



**Committee Meeting Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 7:30pm via ZOOM**

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT**

Rosemarie Reynolds-Blanche RRB (Chair), Steve Wilks (SW) (Vice Chair), Val Hollingsworth (VH), Marie Reid (MR), Olu Kubweza (OK), Sarah Braiden (SB), Sarah Gibson (SG), Kate Wilks (KW), Peter Bretton (PB), Rochelle Reynolds-Blanche (RORB), Charlotte Warmington (CW), Harriet and Naniyah Owusu (NO), Jessica Hurley (JeH), Pascale Harley (PH), James Harley (JH), Bisi Owolabi (BO), Sophia Sefton (SS), Anusenthiyah Chandrakumar (AC), Yvette Hurley (YH), Ersin, Alison Cambell (AC)

**APOLOGIES**

Nisha Patel, Sarah Pledger, Sivalini, Nissanthan, Naomi Lakey, Laura P. Liz Percy, Anthony Adefioye, Rachel Crowther, Natalie Fordjour, Suneetha Golla, Ololade Olayanju, Indepal Solanki, Jasmit Ubhi, Iredia Oboh, Uzmah Patel, Veronique Kazadi, Sonia Lall, Beryl Atalar, Daniel Lewington, Kukua Darko-Samaroo

	<b><u>Agenda Items</u></b>
1	<b>Minutes of the last meeting AGM noted.</b> Last set of minutes received and noted. Apologies noted.
2	<b>Chairs report – below are the main points covered presented and recapped by RRB:</b>  <b>1) RRB thanked the following for support and commitment:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- all committee members for their efforts in running the club and introduced and thanked Naniyah as the youth representative 'ensuring that our young players have a voice within the club.'</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- all the coaches who devote time and energy to mentoring and supporting player.</li> <li>- parents and supporters for their invaluable input and encouragement</li> </ul> <p><b>2) RRB recapped membership Growth:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Club has 175 members, with new individuals joining weekly.</li> <li>- RRB recognised returning members studying at university as testament to the EO community built</li> <li>-</li> </ul> <p><b>3) Leadership Updates:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- RRB thanked Sarah Biss for stepping into the role of interim Head Coach, supported by Rochelle Reynolds-Blanche, Val Hollingsworth and Sophia Sefton.</li> <li>- Despite efforts to recruit a head coach, the post is still vacant and RRB requested all present to encourage suitable applications.</li> </ul> <p><b>4) Highlights of 2023/2024:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Bursary Scheme:</b> Bursary scheme is functioning well, providing support accessible through team coaches.</li> <li>• <b>Essex Open Tournament:</b> This event was a resounding success, showcasing the commitment of players, parents, and friends.</li> <li>• <b>RRB congratulated</b> all the newly qualified coaches and umpires including young players obtaining their 'Into Officiating' qualifications.</li> <li>• <b>The Development Squad for</b> integrating younger players and those looking to refine their skills before entering main squads.</li> <li>• <b>RRB stated EO</b> is becoming a more competitive club, entering various leagues, including ENG, L&amp;SE, and Sister n Sport leagues, which better prepare for future national competitions.</li> </ul> <p><b>5) Team Highlights:</b></p> <p><b>U10s and U11s:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• U11s now have a Blues Team, with several players receiving opportunities to compete at higher levels.</li> <li>• Notable achievements include winning their group in the ENG competition and a fusion match, with Alice Horgan being named MVP of the tournament.</li> <li>• U11s finished first in the Summer League, with the U10s coming in second.</li> </ul>
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**U12s:**

- won the U13 Essex Met League and had impressive finishes in several tournaments.

**U13s:**

- maroons played up in the U14 Met league, qualifying for the A league after round 1 and finished 3rd with a goal difference of just 1 goal.
- competed in the U14 regional qualifying round and made it through to compete in the 2024-25 London and South-East league.
- blues competed in their own age group of the Essex Met league and also qualified for the A league after round 1 with a mix of wins and losses finishing mid table.

