

LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

Minutes of the Board meeting of the held at Liverpool St Helens FC on Monday 4th December 2017

Present: Mr D.N. Herriman, in the Chair, & Messrs P. Deakin, R.T.J. Briers, T. Fitzgerald, K. Andrews, M.J. Worsley, J.B. Morgan, J.S. Greenwood M. Downs.

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

Apologies: Messrs, A.S. Kerboas, J.T. Hughes, B.H. Stott & Mrs C.A. Baker.

RDO Report.

SU reported:-

1. Natwest Rugby Force – Launched at beginning of December and will be over the weekend of 23-24th June. Applications now open, deadline is the 4th February. Nationally, 270 clubs will be invited to workshops with a grant of £750, 6 clubs will get national grants of £5000.
2. Next period for the Inner Warrior is Jan 2018.
3. New inclusive rugby club have been set up, the Lancashire Typhoons. To launch on 19th January.
4. A meeting had been held with NOWIRUL and the number of concedes was reported as reduced.
5. Matt Constant (ex UCLAN) had referred at Dubai 7s.

DS reported:-

6. Sales Sharks are working well on the social inclusion project, with pro staff focusing on Wythenshawe.
7. New W&Gs strategy has been launched. Target is to double numbers in game, a discussion followed on improvements to facilities to allow this to happen.

DS & SU left the meeting.

Minutes of the last meeting:

The minutes of the Board meeting held on Monday 6th November 2017, (previously circulated) were accepted and signed as a correct record.

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

RFU Report

A written report was given to the meeting by KA as below:-

SGM

The SGM held at Twickenham on Friday 24th November 2017 passed a special resolution to amend the Rules of the Rugby Football Union.

CEO- Steve Brown

The CEO Report included:

- Global season discussions continue with the focus now turning to the domestic season structures.
- Women's Rugby Tyrells Premier 15s is continuing to develop well in its first season.
- The Red Roses have agreed an England Player Squad (EPS) retainer and match fee for the season.

- Men and Women's teams in final preparations for start of the HSBC World Series Sevens. 4.
- **Championship** - it was agreed that the competition would remain at 12 clubs with a new Championship Cup competition replacing the B&I Cup.
- Sevens- World Rugby will support Team GB 7s request to retain the 2016 Olympic Qualification criteria for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

Player Data

- Men's -A number of new teams have started playing this season at Junior and Senior level with a close eye is also being maintained on the existing teams on the "at risk" list.
- Women's -On the female side 70 new teams have started with a further 64 scheduled to start
- In addition to the 5 Rugby Turf AGPs already open, 5 more are due for completion this autumn with 10 more due to start construction.
- Community 7's XRugby laws were formally approved by World Rugby.
- Age Grade to Adult Rugby- University work has been a key focus and renewed focus of transitioning a greater number of players from All Schools to local clubs.
- Stadium- East Stand major structural elements nearing completion.
- England Rugby Hospitality has moved into Webb Ellis House
- Technology partners – Samsung will not be renewing due to a cut back on new sponsorship and a focus on Samsung owned initiatives.
- Museum – World Rugby Museum refurbishment is on schedule for opening in February.
- Work continues toward compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation. Technology is playing a key role in the RFU's organisation wide response to GDPR. Current IT focus includes GMS and CRM as two of our primary sources of personal information.

INTERNATIONAL REPORT- Ben Calverley

WORLD CUP 2023

World Rugby recommended that South Africa host the tournament. Andy Cosslett explained to Council how England voted and why.

COMPETITION REGULATIONS- Alys Lewis

U18 Academy Regulations:

It was approved that for Season 2017-18 the U18 Academy Regulations are amended so that EPS Players are ineligible to play in the competition if they are in the U19 age grade.

County Championship Regulations:

Changes to the Adult Male, Adult Female and U20s County Championship Regulations were approved.

NOMINATIONS- Simon Collyer-Bristow

It was approved that the Representative on World Rugby (3 year term) was Steve Brown

COMMUNITY GAME BOARD- Rob Briers

Player Tracking:

Player tracking has been high on the agenda of the CGB and work is being undertaken to develop to investigate the potential engagement of relevant commercial partners (e.g. IBM) and to develop a more detailed business case. CGB have agreed that this is a priority piece of work with some early trialling taking place from the start of the 2018/19 season.

Women and Girls:

The Women's and Girls action plan was formally launched to the media on 13th November 2017

County Championship and Cup finals:

- The current favoured plan is to extend the programme to five matches, enabling these four finals to be played alongside the England vs Barbarians match, albeit on what will be a long day.
- The Jason Leonard Trophy (U20 male County Championships final) will retain its place at Twickenham alongside the RFU Cup Finals earlier in May.

Under 19 Commission progress -

A paper and presentation by Ted Atkinson and Steve Grainger on the work of the Commission highlighting the ten recommendations to “improve player transition from age grade to adult 15-a-side rugby”

Education and Age Grade report.

A paper and presentation by Mike Waplinton and Mark Saltmarsh.

