

Creggs RFC AGM 2019/20

Zoom Meeting 8pm September 30 2020

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Minutes AGM 8/6/2019 (Summary)

The Minutes of the 2018 AGM were presented and adopted.

Proposed : Ken Loughrey : Seconded : Pat O Gorman

Presidents Report : Padraic Deane gave an excellent report on his two years as President of the club, during which huge development both on and off the field had taken place. He thanked everyone for their enormous voluntary contribution which had made his role so much easier.

Secretary's Report : Sean Brandon also highlighted the great strides made by the club over the past few years, with success on the field of play equally as important as the huge development which has taken place.

Football: 1st team : Ger Dowd spoke of the excellent performance by a young 1st team squad in running Connemara close in the Junior League, before losing to the same opposition in the Junior Cup Final. Along the way, Creggs won the Cawley Cup, which was a notable achievement and also performed well in the All Ireland Cup, losing out to a strong and experienced Clonmel side at The Green. He thanked the 1st team management of Pat Cunningham, Liam Callaghan and Berney Higgins for their huge input and also acknowledged Kevin O'Rourke's contribution. Ger also paid tribute to captain Kevin Brandon, who was an exceptional leader.

The **Development Squad** also enjoyed a positive season, with Paul Turley, Mattie Corcoran and Kevin O'Rourke doing Trojan work to increase the player base and improve the skill levels.

Joint captain Alan Glennon said the pre Xmas period was very positive, but the team struggled thereafter due to injuries and a general decline in numbers.

Youth:

Dave Purcell said it had been a very successful year for Youth rugby, with big numbers and teams competing well in all grades. The 16s lost the Cup Final to a strong Ballina team, while the 17s were defeated by Ballinasloe in their League final. Thanks to all who helped out with the preparation and coaching of the underage teams. We have the best facilities in the province. Congrats to Aodha Hession on gaining u18 International honours, and a lot of players were involved with Connacht teams also.

Minis:

Shane Fleming spoke about the strong numbers at Mini level during the season. There were plenty of games, with only 2 weekends missed due to the weather. We are actively recruiting coaches, and encourage senior players to help out occasionally.

Girls:

Dave Purcell reflected on a very positive season for Girls rugby, culminating in a superb Cup Final win for the 14s against Connemara. Great work done by Micheal Glennon, Siobhan Purcell and Geraldine O'Brien. The 16s also competed well.

Child Welfare;

Berney Higgins said we had got a lot of coaches Garda vetted during the year, need to be always vigilant.

Finance;

Aidan Farrell Treasurer gave a report to the meeting of the various Income and Expenditure items during a very busy season. Total Income was € 128 k while Expenditure amounted to € 136 k, but this included some exceptional items.

Padraic Deane identified a potential saving of € 24 k next season, while also speaking of the potential to increase Membership, Lotto and Sponsorship.

The Finance Committee members were thanked for their huge input to the club's fundraising efforts.

Joe Ryan had spearheaded an increase in the Lotto from a low point of 125 members to the current level of 500 approx. This was a phenomenal effort. There was also the welcome addition of new blood to the Finance Committee.

Branch :

Thanks to our Branch reps who attended meetings throughout the season, and also to Adrian Leddy, for his sterling work as both Fixtures Secretary and IRFU Delegate for CBIRFU.

Grounds;

Kieran Dowd said we had probably the best pitch in Ireland at club level, thanks to the great efforts of many people. He mentioned Joe Ryan, John Cunningham, Kieran Brandon and Liam Callaghan in particular, while also thanking Padraic Deane for his invaluable support.

House;

Padraic Deane said he was disappointed he hadn't got a House Committee in place, but that thanks to the help of many volunteers, we fed a lot of teams during the season. This was something the incoming Committee needed to address.

Election of Officers; 2019/20

President : Aidan Farrell

Vice –President : Vincent Collins

Secretary: Sean Brandon

Asst Secretary : Dave Purcell

Fixtures Secretary; Adrian Leddy

Treasurer : Kieran Dowd

Asst Treasurer : Joe Ryan

Club Registrar : Aengus Oates

Player Registration : Liam Callaghan

Branch Reps : John Cunningham, Pat O Gorman

Lotto Coordinator : David Kearney

Lotto Manager : Joe Ryan

Child Welfare : Berney Higgins, Geraldine O'Brien

Grounds : Kieran Dowd

PRO: Padraic Deane

All of the above served on the 2019/20 Committee, except Joe Ryan and David Kearney.