**U14s:**

- finalists in the ENG and Nationals, and qualified for U16s Regionals, with standout performances including Renee Hurley winning MVP for South East league.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Fusion Tournament (U15s)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Essex Open Tournament
- 1<sup>st</sup> Sabina Tournament
- 1<sup>st</sup> London Youth Games (all our U14s) - Renee Hurley won MVP for whole tournament
- Renee Hurley and Atronna Sebyala continue to be in U17 Players Development programme (PDP)

**Seniors:**

- first team finished an impressive second in the first division - only three losses throughout the season.
- second, third, and fourth teams faced a slow start but improved significantly, finishing mid-table.
- fifth team, after a challenging season, benefitted from playing in a lower division, while the sixth team managed to secure their place after a close finish.

**6) Awards and Recognition:**

- RRB congratulated the recipients of Jack Petchey Awards, and the Foundation for their support in player development and team bonding activities.

**7) Fundraising Efforts:**

- RRB thanked to Val Hollingsworth for her dedication to fundraising, which has enabled various initiatives, including umpiring training and opportunities for young coaches.
- RRB thanked Steve Wilks for keeping website up to date and managing fixtures and venues for the regional team.

	<p><b>8) Looking Ahead:</b></p> <p>RRB encouraged committee members and parents to share ideas with coaches by 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024.</p> <p><b>Closing note was a final</b> thanks to all contributions and commitment and taking a positive view of the year ahead.</p>
3	<p><b>Treasurer's report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The annual report for the year ending July 2024 was signed off by the external accountant, Alison Brian, reporting a large deficit of £11,000</li> <li>• Accounts approved by the committee.</li> </ul>
4	<p><b>Election of Officers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chair</b> – Rosemary Reynolds-Blanche nominated by SW and seconded by VH– post accepted by RRB</li> <li>• <b>Deputy Chairman</b> – Steve Wilks nominated by RRB and seconded by SG – post accepted by SW</li> <li>• <b>Club Secretary</b> – Charlotte Warmington nominated by RRB and seconded by SG – post accepted by CW</li> <li>• <b>Club Treasurer</b> – Peter Bretton nominated by SW and seconded by RRB – post accepted by PB</li> <li>• <b>Safeguarding Officer</b> – Olu Kubweza nominated by SG and seconded by VH – posted accepted by OK</li> <li>• <b>Communications Officer</b> – Steve Wilks nominated by RRB and seconded by CW – post accepted by SW</li> <li>• <b>Tournament Secretary</b> – James Hurley nominated by RRB and seconded by VH – post accepted by JH</li> <li>• <b>First Aid Officer</b> – Kate Wilks nominated by RRB and seconded by VH but was absent from the meeting so follow up on re-election noted</li> <li>• <b>Caps Accreditation Officer</b> – Pascal Hurley nominated by SG and seconded by – post accepted by PH</li> </ul> <p>Naniyah noted as players representative again.</p> <p><i>SW thanked everyone for the awards ceremony and how well the girls conducted themselves that evening,</i></p> <p><i>SW and other committee members thanked RRB for her work as the Chair and continued commitment to the club.</i></p>
5	<p><b>Appointment of auditors</b></p>

	<p>Alison Brian at Flourish Accounts confirmed again as auditor. No objections raised.</p>
6	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Amendment of the constitution discussed and the reason for it to allow for withdrawal of membership where appropriate – CW agreed to review the policy wording for SW.</li> <li>b) Further fundraising opportunities discussed and the suggestion of a sub fundraising committee be set up as a sub group. No volunteers named at this meeting.</li> <li>c) Fundraising opportunities discussed in addition to the Christmas Hampers included mother and daughter netball tournament (less siblings) and a quiz night. No decisions made but to be revisited and discussed outside of meeting.</li> <li>d) Next meeting is the AGM on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024 via Zoom</li> </ul>