

**MINUTES OF A GENERAL MEETING OF
LANCASHIRE COUNTRY RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION LIMITED**

HELD AT TYLDESLEY RUFC ON 21st JUNE, 2017 AT 8.00pm

Apologies for Absence:-

SM Parker, E Neely, M Hornby, D Raywood, N Atkinson, DL Hodgson, J Lancaster, S Doherty, J Jeskins, P Mahon, RI Grant, J Dewhurst, J Hainsworth, DN Herriman, P Deakin, WDG Chappell, M Chappell, D Woodcock, J Deptford, T Pinney, R Culver, M Nelson, F Morgan, A Bower, C Spivey.

1. **Minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting** held on Wednesday, 22nd March 2017 at Preston Grasshoppers RFC, previously circulated, were approved.
2. **Matters arising.**
There were no matters arising.
3. **RFU Representatives Report.**
K Andrews delivered the report, main points detailed below:

ENGLAND SUCCESS

In addition to the Men's Senior successes this season in the autumn internationals and winning the Six Nations Championship, the Women's Red Roses team winning their Six Nations Grand Slam and the U20's also winning their Grand Slam the teams have gone on to major success this summer.

The Red Roses secured a clean sweep of wins at the International Women's Rugby Series in New Zealand, beating Australia, Canada and the hosts in the final game. The tour has been excellent preparation for the team as they look ahead to the Women's Rugby World Cup in Ireland in August

The Men's senior team, missing 30 players either on the British and Irish Lions tour or through injury, sealed an impressive 2-0 series victory in Argentina. It also provided Eddie Jones the opportunity, with one eye on 2019, to cap 11 new players in the process.

It wasn't the final result we were hoping for at the World Rugby U20 Championship; however, with a number of players absent, either because of selection for the tour of Argentina or through injury, it demonstrated the strength, depth and character of this team and the player pathway to reach the final.

CEO REPORT

- CEO Ian Ritchie is to retire at the end of the summer. Plans are now in place to find a successor
- Three Artificial Grass Pitches are now in use at Preston Grasshoppers RFC, Aylesbury RFC and Hornets RFC. Planning permission is now in place for work to start at Billingham RFC and Shelford RFC in April and detailed feasibility has commenced on 23 sites for phase two.
- RFU had achieved the top end of the Sport England grant funding scale.
- Mitsubishi Motors support of the volunteer recognition programme has now been officially launched. First event in Lancashire 19th May, second event 23rd June at Sedgley Park
- East Stand development – work has started hoped to be finished by Summer 2018
- Opportunity to bid for the Women's World Cup in 2021

INTERNATIONAL REPORT

- The World Rugby Committee approved the residency requirements for players from 3 years to 5 years.
- World Cup 2019: England drawn in Pool C with France, Argentina, Americas 1 and Oceania 2

NOMINATIONS STANDING COMMITTEE

It was agreed to defer the implementation of a factual recording and reporting system on Council Members to their CB's and representative bodies. This would return to the next Council meeting.

Council approved the following appointments for Season 2017/2018:

President – John Spencer

Senior Vice-President – Chris Kelly

Junior Vice-President – Peter Wheeler

Past President on Council – Peter Baines

Chair of the Community Game Board – Rob Briers

Board Directors without Portfolio- Malcolm Wharton, Stephen Pearson, Debbie Griffin

Rob will also be on NCA Executive, PGB Community Committee, County Championship Committee and TEL Board.

Ken Andrews will be on the CB & Club Development sub-committee and the Education & Age Grade sub-committee. Chair of Volunteer Recognition working group, represent the RFU on ERFUSU and ASSE Steering Group. Chair the North West Regional Player Pathway Group.

Council approved the Privilege Membership for Jim Coulson and Stuart Potts

PAYMENT OF PLAYERS IMPLEMENTATION

Council approved the introduction of financial thresholds for the men's game for gross payments to players playing in the RFU Leagues at Level 3 and below and that any club who pays above these thresholds will lose access to certain RFU funding support.

Council approved the thresholds as set out below:

In respect of Men's Level 3 to 5

Men's Level 3 - £275,000 to include the payment of player coaches

Men's Level 4 - £157,500 to include the payment of player coaches

Men's Level 5 - £65,000 to include the payment of player coaches.

Clubs at these levels will be permitted to engage a maximum of two paid player coaches of which 50% of such player coach costs must be included in the above threshold up to the player coach maximums set out above.

In respect of Men's Level 6 and below:

Clubs at these levels will be permitted to engage one paid player coach only up to a maximum of £10,000 and no more than 50% of which shall be in respect of his/her playing duties.

Any club who pays any player any material benefit (whether contracted or not contracted) in return for playing rugby in the RFU Leagues at Level 6 and below, will lose access to certain RFU funding support; and (ii) Clubs at these levels will be permitted to engage one paid player

Council approved the introduction of a declaration for all clubs with a men's team playing in the RFU Leagues at Level 3 and below to complete and submit on a voluntary basis in the 2017-18 season and also mandatory basis in the 2018-19 season.

Council approved in principle the draft declaration and the final version of the declaration would be presented to Council for approval in the 2017/2018 Season.

Council approved that the loss of RFU funding support set out in paragraphs 22 (a) to (i) of the paper would be lost should a club pay above the permitted thresholds at Level 3 to 5, pay players at Level 6 and below, fail to submit a declaration or otherwise not comply with the regulations.

