

## LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

### Minutes of the Board meeting of the held at Liverpool St Helens FC on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2016

Present: Mr D Herriman in the Chair, Messrs, K Andrews, R.T.J. Briers, P.Deakin, T. Fitzgerald, J.T. Hughes,

In attendance: Mr S.Urquhart (in part).

Apologies: Messrs S.Blackburn, M Downs, J.S. Greenwood, T.D. Stirk, B.H. Stott, M.J. Worsley, D. Southern, Mrs CA.Baker

David Herriman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### RDO Report.

Stuart Urquhart reported the following.

1. Artificial Grass Pitches:

- Progress has been made on only three AGPs in the country. The pitch at Preston Grasshoppers was started last week and will be completed by 28<sup>th</sup> November. PGH will have 12 hours a week free usage and all other organisations will be charged.
- Potential venues for other AGP's in Lancashire are being considered.

2. Key targets for RDO's and CRC's will be about growing the game especially within the Male 15 a side game.

- Challenge is to keep the current club teams playing, to establish a stable base and then begin to increase the number of teams within individual clubs.
- Problem at Colts level again outlined with the obvious gap between and senior level being at U19.
- Work is being done to improve the transition of players from the All Schools programme into their local clubs.

3. Age Grade Rugby:

Following the extensive review the new programme for Age Grade starts this September. There will be CPD for all clubs with Mini/Junior sections. The Rugby acquaintance course will target club members, parents, schools cover the latest information on Safety, Headcase and Kids First programme.

4. First Aid Courses are now being run. Clubs can book their places.

5. GMS Data cleanse will continue with another project in October 2016.

6. Clubs at risk: There was considerable discussion regarding a particular club who was causing concern about their future existence. It was agreed allow the new members at the club continue to do what they can but close monitoring of the situation early in the season is necessary.

SU was thanked and he left the meeting.

### Minutes of the last meeting:

The minutes of the Board meeting held on Monday 1st August 2016, (previously circulated) were accepted and signed as a correct record.

### Matters arising.

1. MD reported that, following the last meeting, he isolated from the members list those who live in the south of the country and distributed to all other CB secretaries to see if they appeared on their membership lists. This was to attempt to see if we were the victims of touting. There were no duplicates reported and so he was confident that we have done enough to ensure we are not open to tout members.

### RFU Report

RTJB and KA reported:

1. Karena Vleck from the RFU's legal and governance department has left the RFU.

2. Value the Volunteer:

In response to the RFU's request to nominate a person to attend the Value the Volunteer event along with the CB President at Twickenham, the meeting agreed that Lancashire should nominate Bill Lyon from Orrell RUFC. Bill will be invited with a guest to attend the England v France game on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2017.

3. OMW International tickets. It was agreed that the following volunteers should receive the pairs of tickets for the three Autumn Internationals :

Rachael Williams & Amanda Brazendale – Bury RUFC

Alan Atherton -- Wigan RUFC

Ian Jones – Rossendale RUFC

A nomination from Manchester FC for Neil James was also received. It was thought that Neil should be put forward for the Groundsman of the Year Award.

Once again the response from clubs was poor with only four replying to the email from the Lancashire Hon Secretary requesting that they consider using this opportunity to reward their hardworking volunteers.

4. KA briefly outlined the new RFU structure to recognize the contribution from our Volunteers and how they should be rewarded. This could have a beneficial impact on the way Lancashire Clubs and CB reward their volunteers.

### Hon. Treasurers Report

PD reported:

- The 2015-16 Accounts are now ready to be submitted to the Auditors
- There was a clear looking balance sheet.
- Created new reserves for key CB project in Youth, Coaching and Women and Girls game.
- Academy budget of £15k agreed
- Clubs who are behind in paying subscription fees will be chased up.

## CBRDC Report

TF reported:

### **Annual Lancashire Coaching Conference**

The 2016 Coaching Conference took place at Fylde on 6<sup>th</sup> August. Very positive feedback has been received from those attending

65 Teachers and coaches attended from the 69 registered. All absentees tendered apologies in advance. 23 clubs, 2 universities, 5 schools and 4 FE colleges were represented. Lancastrian coaches travelled from as far away as Switzerland, Staffordshire and Derbyshire to attend.

From the approved PFR Budget of £1,500, a total of £1,329.20 was expended. The aim for the 2017 Conference is to attract 100 attendees; a figure of £2,000 has been budgeted for to meet this objective.

### **ToR & SoR**

The Rugby Development Committee, the Player Development Committee, the Coaching, Committee and Team Lancashire will meet on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2016 to:

- Review the terms of reference and Standard operating procedures for each of the committees
- Review progress towards achieving objectives
- Set priorities and indentify new objective
- Make preparations to implement the 2016-17 PFR

### **Club Coach Mentor Scheme**

To comply with the 2016-17 Annual plan and PFR, the club coach mentor scheme has been reviewed and re-launched to include whole club coaching with emphasis on the Senior and Colts side. Take up in the first few weeks after the launch includes two clubs and two universities new to the scheme for the coming season discussions are taking place to open the two university sessions to nearby clubs to promote club and university links.