Committee ; Sarah Tucker was added to the Committee, which was retained en bloc except for Kieran Brandon and Padraig Gubbins, who did not seek re-election.

Committee members 2019/20 : Sarah Tucker, Shane Fleming, Ger Dowd, Kevin Brandon, Micheal Glennon, Jack Hegarty, Noel Galvin, Geraldine O'Brien, Niall Quinn, Kevin O'Rourke, Mattie Corcoran.

Finally, there was a minute's silence for anyone connected with the club who had suffered bereavements during the season.

Secretary's Report

2019/20 Season

The 2019/20 season has been the strangest in living memory . The fact that our AGM is being held on September 30th by Zoom is enough to reflect the unusual circumstances in which we now find ourselves. Covid-19 has changed everything. Up until March 12th, the season had been progressing nicely on all fronts. All our teams were competing successfully, with the 1st team retaining the Cawley Cup and the Development Squad poised for a serious stab at the J1C League title. Similarly, our underage Boys and Girls teams continued to prosper, with semifinals and finals on the horizon. For Creggs RFC ,all changed dramatically on that fateful Thursday in March with an email from the IRFU at 4.38pm informing clubs of the suspension of all rugby activities from 6pm that evening.

Thankfully, six months later, rugby activities have resumed, albeit in a much changed environment. Sport has naturally had to take a step back during a period of unprecedented trauma and sadness for many families, but hopefully it will continue to provide an important outlet for both our underage and senior players over the uncertain months ahead.

The club has continued a massive development programme over the past few years, the fruits of which are there for all to see. This has imposed an immense workload on several people to make it happen, all done on a voluntary basis. This volunteerism is one of the great strengths of the club. At the risk of omitting anyone, I will just say that it has taken a massive collective effort to get to this point, on and off the field, and Creggs RFC is now very well positioned to continue to develop and prosper.

Our Coaching structure has been very successful in recent years. Witnessing six 18 and 19 year olds stepping straight in to our 1st team to play against Tuam in the Cawley Cup bears testimony to the excellence of our underage coaching. The success of Schools rugby, and the work by club CCRO Micheal Glennon, has been another huge benefit to the club, in addition to a thriving Mini rugby section. We are very fortunate to have so many dedicated and talented coaches at all levels from Adult right down to Mini rugby.

Alongside the main Committee, the various sub- Committees have all worked very hard during the year. As the club gets bigger, there are more people required to help out, none more so than in Finance, where we have been very fortunate to have Kieran Dowd and Joe Ryan at the helm. I need no further elaboration.

Aidan Farrell has been a very proactive President, driving the club on and always prepared to get stuck in as the need arises. Thanks to Aidan for all his help.

There were many notable achievements during the season. The Astro pitch's official opening last November which brought many old faces back to the club was especially memorable, as was the Club Dinner Dance in the Abbey Hotel later that same night.

Winning the Cawley Cup provided a tangible reward for the 1st team, under the captaincy of Brian Diffley. Connemara continue to be the standard-bearers for Junior rugby in Connacht, but the gap has narrowed and with the addition of several new players to the squad, Creggs are well placed to challenge for major honours this season.

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The Development squad, bolstered by two hard-fought wins over Ballinasloe home and away, were just hitting top form when the season was pulled up, but there should be a squad capable of challenging strongly again this season.

Congrats to Jack Tucker on following Aodha Hession's footsteps into the Irish Under 18 team, with Mark Purcell also very close to an Irish cap, and a large number of Creggs players also featuring prominently in Connacht underage squads.

Hannah Coen was selected for the Irish Girls under 18 squad, congrats to her also on that major achievement and the best of luck to her with her career. Girls rugby has progressed enormously over the last few years, thanks to our superb coaching team for all their dedication.

Our sponsors continue to be a huge support to the club, while the Lotto provides vital revenue and needs everybody's support if possible. Thanks to David Kearney for his sterling service as Lotto co-ordinator and also to John Ralph and Sarah Tucker for their important work on Lotto. Great work has also been done to generate a huge and sustainable income from Hoardings.