PRESENTATIONS

- Spirit of Rugby Capacity update- Geoff Irvine
- Technology Strategy – Jonathan Conn

PAYMENT OF PLAYERS- Alys Lewis and Dave Stubley

Council considered and debated the principles of the implementation of the Payment of Players proposals. A paper has been sent to all clubs to provide them with an update on the implementation proposals for the Payment of Players project. Club CB members are requested to review the content of this paper and provide feedback to Dave Stubley and Alys Lewis or CB Council Representatives before 8th January 2018.

FINANCIAL REPORT- Richard Daniel

Extended Borrowing Facility – Approval to draw down funds

Council approved the drawing down of funds above the £50m level up to the £100 million limit of the facility as required by the business.

STRATEGIC PLAN REPORTING- Ben Calverley

Council noted the contents of this report.

PROFESSIONAL GAME BOARD- Jeff Blackett

Council noted the contents of this report.

GOVERNANCE REPORT- Chris Cuthbertson

Council noted the contents of this report.

JSG asked for copy of the eligibility criteria for the County Championship, KA to distribute.

Finance & Funding Report

No Report

1. MD to send accounts to Club Secretaries and Board.

RDC Report

TF presented a written report to the meeting:-

1. Rugby Development & Associated Committees: Joint meeting of the Rugby Development Committee, Player Development Committee, Coaching Committee & Team Lancashire Committee on 6th December 2017. Minutes to be circulated
2. PFR: The 2017-18 PFR Second Quarter review will be conducted in late January 2018. There will be an over spend on the fixed annual amount included for budget for kit, training aides, playing shirts etc. This is due to having a number of additional representative squads this season and to holding off on phased replacements in three previous seasons - particularly for playing shirts - pending a clearer picture of sponsorship opportunities. Items purchased this budget cycle might be viewed as having

an extended life over three to five budget cycles/ seasons and they are replacing items well past their due replacement date.

3. Lancashire Rugby Development Centre: Has been asked to sponsor a university 10s tournament. Discussions are taking place with the RFU University Rugby Development Officer and local universities. The intention is to use the tournament to introduce university players to clubs and clubs to universities and student players. Further reports will be submitted as discussions progress
4. Lancashire Academy: There have been enquiries from a couple of very prominent coaches regarding the possibility of them becoming Academy Mentors. Their area of experience covers both clubs and schools. Progress will be reported in due course
5. Club Coach Mentor Scheme: Clubs were reminded of the availability of the scheme at the recent EGM. The two coaches mentioned above might also be interested in becoming Club Coach Mentors - tbc
6. Coaching and Medical Scholarships: Clubs were reminded of the availability of scholarship funding at the recent EGM
7. Representative Rugby 2017-18: The junior age grade male and female and U20s representative rugby programme is progressing on schedule. Details are on the County website. The Royals next game will be against the Anti Assassins at Blackburn on 30th December. Details are on the County website

Discussed in the meeting:-

8. MD reported on the U15s & U18s Girls season.
9. Senior XV have requested that grounds for the CC are allocated early. MD & TF given approval to allocate grounds and organise.
10. There had been a calendar issue with U18s & U16s picked up on the website by the RFU, this has been rectified.
11. A selection complaint for an age grade squad had been raised, CAB to investigate.

Club and Community Rugby

MJW reported:

1. Next meeting arranged for 15th January.
2. One cluster meeting had been arranged at LSH on 31st Jan. This was to include the CB Presentation, a presentation on the recent survey results by H. Duggan. K. Benetta would present on the DPP and BHS on Discipline.
3. Survey results to be discussed at the next Board meeting.
4. Invitations to the Merseyside cluster to be sent to Chairmen, Secretaries, Mini & Junior section contacts.

Volunteering

ASK reported:

1. ASK, CAB & KA to meet and within in next few months have immediate recovery plans for key posts, report back to Board by Feb meeting.

Cup and Competitions

DC reported:

1. By end of Jan 2018 we should have finalists for 2 our of 3 competitions.

Governance & Safeguarding

CAB No report:

1. MD approached T.D. Stirk and he would like to be considered as a consultants to the Governance committee with regards to our rules and regulations. Board approved this.

Discipline

JSG confirmed very busy with 17 cases in one recent meeting.

Correspondence.

There was no correspondence appertaining to the meeting.

New Members

K Benetta approved as a Life Member.

50:50 Draw

Dec-17	Value
BJ O'Driscoll	£52.50
R Brooks	£8.75
EBN Norc-Taylor	£8.75
BJ O'Driscoll	£8.75
PE Hughes	£8.75

Date of next meeting:

Next Meeting: Monday 8th January 2018

Any other Business

1. KA – Congratulated Noel Speed on success of North West Player Pathway group.
2. DNH – JBM to look at forming a rugby safe sub committee.
3. DC – New proposal for leagues at and below level 7. To be placed on website and forwarded to club secretaries.
4. MJW – J Dolaway rebranding proposal. Noted that RFU very protective about the brand and would likely not find it acceptable.
5. Lancashire asked to join a pilot scheme whereby end of season review was judged against PFR, Board agreed to participate.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:20pm



Chairman

Date

8th Jan 2018