

## LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

### Minutes of the Board meeting of the held at Liverpool St Helens FC on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2017

Present: Mr D.N. Herriman, in the Chair, & Messrs J.T. Hughes K. Andrews, A.S. Kerboas, J.B. Morgan, M. Downs & Mrs C.A. Baker.

In attendance: Messrs S.R. Blackburn, D. Clarke, S. Urquhart.

Apologies: Messrs P. Deakin, R.T.J. Briers, T. Fitzgerald, J.S. Greenwood, B.H. Stott, M.J. Worsley.

#### RDO Report.

SU reported:-

1. National rugby survey is to close on 11<sup>th</sup> October, last year there were 28000 responses.
2. Issues with County booking the AGP at Preston as County does not have a credit card. Times are to be planned ahead and debited from the PFR.
3. Quarterly report has been issued and will be circulated.
4. Clubs are to encouraged to get coaches to do CPD courses. There are separate CPD courses for age groups over and above the ERCA award.
5. Eligibility for next AGP phase is still ongoing.
6. Inclusive Rugby – International Gay Rugby Association and Board (IGRAB) are looking to start an inclusive team in North Lancs.
7. Blackpool and Wigan have been nominated as Kids First Champions.
8. The Club Benefits Guide has been published.
9. Emerging Schools Competition is running well.

SU left the meeting.

#### Minutes of the last meeting:

The minutes of the Board meeting held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017, (previously circulated) were accepted and signed as a correct record.

#### Matters arising

KA - Intermediate Leagues Meeting. DNH reported on the meeting held at Wigan between RFU, Cheshire, Lancashire & NOWIRUL representatives. The meeting was not hugely constructive but due to NOWIRUL constitution there was not a great deal that could be done. The NOWIRUL AGM was to be moved to a more central location and Lancs and Cheshire would help publish it to clubs.

#### RFU Report

KA circulated a written report, this is attached as Appendix 1:

#### Finance & Funding Report

No report:

#### RDC Report

No report:

## Club and Community Rugby

SRB reported:

1. MD questioned why a secondary county meeting was planned to give the presentation to our clubs that had recently been given to the Large CBs meeting. This was planned for Wed 29<sup>th</sup> Nov which was one week after the EGM. As the presentation is no more than 15 minutes and then there are questions it was agreed to condense the two meetings to the EGM on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November.
2. The presentation will be given to the Board at the next meeting.
3. Next C & CR meeting is scheduled for 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

## Volunteering

ASK reported:

1. Leadership Academy – we have 11 candidates and there are 9 from Cheshire. £ Mentors have been found and the launch event will be on 13<sup>th</sup> November.

## Cup and Competitions

KA reported:

1. There was no senior cup report.
2. Schools had approved to bring in the “Half Game System” where everyone in the playing squad was guaranteed half a game. This is being trialled with the emerging schools competition and the U13s Waterfall. Lancashire & Sussex Schools are to trial this.

## Governance & Safeguarding

CAB reported:

1. There had been 4 serious safeguarding issues and 2 serious injuries reported.
2. 32 people were to attend the safeguarding conference at West Park.
3. MD had circulated a Social Media Policy to the Board prior to the meeting, this was approved and will be rolled out to our team managers & anyone who edits or runs a social media account on our behalf.

## Discipline

No report.

## Correspondence.

There was no correspondence appertaining to the meeting.

## New Members

There were no new membership applications.

50:50 Draw

Oct-17	Value
J E Nixon	£52.50
D Poppitt	£8.75
G Jones	£8.75
EBN Norc-Taylor	£8.75
D Welsh	£8.75

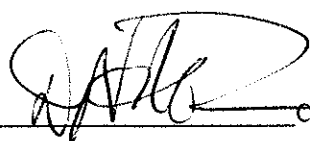
Date of next meeting:

Next Meeting: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Any other Business

1. KA – Some action items from the CB Leaders Conference
  - Adopt a simplified version of the RFU Strategic Plan and also get clubs to adopt for themselves. A small workgroup is to be set up to look at this.
  - Setup 3 separate workgroups to cover, Strategic Plan, Succession Planning and Review of CB performance against the PFR.
  - Workgroups to be populated by the next Board meeting.
2. KA – Sales Sharks Player Pathway Forum, good presentations well received.
3. KA – Age Grade Meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> Oct at PGH, CB M&J Chair and Schools Chair should attend.
4. DC – RFU had questioned the North about the Level 7-9 National Cups and participation of Durham and Northumberland teams who seem to struggle with the fixtures.
5. SRB – Thanks to Ann Clarke for website updates.
6. CAB – Has been asked by Sale Sharks to be their Safeguarding consultant.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:50pm



Chairman Date

6 Nov 17

## Appendix 1

### **RFU Representatives Report Headlines**

#### **CEO**

Steve Brown has now taken over as Chief Executive Officer from Ian Ritchie. The process to find a replacement Chief Financial Officer has now started.