Club PRO Padraic Deane, in addition to his many other roles, continues to get excellent coverage for Creggs in the media, and that also demands a lot of work. Likewise, Liam Callaghan carries out the onerous Player Registration duties with efficiency and the minimum of fuss, as does Aengus Oates as Club Registrar. Our physios and medical people also play a key role in safeguarding players while enabling them to return to play when deemed fit to do so. Thanks also to our referees and affiliate referees for their very important function in the club.

Well done to Adrian Leddy on winning the election to represent Connacht as an IRFU Delegate for the 20/21 season. Thanks also to our delegates who attend Connacht Branch meetings and keep the committee up-to-date with developments at Branch level.

With increased numbers comes increased responsibility and in this regard, we are fortunate to have excellent people looking after Child Welfare and Insurance on behalf of the club. The advent of Covid-19 has imposed serious restrictions on all sporting organisations, and we are very thankful to everyone who has helped with devising and implementing appropriate plans for the club.

Finally, spare a thought for any families associated with Creggs Rugby who have suffered bereavements during the year. Sadly, we have lost some good friends of the club since our last AGM. May they rest in peace.

No doubt, there are many things I have left out, this is just a quick snapshot of the year gone by.

Sean Brandon

Hon Secretary

From:
Sent:

Padraic Deane <pdeane@autopub.ie>
29 September 2020 22:53

Creggs RFC First Team Report 2019-'20 Season

It seems a lifetime ago since pre-season training got underway early in July 2019.

The club retained the Cawley Cup for the second year in succession. We defeated Tuam, Dunmore and in a repeat of the previous season, we accounted for Castlebar again in the Final. We are now going for three in-a-row this season in a competition that we hadn't previously won. It's on League basis this time around, with a semi-final and final.

The first three Connacht J1 League results went well but were tough games. It started with a home win over Sligo, followed by another away to Castlebar, and then Westport at home. We then had two good try bonus points wins over Monivea at home and Tuam away. So five wins out of five was a good start.

The first step back of the season came in a defeat to our recent times nemesis Connemara. We went down 8-16 (one try a piece) in a game we could have won. It was another hard lesson for the lesser experienced team.

Two weeks later the lads bounced back with five tries win over Buccaneers and beat them again 21-0 on a terrible night for rugby in Dubarry Park. A week later, in what many had already labelled a League title decider, we lost again to Connemara in another game that didn't go to plan.

Doubtful that it should have gone ahead with a major delay from the previous game, where a player had a serious leg injury and a helicopter had to be called. We then had a man wrongly sent off (it was rescinded on video evidence the week after) mid-way into a shortened first half and the game finished in near darkness. The result meant that the league was effectively over.

To the players credit, they came out the following week in Galway and won the previously mentioned Cawley Cup Final v Castlebar.

In January, we had another League win over Tuam, followed by Westport away in the Junior Cup. Then another trip to Connemara for a Junior Cup quarter-final. It was certainly a game we should have won but didn't - we lost 20-14 in Clifden.

So effectively on January 19th., we had no trophies left to play for. However, we supported the Development team, who were going very well and we finished out the season with a couple of more wins. We never got to play our last two games v Sligo and Westport due to the lockdown. We finished in clear second place in J1 for the second year in-a-row.

Our playing season did finish on a good high, with a friendly win over a Bernard Jackman coached Bective Rangers. Creggs won 5-0 in a very good and tough encounter in difficult weather conditions on the 4G pitch. Bective is one of the oldest clubs in Ireland, with a great history, A return match is planned for Donnybrook, when it is allowed by IRFU protocols.

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I'd like to thank in particular the following for their great work with the Firsts, the Development and Under-20 - Pat Cunningham, Liam Callaghan, Tony Dolan, Berney Higgins, Mattie Corcoran, Kevin O'Rourke, Paul Turley, Sean Brandon, Dave Purcell, and Pat O'Gorman. It's ultimately all one adult playing group, and the benefits of that co-operation are being seen more on every outing by our teams. I'd also like to welcome Michael Harding, another excellent coach who has joined the group.

