



ENGLISH RUGBY COUNTIES ASSOCIATION

Counties in Membership

Berkshire
Buckinghamshire
Cheshire
Cornwall
Devon
Durham
Eastern Counties
Essex
Gloucestershire
Hampshire
Hertfordshire

Lancashire
Middlesex
North Midlands
N.L.D.
Oxfordshire
Somerset
Staffordshire
Surrey
Sussex
Warwickshire

Associate Members

Derbyshire
Lincolnshire
Nottinghamshire

MINUTES of the meeting held at Fiveways Old Edwardians RFC on Sunday 18th September at 11:00 a.m.

Counties represented:

Gwyn Stone	Buckinghamshire	Ken Andrews	Lancashire
Peter Rhodes	Cheshire	Brian East (Secretary)	Middlesex
Alan Mitchell (Treasurer)	Cornwall	Peter Grace (Chairman)	North Midlands
Richard Simeons	Cornwall	Steve Guy	North Midlands
John Drew	Devon	Andy Shorney	Somerset
Treve Mitchell	Devon	Rob Forsyth	Staffordshire
Peter Williams	Gloucestershire	John Atkin	Staffordshire
Peter Baines	Herts & RFU President	Charlie McGinty	Warwickshire

Apologies were received from:

Jonathan Dance	Berkshire	Charlie Hemmings	North Midlands
David McAteer	Berkshire	Malcolm Caird	Surrey
Anthony Flack	Buckinghamshire	Des Chalmers	Somerset
Gordon Roulinson	Derbyshire	Steve Mead	Somerset
Ivor Smith	Essex	Becky Davies	Staffordshire
Garry Doherty	Hampshire	Malcolm Caird	Surrey
Adrian Sparks	Herts	Roger Edmundson	Sussex
David Herriman	Lancashire	Frank Edmonds	Sussex

1. **PRELIMINARIES**

- 1.1 The chairman, Peter Grace, welcomed all to the meeting and thanked members for attending. He welcomed Peter Baines to the meeting and congratulated him on his role as the President of the RFU. He welcomed Gwyn Stone from Buckinghamshire and John Atkin from Staffordshire to their first meeting. He drew attention to the fact that Fiveways Edwardians were celebrating their 125th Anniversary year.

2. **MINUTES** of meeting held on 5th June 2016

- 2.1 The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true record. Matters arising were taken as agenda items.

3. **RFU Artificial Grass Pitches (AGP) Strategy**

Members discussed their experiences within their CBs for the establishment of AGPs

- 3.1 The Chairman reported that apologies had been received from Ross Baxter from the RFU who was unable to attend. Ross had attended a North Midlands meeting where he had clarified the selection criteria for the Rugby Share part of the project. He (Peter) went on to report that North Midlands were uncomfortable with the dissemination of information about the projects within North Midlands. Steve Guy also commented that whilst the CB had met with the RFU team their concern was with the process overall.
- 3.2 John Drew (Devon) – The clubs nominated by the Area Manager were informed about the selection criteria but the CB had not been included. They (the CB) were aware that the next tranche of clubs have been selected but the details have not yet been made public.
- 3.3 Peter Williams (Gloucestershire) – They had meetings with their clubs and the RFU Staff. The current situation is there are 5 clubs being considered for AGPs, 17 clubs with a potential need. The CB is content to leave the planning with the RFU staff.
- 3.4 Charlie McGinty (Warwickshire) and reporting on behalf of Colin Baldwin (Oxon). The first 6 projects had been approved by RFU Council but the next set of clubs has yet to be determined. The pilot projects have not yet been completed.
- 3.5 Ken Andrews (Lancs) said that the CB had very little input into the selection process. They sat on the “panel” but were not consulted. The CB does not know which clubs are on the list. Lancs are keen to see the outcome of the pilot scheme.
- 3.6 Richard Simeons (Cornwall) – Clubs have put themselves out of selection because of their leases.
- 3.7 Andy Shorney (Somerset) said that the Hornets project had started. The selection process was not clear and the CB had learnt about the outcome of the selection at the RFU Council meeting.

4. **Possible National CB Conference 2017**

- 4.1 Peter Williams (Gloucs) stated that the Club Development Sub-committee had met recently and were considering the development of a CB and club officers programme.
- 4.2 The National Conference will go ahead with dates and venues to be determined. The action plan from last year’s conference will be reviewed and progress established.
- 4.3 Peter reported that the RFU Leadership Academy had agreed on 16 candidates and that more nominations were needed from the CBs.

5. **Constituent Bodies Bar at Twickenham**

- 5.1 Ken Andrews stated that the bar was in need of some refurbishment. There is a plan to use the facility as a reward for CB volunteers. Richard Simeons said that Cornwall already do this and Alan Mitchell commented on the poor access for disabled people.

6. **Reduction in funding from Sport England**

- 6.1 This item was to have been led by Colin Baldwin who was unfortunately not present. Various views were expressed but no conclusion could be reached without the detailed information

7. **Payment of Players**

- 7.1 It was reported that the paper on this subject will be discussed at the next RFU Council meeting.

8. The Treasurer reported that the current balance was £3143.48 and that the invoices for 2016-2017 were being sent out.

9. **ERCA and future topics**

- 9.1 Members commented that these meetings were very useful in informing their CB about matters of common interest. John Atkin from Staffordshire expressed the view that he had found the meeting very useful and will promote the meetings within his CB. Gwyn Stone expressed a similar view and asked about the possibility of an ERCA website.
- 9.2 Topics suggested for future meetings included the entry of 2nd teams and it was agreed to keep the County Championship on the agenda

9. **Any other Business**

The meeting closed at 13:05.

The next meeting will on 22nd January 2017.

Signed by Peter Grace, Chairman, as a true record of the meeting

_____ Date _____