Council approved the establishing of a working group, reporting to CGB, to oversee and review the implementation of the project.

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Council approved the Strategic Plan for 2017/2021

The highlights are around:

- “Why” – making rugby a force for good for everyone in England and the
- “What” – to be England’s strongest sport and the world’s leading rugby nation.
- Strategic priorities are to protect, engage, grow and win with innovation, people and technology being the key enablers.

BUSINESS PLAN

Presentation by Steven Brown of the Business Plan for 2017-2018. This was approved.

HMG GOVERNANCE CODE

The report of the sub-group established to consider the HMG Governance Code was noted and Jason Leonard spoke to the paper.

Non-compliance with the Code would impact on funding, and may also impact on support for major events, increased scrutiny and withdrawal of assistance with visas and potential legislation being introduced to bring about change required by the Code.

In total there were 72 requirements within the code. 39 had already been achieved (green), 21 were easy to achieve (amber) and were approved at the last RFU Council Meeting in April. There are 12 that would require a constitutional or policy change (red).

- Council approved in principle, the proposals set out in the paper which will return to Council for formal approval in September.
- Council approved that the Governance Code Working Group becomes an implementation group.
- Agreed the target of 30% of each gender represented on the Board by 1st August 2020
- Approved the setting up of a Diversity and Inclusion Working Group.

FINANCIAL REPORT RFU finances in a healthy position
£51 million invested in the Community game

5. Playing Report.

H Duggan – The Womens County Championship has been named the Gill Burns Cup who played her first County game against Yorkshire in 1990. In this seasons Cup run the Womens team won their pool and faced Yorkshire in the semi final. A victory saw them go to the final at Richmond with confidence. With excellent defence they played brilliantly scoring all their tries from their own 22. After beating Surrey in the final they were presented with the Cup at Twickenham at half time in the England v Barbarians game. A fantastic celebration with the Mens XV followed. This season has seen the formation of the Lancashire Roses XV to mirror the formation of the Lancashire Royals XV.

JS Greenwood – Reported another County Championship victory made sweeter by sharing with the Womens XV. Cornwall went to Twickenham expecting a the triple, we had to disappoint them. Team were pleased that both victories came on Tom Fitzgeralds watch as President, a feat that will be difficult to repeat. We have now won 24 times and no other County comes close. All recent victories are in part the product of coaching by Mark Nelson who we hope will continue and continue with success.

All other team reports were as per the Annual Report.

All Nominations from the Annual General Meeting were approved en bloc.

Election of Sub Committees and Individual Administrators.

The following were elected:

6. Disciplinary Committee

P Holden
S R Blackburn
M J Worsley

7. Cup & Competitions

M Cornelia (Chairman)
B Hurst (Secretary)
B Minor
D Clarke
J T Hughes
W Lowe
A James

8. Club & Community

S Kohler
G Morgan
J Dolloway
J Huyton

9. Finance & Funding

C Smail (Chairman)
M Bailey

10. County Schools Union

P J Hughes
D N Herriman

11. Mini & Junior

I Spivey
A Bower

Annual General Meeting.

Wednesday 20th June 2018

26. AOB.

1. D Clarke – all clubs should have had fixture lists but there is still an outstanding discussion with Cheshire regarding the Level 9 Leagues and North Lancs clubs. This will go to RFU arbitration.
2. H Duggan explained the Womens Premier League, there are 10 teams, one of which is Waterloo. They are only allowed 60 players and are not allowed U13, U15 & U18s squads.
3. SR Blackburn thanked Tom & Angela Fitzgerald for all their work during Toms presidential year.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 8:27 pm

Record of Attendance

President	T Fitzgerald
Senior Vice President	S R Blackburn
Past President	P E Hughes BEM
Past President	R T J Briers
Past President	M Cornelia
Past President	K Andrews
Past President	J T Hughes
Past President	M J Worsley
Past President	D W Matthews
Past President	T D Stirk
Past Vice President	H M Whittle
Hon Secretary	M Downs
Director	J R S Greenwood
Aldwnians RUFC	T Hulmes
Aspull RUFC	C Walsh
Blackburn RUFC	G Bancroft
Broughton Park FC	J Heald
Burnage RUFC	E Haynes
Burnley RUFC	S Jackson
Bury RUFC	A Brazendale
Chorley RUFC	A Ingham
Eccles RUFC	W Lowe
Waterloo RFC	G Moore
Heaton Moor RUFC	D Todd
Littleborough RUFC	B Hurst
Liverpool Collegiate RUFC	D Angwin
Lostock RFC	A James
Manchester & District Referees	J Jeskins
Manchester FC	T Harper
North Manchester RUFC	B H Stott
Orrell RUFC	J Huyton
Rochdale RUFC	S Blackburn
Rossendale RUFC	N Ingham
Tyldesley RUFC	B Belcher

West Park RFC	C Hilton
Wigan RUFC	D Clarke
Women & Girls	H Duggan
Safeguarding	C Baker
Individual Members	B Minor
U20s / Royals	H Hughes
Rochdale	L Clarke
Rochdale	W N Hopkinson
League Secretary	I Scott Brown
Leigh	A Kerboas
Littleborough	K Benetta
Tyldesley	D Phillips
Member	S Kohler
Eccles	W Borrett
Member	A Andrews
Member	I Spivey