A big thanks also to the club committee, the pitch committee, Aidan for the video, the house committee for feeding teams, and everyone else who supports the players and coaches at every turn.

Finally, so far this season, the First team has played two Cawley Cup rounds and won both v Tuam and Buccaneers. This included one last Sunday, while the Development team beat Carrick away in the Curley Cup, a couple of hours later. 38-39 players lined out on Sunday, and we have well over 20 more good rugby players to join in yet. Stay safe and we'll go upwards & onwards!

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CREGGS RFC

Creggs Dev Sq.

Report :Season 19/20

In July management met to discuss players numbers with 60 players been contacted to play rugby with Creggs Dev Sq. Our main goal for the season was to increase players attending training on Friday nights as this was a struggle for last number of years.

Our second season competing in Connacht J1C league, we got off to a poor start with early exit from the Curley Cup in R1 and defeats to Tuam and Ballyhaunis in R1 and R2 of the league. With players returning from GAA in early October and high numbers turning outs at training, results changed to a 7-game winning run, leaving us in a very strong position to win the league until the season was cancelled.

Highlights of the season

On 6 occasions we had over 30 players attending training sessions on Friday nights with the lowest number of 20 at training.

51 players played for the Dev Sq. over the season with:

3 New players, 8 Youth players, 11 Returning layers

Dev Sq. vs Creggs legends on Official opening day

Thanks to all in management, Vincent, Deano, Pat, Duff, Paul & Kevin, also captain Brian Cody. Thanks to Ciara for been team physio and Gerry for covering. Thanks to Adian and Eoghan for recording the games. To everybody who helped with having food cooked after each game a huge thanks, it was greatly appreciated by the players, management and visiting teams. Thanks to all the players for there commitment for the season.

Subject:

Full List Adult Rugby Coaches/ Management nominees for 2020-'21 Season:

Full List Adult Rugby Coaches/ Management nominees for 2020-'21 Season:

First Team Coaches: Head Coach - Pat Cunningham; Forward's coach - Michael Harding; Backs Coach - Tony Dolan.

First Team Manager: Padraic Deane. Assistant Manager: Berney Higgins.

First Team & Club Captain: Brian Diffley. Vice-Captains: Aidan Leech and James Brandon.

Development Team Coaches: Head Coach - Kevin O'Rourke; Coaches: Mattie Corcoran and Paul Turley.

Development Team Manager: Mattie Corcoran. Assistant Manager: Sean Brandon.

Development Team Captain: Luke Meehan, Vice Captain: Brian Cleary.

Adult Rugby Fitness Coach: Kevin O'Rourke.

Under-20's: Head Coach - Dave Purcell. Manager Under-20's: Pat O'Gorman.

Youths report for AGM:

The 2019-20 Season obviously came to a sudden and dramatic halt in March 2020 while the cups and Plates were in Full swing. At the time of the shutdown our U16 Boys and our u14 Girls had already qualified for finals which were not played and therefore jointly shared their respective competitions. While our U13's boys were in a cup semi final and our U14's/U15's/U17's competing well in the plate competitions and the u18.5 cup had yet to kick off. Our U16 Girls had lost out in the semi finals of both the league and cup and our U18 Girls were just about to kick off their cup competition when the lockdown commenced.

While it was a season of frustration for all I would like to wish our Congratulations to our U18.5 Players from last season . Jack Tucker on his inclusion on the Ireland u18 Clubs Squad and Mark Purcell for his inclusion on the Ireland U18 Schools Training Squad during the season and to Jack Keegan, Tom Farrell and Aodha Hession for their involvement with the Connacht U19's last September for their Interpro series. Also to Mark Dowd, Shane Connaughton and David Gacquin for their involvement in the Connacht U17 Squad whose tour to New York was cancelled and they also missed out on the interpro series this September which should have taken place in UL and lastly to Edimar Fimho, Ciaran Purcell, Lee Kilcoyne and DJ Hession who were selected for the U17 Connacht Squad to go to Galway for their summer sessions which unfortunately didn't take place.

