



DRFC 2025-26 AGM	
Date/Time:	6 th June 2026
Location:	Doha Golf Club
Attendees:	• Tim Newnham (Chairman) - Speaker • Pip Innes (Club Captain) - Minutes • Keanu Odendaal (RDO)

Item	Details
Season Overview	Season Review • M&Y delivered a successful season, highlighted by three tournaments, including Chairman's Day, which proved extremely popular across the wider club community • A key objective is to strengthen integration between all sections of the club, from M&Y through to senior rugby. The success of Chairman's Day demonstrated strong appetite for more club-wide events. Plans to introduce one club-wide event per term • Greater emphasis was placed on player pathways, with four members of the U'18 boys progressing to play for the men's teams in the domestic league and West Asia Super Rugby, and one member of the U'17 girl's representing the ladies' team. Expanding these opportunities remains a priority for the coming season • DRFC are currently in the planning stage of introducing specialised camps and additional player development opportunities next year to further support progression • Proposal being developed to introduce U8 players to contact rugby as part of their development pathway • Across a 28-week season, DRFC participated (hosted or attended) approximately 35 events • While overall membership numbers saw a slight decline, M&Y membership increased. Open Days played an important role in recruitment and engagement, generating several new registrations on the day ◦ 429 registered members (3% down from the previous season) Safeguarding • Discussions are ongoing with two external safeguarding providers, one based in South Africa and the other in the UK, to support the club's newly introduced safeguarding framework

	- The club intends to develop safeguarding policies internally to ensure they are appropriate for the local context and culture, before engaging an external provider to review and validate them <i>Safeguarding policies are a mandatory government requirement from the MoSY that must be submitted annually during the DRFC/RDT license renewal process</i>
Financial Audit	- Additional expenditure was incurred during the season, primarily due to increased staffing costs following the appointment of a full-time Rugby Development Officer (RDO), as well as the transition to a new kit supplier, Tsunami, which required the purchase of a full set of new playing and training kit. The kit costs are not expected to recur at the same level in the coming season - The club recorded a net loss of QR 43,623 for the financial year. - Post-covid (previous 5 seasons) the average annual profit of DRFC currently stands at QAR 83,000
Facility Update	- As mentioned in last seasons AGM, Rugby Doha Trading (RDT) entered a tender to take over the management and development of DSP. Currently the tender has not been awarded as DGC and the current landowners finalise details of their lease agreement - The proposed lease agreement is for a 25-year term. While initial discussions considered a shorter-term arrangement, a longer lease provides greater certainty and creates more opportunities for long-term growth, investment, and development. - Members expressed concerns regarding the limited information available on the status of the tender process. It was agreed that an update will be provided to members if and when concrete information/feedback has been received. <i>To date there is NO confirmed award of this tender</i>
Sponsorship	- Sponsorship revenue was approximately 35% lower than the previous season, which had a direct impact on the level of subsidies available to support club activities - Existing sponsorship agreements with eight companies are expected to continue into the coming season, providing a stable foundation for future revenue - Discussions are currently underway with two to three prospective sponsors to further strengthen the club's sponsorship portfolio - A DRFC member has been appointed 'Sponsorship Manager' to lead sponsorship and partnership development, with a focus on securing new opportunities and enhancing existing relationships. ALL sponsorship proposals must be arranged through the new Sponsorship Manager, not through individual members, to provide transparency of proposals and ensure there is no conflicts with what DRFC can offer or has already committed to. <i>Details of the Sponsorship Manager and the role will be posted on the DRFC website</i>
ExCom	- No nominations were received for the positions of Chairman or Club Captain. As a result, Tim Newnham and Pip Innes will continue in their respective roles - The majority of the committee positions also remain unchanged, with Justin Murray continuing as Social Representative, Matthew Raper as Men's Representative, and Curtis Wolstenholme as Vets' Representative. - Sandra Knight has been appointed as the new Ladies' Representative, while the M&Y Representative position remains to be confirmed.



A.O.B

- DRFC is currently working on a proposal with Tryble Rugby to support player recruitment, through a schools programme, with Tryble providing extracurricular activities (ECAs) and funnelling interested children into DRFC programmes
- An opportunity has been identified to build on the momentum generated by the QIPSA Tag Rugby Tournament, which involves participation from more than 20 schools and provides a strong platform for recruitment and community engagement
- It was proposed that Ladies players increase their visibility within the club through coaching and mentoring roles, helping to encourage girls to continue their rugby journey. Communication and coordination will be managed through the Ladies coaching and management teams
- A review of start dates for the M&Y section was requested. The use of the Dome will be explored again as an early-season option, although current capacity restrictions may limit participation numbers. There is also interest in commencing Wednesday training sessions earlier than Saturday sessions although start and finish dates for M&Y when the entire section is down, is the preferred schedule from the ExCom, creating a 'club feel'
- Consideration was given to whether individual sections could arrange their own pitch bookings, with members paying on a per-session basis where appropriate
 - *In this instance, it will be mandatory to communicate to members/parents, that these bookings are NOT DRFC organised and are at the risk/responsibility of individual coaches*
- The club will review temperature policies applied within schools, particularly where outdoor activity is restricted when the "feels like" temperature exceeds 40°C. It was suggested that these considerations be incorporated into the club's safeguarding procedures
- Season end dates for December were discussed. The general consensus was not to conclude activities on 19 December, immediately following National Day celebrations, but instead to finish on the preceding Saturday. The M&Y section expressed a preference to finish on a Saturday to ensure alignment between the start and end of the season
- Following numerous requests and the RDO's attendance at the UAE AGM, DRFC are looking to enter and host tournaments with the UAE during the upcoming season