendix 10 Colts report George Edwards

Macclesfield Colts Season review 2017/18.

- Won the North West Colts Senior (U18) league B
- U17 Cheshire Cup Semi Finalists
- Won Heaton Moor U17 7's tournament
- 4 Players signed into Sale Sharks U18 Academy
- 3 Players played for Cheshire U17's
- 4 Players played for Cheshire U18's
- 2 Players played for Three Counties U18's (Notts, Lincs, Derby)
- 1 players played for North of England U18 (Will Davies)
- 4 players played in Cheshire U20's training squad plus 1 player represented Cheshire U20's
- Top points Scorer – Harry Oliver (92 points)
- Top try Scorer – Pat Swallow (11 try's)
- Top points Kicker – Harry King (48 points)
- Most appearances – James Wright (12), Conor Chalcraft (11), Harry King (11), Ben Holden (11), Jack Faiers (11)
- We won every Prelim game except first game v Wilmslow and every Conference Game. In the Prelim competition, where bonus points were available, we collected a bonus point in every game (except Wilmslow)
- 41 players made match day appearances
- 25 players scored points
- Macc scored 507 points and conceded 242 points. Our average winning margin was just under 18 points. If we only look at league matches then the average winning margin was just under 22 points
- Across all North West Conference Senior Colts Leagues only Wilmslow and Rochdale also have a 100% record. Neither had played all their fixtures.

Appendix 11 Mini/Junior section report Phil Mason

Mini and Junior Report 2017 / 18 Season

Once again, the section continues to thrive with a steady 380 or so mini and junior members taking part in training, matches, festivals and tournaments throughout the season. A full summary for each age group is on the website (with pictures).

On the Field

U6 – Playing their first competitive match against Wilmslow at the end of the season, strong squad with a good coaching team. Plenty to look forward to from these boys and girls.

U7 – In their first competitive season the U7's has had a great time scoring real tries for once. Great bunch of boys and girls, and firm commitment to the RFU ethos of developing the whole player.

U8 – Hosting an excellent U8's Cheshire Festival despite difficult circumstances saw this squad remind everyone what belonging to the rugby family is all about. Some excellent performances from the entire squad this season and already looking forward to contact next year.

U9 – First season of contact is always a challenge, but the lads and girls have risen to it with style, producing some competitive and highly charged games.

U10 – Second season of contact for the lads, running two mixed ability teams at this age group as it's all about development. Highlight was entertaining a touring side from Glasgow (GHA) and being able to compete and show serious contention. Winning all games at the Cheshire Cup and great performances at Wilmslow and Lincolnshire Festivals.

U11 – The largest of our age groups with around 45 on the books, so always a challenge getting enough games and pitch space

U12 – Privileged to have such a talented U12s squad, with enough depth to field two competitive teams all season. Land rover Cup winners and representing Sale Sharks at the Aviva Premiership Final, Manchester Festival winners and Cheshire Cup Winners.

U13 – A new start in 2013 following a wholesale coaching change. Back to basics with emphasis on passing, rucking and tackling. Some new starters emphasised the fresh start and a good 3 back to back wins against Glossop, Hoyle and Marple together with a tough but reassuring tour to Grimsby has helped to bond the team ready for next season.

U14 – Making it to the Cheshire Bowl final (2nd tier) and unfortunately losing out to Caldley on the day, but a great year the highlight of which an excellent showing against Wilmslow where the lads played end to end flowing rugby that would not be out of place on BT Sport. More to come from a talented squad.

U15 – A mixed season and no silverware this time, however making it to the semi-final in both the Cheshire Cup and also the 7's competition at the end of the season. Entertained a fantastic side from Portugal (Belenenses U15's) on 5th May finishing on a high looking forward to more next year.

U16 – Having struggled for numbers all season, Carl Roberts has gone to extraordinary lengths to keep the team together and produce some strong results throughout the season. Whilst undoubtedly some will drift away those that remain will form part of the combined Colts next season.

Colts – Senior Colts B League Winners, 507 points 4, 242 against. 4 players in Sharks U18 Academy, 12 players playing for Cheshire (U17, U18 and U20), 1 Midlands U18's and 1 playing for North of England!!

Off the Field

We have faced a number of challenges this season with respect to allegations around safeguarding issues. Whilst, in each case, no further action was taken this has acted as a wakeup call to the section and the club. Progress is being made towards a complete refresh and relaunch of the safeguarding policy.

For starters we now have a full DBS register and have removed anyone without a valid RFU DBS (or who refused to get one) from any position with the club where they have contact with Children. This will be maintained moving forward.

A "play it safe" course organised at the club sadly didn't go ahead due to low numbers (despite commitment from age groups to attend). Dan Holden (Club Safeguarding Officer), Tim Riseley (deputy CSO) and I have completed a high-level safeguarding audit. This will be brought to the Exec Committee's attention at the next available opportunity as urgent action is required in a number of areas.

We have trained three more coaches to UKCC Level 2 and provided CPD training to a number of other coaches in various areas. We have provided safeguarding training to Dan and Tim (mentioned above) and hosted a "Core Values and Disciplinary" training session for U13s coaches and parents, which following feedback will be rolled out to other age groups in the forthcoming season.

Spearheaded by James Jennings a Volunteer group have been busy decorating the main clubhouse, entrance, stairs and will be moving rearwards as time goes on. Barry the Pie also decided to come in during the week to push this project on.

Thanks to

All M&J Coaches and Team Managers / Admins for continued support and cooperation, James for the decorating energy. The U8s (led by Ruth Lancaster and Mike Ransom) put out a great Cheshire Festival under challenging circumstances.

Also, thanks to our M&J Membership (parents and players), who are a great bunch of people with a true Rugby Family spirit.

Next Season

- Safeguarding review for entire club
- More training for coaches
- Build the “one club” identity
- Integration with 1st XV for the Junior teams (and to some degree the mini’s)