Again our policy of developing rugby in the local school paid huge dividend last year which helped with the number participating at youth level for the Club and Congrats to CBS Roscommon on their Junior League and Cup double success, but also to their seniors on going down valiantly to Grammar in their Cup Semi and to St Marys Ballygar for reaching the Development schools league final before losing out to Gort and to Roscommon CC on also fielding in the competitions last Season. Congrats also to the Convent Girls Roscommon who participated at Junior and Senior last season, with their Junior team coming very close to getting to the final in the Sportsground, losing out in the semi final.

Our Youth Coaching Ticket for next Season is below:

U13

Graham Curran
Shane Fleming
John Connolly
Ivor Trimble

U14

Seanie Lohan
Marie Cormican
Damien Kilcommons
Wesley Beckett

U15

Ollie McGuinness
Seamus MOLLOY
Liam Callaghan

U16

Niall Quinn
Aengus Oates
Andy Boyle
Richard Smyth

U17

Dave Purcell
John DOLAN
Noel Galvin

U18

Kieran Dowd
Ger Dowd
Mark Gorman
Damien Connaughton
Pat o brien

U20

Dave Purcell
Pat o Gorman
Aidan Farrell
Patrick O Farrell

Report as follows

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Minis

The year gone by for the minis was very successful year numbers wise . We had 170 paid up minis registered with the club from under 7 to under 12 . The u12 group are now gone forward to u13 youth with over 30 players attending the first three training sessions for 2020/2021 year. Out of those players there are 12 players which have come up through the ranks from u7, so the retention of players is good with more joining as the years go on.

Coaches/Coaching

On the Minis Coaching side we have 20 active coaches spread across the age group in both boys and girls minis. All of them very enthusiastic in their drive to teach the kids and make the sport enjoyable. The signs are good for the all of these coaches returning this year with plenty of further interest in new blood to the ranks. All of the coaches have completed Stage 1 Coaching courses. The plan would be to proceed and invite them to complete Stage 2 in the coming year, if it allows us.

Girls Minis

The girls minis took a different route last year by splitting them from the boys and as a consequence the numbers seemed to grow in all ages groups, and, of course the GIVE IT A TRY initiative also generated numbers. Michael Glennon has to be commended on the work being carried out in the schools in spreading the good news that is Creggs Mini Rugby .

Summary

The year ended abruptly but I can assure you there was plenty packed in to the year that was 2019/2020. We travelled to plenty of blitz's all over Connaught and also welcomed many clubs to our grounds highlighted by the official G4 pitch opening where we catered for approximately 350 players. Our players always represented themselves, their coaches and the club to the highest standards on and off the pitch.

We look forward to getting back to training on either 17/10 or 24/10 providing all is well in the current situation.

Finally I would like to thank everyone who helped during the year 2019/2020 along the year and look forward to their continued assistance for their coming year and to build on the success already achieved.

Regards Shane Fleming

From: Adrian Leddy <Adrian.Leddy@irfu.ie>

subject: Re: Creggs RFC. A.G.M. 13

Connacht Rugby - IRFU Report

Lockdown all Connacht and IRFU meetings were held by video link . Since
of COVID-19 the main topics at meetings were dealing with the Government Guidelines and Finance As a result
. IRFU and Connacht Roadmap issued to all Clubs with Guidelines for Clubs and Community. Keeping
Clubs updated on the ongoing changes to Guidelines and Protocols on foot of the Government
Guidelines. A lot of changes had to be made in order to get Rugby up and running. Dealing with
Domestic Rugby no games to be played outside the Province's in 2020 so this meant setting out a
new structure. In Connacht a series of meetings took place between the Competition Committee
and the Clubs to draw up the Season Plan for 2020/21 . In full agreement of the Clubs it was agreed
to start with the Cawley/ Curley Cups including for the first time 2nd and 3rd sides of Senior Clubs
and to play off in Divisions worked out on a geographical basis . Hopefully all going well these
Competitions will be followed by one round of the League's and Junior Cup .Creggs are draw against
last year's winners Kilfeackle at home in the All - Ireland Cup on 2 nd January 2021. A new online
Administration System for Clubs with players required to register themselves
individually.

On
Finance various systems were put in place to help Clubs with grant aid , moratorium on loans ,PPE
gear , refund of international ticket money , Clubs of Ireland Draw and currently working on the
applications received from Clubs for the Covid-19 Emergency Fund

Again I want to thank the Club for the support in the recent election
for Connacht Delegate to the IRFU.