

LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

Minutes of the Board meeting of the held at Liverpool St Helens FC

Monday 5th December 2016

Present: Mr D.N. Herriman in the Chair, Messrs, T. Fitzgerald, K. Andrews, Mrs C.A. Baker, M.J. Worsley, R.T.J. Briers, J.S. Greenwood, M. Downs.

In attendance: Mr S.R. Blackburn, S. Urqhart, D. Southern, P. Clarke.

Apologies: Messrs, J.T. Hughes, T.D. Stirk, P. Deakin, B.H. Stott, T. Baker (Leigh RUFC).

RDO Report.

SU reported:-

1. Nat West Rugby Force had been launched. 200 x £500 grants are available plus Workshops. All clubs have been informed and should apply before February 2017.
2. AGP at Preston Grasshoppers was progressing and due for completion by 19th January. It is to be viewed as a County / Clubs resource. For the first 2 months it will be available for £1/hour to rent.
3. Blackpool are ensuring that they are fulfilling their fixtures.
4. There should be an extra 4 colts teams next season in the North Lancs area. Garstang, Burnley, Clitheroe and Colne & Nelson are working hard towards this.

PC reported:-

1. Didsbury Toc H – Doing well with 2 Senior Womens sides and starting an U15s Girls
2. Old Bedians – 3rd team started with links to local students and are looking at changing facilities improvements.
3. Wythenshaw – Great success, Mens team have played 7 fixtures, a womens team have played 2 games and the U17s have 27 listed players. The school is very supportive and there are 70 girls involved in U13s to U18s rugby.
4. Broughton Park – New womens team and colts are playing due to returning players.
5. Mancunians – a new dual code casual and vets side.
6. Manchester Medics – now have a second team playing in the North West Casuals and Vets group.
7. North Manchester – Club house has been refurbished.
8. Ashton under Lyne – Teams are playing and the junior section is doing well, changing facilities needed.
9. Aldwinians – doing well all round.
10. The Union Cup, which is the European version of the Bingham Cup is to be applied to be held in Manchester for 2018. Last year over 900 players took part.
11. MMU and Manchester University have new teams, both have 3G facilities.

Manchester Development Group

PC clarified the work this group does as he has been involved from the start. The group was originally a joint initiative with Manchester Council, the RFU and Lancashire. The group provides paid casual coaching to clubs, schools, colleges and in some cases All Schools. Monies to pay these are found from surpluses in budgets.

PC currently working on a 12 month plan which will be shared with the Board. Group is affiliated as a non voting club (action needed to complete GMS).

Action:- PD to check if Lancs contribute financially to the group.

DS reported:-

1. Monies had been agreed from the Heads of Agreement between the RFU and PRL to fund projects in 3 low socio economic groups. Three clubs had been selected due to their current work / proximity to higher populations of these groups. They are Aldwinians – Disability Project, Blackburn – mixed abilities project & Bolton – Black and Ethnic minority project.

The first phase starts in January 2017 and continues in to 2017-2018 season.

Minutes of the last meeting:

The minutes of the Board meeting held on Monday 7th November 2016, (previously circulated) were accepted and signed as a correct record.

Matters arising

There were no matters arising

RFU Report

RTJB reported:-

1. A Council meeting had been held.
2. From the Nominations sub committee – Martin Corey to replace Richard Hill on Council as National Member. Malcolm Caird (Surrey) would become Director without portfolio on the Community Game Board. Ken Andrews would sit on County Championship and Women & Girls sub committees.
3. East Stand Development – There was to be an increase in costs of £13.3M, There would be no more increase and the monies would be paid back over 5 years. The total cost is £65M of which £25M is covered by the catering company Compass. Hospitality will be increased and to a higher standard and the museum would move above the current shop.
4. Payment to players - All proposals had been agreed in principle. NCA negotiations on salary cap value were still underway.
5. AGM to be held on 2nd June in Central London.
6. County Championship regulations had been approved.
7. Board to meet to discuss the ongoing strategic plan.
8. Sport England Governance Code was causing issues with the RFU with suggestions to make up of Council with more demographic diversification.
9. Age Grade Rugby changes had been rolled out and a new Age Grade Rugby Club advisory group was to be formed.
10. The Age Grade Teams questionnaire had received overwhelming support.

Finance & Funding Report

No report.

RDC Report

TF noted that a report had been circulated, the main points of which were:-

1. There will be an increase in coaches delivering due to the success of the coach mentoring schemes.
2. Seven new players had been added to the Lancashire Rugby Academy.
3. 2 male teams at Liverpool University had requested help from the Club Coach Mentor Scheme.
4. 42 nominations received to the Royals team from 8 clubs, selection and training to be held on 12th December. Game is to be played on the 3G pitch at Preston.
5. High profile coaching workshop to be run at Preston on new pitch.
6. Preparations being made by MN and Rugby Development team to hold meeting for club 1st XV coaches and administrators.
7. Howard Hughes to discuss with Anne Clarke a means of live streaming senior games.

A discussion on an email received by TF from Stuart Kohler regarding the purchase of training tops for the U18s using funds obtained from a sponsor. MD to respond to comments and questions raised on behalf of the Board.

Club and Community Rugby

SRB reported that a meeting of the committee had been called.

Volunteering

CAB reported:-

1. Interest had been shown to take up the roll of Volunteer coordinator and would be progressed.
2. A discussion on who should hold DBS certification, this came from CAB investigation in to if RFU Staff have valid certs. One stipulation is that if the same young or vulnerable people are not seen on 4 consecutive weeks one is not needed, but it was felt that it was better to have than have not.

Cup and Competitions

No report.

Governance

No report.

Discipline

JSG gave an overview of a recent meeting where a club had been sanctioned over website comments.

Correspondence.

MD to respond to the email from Stuart Kohler.

New Members

Application from Mr & Mrs Parisi of Preston as Annual Members was approved.

50:50 Draw

Nov-16			Dec-16		
43	P Hanson	£53.70	63	H Henderson	£53.70
179	A T Rowntree	£8.95	109	D Poppitt	£8.95
32	M Cornelia	£8.95	173	D N Herriman	£8.95
23	R Brooks	£8.95	99	J E Nixon	£8.95
133	M Downs	£8.95	145	P Saunders	£8.95

Date of next meeting:

Next Meeting: Monday 9th January 2017

Andy Kerboas (Leigh) will be invited to attend as part of the mentor scheme.

Any other Business

JSG – Graeme Marrs had been poorly and admitted to hospital.


TF – had been busy visiting clubs.

CAB – the Energy Scheme meeting at LSH had been cancelled due to lack of interest.

TF – U17s only had 1 development game arranged. Plan was to arrange games with Scottish Borders and East Midlands if approved by RFU.

KA – showed the meeting the Vin Hughes Memorial trophy which will be played for between Lancs & Cheshire U16s.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:05pm

 Chairman

Date 9th January 2017.