The CEO Report included:

- England Team Results Two Excellent wins in Argentina. Excellent performance by England Women to get to the final of the Women's Rugby World Cup held in Ireland. England U20s runners up in the World Championship in Georgia. England U18s excellent tour to South Africa, beating France 24-8, losing to Wales 12-14 and winning 54-22 against South Africa.
- Academies- Don Barrel is now the RFU Head of Academies.
- Lion Board -Jason Leonard has replaced John Spencer on the Lions Board. SB will also represent the RFU.
- Tyrell's Premier 15s – Women's elite competition has now started with 10 clubs teams of including Firwood Waterloo.
- Global Law trials 2017-18 have been introduced- Laws sub committee will monitor progress.
- Head impact- new process has been agreed by World Rugby and implemented across the professional game. The emphasis being on education and development of protocols.
- National Rugby Survey- This went live and will be open for three weeks.
- Male 15 a side strategy- help to targeted clubs to create new teams, sustain new teams from last season and grow U17/U18 teams.
- Mitsubishi Motors Volunteer Recognition programme: 42 regional winners were invited to a Black Tie Dinner at Twickenham on 25<sup>th</sup> September. Lancashire winners were Peter Gore of Bolton RUFC and Adam Padgett from Colne & Nelson RFC- Adam was one of four National winners and receives a Mitsubishi car for twelve months.
- East Stand project- Good progress is being made with the East Stand project and should be on target to be ready for the 18-19 season.
- World Cup 2023. Bids are being considered from France and Ireland. The RFU Board will consider who The RFU will be supporting and the reasons will be communicated to Council Members before the final vote on 15<sup>th</sup> November.

#### **PRESENTATIONS**

Presentations were received on:

- Women and Girls Rugby – Nigel Melville and Steve Grainger
- Coaching in the Community Game – John Lawn
- WW1 Commemorations update – John Cunningham

#### **GOVERNANCE CODE**

At the Council Meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2017 Council agreed in principle to implement the recommendations of the Governance Code Working Group and charged Governance together with the Working Group, to draft revised Rules to implement those recommendations.

Council have now agreed to call a Special General meeting of the members and to approve the calling notice, including the draft Rules, explanatory note and covering letter from Jason Leonard.

This will take place on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at 5.00 pm in the Live Room, Twickenham Stadium.

Council also approved the amendments to the Council Standing Orders to reflect the Rule changes and approved the terms of reference of the Council Nominations Committee

**See appendix 1**

## **RFU STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE**

The RFU Strategic Plan 2017-2021 "Game of our Lives" was launched at the CB Leaders Conference on 30<sup>th</sup> September. This has now been distributed to the game and CBs are encouraged to use the plan to inform their own strategic plans and to support clubs to also plan accordingly.

## **U18 CLUB CUP COMPETITION REGULATIONS**

Council approved the introduction of a new U18 Cup Competition for Clubs. The rationale for the Competition is attached at Appendix 2

The competition will include 128 teams and will conclude with a final on 20th May 2018.

## **DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION GROUP**

The principal purpose of the Diversity and Inclusion Working Group is to recommend ways in which diversity and inclusion may be increased within the leadership and governance structures within the game. This aligns with the RFU 2017-2021 Strategic Plan's aspirations regarding diversity and inclusion within the game.

Council approved Genevieve Glover as the Chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Working Group, the terms of reference of the Group. Genevieve was also co-opted to the Council until July 2020.

## **INDEPENDENT NON EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Council approved the appointment of Genevieve Shore as an independent non-executive director for an initial term to end on 31 July 2020. Genevieve Shore played rugby for England and was part of the 1994 World Cup winning team. She is extremely knowledgeable and passionate about the game. Genevieve is also a commercial and experienced non-executive director.

## **TICKET ALLOCATION MODEL**

Council endorsed the principle that international ticket allocation should, wherever possible, be based on contribution to the "health of the Game", plus a yet to be agreed minimum number.

The IRTSC would seek endorsement by the RFU Council of a revised international ticket allocation methodology in June 2018 for application either from the 6 Nations in 2019 or the 6 Nations 2020.

## **RFU BOARD MEETING AT PRESTON GRASSHOPPERS RFC**

The Board had a dinner the night before the meeting in the clubhouse with representatives of the Lancashire RFU and local clubs, including Orrell, Village Spartans, Firwood Waterloo, Oldham, Widnes, Liverpool Collegiate, Sale Sharks, Bury and Wythenshawe. It was an extremely productive evening, and a good way for the Board to discuss the issues facing a wide range of clubs at different stages of development

## **COMMUNITY GAME BOARD**

### ***Player Tracking***

- CGB agreed the concept on player tracking and detailed plans around implementation and roll out across areas of the game.

### ***Offshore Travel Policy***

- CGB debated possible sanctions to clubs who made last minute cancellations and it was agreed that the competitions staff be asked to investigate different options.

### ***Age Grade Rugby - Regulation Alignment***

- CGB agreed, in principle, that in Regulation 15 the new rule that June a complete month of rest for age grade players should be relaxed and agreed to recommend to Governance that this be done at the earliest possible opportunity.

### ***Front Row Regulations***

- Following a front row de-regulation trial in Surrey, CGB agreed to recommend to Governance that it be adopted at Level 9 and below, subject to a majority vote by clubs in each league.

### ***County Championship Changes 2017/18***

- CGB was updated on plans for hosting the 2018 County Championship Finals, when it is intended to include the Gill Burns Cup Final at Twickenham alongside the men's games

### ***Women and Girls Action Plan***

- The Women and Girls Action Plan, which sets out key targets over the next four years, was formally approved by CGB.

### ***U19 Commission Report***

- U19 Commission report was presented Key findings were discussed and groups were assigned to lead on each approach.

### ***Facilities Investment***

- Steve Grainger presented potential future plans for in facilities

### **CB LEADERS CONFERENCE**

Successful CB Leaders Conference was held in the Midlands on the 30<sup>th</sup> April weekend. Topics Included RFU Strategic Plan, Succession Planning and Effective Review of CB Performance