### **Lancashire Academy**

The first of entrants to the Lancashire RFU Rugby Academy have been selected. More will be selected following the forthcoming U17s trials which the Academy mentors will assist in delivering. More will also become eligible for selection circa Christmas when they exit the U15s Sale /RFU Developing Player Programme and trial for the Country U15s Squad; again Lancashire Academy Mentors will assist in delivering trials.

### **Junior Competitions**

The 7 -16 committee reports:

Fixtures are out on the Lancashire mini & junior face book page, plus they have been sent to all club contacts 1st games are on the 11th September.

U12s 29 (20) teams

U13s 27 (29)

U14s 30 (29)

U15s 30 (24)

U16s 21 (28)

All figures in brackets are last season's information.

### **Lancashire Senior games.**

It was reported that Fylde RFC had been approached to host the Northumberland game in May at the same time as hosting the Women's Senior County Championship game. The use of the artificial grass pitch at Preston was considered but it was thought that the use of the AGP at this moment was not beneficial to the County side.

## Club and Community Rugby

- A meeting to discuss the website is arranged for 6<sup>th</sup> Sept at Wigan RUFC. Anne Clarke is making progress with adding items to the website.
- DH made a proposal that we invite four of our successful Leadership Academy candidates of recent years to be part of a mentoring scheme to develop members for future CB Leadership Roles.  
The idea is that each candidate would be mentored by a member of the CB Management Board to gain a better understanding of how the County is structured and interacts with the RFU to create a Rugby Union partnership.  
Candidates: Bill Nichol, Andy Kerboas, Tom Baker and Gary Morgan  
Mentors: Tom Fitzgerald, Tommy, Hughes, Brian Stott, David Herriman
- CB Orientation Day at Twickenham on October 6<sup>th</sup>: Attending from Lancashire will be Paul Deakin and Stuart Kohler
- ERCA Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> September- KA will replace DH at this meeting.

## Volunteering

CAB has sent the following report:

**Safeguarding conference** booking going well 17 clubs at present 31 people representing them I will be re-emailing and reminding tomorrow . Encouraging non engaged clubs or not replied yet. to book on

Speakers from Greater Manchester Police, State of Mind mental Health Rugby League, a GMS Trainer, Health and Safety Executive (possible implications for rugby and safeguarding) A Social Media Guru, Brian Stott on Age Grade rules and how to run a DISCIPLINE Panel for Persons under 18years of age.

Members of the Board are most welcome to “pop in” if they wish on the 24th September at Rochdale RUFC to see CSO’s at the conference 9.30am to 4pm timing of the day. Agenda’s will be sent out to board members as well as CSO’s.

## Cup and Competitions

Senior competitions have now started- one or two walk overs. Competition Committee meeting set for Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September.

## Governance

TDS sent his report:

It was agreed that a side from Southport (U11s) be allowed to play in a 3 way tournament with Leeds Grammar and Kings Macclesfield next weekend. Whilst out of season for a club side, it is a prescribed activity for schools and so we feel should be allowed to go ahead.

**Dispensations** for playing out of age that have been requested and will be discussed.

9 from Sedgley Park to play up - combining the Under 17’s & U18’s colts.

4 from Ashton -under-Lyne Colts playing OPEN AGE/ Adult Rugby

1 (female) from Eccles to play adult rugby rather than Under 18’s ladies. (*this is very doubtful*)

KA has given dispensation to Rossall School for U10s to play with U11’s- The school has a small population at these age groups.

## Discipline

Under RFU Regulation 19.2.1 the Disciplinary Panel Chairman has to be accredited to sit in that capacity by the RFU. As the person nominated by Nigel which we had agreed too was not accredited. As John Greenwood was accredited and is willing to accept this position, it is proposed that the Board, according the Lancashire regulation 13.1, ratify that decision at the next Board meeting. The RFU have appointed John to replace Nigel Yates as an RFU Disciplinary Panel Chairman for the North.

## Correspondence.

No correspondence appertaining to this meeting.

## New Members

New clubs were accepted (Mancunians RFC and Leyland Warriors RFC), both Rugby League Clubs and both have started to play fixtures in the NOWIRUL Leagues.

Annual member requests from Mr Trevor Bargh and Mrs Alison Bargh, both state their club as LRGS, both were accepted as members.

50:50 Draw --This will be drawn at Wigan club on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September with DNH.

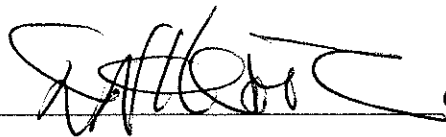
## Date of next meeting:

Next Meeting: Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2016

## AOB --

- County Handbook will be sent to the printers at the end of this week.
- An email from a legal firm has been received by Stuart Kohler, asking for further details in the incident at LSH where a child was injured in the stand. This has been forwarded to County Solicitor John Bullough.
- TF **stated that** Derbyshire CB are interested in providing a fixture for Lancashire Royals. It is important that we move this initiative on and play before the end of December. TF to contact Howard Hughes.
- KA produced a list of Lancashire clubs with some clubs on a priority list for visits during the season. It is proposed that each club in Lancashire should get one visit per season. KA to distribute the list to all Board members.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.55 pm



Chairman

Date

3 09 2016